

MEDICINE MATTERS

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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

NO. 17, WINTER 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

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 in leadership that will avoid any loss in momentum. With my transition, the Department will be gaining a Dean very familiar with the Department and the need to ensure it has every opportunity for success.

In the meantime, I will focus on seeing my work through on development of the new AFP model, identifying opportunities for the Department that may result from the provincial health districts merger, and working with the Faculty of Medicine and Capital Health in the search for a new department head and ensuring a smooth transition.

Happy Holidays! 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 relish in 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

District Chief, Department of Medicine, Capital District Health Authority

Professor of Medicine, Community Health & Epidemiology, Pathology

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 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 creating 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 so that we may learn from others and enhance the education programs and services the Department offers.



Capital Health

“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 move toward competency based medical education training, but also by the overall recognition that we can do better than the historical teaching model of ‘see one, do one, teach one.’ Research into medical education has also played a large part in the transition that is underway. It’s a very opportune time to be making changes in the Department,” notes Dr. Gray.

Dr. Gray, the education working group, and, most recently, the education committee have identified a number of initiatives and goals for the short and long term, which include:



- 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 and career, 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.

“Our intent is to attract the best residents from across Canada by ensuring we have the best education and training program in the country and by establishing the Department as the authority for medical education,” says Dr. Gray.

For more information on the department’s education initiatives, the education committee or the role of director of education, contact Meegan Dowe, Education Manager, meegan.dowe@cdha.nshealth.ca.

DR. FINLAYSON COMPLETES TERM

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



Upon the recruitment 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 advanced dermatology education and scholarship while remaining a role model for exemplary patient care.”

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.

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 highly skilled dermatologists,” says Dr. Hull.

VITAL HAIR

Five members of the Division of Respiriology 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?



Vital Hair team members (l to r): Dr. Paul Hernandez, Dr. Colm McParland, Scott Brousseau, Scott Fulton, and Dr. Alex Nelson.

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 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 the 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 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:

I - Patient **ID** (including Code Status)
D - **Diagnosis** & current condition of patient
R - **Recent changes** in condition or patient
A - **Anticipated changes** in condition or treatment (pending labs, meds, tests)
W - **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 medicine services without appropriate notification,” says Dr. Epstein.

CONGRATULATIONS!

DR. MARY DAVIS RECOGNIZED BY CANCER CARE NOVA SCOTIA

Dr. Mary (Mimi) Davis was recently recognized with *Cancer Care Nova Scotia's 2014 Excellence Award in Patient Care*. Dr. Davis was nominated by Capital Health and South West Nova. Dr. Davis retired from the Division of Medical Oncology in April after more than 20 years as a dedicated, compassionate, and highly regarded physician, teacher and researcher.



ANNUAL REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE



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 Monograph** 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 education portfolios.

The 2013-2014 reports are available on the department's website: <http://www.medicine.dal.ca/departments/department-sites/medicine/about/annual-reports.html>

WEBSITE PROJECT UPDATE

Work to renew the Department of Medicine website, which includes a website for each division is well underway. The department's main pages went live in spring 2014, followed by the Divisions of Cardiology, Neurology, and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Six other division websites are also in various stages of development.

Since the department's main website went live in May, it has attracted close to 3,000 unique visitors on a monthly basis.

Website stats

Short alias: <http://dal.ca/medicine-department>

	unique visitors	page views
September 2014	3,005	12,425
October 2014	3,058	10,708
November 2014	3,010	11,896

EVENT RECAPS

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. Lori Wood, Dr. Christine Dipchand, Dr. Jorin LindenSmith, 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

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 Internal Medicine Research Fund Internal Fellowship Holder, "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**, Divisions of Neurology and Geriatric Medicine, Macdonald Sobey 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.

WELCOME



Please welcome **Dr. Evan Merrick** to the Division of Cardiology. Dr. Merrick is no stranger to Dalhousie and the Department of Medicine, having completed family medicine, internal medicine and cardiology residencies here. He joins us from the Yarmouth Regional Hospital where he had practiced since 2012.

AN OLYMPIC EVENING

Resident Research Olympic team members and faculty coaches nose dived, met spaghetti, 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 Darveshian Darwinians for the win when Dr. Marko Balan 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)



Nasal Congestion AKA Nosedive



Tissue Donation



CaRMS
(Can and Resident Meet Spaghetti)



The Big Headed Resident
Has A Cap o' Tea

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@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, our Department and across the health centre. Bruce was an inspiring person who will be sadly missed. (Photo: Dignity Memorial)