RESEARCH EVENING

Our annual research evening continues to be very well received by department members. This year's event included presentations from Judah Goldstein, PhD, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Internal Medicine Research Fund Internal Fellowship Holder, “Choosing Wisely: Home Hemodialysis Compared with Kidney Transplantation;” and Dr. Sultan Darvesh, Division of Nephrology, “Survival and Hospitalization for Intensive Screening and Assessment by Paramedics;” Internal Medicine Research Fund Internal Fellowship Holder, “Frailty, Judah Goldstein, PhD

We have expressed appreciation to Dr. Wendy Levinson, Choosing Wisely, for her attendance and bringing about thoughtful discussion and considerations to open and close the event. The Choosing Wisely guidelines will be a focus of the Department going forward.

MEDICINE MATTERS AND CHOOSING WISELY

With Medicine Matters: Choosing Wisely

On Friday, November 28th, department members had an exceptional opportunity to participate in rich discussion and debate about the Choosing Wisely guidelines and their implementation in our respective specialties.

Thank you to all members of the organizing committee, namely Dr. Des Leddin (chair), Dr. Lott Wood, Dr. Christine Dipchand, Dr. John Laidler-Smith, Dr. Robbie Stewart, Dr. David Anderson and Andrea Heyer, for providing the leadership and management of what turned out to be an excellent event. Medicine Matters attracted more than 100 attendees from across the Department and representatives from Doctors Nova Scotia, the Department of Health and Wellness, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia and the Faculty of Medicine.

We have expressed appreciation to Dr. Wendy Levinson, Choosing Wisely, for her attendance and bringing about thoughtful discussion and considerations to open and close the event. The Choosing Wisely guidelines will be a focus of the Department going forward.

RESEARCH EVENING

AN OLYMPIC EVENING

An event where the Annual Research Evening team members and faculty couches dove nose-dived, met spaghetti, pulled tissues and retrieved nickels in a hurry at a wacky social event based on Minute to Win It games. Teams Epstein pulled out ahead of Team Darveshian Darvishian for the win when Dr. Markus Balan was able to flip two teabags onto the brim of a Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine ball cap to complete the last challenge.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Department of Medicine Research Day Abstract Submission Deadline is February 2, 2015. The submission form can be found on the department's shared drive under “DoM Research” or obtained from Kathryn Nelson at kathryn.nelson@cdha.nshealth.ca. Research Day will be held March 26, 2015.

Dr. Bruce Josephson

We close this issue of Medicine Matters in memory of a dear colleague who deeply touched the lives of many as an extraordinary physician, friend, colleague, mentor and teacher. The recent loss of Dr. Bruce Josephson after his determined battle with cancer brought tremendous sadness to his friends and colleagues in the Division of Cardiology, and our Department and across the health centre. Bruce was an inspiring person who will be sadly missed. (Photo: Dignity Memorial)

Dr. David Anderson

Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Dr. Bruce Josephson

As we quickly head toward the height of the holiday season, I wish you and your family all the joy of the season. Please take time to reflect on all the things that make this time of year special and take a moment to reflect on your accomplishments over the last year – big and small.

David R. Anderson, MD, FRCPC, FACP

Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Dr. David Anderson, Head/Chief, Department of Medicine, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada No. 17, Winter 2014 Newsletter

EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

Greater Cohesion and Collaboration Expected for the Education Portfolio

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.
NEW DIVISION HEAD/SERVICE CHIEF

Dr. Peter Hull Joins Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences as Head

Peter Hull, MD, PhD, is a professor of medicine who has spent much of his career at the University of Saskatchewan, where in addition to his teaching responsibilities, he was one of four practicing dermatologists in Saskatchewan and conducted clinical research in medical genetics, more specifically inherited diseases with a particular focus on skin.

Dr. Hull has received numerous awards for his dedication to and expertise in dermatology as well as for his teaching excellence. He has published a number of peer-reviewed articles in the last five years and was an active supervisor of resident, graduate and postdoctoral research.

For more information on the department’s education initiatives, the education committees and role of director of education, contact Morgan Dow, Education Manager, education@dal.ca.

VITAL HAIR

Five members of the Division of Respiratory stepped up in November to grow their mo’s as part of Movember, a national campaign to raise funds for prostate cancer research. The Vital Hair team raised more than $1,000 and challenges all other divisions to participate in the annual campaign next year. Could your division match their awesomeness?

Handover Tool Piloted in Emergency Department

A new handover tool developed by Dr. Alison Rodger, the Department of Medicine handover rep, and Dr. Ian Epstein, director, postgraduate education, with support from Dr. Elaine Tsui, Canadian Medical Protective Association, is now being used in the emergency department (ED) for patients who are transferred from the ED to the Medical Teaching Unit (MTU) and all inpatient medicine services.

The two-part tool, which is a printed order and progress note (more below), prompts nursing staff to notify the internal medicine resident(s) or attending in the ED of a patient who will be transferred to the MTU or other inpatient medicine service. The resident or attending is then responsible for handover to the service, which, in addition to prompting the provision of patient information to the service resident or attending, helps ensure notification to the MTU that the patient will soon be on one.

The handover order describes the following process:

1. Please page senior medicine resident in ED when bed is assigned to allow handover to the inpatient team.
2. If you do not receive an answer promptly please page the PGY1 in ED and if still no response please page Attending MD.
3. For handover purposes please provide the following information to the resident:
   a. Current vitals
   b. Patient destination
4. Patients may be directly signed over, but if a change in clinical condition is noted, reassessment prior to leaving the emergency department may be required. This is to ensure safe patient transfer, and appropriate admission service.

The progress note includes a template for handover in the I-DRAW format:

- Patient ID (including Code Status)
- Diagnosis & current condition of patient
- Recent changes in condition or patient
- Anticipated changes in condition or treatments (pending labs, meds, tests)
- What to watch for in the next interval of care

**NEW**

The intent is to standardize handover, increase our rate of handover, and reduce the number of patients that arrive to the MTU and other inpatient medicine services without appropriate notification,” says Dr. Epstein.

Dr. Peter Hull

WORK IN PROGRESS

• An orientation package for faculty that introduces them to the department’s expectations for medical education and what opportunities are available to them for teaching and for improving medical education through CME and research.
• Better preparing learners for transition points in their education, e.g. the transition from medical student to resident, and from resident to faculty member.
• Medical education research workshops.
• Better using technology to deliver and improve medical education.
• Establishing medical education research grants and medical education awards.

“Darrell has a reputation across Canada for its collegiality, which I think is of particular interest to clinical researchers such as myself. I am very much looking forward to connecting with potential research collaborators and helping to increase the Division’s clinical research, but also to practicing with a larger team of highly skilled dermatologists,” says Dr. Hull.

FINLAYSON COMPLETES TERM

Dr. Laura Finlayson Completes Term as Head, Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences

Dr. Laura Finlayson completed a five-year term as head, Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences. Dr. Finlayson’s contributions to the Division are many and include playing a leading role in establishing a residency program in the Division and fostering a collegial and respectful work environment for the team of hospital and community based dermatologists.

As Dr. Peter Green notes, “Never one to promote her own accomplishments, as division head, Laura humbly advanced dermatology education and scholarship while remaining a role model for exemplary patient care.”

We’re in a time of transition for medical education at Dalhousie and across Canada, driven in part by the Royal College with its continuing medical education awards.

The Department of Medicine produces three reports annually in an effort to be accountable to our primary stakeholders, namely the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness, the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine and Capital Health. The reports, which are provided to many stakeholders in print and posted on our public website, each capture different areas of information pertinent to the work we do. While producing the reports is a significant undertaking that involves months of hard work by members of the department across all divisions, they fulfill a responsibility for the Department and each of the divisions to account for our clinical, teaching and research activity on an annual basis.

The Compendium of Divisional Activity is a collection of the service reports for each division; the Faculty, Academic and Administrative Monographs includes listings of all department members and their professional activities and recognitions, e.g. committee memberships, awards, publications; and the Progress & Profiles report includes highlights and a profile for each division and for the clinical, research and administrative portfolios.

The 2013-2014 reports are available on the department’s website: https://www.medicine.dal.ca/educationdepartment/medicine/annualreports.html

For more information on the department’s education initiatives, the education committees and role of director of education, contact Morgan Dow, Education Manager, education@dal.ca.

The Department of Medicine and the Division of Medicine will be holding a virtual town hall on Thursday, March 16th, 2017 from 12-1 p.m. to discuss the new handover tool. A link to the meeting will be sent to all participants. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the handover lead, Dr. Alison Rodger at Rodger@dal.ca or Dr. Ian Epstein at Ian.Epstein@dal.ca.

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Davis, who has been named the 2017 Dr. John D. Chalmers Career Award in Cancer Care Nova Scotia and the 2017 Henry and Valentine Tomlinson Cancer Care Nova Scotia's 2014 Excellence Award in Patient Care.

The annual reports are available on the department’s website: http://www.medicine.dal.ca/educationdepartment/medicine/annualreports.html

The Department of Medicine and the Division of Medicine will be holding a virtual town hall on Thursday, March 16th, 2017 from 12-1 p.m. to discuss the new handover tool. A link to the meeting will be sent to all participants. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the handover lead, Dr. Alison Rodger at Rodger@dal.ca or Dr. Ian Epstein at Ian.Epstein@dal.ca.

For more information on the department’s education initiatives, the education committees and role of director of education, contact Morgan Dow, Education Manager, education@dal.ca.
**New Division Head/Service Chief**

**Dr. Peter Hull Joins Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences as Head**

Peter Hull, MD, PhD, is a professor of medicine who has spent much of his career at the University of Saskatchewan, where in addition to his teaching responsibilities, he was one of four practicing dermatologists in Saskatchewan and conducted clinical research in medical genetics, more specifically inherited diseases with a particular focus on skin.

Dr. Hull has received numerous awards for his dedication to and expertise in dermatology as well as for his teaching excellence. He has published a number of peer-reviewed articles in the last five years and was an active supervisor of residents, graduate and postdoctoral research.

Dr. Hull joined the Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences in November, bringing with him a keen desire to work with a team recognized for its clinical excellence and collegiality, and to enhance the Division’s clinical research.

“Dalhousie has a reputation across Canada for its collegiality, which I think is of particular interest to clinical researchers such as myself. I’m very much looking forward to connecting with potential research collaborators and helping to increase the Division’s clinical research, but also to practicing with a larger team of skilled dermatologists,” says Dr. Hull.

**Vital Hair**

Five members of the Division of Respiratory stepped up in November to grow their moustaches as part of Movember, a national campaign to raise funds for prostate cancer research. The Vital Hair team raised more than $1,000 and challenges all other divisions to match their awesomeness.

As Dr. Peter Green notes, “Never one to promote her own accomplishments, as division head, Laura humbly advances dermatology education and scholarship while remaining a role model for exemplary patient care.”

**Dr. Finlayson Completes Term**

**Dr. Laura Finlayson Completes Term as Head, Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences**

Upon the retirement of Dr. Peter Hull, Dr. Laura Finlayson completed a five-year term as head, Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences. Dr. Finlayson’s contributions to the Division are many and include playing a leading role in establishing a residency program in the Division and fostering a collegial and respectful work environment for the team of hospital and community based dermatologists.

As Dr. Peter Green notes, “Never one to promote her own accomplishments, as division head, Laura humbly advances dermatology education and scholarship while remaining a role model for exemplary patient care.”

**Handover Tool Piloted in Emergency Department**

A new handover tool developed by Dr. Alison Rodger, the Department of Medicine handover rep, and Dr. Ian Epstein, director, postgraduate education, with support from Dr. Elaine Tsai, Canadian Medical Protective Association, is now being used in the emergency department (ED) for patients who are transferred from the ED to the Medical Teaching Unit (MTU) and all inpatient medicine services.

The two-part tool, which is a printed order and progress note (more below), prompts nursing staff to notify the internal medicine resident(s) or attending in the ED of a patient who will be transferred to the MTU or other inpatient medical service. The resident or attending is then responsible for handover to the service, which, in addition to prompting the provision of patient information to the service resident or attending, helps ensure notification to the MTU that the patient will soon be on their unit.

The handover order describes the following process:

1. Please page senior medicine resident in ED when bed is assigned to allow handover to the inpatient team.
2. If you do not receive an answer promptly please page the PGY1 in ED, and if still no response please page Attending MD.
3. For handover purposes please provide the following information to the resident:
   a. Current vitals
   b. Patient destination
4. Patients may be directly signed over, but if a change in clinical condition is noted, reassessment prior to leaving the emergency hospital may be required. This is to ensure safe patient transfer, and appropriate admission service.

The progress note includes a template for handover in the I-DRAW format:

- Patient ID (including Code Status)
- Diagnosis & current condition of patient
- Recent changes in condition or patient
- Anticipated changes in condition or treatment (pending labs, meds, test)
- What to watch for in the next interval of care

“The intent is to standardize handover, increase our rate of handover, and reduce the number of patients that arrive to the MTU and other inpatient medical services without appropriate notification,” says Dr. Epstein.

**Mission: We are a diverse group of highly trained professionals dedicated to improving health through education, research and providing exemplary clinical care to our community.**
**DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE**

Being head of the Department of Medicine for the past three years has been an absolute pleasure and privilege. I have had a chance to witness and support outstanding achievements in clinical care, education and research. When called upon, almost without exception, individuals and groups have “stepped up to the plate” to fulfill roles, usually with exceptional results. It is therefore with mixed emotions I very recently accepted the position of Dean, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, effective July 1, 2015. Being Dean has been a long-term goal of mine and being able to assume this position at Dalhousie is particularly special.

This Department has a lot to be proud of and there are many great clinical and academic initiatives well underway. Our strategic plan has focused us on key priorities in quality, frailty, education and research that will serve us well for the future. I have no doubt the next Department Head will lead us in important new directions that are deserving of our full attention and support. I will spend much of my remaining time as Department Head ensuring there is a seamless transition, the Department will lead will find us in important new directions that are deserving of our full attention and support. With my transition, the Department will find us in important new directions that are deserving of our full attention and support. With my transition, the Department will find us in important new directions that are deserving of our full attention and support. With my transition, the Department will find us in important new directions that are deserving of our full attention and support. With my transition, the Department will find us in important new directions that are deserving of our full attention and support. With my transition, the Department will find us in important new directions that are deserving of our full attention and support.

As we quickly head toward the height of the holiday season, I wish you and your family all the joy of the season. Please take time to reflect on all the things that make this time of year special and take a moment to reflect on your accomplishments over the last year — big and small.

David R. Anderson, MD, FRCP, FACP
Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University
District Chief, Department of Medicine, Capital District Health Authority
Professor of Medicine, Community Health & Epidemiology, Pathology

**EDUCATION PORTFOLIO**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE**

Greater Cohesion and Collaboration Expected for the Education Portfolio

The Department of Medicine has established an education committee and a director of education position to advance the education portfolio and continue the Department’s long history of excellence in medical education. These initiatives stem from the 2010 Survey Committee Report Recommendations, and the Department’s strategic plan and subsequent actions, which have yielded positive, but incremental results. They are also part of continuing to put our strategic plan into action and ensuring we will achieve the Department’s expected outcomes in education.

“The education working group, which came together during the Department’s strategic planning process to address three main goals related to a culture of excellence and innovation, leading educational initiatives across the continuum and ensuring the best internal medicine experience, recognized that the Department needs a different, more coordinated approach to education to realize the education goals in the strategic plan and to continue as a leader in medical education,” says Dr. David Anderson, Head/Chief, Department of Medicine.

“This is in keeping with the recommendation in the 2010 Survey Committee Report to “…work together to address attitudinal and system problems that are contributing to trainees’ perception of an organization of territorial and uncooperative silos.”

The Education Committee, which is chaired by the director of education and includes members from the Department as well as from the Saint John Regional Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine’s Division of Medical Education, will serve to connect the continuum of education within the Department. The aim of the director of education role, to which Dr. Chris Gray was appointed in November 2014, is to recognize and minimize duplication within the education portfolio, to identify and harness opportunities, and to be informed of all education initiatives in the Department as well as those across the Faculty of Medicine and beyond to see that we may learn from others and enhance the education programs and services the Department offers.

**RESEARCH EVENING**

Our annual research evening continues to be very well received by department members. This year’s event included presentations from Judah Goldstein, PhD, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Medicine and Dental of New Jersey, “Frailty: Screening and Assessment by Paramedics,” Dr. Karthik Tennankore, Division of Nephrology, “Survival and Hospitalization for Intensive Home Hemodialysis Compared with Kidney Transplantation;” and Dr. Sultan Darvesh, Division of Neurology and Geriatric Medicine, Macdonald-Shey Research Chair, “The Fallacy of Intelligence: Evidence from Brain Chemoarchitecture.”

We also awarded two faculty members with Department of Medicine Research Awards for their exemplary research programs. Congratulations to Chris Blanchard, PhD and Dr. Shelly McNeil.

More than 60 department members attended the Research Evening, which was held at the Prince George Hotel on November 6th.

**AN OLYMPIC EVENING**

Resident Research Olympic team members and faculty coaches nose dive, merrily swam, pulled tissues and retrieved nickels in a hurry at a wacky social event based on Minute to Win It games. Team Epsteins pulled out ahead of Team Darvishian Darwinitos for the win when Dr. Markos Bilas was able to flip two teabags onto the brim of a Dal ball cap to complete the last challenge.

**NSERC Nickel in Stocking Emergency Retrieval Challenge**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Department of Medicine Research Day Abstract Submission Deadline is February 2, 2015. The submission form can be found on the department’s shared drive under “DoM Research” or obtained from medicine.office@dal.ca. The Research Day will be held March 26, 2015.

**AN OLYMPIC EVENING**

Resident Research Olympic team members and faculty coaches nose dive, merrily swam, pulled tissues and retrieved nickels in a hurry at a wacky social event based on Minute to Win It games. Team Epsteins pulled out ahead of Team Darvishian Darwinitos for the win when Dr. Markos Bilas was able to flip two teabags onto the brim of a Dal ball cap to complete the last challenge.

**NSERC Nickel in Stocking Emergency Retrieval Challenge**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Department of Medicine Research Day Abstract Submission Deadline is February 2, 2015. The submission form can be found on the department’s shared drive under “DoM Research” or obtained from medicine.office@dal.ca. The Research Day will be held March 26, 2015.

**AN OLYMPIC EVENING**

Resident Research Olympic team members and faculty coaches nose dive, merrily swam, pulled tissues and retrieved nickels in a hurry at a wacky social event based on Minute to Win It games. Team Epsteins pulled out ahead of Team Darvishian Darwinitos for the win when Dr. Markos Bilas was able to flip two teabags onto the brim of a Dal ball cap to complete the last challenge.

**NSERC Nickel in Stocking Emergency Retrieval Challenge**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Department of Medicine Research Day Abstract Submission Deadline is February 2, 2015. The submission form can be found on the department’s shared drive under “DoM Research” or obtained from medicine.office@dal.ca. The Research Day will be held March 26, 2015.

**AN OLYMPIC EVENING**

Resident Research Olympic team members and faculty coaches nose dive, merrily swam, pulled tissues and retrieved nickels in a hurry at a wacky social event based on Minute to Win It games. Team Epsteins pulled out ahead of Team Darvishian Darwinitos for the win when Dr. Markos Bilas was able to flip two teabags onto the brim of a Dal ball cap to complete the last challenge.

**NSERC Nickel in Stocking Emergency Retrieval Challenge**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Department of Medicine Research Day Abstract Submission Deadline is February 2, 2015. The submission form can be found on the department’s shared drive under “DoM Research” or obtained from medicine.office@dal.ca. The Research Day will be held March 26, 2015.

**AN OLYMPIC EVENING**

Resident Research Olympic team members and faculty coaches nose dive, merrily swam, pulled tissues and retrieved nickels in a hurry at a wacky social event based on Minute to Win It games. Team Epsteins pulled out ahead of Team Darvishian Darwinitos for the win when Dr. Markos Bilas was able to flip two teabags onto the brim of a Dal ball cap to complete the last challenge.

**NSERC Nickel in Stocking Emergency Retrieval Challenge**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The Department of Medicine Research Day Abstract Submission Deadline is February 2, 2015. The submission form can be found on the department’s shared drive under “DoM Research” or obtained from medicine.office@dal.ca. The Research Day will be held March 26, 2015.