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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

No. 14, SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE

Most of us have become very adept at negotiating the healthcare environment with full recognition of its economical, political, technological and labour influencers. This doesn't mean, however, that we are immune to the environmental pressures on our professional activities.

With preparations underway to best care for patients under the circumstances of a potential nursing labour disruption, it is a difficult time at Capital Health. Your efforts to do the absolute best for patients deserve to be commended as do members' ongoing academic, clinical and research commitments.

This month's newsletter recognizes a host of member achievements and, as always, serves as a tool to keep members up to date on developments in the department. Part of the intent of the department's newsletter is to help us see beyond immediate circumstances and appreciate that we are constantly making great things happen within our always changing environment. This is especially warranted at this time. I trust you will find the information here of interest to you. Should you wish to see a topic covered in a future newsletter or one of my monthly updates, please contact me at david.anderson@cdha.nshealth.ca

David R. Anderson, MD, FRCPC, FACP

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

BYE BYE BRIDGIT

WEB CONFERENCING NOW HELPS DELIVER ACADEMIC HALF-DAY CURRICULUM

We have said goodbye (almost!) to our infamously dated BRIDGIT teleconferencing software and hello to Adobe Connect web conferencing. Adobe Connect, provided by the Faculty of Medicine, is now being used to deliver the internal medicine academic half-day curriculum to residents in any location outside of Halifax, including Saint John, Moncton and Fredericton. While those are the primary

remote sites, residents can access the web conferencing software – and more importantly, the academic half-day curriculum – from anywhere.

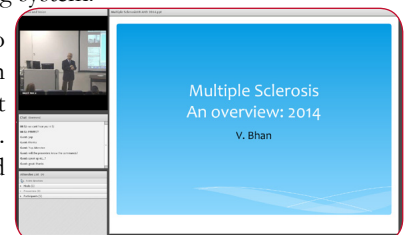
"I am a passionate advocate for the Dalhousie Internal Medicine - Saint John program, but in advocating for this program there was always a minor deficit in the delivery of our academic half day from Halifax. BRIDGIT displays the presentation while we listen in via telecom. This provides a very impersonal delivery of a didactic lecture, and though we are able to chime in via telecom, it never really feels like we are a part of it. The lectures/curriculum are excellent, we just needed a better mode of delivery," notes Dr. Stephen Robinson, associate chief medicine resident, Saint John site.

Dr. Ian Epstein, director of postgraduate education in the department, notes that residents had been voicing their disappointment with BRIDGIT for some time. "The technology we were using paled in comparison to systems many residents used in medical school and is in stark contrast to the more sophisticated web conferencing systems available now. Adobe Connect is not the most advanced technology but it fits with our needs and it is a vast improvement over BRIDGIT," says Dr. Epstein.

For Dr. Eric Grant, site director in Saint John, Adobe Connect will address reliability issues that sometimes affected the delivery of the academic half-day curriculum, but perhaps more importantly, demonstrate the department's commitment to supporting residents in New Brunswick and other sites outside of Halifax. "This is simply a better virtual classroom which means a better learning experience for residents off-site," he says.

With most changes there is a period of adjustment, and while Adobe Connect offers many benefits it brings with it a change of location for academic half-days in Halifax. The curriculum is streamed from the Tupper Building at Dalhousie so Halifax-based residents make their way from the hospitals to the Tupper. Dr. Epstein admits that a few have noted the minor inconvenience but all recognize the benefits of the new web conferencing system.

BRIDGIT will continue to be used as a back up option when Adobe Connect isn't available to the department. Adobe Connect will be used full time starting in April.



RESIDENT RESEARCH OLYMPICS

And the Gold Medal Goes to...

The **Epsteins** resident research team is currently in first place in the race for the Resident Research Trophy.

The resident research Olympics teams, including some of the faculty captains, celebrated their own Olympics in Halifax and Saint John with a social event during the Sochi Olympics. The Saint John team got together on February 20th for a journal club evening and capped it off with some Olympic watching.



Approximately twenty members of the Halifax teams met on the evening of February 21st at the DMSS Lounge where there just happened to be a Canadian men's hockey game on the big screen. Gold medals were presented to Team *The Epsteins*, the silver medal went to Team *Darveshian Darwinians* and the bronze medal to Saint John's Team *BRIDGIT*.

But It's Not All Fun and Games

Although we certainly hope it is fun, on the academic side, the PGY1's are currently participating in a mandatory Research Methods Course for eight sessions during their academic half-day. As part of the course, which uses a blended method of on-line and in-class teaching, residents develop a research project with mentorship from a department researcher. This is the second year the Department of Medicine has sponsored PGY1s to take the course, which is run by Dr. Jill Hatchette, Interdisciplinary Research, Research Services, IWK.

MAGDY N. BASTA ENDOWMENT FUND

Dr. Magdy Basta provided exceptional care to patients and taught residents and students for 17 years as a cardiologist and faculty member of the Department of Medicine.

To honour and remember Dr. Magdy Basta's contribution to patient care and the bond he had with his colleagues, an endowment fund has been established through the QEII Foundation. The fund will be used to support a Dalhousie medical student in the newly established Research in Medicine program, funding their summer studentships. The endowment fund will also provide a bursary to a cardiology or cardiac surgery resident each year who displays excellent patient care or teaching during their training. To make a donation, visit the [QEII Foundation](http://qe2foundation.com) website (qe2foundation.com), choose 'Donate Now' and 'General Donation.' Choose 'other' to direct your gift to the Dr. Magdy N. Basta Endowment Fund.



CARMS MATCH RESULTS (FOR JULY 1, 2014 ENTRY)

It was another successful CaRMS match! We continue to have tremendous interest in the Department of Medicine's residency training program and a large pool of exceptional candidates from which to interview. Because of this, which is thanks to faculty and staff's commitment to education, we filled all of our internal medicine spots in the first iteration.

Here is how the match shaped up for us:

Canadian Applicants

Halifax site	Saint John site
287 applications (+31 over last year)	53 applications (+8 over last year)
127 applicants interviewed (17 Dalhousie Applicants) (+13 over last year)	32 applicants interviewed
*12 CaRMS positions available	*3 CaRMS positions available

Internal Medical Graduates (IMG) Applicants

Halifax site	Saint John site
No Halifax based position offered this year (No return of service funding from Nova Scotia)	429 applications (+3 over last year)
	20 applicants interviewed
	*1 position available (return of service to New Brunswick)

Please join us in welcoming our new Candidates to the Core Internal Medicine Program for 2014-15:

Core Internal Medicine Residents starting July 1, 2014

Halifax site	Saint John site
Andrew Caddell (Dal)	Jacquelyn LeBlanc (Dal)
Paul Cameron (Queens)	Aimee Noel (Sherbrooke)
Pascale Dupuis (Ottawa)	Pouya Sadeghi Aval (NOSM)
Joshua Green (Dal)	Chinyere Iwuala (IMG, general internal medicine residency at Mayo General Hospital, Ireland)
Alexandra Legge (Dal)	
Shiru Liu (McGill)	
Heather MacKenzie (McMaster)	
Matthew Miles (UBC)	
Sanjeeban Mishra (Western)	
Keigan More (UBC)	
Myuran Thana (Western)	
Stephen Walsh (Dal)	

The CaRMS match requires a great amount of time and effort on the part of residents, faculty and staff. Thank you to all involved in the selection process!

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO CARE

Three department members are winners of the inaugural Translating Research Into Care (TRIC) grants awarded by the QEII Foundation. The new health care improvement research program supports research at the point of care that will yield strong evidence and facilitate the translation of clinical science into improved delivery of service and patient care.

Priority is given to projects that will:

- improve patient reported outcomes
- improve the safety of healthcare
- identify and reduce unnecessary healthcare costs
- reduce wait times for healthcare
- reduce the need for healthcare
- reduce unnecessary interventions
- improve access for under-served populations

Congratulations to:



Dr. Christine Short, Head, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Mary-Ellen Gurnham, Chief Nursing Officer, Capital Health

This project will develop an evaluation framework to determine success of interprofessional collaborative practice within Rehabilitation Services and Supportive Care.

Dr. Graeme Rocker, Division of Respiriology, and Paula Bond, VP Acute Care, Person Centred Health, Capital Health

Expanding the INSPIRED COPD outreach program to the emergency department: Assessing feasibility, efficiencies and outcomes.



Dr. Karthik Tennankore, Division of Nephrology, and Cynthia Stockman, Health Services Manager, Outpatient Nephrology, Capital Health

The effectiveness of an online portal for the delivery of care to home dialysis patients.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. R.N. Anderson is this year's recipient of the **Archibald Gold-headed Cane Award** in the Humanities. Dr. Anderson is a former Head of the Department of Medicine. The Gold-headed Cane Award is presented each year by the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine to a faculty member who combines scholarly attainments, humanism and professional skills, and who serves as an effective role model for students in the medical humanities.



Dr. Geoffrey Turnbull won the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia Gold-headed Cane Award**. This award, presented in partnership with Dalhousie, honours a practicing community-based Nova Scotia physician who exhibits outstanding professionalism in medical practice.

Dr. Evelyn Sutton, Head, Division of Rheumatology, has been awarded the Canadian Rheumatology Association's 2014 Teacher-Educator Award. Dr. Sutton is perhaps best known outside of the Department of Medicine for her book, "Musculoskeletal Examination: A primer for medical students," but her passion for education and teaching extends well beyond authorship of a textbook. She was director of the adult rheumatology residency training program for 11 years, helped pioneer a one-month elective in medical education for all Dalhousie residents that is now in its 10th year and has been recognized by the Royal College as an innovation of excellence, began serving as assistant dean of Dalhousie Medical School admissions in 2006, and was the assistant dean of student affairs from 2006 – 2010. Dr. Sutton's teaching excellence and commitment to education has been recognized nationally and internationally. She is a beloved teacher, mentor and champion for medical students and residents.



Dr. Ratika Parkash, Division of Cardiology, is the 2013 recipient of the **Dr. Greg Ferrier Award**, which recognizes excellence in research being conducted in Nova Scotia and is given annually to the highest-rated Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia grants-in-aid recipient. The award also honours the spirit of Dr. Ferrier's mentorship to a new generation of researchers and pays tribute to the leading-edge research he conducted throughout his career. The recipient of the award also receives a \$5,000 bursary to use towards their research costs.

The Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (PATH) project, headed by **Dr. Louise Parker**, professor of pediatrics and medicine, and Canadian Cancer Society (Nova Scotia Division) Endowed Chair in Population Cancer Research at Dalhousie, recently set a **Guinness World Record** for its collection of toenail clippings.

Researchers with the study are using the toenails to measure arsenic levels, which increases the rates of several cancers. The Atlantic PATH project is collecting a number of measurements and data from participants to understand why Nova Scotia has the highest rate of cancer in Canada.

WELCOME



Craig Winser, *IT Services (ITS) Senior Systems Analyst*, will be working with the Department of Medicine as part of a one year pilot project to develop a variety of IT applications – projects approved through the department's IT Steering Committee.

Craig's work is well known across the department and Capital Health. He helped the Division of Rheumatology develop an online clinical tool for use by a multidisciplinary team during a patient's ambulatory visit that then sends a report automatically to HPF and the referring physician at the conclusion of the visit. He also developed Capital Health's e-discharge summary together with Dr. Stephanie Connidis, Sandra Janes and Dr. Stavros Savvopoulos, and is in the process of creating an e-transfer tool for Capital Health and revising the e-discharge summary.

Craig will begin his work with the department on a part-time basis, but as his active projects are completed, he will work with Tom Henneberry, Data Manager, full-time. Craig will remain fully embedded with the ITS department which will ensure he continues to have direct access to technical resources and contacts.



Dr. Paul Hernandez, *Acting Head, Division of Respiriology* Dr. Paul Hernandez was appointed Acting Head, Division of Respiriology, in early March. He joined the department as a respirologist in 1995 and has since built quite a clinical and research portfolio. Dr. Hernandez is a professor of medicine and medical director of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program and MICU at the QEII. He chairs

the adult respirology examination committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and co-chairs the Canadian Thoracic Society's COPD clinical assembly. His clinical and research areas of interest include COPD, pulmonary rehabilitation, pulmonary hypertension and clinical practice guidelines.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT UPDATE

Traci Malley-McBride has decided not to return as the Department of Medicine research administrative coordinator when her maternity leave ends, choosing instead to stay home with her two young sons.

Traci worked for the Department of Medicine in this role since 2006. We are grateful for all of her hard work over the years and wish her the best of luck and good health in all her future endeavors.



Kathryn Nelson who has been acting research administrative coordinator during Traci's leave has been appointed to the role on a permanent basis. Kathryn has done an excellent job of keeping the research office going

and growing to meet new research strategic planning initiatives. She has also provided admin support to the Grand Rounds Committee, which is no small task.



Helen Parsons, who has ably covered for Kathryn in the role of executive administrative assistant to Dr. David Anderson on a casual assignment basis, will be continue in this role permanently. Helen is a great asset to the Department of Medicine.

Congratulations to Kathryn and Helen on their new appointments! The Department of Medicine is very fortunate to have these two knowledgeable, talented and hard working admin staff working with us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

RESEARCH DAY 2014

Thursday, May 1

12:15 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Heritage Room, Pier 21

RSVP by April 24 to Kathryn.nelson@cdha.nshealth.ca

On the agenda:

12:15 p.m. Poster set-up Welcome Pavilion, Pier 21

12:30 p.m. Buffet Lunch

1:20 p.m. Welcome

1:25 p.m. Oral Presentations (four presenters)

2:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Dr. L.J. Tan

3:15 p.m. Poster Presentations

4:15 p.m. Oral Presentations (six presenters)

5:30 p.m. Wine & Cheese Reception

5:50 p.m. Presentation of Awards

SPRING PARTY 2014

Wednesday, June 18

Reception ~ 6:30 p.m. Dinner ~ 7 p.m.

Prince George Hotel

Check your mailbox in April for your invitation.

MEDICINE MATTERS 2014: NOVEMBER 28

This year's Medicine Matters CME event will be held Friday, November 28, at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel. Mark your calendars now! We received excellent feedback resulting from the success of last year's event that has enabled us to start planning early. We are also considering slight changes to the format to make the November event an excellent educational opportunity for all. Stay tuned for more information but be sure to put a note in your calendar today.