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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

NO. 23, FALL / WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE

By now I hope you have all heard about the work underway to update and revise our practice plan. As previously shared, the new practice plan is required for a number of reasons but namely to protect us individually from Canada Revenue Agency's independent contractor status and to comply with the new Clinical Academic Funding Agreement in place with government.

As we work through these changes I commit to do my best to keep you well informed. In return, I appreciate your help in making every effort to stay informed, by reading my updates and attending Department meetings. I also hope you will all become familiar with the current draft Practice Plan (previously distributed) and provide your feedback by the Dec. 16 deadline.

We are working toward having our new final practice plan developed, ratified and in place by April 1, 2017.

I continue to be pleased to see the exemplary work put forward by each of you, every day. I was reminded of our talent during this past month's Department of Medicine's Research Evening where we celebrated our research community. There was a strong departmental turnout, and we recognized specific contributions as outlined in the body of this newsletter. The efforts of Dr. Hanly and the Research Committee are bearing fruit!

I hope to see you at this year's Holiday Reception on Dec. 13th at the Waegwalc Club. Please drop in anytime between 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Two outstanding researchers were honoured on Nov. 9 at the annual Department of Medicine Research Excellence Awards. Colleagues celebrated Drs. Karthik Tennankore, Assistant Professor, Division of Nephrology and John Sapp, Professor, Division of Cardiology.

DR. KARTHIK TENNANKORE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Known locally and nationally for his research commitment and contributions, Dr. Tennankore is a valued colleague and active promoter of research within the Department. His research interests include hemodialysis outcomes, the influence of frailty on outcomes with renal disorders and renal failure, and outcomes for kidney transplant recipients. His broad research base also includes conducting clinical trials, and has several ongoing collaborations.

Dr. Tennankore has 37 peer-reviewed publications, eight as first author and eight as last author (demonstrating his commitment to supporting residents). He has had 10 funded grants, including co-principal investigator on two Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grants. He has also received a Translating Research Into Care (TRIC) award. This past year he was awarded \$50,000 for the University Internal Medicine Research Foundation (UIMRF) Junior Faculty Award for "Frailty and the Transplant Wait List".

Congratulations Dr. Tennankore.



DoM Research Excellence Award Winner Dr. Karthik Tennankore, presented by Dr. John Hanly, DoM Research Director

DR. JOHN SAPP, PROFESSOR

With a long list of research accomplishments to his name, Dr. John Sapp, a clinical cardiac electrophysiologist in the Division of Cardiology, was also honoured with the Department of Medicine Research Excellence Award.

John's clinical and research interests include methods for improving cardiac mapping and catheter ablation, management of ventricular tachycardia, and studies to better understand the relationship between



DoM Research Excellence Award Winner Dr. John Sapp, presented by Dr. John Hanly, DoM Research Director

heart failure and heart rhythm abnormalities.

He was the principal investigator for the VANISH clinical trial (2009-2016), which showed that catheter ablation is a better treatment for recurrent ventricular tachycardia (VT) than increased drug therapy. He is now continuing with the VANISH2 Pilot Study.

In just the last three years, Dr. Sapp published 29 peer-reviewed journal articles, his most recent of which was the VANISH findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine (first author). He has authored two books and has drawn standing-room only crowds for his presentations.

RESEARCH EVENING 2016: SHOWCASES THREE RESEARCHERS WORK

On Nov. 9 more than 60 people gathered for our annual Department of Medicine's Research Evening to celebrate research successes and contributions.

In addition to celebrating the two newest recipients of the Research Excellence Awards (see above), three researchers took the stage to share their research insights.

Dr. Melissa Andrew, Division of Geriatric Medicine, presented on "Forays into Frailty". **Dr. Ravi Ramjeesingh**, Division of Medical Oncology, providing insight on "Pancreatic Cancer: Using Data, Collaboration and Science to Save Lives"; and **Dr. Leah Cahill**, the Howard Webster Department of Medicine Research Chair, gave a highly stimulating talk on "How Diet and Genes Interact".



NEW INTERIM DIVISION HEAD/CHIEFS



Dr. John Sapp is the new Interim Division Head/Chief, Cardiology and Co-lead Heart Health Program. He has served as director of the Heart Rhythm Laboratory and Service since 2004 and sits on various department committees. Other current roles include chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research clinical cardiovascular grant review committee, a trustee for the QEII Foundation and Co-Chair of the Maritime Heart Centre Development Council.

Dr. Sapp received his M.D. from Dalhousie in 1994, followed by his residencies in Internal Medicine and Cardiology here in Halifax and his fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Sapp succeeds Dr. Cathy Kells who has been elected President of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society. Her leadership expertise will be shared widely in this national role. Thanks to Dr. Kells for her eight years of tremendous dedication to the cardiology community and Heart Health program.



Congratulations to **Dr. Stephen Workman** for his appointment as Interim Division Head/Chief, General Internal Medicine effective Nov.1. We would like to thank **Dr. David Simpson** for his significant contributions over the years in General Internal Medicine as Division Head/Chief and as an active member of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Simpson will continue as a member of the division, and in his leadership role with the MTU.



We welcome **Dr. Volodko Bakowsky** as our new Interim Division Head/Chief for Rheumatology. Dr. Bakowsky capably took over the role in July. Our thanks goes out to **Dr. Evelyn Sutton** for the 11 years of leadership she provided to the division before she stepped down this past June. Evelyn will continue to lead the undergraduate curriculum of the medical school in her capacity as Associate Dean UGME.



NOTABLES - AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to **Dr. Lori Connors**, Division of General Internal Medicine for receiving the Early Career Award from the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology in early October.

Hats off to **Dr. Olga Theou**, a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, for being recognized by the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. Through a process of citation counting and editorial board voting the Journal selected the top 20 papers published in the last 16 years. Dr. Theou's 'Operationalization of frailty using eight commonly used scales and their ability to predict all-cause mortality (2013)' appeared on the list. (Yoshikawa et al. JAGS 2016;64:1763-8.)

Congratulations to **Dr. Ratika Parkash** and her team for being published in the CIRCULATION: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology journal for the article: Canadian Registry of Implantable Electronic Device Outcomes: Surveillance of the Riata Lead Under Advisory.

HOSPICE HALIFAX RECEIVES \$300,000

As part of its plan to expand access to quality palliative care, the QEII Palliative Care Service has partnered with Rotary Clubs of Metro Halifax and the QEII Foundation to make a formative donation to Hospice Halifax in support of Nova Scotia's first residential hospice facility. The QEII portion of the \$300,000 matched funding was made possible through years of community donations in honour of QEII Palliative Care patients that have been targeted to improving palliative care services in our community.



Dr. Rob Horton, Division of Palliative Medicine, receives the funding from the Rotary Clubs of Metro Halifax and the QEII Foundation.

MEDICINE MATTERS CONFERENCE

On Nov. 25 the Department of Medicine partnered with the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) for the annual Medicine Matters conference. This event was the starting point to engage with Internal Medicine physicians, in an ongoing, collaborative relationship to achieve a shared vision of improving Acute Medicine Services within NSHA.



This event is the beginning of what is hoped to be a valuable process of planning to meet the needs of the medically ill patients within the NSHA. The event had an excellent turnout with high quality presentations and great discussions. The next steps will be to put in action easily implementable change to help better meet the needs of referring internists and subspecialists.



l-r: Dr. Simon Jackson, Dr. Blair O'Neill, Colin Stevenson, Tim Guest

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES



Best wishes to **Dr. Dennis Bowie** who retired (again!) from the Division of Respiriology on July 31. Dr. Bowie will however continue to contribute to the Department through his ongoing research.

Best wishes to **Dr. Janet Gordon**, Division of Geriatric Medicine, on her retirement in June.



Best wishes to **Wendy Poirier**, Team Lead with the Division of Cardiology, on her planned retirement this December.

Congratulations and best wishes to Department Head's Executive Assistant **Helen Parsons** who has decided to move onto the next chapter of her life effective February 2017. Sincere thanks to Helen for the excellent support she has offered the department over the last number of years.



Best wishes to **Peggy Hobbs**, Team Lead with the Division of Geriatric Medicine. She is retiring after 33 years of service in the Division of Geriatric Medicine this December.

CONGRATULATIONS - BIRTHS & MARRIAGES

Knowing our professional lives make up only one part of who we are, we are introducing this new section to celebrate those other important, yet more personal, life milestones.

The following Department members welcomed a new member to their families:

Dr. Mary Halpine, resident with the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation welcomed baby Maximilian to their family in June.

Dr. Andrew Moeller, resident with the Division of Cardiology welcomed baby Laura in June.

Marissa MacLean, Administrative Assistant with the Division of Geriatric Medicine brought baby Gavin into the world in July.

Dr. Robyn Macfarlane, Division of Medical Oncology, welcomed her baby girl Eva to the world in May.

Dr. Sarah Ramer, Division of Cardiology, had baby boy William in August.

Dr. Robbie Stewart, Division of Cardiology, welcomed Lacey to his family in September.

Dr. Glenn Patriquin, resident in the Division of Infectious Diseases welcomed Molly in October.

Maris Adamski, Administrative Assistant with the Division of Digestive Care & Endoscopy brought baby Jonah into the world in October.

Dr. Jason Yung, Division of Cardiology, welcomed baby girl Rosin to their family in November.

Congratulations to the Department's newlyweds:

Dr. Alex Nelson, Division of Respiriology was married in August.

Sarah Milligan, Division of Nephrology was married in September.

Elizabeth Keast, Administrative Assistant with the Division of Geriatric Medicine was married in September.

Dr. Chris MacKnight, Interim Head with the Division of Geriatric Medicine was married in October.

Dr. Jessica Corbett, Medical Oncology Resident was married in August.

Dr. Helen Curran, Division of Cardiology was married in October. Note: Dr. Curran has changed her last name to **Bishop**.

If you know a colleague who has recently married or has had a new child, please share the news with Helen Parsons (helen.parsons@nshealth.ca).



WELCOME



Dr. Kerri Purdy, Assistant Professor, joins us from the University of Ottawa's Dermatology Division where she also held a private practice. Dr. Purdy is no stranger to Nova Scotia having previously worked with the Department of Medicine for three years (2011-2014) and completing both her MD and residency at Dalhousie University. She completed her Fellowship in dermatology in 2011. Dr. Purdy re-joined the Department this past August.



Dr. Caroline Heughan, Assistant Professor, joined the Division of Clinical Dermatology and Cutaneous Science this past September. Dr. Heughan joins us from the University of Ottawa where she was a Division member and worked in private practice. She completed her medical degree here at Dalhousie University followed by her residency at the University of Ottawa. She completed her fellowship in dermatology in 2011.



We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Osama Elkhateeb** for a seven-month locum with the Cardiology Division. Dr. Elkhateeb previously held the position as the Director of Cardiac Center and Consultant Interventional Cardiologist at the King Abdullah Medical City in Holy Capital, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Elkhateeb completed his Fellowship at Dalhousie in 2009 and stayed in Nova Scotia working in the Department of Medicine until 2011.



Dr. Sharon Mulvagh, Professor, also joined the division of Cardiology in November as a part-time member (0.2FTE). Dr. Mulvagh was previously the Director of Women's Heart Clinic and member of Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, Mayo Clinic and the Associate Director of Preventative Cardiology in Minnesota. Dr. Mulvagh did her residencies at Dalhousie University, Boston University and the Baylor College of Medicine. She has her fellowship in both cardiology and internal medicine.



Dr. Suzanne Salsman, Assistant Professor, joined the Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in August. She completed her MD in 2010 and her PM&R residency from 2011-2016 at Dalhousie. Dr. Salsman was chief resident in 2012-13. She received her FRCPC in June 2016.

Samantha Holmes is the Department's new Communications Advisor. Sam is a senior communications specialist, previously working as the Director of Communications with Doctors Nova Scotia. Thanks goes to Cindy Bayers who previously supported the Department and has now moved on to a new role.



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. The profiles 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 Samantha Holmes, communication advisor, at samanthaholmes.pr@gmail.com.



2016 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following department members who received academic promotion as of July 1, 2016.

To Professor:

Dr. Kevork Peltekian, Division of Digestive Care & Endoscopy
Dr. Tallal Younis, Division of Medical Oncology

To Associate Professor:

Dr. Chris Gray, Division of Cardiology
Dr. Marie Laryea, Division of Digestive Care & Endoscopy

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM DAL

See the 2016 Holiday Greeting Card (<https://www.dal.ca/happy-holidays.html>)

