

# MEDICINE MATTERS

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*Improving Lives*

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No. 15, SUMMER 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

As you read this issue of *Medicine Matters*, I trust you will get a good sense of some of the great work of department members, divisions and the Department as a whole. The research committee organized one of the most successful research days in the Department's history; **Dr. Jock Murray** was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, receiving one of Canada's highest honours in medicine; **Drs. Darrell White** and **Geoffrey Williams** accepted appointments with the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, a testament to the talent we have in our Department; and we celebrated numerous achievements at our Spring Party, including the Brian M. Chandler Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medical Education, received by **Dr. David Hirsch**, and the Department of Medicine Achievement Award which recognized **Dr. Simon Jackson**.

In July we will welcome a host of new residents who will undoubtedly contribute to and benefit from the breadth and depth of expertise we have in the Department. I would like to recognize as well the chief residents who are an excellent resource for new residents, our education program and for the Department: **Drs. Hailey Hobbs, Glenn Patriquin, Coleman Black** and **Allen Tran**. As part of welcoming the PGY-1 residents, the Department held its second-annual simulation boot camp developed by **Dr. Babar Haroon** to help prepare residents for the rigors of the postgraduate program and ease the transition from medical school to residency training.

As a final note, with our very short summer season upon us, I encourage you to enjoy time with family and friends and to reflect on your accomplishments as part of the Department of Medicine.

### David R. Anderson, MD, FRCPC, FACP

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

## SPOTLIGHT ON DR. SHELLY McNEIL



Billions of dollars are spent on immunization programs in Canada and around the world leaving policy makers, clinicians, healthcare administrators, and the public with many questions about effectiveness and cost benefit. Dr. Shelly McNeil, Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, is helping to answer some of those questions as lead investigator of the [Public Health Agency of Canada/Canadian Institutes of Health Research Influenza Research Network \(PCIRN\)](#).

More specifically, Dr. McNeil and her collaborators, including co-investigator, Dr. Melissa Andrew, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine, are exploring the burden of vaccine preventable diseases and vaccine effectiveness.

Drs. McNeil and Andrew lead the Serious Outcomes Surveillance (SOS) Network, a cross-Canada network of adult hospitals representing more than 18,000 acute-care beds in 45 institutions. The Network's primary goal is to provide immunization decision makers and public health officials with data on the health and economic burden of influenza in Canadian adults and to provide ongoing estimates of the effectiveness of seasonal influenza vaccines. The Network also provides critical infrastructure for evaluation of disease burden and safety and effectiveness of pandemic influenza vaccines.

Capitalizing on some of Dalhousie's research strengths, specifically those within the Department of Medicine, the SOS Network has incorporated frailty into its surveillance and vaccine effectiveness protocols.

"We understand the importance of frailty because of great work done by Drs. Ken Rockwood, Andrew and others in the DoM, so we were the first surveillance network to systematically incorporate assessment of frailty using the Frailty Index to better understand the true health burden of influenza and estimate the effectiveness of vaccines in older adults," says Dr. McNeil. Others are now following our lead.

Initially established as part of PCIRN in 2009, the SOS Network has grown in scope, size, funding and influence. The network is a partnership of government (federal), the private sector and academia.

Dr. McNeil doesn't shy away from private sector funding in the public health arena and notes that if she did, the network wouldn't be where it is now.

"You have to understand clearly your role as an academic researcher and openly acknowledge the different interests at the table. Fair and transparent partnership structures are necessary to ensure mutual benefit and protect the integrity of the information. Academic investigators need to own the data, its analysis and the study results. If these conditions are ensured, public/private partnerships can be successfully leveraged to answer important public health questions," says Dr. McNeil.

Dr. McNeil is cross-appointed to the Department of Pediatrics and, has research interests in influenza in pregnancy, maternal immunization, clinical trials of new vaccines for adults and adult immunization policy.

## APPOINTMENTS

### **Dr. Geoffrey Williams** **Appointed Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education**

In April, Dr. Geoffrey Williams, Division of Digestive Care & Endoscopy, began serving a three-year term as Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education in the Faculty of Medicine. As such, Dr. Williams will work with Associate Dean, Dr. Andrew Warren, to develop, evaluate and manage Dalhousie's medical residency programs.

Dr. Williams has grown his interest and expertise in education since joining the Department of Medicine in 2008. He has received a number of teaching awards, including Professor of the Year in 2011, and our Department's award for excellence in medical education.



### **Dr. Darrell White** **Appointed Senior Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine**

Effective July 1, 2014, Dr. Darrell White, Division of Hematology, will join the Faculty of Medicine's leadership team as Senior Associate Dean. As such, he will help steer the direction, focus and operations of the medical school. He will be responsible for the delivery of its distributed medical education programs throughout the Maritimes, and will be taking on several key portfolios, including provincial physician resource planning and the academic funding programs.

Alongside his work in the dean's office, Dr. White will continue with clinical practice at Capital Health and as professor of medicine, teaching medical students and residents.

Dr. White has contributed greatly to the Department of Medicine and Division of Hematology so far in his career. He is a well-admired educator, accomplished administrator having served as director of postgraduate education in the Department, and a respected clinician.



## DR. SULTAN DARVESH NAMED TO ENDOWED CHAIR

Dr. Sultan Darvesh Named DMRF Irene MacDonald Sobey Endowed Chair in Curative Approaches to Alzheimer's Disease  
Excerpted from The Philanthropist: <http://www.dmrf.ca/site/media/dmrf/Philanthropist%20Spring%202014.pdf>

Dr. Sultan Darvesh was recently chosen to hold the Irene MacDonald Sobey Endowed Chair in Curative Approaches to Alzheimer's Disease.



Dr. Darvesh is Professor of Medicine (with cross appointments in Neurology, Geriatric Medicine and Anatomy & Neurobiology) and is the founder and Director of the Behavioural Neurology Program and Clinic. His focus is on assessment and management of patients with cognitive impairment. In addition, Dr. Darvesh is co-founder and Director of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank. Established in 1993 and housed in the Tupper Medical Building, the Bank collects brain tissues for examination and experimentation crucial to Dr. Darvesh and other neuroscience researchers around the world. Known internationally as a leading expert in research on brain tissue and dementia, Dr. Darvesh continues to receive awards, grants and prizes in recognition of his pioneering work.

Dr. Darvesh has developed innovative strategies for diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative disorders concentrating on butyrylcholinesterase – a single enzyme in the brain vital to early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's. He and his colleagues have mapped out areas of the brain that contain this enzyme, particularly the areas that are affected in dementias, using new techniques to refine and improve brain-scanning and imaging technologies.

"The drugs that are available now, treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's and not the actual disease," notes Dr. Darvesh. "Currently, a confirmed diagnosis requires post-mortem examination of the brain tissue under a microscope." He is searching for ways to diagnose Alzheimer's earlier, "We hope to detect signs of Alzheimer's in the brain before the disease develops significantly and major symptoms occur." For Dr. Darvesh, "failure is not an option when it comes to finding a cure".

## MEET OUR 2014-2015 CHIEF RESIDENTS

**Dr. Hailey Hobbs**, Co-Chief Medicine Resident, hails from Massey, Ontario, and earned her MD at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Why?

“Because many docs whom I respect and that I hold in highest regard were chief residents, and I’m always aspiring to be more like them. Also, I was a member of the residency program committee last year; I enjoyed my role and wanted to expand on it. Most of all, I want to be an ambassador and an advocate for fellow residents.”

What?

“I believe the chief resident has multiple roles including being a contact person for residents and prospective residents and to act as a resource and support person for residents who are struggling or faced with difficulties within the program; I hope that I will be someone who is considered approachable and trustworthy enough to do so.”

How?

“...by continuing to help with the development and growth of the simulation curriculum, and to promote wellness and collaboration amongst residents. Above all, I want to complete the duties of co-chief resident effectively and ensure that the year runs smoothly.”

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**Dr. Glenn Patriquin**, Co-Chief Medicine Resident, hails from Cow Bay, Nova Scotia, and earned his MD at Dalhousie University.

Why?

“...to become more involved in planning and organizing curriculum and policies. I recognized the opportunity to use my active listening and communication skills to help make the internal medicine residency program even stronger.”

What?

“The role of the chief resident is to be an approachable and fair representative for the resident group, for educational and non-educational issues, and likewise to represent the faculty group to the resident body.”

How?

“...by facilitating scholarly activity, such as resident-run research and teaching, and promote healthy work-life balance among the resident group.”

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**Dr. Coleman Black**, Associate Chief Medicine Resident (Saint John site), hails from Quispamsis, New Brunswick, and earned his MD at Dalhousie University.

Why?

“...to expand on the resident teaching roles and to improve patient care on our inpatient internal medicine service.”

What?

“I would like to see our group restructure the teaching portfolio so that we can start Royal College exam prep in the core internal medicine years.”

How?

“...by providing a teaching plan and service structure to resident colleagues.”

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**Dr. Allen Tran**, Associate Chief Medicine Resident (Medical Teaching Unit, HI Site, QEII), hails from Red Deer, Alberta, and earned his MD at the University of Alberta.

Why?

“...to become more involved in the residency education and curriculum. I’m excited to help guide the program in the right directions as judged by input from the resident group.”

What?

“To be the voice for residents in different capacities, such as being an advocate when professional issues arise, liaising between the department and residents, and providing feedback to improve education and/or patient care.”

How?

“...by developing formal educational sessions that help foster our abilities as teachers and trainers.”

## GRADUATING PGY3s



Back (l-r): Sam Eissa, Paul Bonnar, Joffre Munro, Paul Morrison, Amanda Miller, Kim Babb, Magnus McLeod, Sultan Al Mutairi, Jordan Webber  
Front (l-r): Tamina Wahab, Amy Groom, Vicki Munro, Yogi Lala, James Michael, Andrew Moeller  
Missing: Hasan Al Qarni, Martha Carmichael, Wendy House, Stephen Robinson

## SPRING PARTY ~ JUNE 18, 2014

Faculty Excellence in Medical Education Awards were presented to:

**Dr. Steven Gruchy** (left), Division of Digestive Care & Endoscopy  
**Dr. Penelope Poyah** (middle), Division of Nephrology  
**Dr. Sarah Ramer** (right), Division of Cardiology



**Dr. David Hirsch**, Division of Nephrology, was honoured with the Brian M. Chandler Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medical Education. Dr. Hirsch's medical education activities include significant contributions to Dalhousie Medical School, Department of Medicine, Department of Surgery, and Faculty of Dentistry. He is a recognized contributor in nephrology education, with his valuable input being sought after for local and national bodies including the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and Canadian Society of Nephrology.

Dr. Hirsch has been extensively involved in didactic teaching and in the preparation of seminar cases for the various iterations of problem-based learning. He was involved in curriculum development in earlier years and has supervised all levels of trainees in his various clinics and on the units. A pioneer in adult nephrology education, Dr. Hirsch was the first Adult Nephrology Residency Program Director at Dalhousie (1990).

In recognition of his work, Dr. Hirsch has been nominated for and won many awards over the years in all levels of teaching. The impact of Dr. Hirsch's legacy in medical education is far-reaching and enduring. He has been a respected mentor and a teacher to many physicians who have gone on to have distinguished careers as clinicians, educators and researchers with influence at local, regional, national and international levels.



**Dr. Simon Jackson**, Division of Cardiology, received the Department of Medicine Achievement Award. From his time as a resident in the department and then joining as faculty in 2003, colleagues, residents and students have recognized Dr. Jackson's commitment to and ambition in the department. He is described by residents as "having a way of motivating learners to work harder and learn more." The same can be said of him as a leader in the Division of Cardiology and Department of Medicine. Dr. Jackson's strengths in leadership inspire us to work constructively together towards our common goals.

In addition to our faculty acknowledgements, members of the resident group were recognized for their contributions over the academic year.

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards were presented to Drs. Stephen Robinson and Paul Morrison while Drs. Alison Dixon (PGY1), Coleman Black (PGY2) and Jordan Webber (PGY3) received Outstanding Resident Awards, and Dr. Glenn Patriquin received the Excellence in Resident Research Award.

Dr. Andrew Moeller was acknowledged for his excellent work in medical education, Dr. James Michael was recognized for his assistance with the Duty Hours Task Force, Dr. Joffre Munro was acknowledged for his coordination of Resident Interesting Case Rounds, Dr. Nick Forward for organizing Resident Journal Club and Dr. Paul Morrison was awarded the Excellence in Grand Rounds plaque for his Summer 2013 Grand Rounds presentation.

## RESIDENT RETREAT

### MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY

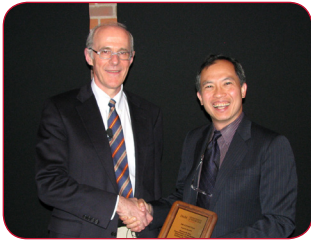
You could say this year's resident retreat was 13 years in the making – it's the 14<sup>th</sup> annual, and each year we've improved on the last thanks to input from residents and faculty. The resident retreat, held again this year at Digby Pines, is the only opportunity for all core internal medicine residents to come together. It is as much an exceptional social and networking opportunity as it is a learning opportunity. This year's focus was on medical complications of pregnancy, an area that we cover every three years. It included more than 10 sessions on topics ranging from an introduction to the physiology of pregnancy to more specific topics such as liver and renal diseases in pregnancy.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Presenter	Specialty
Dr. Lynn McLeod	Obstetrics & Gynecology
Dr. David Anderson	Hematology
Dr. Shirl Gee	Endocrinology & Metabolism
Dr. Sarah McMullen	Anesthesia
Dr. Simon Jackson	Cardiology
Dr. Paul Mears	Cardiology
Dr. Stacey Williams	Digestive Care & Endoscopy
Dr. Ian Epstein	Digestive Care & Endoscopy
Organizing Committee	PGY Level
Dr. Kim Babb	PGY3
Dr. Wendy House	PGY3
Dr. Hailey Hobbs	PGY2
Dr. Cindy Hickey	PGY2
Dr. Tasha Kulai	PGY1

## RESEARCH DAY 2014 WINNERS

One of the department's research goals is to grow a culture of scientific inquiry. The Department of Medicine Annual Research Day is both an initiative that will help achieve a culture of scientific inquiry and a testament of progress toward our goal. Research Day attracted 78 submissions and 140 attendees – record participation.



Presentations included a keynote by L.J. Tan, PhD, “Socializing Immunizations: Harnessing new communications vehicles to improve immunization rates,” which was very well received. Dr. Tan is chief strategy officer for the Immunization Action Coalition and previously served as director of medicine and public health at the American Medical Association for 15 years.

Special thanks to Dr. John Hanly, Dr. David MacDonald and Ms. Kathryn Nelson for putting together an exceptional research day, and to the judges and presenters whose contributions were critical to the event's success.

### Research Day 2014 Award Winners

Award	Congratulations to	Project title
Undergraduate Poster Presentation	Owen Chauhan Med 2 student	<i>The Cost Analysis of Aspirin versus Low Molecular Weight Heparin for Thromboprophylaxis Following Total Hip Arthroplasty</i>
Core Resident Poster Presentation	Dr. Islam (Sam) Eissa PGY3 Internal Medicine	<i>Parapneumonic Effusion and Empyema – Chart Review</i>
Sub-Specialty Resident Poster Presentation	Dr. Natalie Parks PGY 3 Neurology	<i>Perfusion MRI Characteristics of Tumefactive Demyelinating Lesions</i>
Research Fellow/Graduate Student Presentation (tie)	Travis Saunders, PhD Cardiology	<i>Sedentary Behaviour is Associated with Clinical Risk Factors in Patients Undergoing Cardiac Rehabilitation</i>
Research Fellow/Graduate Student Presentation (tie)	Judah Goldstein, PhD Geriatric Medicine	<i>The Validation of a Care Partner Derived Frailty Index Based Upon Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CP-FI-CGA) in Emergency Medical Services and Geriatric Ambulatory Care</i>
Student or Resident Oral Presentation	Dr. Nathan Lamond PGY5 Medical Oncology	<i>Adjuvant Osteoclast Inhibition in Patients with Endocrine-Sensitive Breast Cancer and Low Estrogen Levels: An Updated Cost-Utility Analysis</i>
Residents' Choice Faculty Presentation	Dr. Stephen Couban Division of Hematology	<i>CD34 Cell Dose is Correlated with Hematologic Recovery but Not Chronic Graft vs Host Disease: Results of the CBMTG Trial Comparing G-CSF-Mobilized Peripheral Blood(G-PB) versus G-CSF Stimulated Bone Marrow(G-BM) in Sibling Allografts for Hematologic Malignancies</i>



l-r: Dr. John Hanly, Owen Chauhan



l-r: Dr. John Hanly, Dr. Natalie Parks



l-r: Dr. John Hanly, Dr. Stephen Couban



l-r: Dr. John Hanly, Dr. Sam Eissa



l-r: Dr. John Hanly, Dr. Nathan Lamond



## DR. LAMOND WINS RESEARCH AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Nathan Lamond, fifth-year resident in medical oncology, on winning the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine's Best Research Award for a Senior Resident for "*Adjuvant zoledronic acid in patients with endocrinesensitive breast cancer and low estrogen levels: a cost-utility analysis*". The award is sponsored by the [Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation](#) and recognizes a senior resident who has best incorporated research into their primary training program.

## CANADIAN MEDICAL HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to Dr. Jock Murray, Division of Neurology, on receiving Canada's highest honour for physicians. Dr. Murray was officially inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in April. He was among six visionary leaders to be so honoured in 2014.



## RETIREMENT

Dr. Mary (Mimi) Davis retired from the Division of Medical Oncology on April 30, 2014 after more than 20 years as a dedicated, compassionate, and highly regarded physician, teacher and researcher. Dr. Davis joined the Division of Medical Oncology in 1994 after having spent a number of years practicing in Western Canada. While in the division, she divided her time among clinical responsibilities at the VG and Yarmouth Oncology Outreach Clinic, educating medical students and residents as assistant professor of medicine and research, having led numerous clinical trials over the years. Dr. Davis is now spending time with family and friends, travelling, and gardening. Best Wishes Mimi!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### MEDICINE MATTERS 2014: NOVEMBER 28

This year's Medicine Matters CME event will be held Friday, November 28, at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel. Building on the success of last year's event, the meeting will be case based, interactive and delivered by the department's best teachers. More information will be available in September. In the meantime, put a note in your calendar today.

## TEAM DARVESHIAN DARWINIANS WINS RESEARCH OLYMPICS

Team Darveshian Darwinians scored the most points over the course of four research challenges this year. In second place was Team Epstein, with Team SWAT a strong third.

The teams were judged on their research questions as part of the research methods course, research productivity throughout the year, their research CVs and submitted abstracts for research day.

The winning team members –

Drs. Samuel Searle (captain),  
Caroline Barry,  
Chinmoy Chowdhury,  
Amy Groom,  
Tasha Kulai,  
Megan McGarry,  
Amanda Miller,  
Victor Rogozovsky,  
Jordan Webber and  
coach Sultan Darvesh –  
have their names engraved  
on the trophy, which will  
grace the halls of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Bethune.



## GOLF DAY 2014

And it's a tie! Congratulations to Team Chris Gray, Martin Gardner, Jason Yung and Charlie Lo and Team Andrew Moeller, Paul Morrison, Colin Turner and Joan McCarville on their score of 65. Honourable mention goes to Team David Anderson, Simon Jackson, Darrell White and Michelle Karis.

## VISITORS TO DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

### 2400+ UNIQUE VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE WEBSITE IN MAY

If you haven't yet had the chance to visit the Department's revamped website, be sure to do so. Thousands of others have in May alone totaling more than 7,000 page views! The site aligns with Dalhousie's web guidelines and is being updated regularly. Of note, the website includes grand rounds information and a calendar of events that is meant to include all departmental events. Submit events for your division, service or area: [calendar of events](#).