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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

NO. 24, SPRING 2017 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

As this is our first Department newsletter for 2017 I want to start by thanking those who supported us through our winter season, especially the challenging stormy weather in February. Many of you ventured out so you could put our patients first. Your support was appreciated. We have learned a great deal through that experience and will work with the NSHA to make improvements so we can be better equipped the next time.

The Executive and Practice Plan Committee continue to work on developing the new Practice Plan. Based on member feedback and continued advice from our external advisors we are making modifications to help ensure we are creating a Practice Plan that considers all members and strives to create a positive and productive working environment. At the same time, it is important that we proceed in the direction of increased individual accountability and adhere to our C/AFP contract with government. We hope to have the final document to review in May, with the vote to be held in June. Stay tuned for more details.

These past few months always mark exciting and busy times for those in our education and research offices. I'd like to thank and congratulate them for their leadership and support in leading us through this busy season with another successful CaRMS match and Research Day.

The One Person One Record initiative has resumed, following [government's announcement](#) in December 2016 to proceed. The project, which will take several years to complete, is expected to streamline and integrate the various clinical information systems to provide a more comprehensive view of the patient. Government's announcement kick starts the procurement process to secure a solution vendor. I appreciate how critical it is for the information management systems to be accessible and user-friendly for us, the end-users. I fully expect physicians will be involved in the process. As I learn more, I'll keep you up to date.

Work also continues with the QEII expansion and the overall NSHA facility planning. The NSHA is now entering a phase of more widespread stakeholder input, including reaching out to physicians. I encourage you to stay informed and get involved when possible. On that note, I'm pleased to see our colleagues at our Saint John Campus received news that its government will commit \$90 million for major

renovations at the Saint John Regional Hospital upgrading intensive care, surgical and oncology units.

We continue to actively recruit to fill the various vacancies across the Department. We appreciate the impact vacant positions can sometimes have on the remaining members of a Division and thank you for your support while we work to fill those vacancies.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter where you will see we have many activities underway and colleagues to celebrate for their ongoing success and contributions to our Department and beyond.



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
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BEST WISHES - RETIREMENTS

Best wishes on a happy retirement to our colleagues who have dedicated many years of service to our Department. Their contributions were valued and they will be missed.

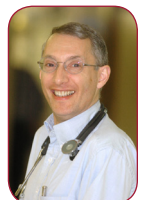
Dr. Bernd Pohlmann-Eden, Division of Neurology, December 31, 2016; Dr. Pohlmann-Eden now holds an adjunct appointment with Dalhousie. Thank you for your many years of service.



We also say goodbye to two long-serving members of our Department:



Marlene MacLeod,
Physician Services Billing Clerk,
March 31, 2017



Dr. David Hirsch,
Division of Nephrology,
March 31, 2017



NEW CHIEF RESIDENTS

We would like to introduce and welcome our 2017 Chief Residents for Core Internal Medicine. For this year only, the terms will begin April 1 (traditional start July 1) to accommodate the Royal College exam transition to the R3 Core Internal Medicine year.



RACHELLE BLACKMAN, PGY2
CO-CHIEF INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT
(HALIFAX SITE)

Home town: Moncton, New Brunswick
Medical School: Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB)

Why were you interested in this leadership role?

Taking on the Chief role seemed like a natural next step in my educational career at Dalhousie. I also received my undergraduate degree at Dalhousie and feel truly at home within this institution. It seems fitting to give back and try to extend that feeling to my fellow residents. I am proud of our program, and I think the chief position gives me the opportunity to help it continue to grow in an effective way. I take this chief position with all its responsibility, and I realize the expectation from my peers is to do right by them and that's my goal.

What unique contribution do you hope to make?

Residency is hard, that is no secret. However, it is also an incredibly rewarding experience best shared with others. It is my goal as Chief to work hard to encourage a fun, supportive and inclusive environment where residents can foster relationships with each other, staff, and their administration. I feel at home at Dalhousie, and I want all other residents to feel the same.

How will you know if you are successful?

If residents feel truly welcomed to discuss both positive and less than positive feedback with me or Co-Chief Harrison, to make our program better and supportive. If I can look around and see people sharing their lives and leaning on each other, that will feel like a success. Success will also be seeing residents continue to get excited about the program which creates the trickle-down effect we have just seen through the interest at CaRMS this year.

CARMS MATCH 2017

The Department's residency training program continues to be highly competitive drawing significant interest from a large group of candidates. On March 1, all 14 Halifax positions and four Saint John positions were matched.

CaRMS by the numbers:

- 399 applications to Dalhousie Internal Medicine
- 179 candidates interviewed over a 10-day period, each having three 20 minute interviews
- Two successfully filled Visa Trainee positions



HARRISON PETROPOLIS, PGY2
CO-CHIEF INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT
(HALIFAX SITE)

Home town: Halifax, NS
Medical School: Dalhousie University

Why were you interested in this leadership role?

I wanted to give back to the Internal Medicine program which has given me so much. It is a great opportunity to work with the excellent administration (Sophie and Katie, Dr. Epstein) to try and improve our program.

What unique contribution do you hope to make?

I hope to guide our program through a major curriculum change to the timing of the Royal College exam.

How will you know if you are successful?

I'll judge the success of our Chief term based on the wellness of my co-residents.



HEATHER CHAMBERS, PGY2
CHIEF, INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT
(SAINT JOHN SITE)

Home town: Massachusetts
Medical School: Dalhousie Medical School

Why were you interested in this leadership role?

I felt very supported by my Chief Resident as a junior, and I want to do what I can to make the other residents in my program feel supported and empowered in their learning and in their professional roles.

What unique contribution do you hope to make?

I don't think a contribution has to be unique to be valuable. I just want to be a resource for my program, and to serve the interests of the residents in the matters that affect all of us.

How will you know if you are successful?

If the internal medicine residents feel that I am a strong voice for their concerns, and a force that supports their interests and wellbeing in the context of our program.

TEACH THE TEACHER

The annual Teach the Teacher event, hosted on Jan. 10, was another great success. This year's topic was Evaluation and Assessment – Moving forward beyond the ITER. Dr. Joan Sargeant, Division of Medical Education, kicked off the morning with a Grand Rounds session on “Competency-Based Medical Education, Competence by Design (CBD) and programmatic assessment: An evolution, not a revolution”. Dr. Sargeant spoke again in the afternoon as a guest speaker along with Dr. Jennifer Hall (Family Medicine), Dr. Mary-Lynn Watson (Emergency Medicine) and Dr. Ian Epstein (Digestive Care & Endoscopy).

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Congratulations to **Dr. Olga Theou** for her appointment as Clinical Research Scientist with the Department, effective Jan. 1. As well as further developing her own research career, Olga will act as a departmental resource for research. Dr. Theou was most recently a research scientist in Geriatric Medicine at Dalhousie University. She is an affiliated scientist with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and is an adjunct senior lecturer with the University of Adelaide, Australia. In addition to developing her own research program, she will seek out opportunities to collaborate with other clinical investigators in the Department.



Dr. Steve Gruchy will serve as the new MTU Director. Dr. Gruchy is the current Program Director for GI Medicine and has previously served as Co-Chair of the MTU Survey report in 2015. With a strong interest in medical education, Dr. Gruchy is warmly welcomed into this role. Dr. David Simpson will continue as Associate Director of the MTU.

Dr. Magnus McLeod has been appointed the Associate Program Director for the Department's Core Internal Medicine Residency Program. Originally from British Columbia, Dr. McLeod attended medical school at St. George's University and completed his Internal Medicine residency and fellowship at Dalhousie University.



Dr. McLeod has been on staff with the Department since 2015 and is an Assistant Professor. He has a clinical focus on hepatology and liver transplantation, research interests in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and is highly engaged in education with a special interest in resident teaching and development. His expertise is welcomed in his new role.

Dr. Rosario Rebello, also on the MTU, is taking on the new position responsible for the education and service provided in the Emergency Department. Dr. Rebello is a senior internist, and considered an excellent role model by physicians and residents alike.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH DAY

On April 13 we hosted more than 165 people at our Department Research Day at Pier 21. There were 10 podium presentations, 108 posters displayed, and five learner awards presented. It's the fourth year in a row the number of attendees and abstract submissions has increased from the previous year.

The guest speaker Dr. Marcello Tonelli, Associate Vice President (Health Research), University of Calgary, and Senior Associate Dean (Clinical Research), Cumming School of Medicine, spoke on *Managing Diabetes, Hypertension and Other Non-communicable Diseases following Natural Disasters, War and Other Emergencies*. He also gave a talk to the core residents that morning on *How to Write a Research Article*.

The quality of the presentations and science was excellent. A special thanks to Dr. John Hanly and Kathryn Nelson for leading this effort.

RESEARCH DAY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following recipients of this year's Research Day Awards:

Best Overall Poster	Heather MacKenzie, PGY3 (Endocrinology – Barna Tugwell)
Best Undergraduate Presentation	Jordan Francheville (Saint John – Dan Smyth)
Best Core Presentation	Alex Legge, PGY3 (Rheumatology – John Hanly)
Best Subspecialty Presentation	Alastair Dorreen, PGY5 Gastroenterology (Jenn Jones)
Best Research Fellow/ Graduate Student Presentation	Anna Roesler (ID – Lisa Barrett)



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

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Congratulations to the **Nephrology** team for its bronze prize with the NSHA Quality Team Award for its project, Ambulatory Medication Reconciliation at the NSHA Renal Program: Benefits and Community Perspectives.

Project team members were: Jo-Anne Wilson, Anne Hiltz, Steven Soroka, Marsha Wood, Matt Phillips, Penelope Poyah, Karthik Tennankore, David Landry, Cynthia Stockman, Carolyn Bartol, Catherine Doherty, Holly Carver, Jaclyn Tran, Glenn Rodrigues, Nephrology Clinic, Dialysis Nurses, Matthew Ladda, and Sarah Drost.

The NSHA Quality Awards are given to teams of three or more persons who, within the past three years, have worked together on a results-orientated quality improvement project that has created a significant, sustained change within the organization or across the system over a minimum of 18 months. The project must recognize excellence in innovation, patient/family engagement, teamwork and measureable outcomes.

Congratulations to **Dr. Kenneth Rockwood**, who on behalf of Dalhousie University, was recently awarded with the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC) Support for Student-Reservists award. Dr. Rockwood and Dalhousie University were nominated by Cpl. Joanna Blodgett, whom he supervised with Dr. Olga Theou, in obtaining her MSc in Community Health and Epidemiology (graduated 2014), then employed as a research assistant.



Congratulations to **Dr. Martin Gardner**, Division of Cardiology, for receiving the Heart of Gold Award – Professional. The Heart Heroes award ceremony, hosted by the QEII Foundation, honours the commitments made to advancing world-class cardiac and vascular care at the QEII Health Sciences Centre and celebrates the Hearts of Gold who make it possible.

WELCOME



Dr. Kim Anderson has joined our advanced heart failure and heart transplant group. She obtained her medical degree from Université de Montréal in 2007 and completed her Internal Medicine and Cardiology residency in 2010 and 2013 also at Université de Montréal. She then undertook a three-and-half year fellowship in Advanced Heart Failure, Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support at University Health Network - Toronto General Hospital. She is currently completing a Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research Masters degree program at University of Toronto where her thesis focuses on the health care trajectory preceding heart failure hospitalization. Her other main research interests include the role of non-HLA antibodies in transplant patients and the exercise hemodynamics of patients supported by long-term LVAD.

Dr. Ciorsti MacIntyre has joined the heart rhythm service. She completed her undergraduate degree at University of Toronto, and her medical degree at Dalhousie in 2008. She studied Internal Medicine and Cardiology at Dalhousie, serving as Chief Resident. She spent two years completing a fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, where she gained expertise in complex catheter ablation, implantable cardiac devices, and complex arrhythmia management, followed by a six-month period of study at Mayo Clinic in Inherited Arrhythmia Syndromes.



Janet Hartnett has joined the Department as the Executive Assistant to Dr. Simon Jackson, Head/Chief Department of Medicine. Janet has been with the health authority for over 17 years working in a variety of administrative roles. She most recently was the Executive Assistant for Dr. Ian Alwayn and the Multi Organ Transplant Program.



DoM UIMRF GRANT COMPETITION RESULTS

The [University Internal Medicine Research Foundation](#) was established to fund excellence in general internal medicine research at Dalhousie and its affiliated research institutions. This year's award recipients are:

INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

- **Scott Kehler**, who will be joining Ken Rockwood's lab later in the summer. The award was later modified when Scott was awarded a Dalhousie University Killam Postgraduate Fellowship Award, which we believe is the first such award made in the Department.
- **Cindy Forbes**, PhD in Chris Blanchard's lab. This will renew her award for a second year.
- **Nerissa Campbell**, PhD in Chris Blanchard's lab. This renews her award for a second year. Nerissa subsequently turned down the award in favour of a two-year Fellowship from MSSU.
- **Caitlin Lees**, PGY3 – her CIP sponsorship by the DoM is continuing for a second year.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT MEMBER AWARDS

- **Amir AbdelWahab**, Division of Cardiology
- **Doug Hayami**, Division of Cardiology
- **Nathan Lamond**, Division of Medical Oncology



SPRING PARTY

Thursday, June 8 @ Prince George Hotel

CORE INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT RETREAT

May 26-28 @ Digby Pines

APPRECIATION TEA FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Monday, May 8 @ Bethune Ballroom