

# MEDICINE MATTERS

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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

No. 20, WINTER 2015 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



I would like to start this update by offering a personal note of thanks to the many members of our department and our colleagues with whom we work who have helped care for my and Sarah's family over the past year. As a member of this department, I was confident of the excellent care we collectively provide, but to experience it first hand as a family member offers a new perspective that has resulted in a far greater appreciation of our commitment to delivering the very best possible care with compassion and a pursuit of excellence. I have thanked many of you in person, but feel it is important to publicly acknowledge my family's heartfelt appreciation of the efforts of department members, and our collaborative nursing and allied health care teams over the past year; thank you.

On that note, I ask that you please take whatever time you can this holiday season to do the things you enjoy doing and spend time with the people who matter most to you. We all get caught up in the business of the day and can easily forget what is most important to us, which is particularly true of those who work in healthcare where the stakes are so often incredibly high.

With 2016 fast approaching and a number of exciting developments underway that will affect all department members, including the AFP, Department of Medicine practice plan, department head search and survey, and the Faculty of Medicine's strategic plan development and research review, we will all need to take time to rest and reinvigorate to take best advantage of the opportunities ahead.

This issue of Medicine Matters highlights a number of happenings in the Department, but I would like to bring your attention to a few items. The Department recently welcomed two hematologists on one-year locums, which will help to ease some of the pressure on the Division of Hematology. We will, however, continue with our recruitment efforts in this area. The department's annual CME event, Medicine Matters, and our Research Evening were very successful again this year. Medicine Matters attracted more than 100 attendees and featured robust discussions on the Choosing Wisely theme. The Research Evening, which was well attended and included excellent

presentations, featured a special recognition of Dr. Tom Marrie, former Dean of Medicine. And, finally, if you haven't already done so, log in to DalMedix, <http://www.med.dal.ca>, the Faculty of Medicine's intranet. The medical school uses DalMedix to update faculty members on its operations, including curriculum development, strategic planning, research funding and more.

Thank you for making this an excellent year for the Department of Medicine and to all of you who helped me assume the role of interim head. I wish you and your families all the best over the holidays and into the New Year. Be sure to take time to make special memories and truly experience the moments that bring you joy.

### Simon Jackson, MD, FRCPC (C), MMedEd

*Interim Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University  
District Chief, Department of Medicine, Nova Scotia Health Authority  
Professor of Medicine, Dalhousie University*

## WIPING OUT HEPATITIS C

Dr. Lisa Barrett, a clinician scientist in the Division of Infectious Diseases, is leading a Hepatitis C immunity study in PEI's provincial correctional centre. The pilot study will provide new oral drugs known as direct-acting antiviral agents to 60 offenders at the centre and follow them through a year of treatment to monitor re-infection and any potential side effects of therapy on HCV immunity.



While less than one percent of the general population is infected with Hepatitis C, infection rates in correctional facilities in Canada are well over 20 percent. Eliminating the disease among this offender population is an important step in eliminating the disease nationally.

The newly approved oral medications have proven cure rates of 90 to 97 percent with minimal side effects, so they are a practical choice for treating Hepatitis C over time. PEI is the first province in Canada to fund the medications. Eventually, Dr. Barrett hopes this pilot study in correctional facilities will lead to further studies and access for people in corrections settings in the Atlantic Provinces and around the country.

## HEAD, DIVISION OF RESPIROLOGY

Congratulations to Dr. Paul Hernandez on his appointment as Head, Division of Respiriology. Dr. Hernandez had been the acting Head/Chief since March 2014.



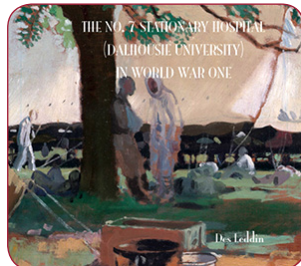
Dr. Hernandez is a professor of medicine and has been a staff respirologist at the QEII since 1995. He is the Medical Director of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation program and Medical Co-Lead of the 3-Intermediate Medical Care Unit at the QEII and a long-serving member of the Medical Advisory Board for the Lung Association of Nova Scotia.

Nationally Dr. Hernandez is the chair of the COPD Clinical Assembly of the Canadian Thoracic Society, chair of the Respiriology Examination Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and member of the Canadian Respiratory Research Network of the Canadian Lung Association.

## DR. DES LEDDIN AUTHORS BOOK

### DALHOUSIE'S INVOLVEMENT IN WWI

Dr. Des Leddin, gastroenterologist and professor of medicine, recently authored *The No. 7 Stationary Hospital (Dalhousie University) In World War One*, a book that details a contingent of students and professors from the Dalhousie Medical College who joined the war effort to treat the thousands of wounded. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the No.7 hospital was November 9, 2015.



The No. 7 Hospital was formed from a desperate need for medical personnel to treat Canadian soldiers at the front. It was comprised of 162 personnel, including officers, non-commissioned officers and female nurses – all students and faculty of the Dalhousie Medical College. It travelled to England in December 1915, later moving to France, particularly the northern region. The hospital spent over a year in the French village of Arques, close to the front. At one point, medics treated German soldiers wounded in explosions at the Messines Ridge. Those explosions were from mines laid by men from Nova Scotia.

“One side was blowing them up. Another side was patching them up,” Leddin said in a recent CBC interview. “I’ve never understood how medics were able to reconcile those roles.”

The man in charge of the hospital was Colonel Dr. John Stewart, a well-known surgeon from the Halifax region. After the No. 7 Hospital returned from Europe in 1919, Dr. Stewart was appointed Dean of Medicine at the Medical College where he served until 1932. Ms. Laura Hubley was the head nurse and matron of the No. 7 Hospital. Ms. Hubley established training standards for nursing education in Nova Scotia and beyond. She retired from nursing practice in 1938.

## 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 the Central Zone of the Nova Scotia Health Authority. 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.

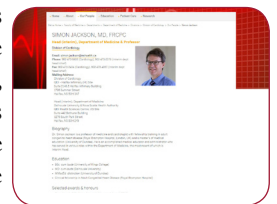


The Compendium of Divisional Activity is a collection of the service reports for each division; the Faculty, Academic and Administrative Monograph includes listings of all department members and their professional activities and recognitions, e.g. committee memberships, awards, publications; and the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

The 2014-2015 reports are available on the department's website: <http://www.medicine.dal.ca/departments/departments-sites/medicine/about/annual-reports.html>

## FACULTY PROFILES ONLINE

With the Department of Medicine's continuing efforts to improve its online presence, that is to make it more robust, ensure it aligns with Dalhousie's guidelines and is kept up to date, faculty members are asked to maintain an online profile via the department's website.



Faculty profiles include information such as research and/or clinical interests, publications, education, biography and memberships. They may also include links to an external or internal project or organization website, twitter feed and more, and easily enable you to participate in the [Experts @ Dal](#) program, which identifies you as a subject expert who is willing to speak to the media on your designated topic area(s). Alternatively, the minimum required information in a profile is the faculty member's name, academic rank and contact, which has already been inputted for each faculty member in the Department as part of the website project.

The profiles allow others, such as potential collaborators, granting agencies, students and residents, to search for faculty members and retrieve their clinical and research interests, current projects and more. To learn more, please review the [profile guidelines](#). To get started with your profile, contact Cindy Bayers, communication advisor, at [pebblecomms@eastlink.ca](mailto:pebblecomms@eastlink.ca)

## ARE YOU USING DALMEDIX?



If you aren't already using DalMedix, be sure to log in today: <http://www.med.dal.ca>. Via DalMedix, the Faculty of Medicine's intranet, you have access to:

- Directories
- News & Info
- Med School Curriculum
- Files & Images
- Links
- Applications

Also, the Faculty of Medicine uses DalMedix to communicate information about business at the medical school that concerns all faculty. To learn more about DalMedix or for help accessing the system, contact MedIT ([dalmedix@dal.ca](mailto:dalmedix@dal.ca), 902.494.1234, or toll free at 1.866.327.8256).

## EDUCATION PORTFOLIO UPDATE

There have been a number of changes in the education office over the last several months as a result of maternity leaves, retirements and new opportunities so we thought it was time for a quick update.



**Katie Barkhouse**, Education Manager and Postgraduate Education Coordinator, is back from maternity leave. Katie oversees all administrative aspects of the education portfolio and is also the postgraduate education coordinator. Katie is best reached at [domeducation@nshealth.ca](mailto:domeducation@nshealth.ca)

**Andrea Heyer** is serving the role of Education Coordinator in a term position which is focused on postgraduate education. She has stepped in for Sophie Montreuil, Education Coordinator, who is on maternity leave. Andrea may also be contacted at [domeducation@nshealth.ca](mailto:domeducation@nshealth.ca) or [andrea.heyer@nshealth.ca](mailto:andrea.heyer@nshealth.ca)



**Karmal Brouwer**, Undergraduate Coordinator, joined the department in June 2015 to replace Catriona Talbot who retired in late summer. Karmal can be reached at [domundergrad@nshealth.ca](mailto:domundergrad@nshealth.ca)

## CORRECTION RE: INA CUMMINGS AWARD



In the summer newsletter, we incorrectly noted that the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) recognized **Dr. Rob Horton**, Division of Palliative Medicine, with the 2015 Ina Cummings Award. Dr. Horton was actually recognized by the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association, which honoured him with the Ina Cummings Award. The award is given to individuals who exemplify professional or personal commitment and achievement in the field of hospice palliative care.

## MEDICINE MATTERS: CHOOSING WISELY II

The Department of Medicine's annual multidisciplinary continuing education event, Medicine Matters, was held Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The event included a keynote address by **Dr. Sacha Bhatia**, cardiologist at Women's College Hospital Toronto, Evaluation Lead & Chair, Canadian Cardiovascular Society Choosing Wisely Committee. It also included case-based discussions in:



• Hospital Medicine  
**Dr. Katalin Koller**, presenter;  
**Dr. Christy Bussey**, facilitator

• Nephrology  
**Dr. Penelope Poyah**, presenter;  
**Dr. Martin MacKinnon**, facilitator

• Medical Oncology  
**Dr. Lori Wood**, presenter;  
**Dr. Samantha Gray**, facilitator

• Respiriology  
**Dr. Meredith Chiasson**, presenter;  
**Dr. Debra Morrison**, facilitator

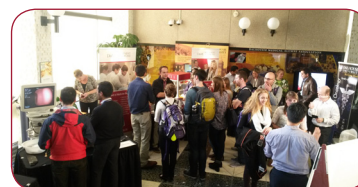
• Choosing Wisely in Action: Local examples and lessons learned, presented by **Drs. Sam Campbell, Manal Elnenaei, Allen Tran and Paul Cameron**

- Hospital Medicine  
**Dr. Katalin Koller**, presenter;  
**Dr. Christy Bussey**, facilitator
- Nephrology  
**Dr. Penelope Poyah**, presenter;  
**Dr. Martin MacKinnon**, facilitator
- Medical Oncology  
**Dr. Lori Wood**, presenter;  
**Dr. Samantha Gray**, facilitator
- Respiriology  
**Dr. Meredith Chiasson**, presenter;  
**Dr. Debra Morrison**, facilitator
- Choosing Wisely in Action: Local examples and lessons learned, presented by **Drs. Sam Campbell, Manal Elnenaei, Allen Tran and Paul Cameron**

Congratulations to the planning committee on yet another very successful event!



## DAL MED SCHOOL CAREER DAY 2015



Third and fourth year medical students enthusiastically approached the Department of Medicine displays at this year's Dalhousie Medical School Career Day. The event provides students with an opportunity to explore career opportunities in the various medical disciplines.



## DOM RESEARCH EVENING 2015

Congratulations to Dr. Melissa Andrew, Division of Geriatric Medicine, who received a DoM Research Excellence Award (associate professor level) at November's Department of Medicine Research Evening, and to Dr. Tom Marrie,



former Dean of Medicine, who received a special award from the Department: an endowed Research in Medicine Summer Studentship in his name.

Forty-eight department members were on hand to celebrate the research in the Department. Presentations included:



*Acquiring and Defining a Population-Based Inflammatory Bowel Disease Cohort: Past Experiences and Future Direction*

**Dr. Jenn Jones**  
Division of Digestive Care and Endoscopy

*Research Questions in Dermatology*

**Dr. Peter Hull**  
Division of Clinical Dermatology and Cutaneous Sciences



*Medicine and Research*  
**Dr. David Anderson**  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie  
Professor, Division of Hematology

## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM DAL

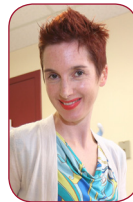


'Here at Dalhousie, the holidays take on many shapes.'  
See [Dalhousie's 2015 digital holiday card \(http://holiday.dal.ca\)](http://holiday.dal.ca).

## WELCOME!



**Dr. Doug Hayami**, Division of Cardiology, joined the Department as assistant professor on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Hayami recently completed a clinical fellowship in advanced echocardiography at the University of California at San Francisco after 2 years of echo and cardiac rehabilitation training at the Montreal Heart Institute. Prior to this fellowship, Dr. Hayami earned an MD at McGill University and completed internal medicine and cardiology residency here in the Department. He is now a full-time member of the Division of Cardiology.



**Dr. Ariel Burns**, Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Sciences, joined the Department as an assistant professor in July, immediately after finishing a dermatology residency here. She now practices at the [Atlantic Skin Care](#) clinic in Dartmouth and the dermatology clinic at the VG. You can read more about Dr. Burns in this year's [Progress & Profiles publication](#).



**Dr. Leah Cahill**, Howard Webster Research Chair, officially joined the Department on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Cahill obtained her doctoral degree in nutrition and generic epidemiology in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She then moved to the Harvard School of Public Health where she developed a research program investigating coronary heart disease and Type 2 Diabetes.



**Dr. Magnus McLeod** joined the Division of General Internal Medicine as assistant professor on August 17<sup>th</sup> not long after completing the Dalhousie internal medicine residency. Prior to coming to Dalhousie, Dr. McLeod graduated (MD) from St. George's University in Grenada.



**Dr. Ismail Sharif** joined the Division of Hematology on October 1<sup>st</sup> in a part-time one-year locum position. Dr. Sharif is also working as an attending hematologist/oncologist at the Moncton Hospital.



**Dr. Jonathan Hebb** became a staff member of the Division of Hematology on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Hebb completed hematology and critical care residency training at McGill University and is a postdoctoral scholar (Stanford University). He has taken on a one-year, full time locum as a hematologist.