AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Congratulations to the Nephrology team for their bronze prize with the NSHA Quality Team Award for their 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, Karrthik Tennakoon, David Landry, Cynthia Stockman, Carolyn Baroiz, Catherine Doherty, Holly Carrey, Jaslyn Tran, Glen Rodgers, Nephrology Clinic, Dyalisus Nurses, Matthew Ladda, and Sarah Droos.

The NSHA Quality Awards are given to teams of three or more people who, within the past three years, have worked together on a results-oriented 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 measurable outcomes.

Congratulations to Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, who on behalf of Dalhousie University, was recently awarded 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 the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC) Support for Student-Reservists award. Dr. Rockwood and Dalhousie University, was recently awarded with the CFLC Support for Student-Reservists award, which we believe is the first such award made in the Department.

Dr. Kenneth Rockwood
Division of Cardiology
for receiving the Heart of Gold – Professional. The Heart Heroes award ceremony, hosted by the QEII Foundation, honours the Heart Heroes who make it possible.

Heart of Gold Award – Professional. The Heart of Gold award is given to a Dalhousie University Killam Postgraduate Fellowship Award, 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.

Dr. Martin Gardner, Division of Cardiology, for receiving the Heart of Gold award. He completed his undergraduate 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 Cardio 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 Inherited Arrhythmia Syndromes.

Dr. Kiara 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 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 Malti Organ Transplant Program.

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Why were you interested in this leadership role?

On taking 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 at 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?

I hope to guide our program through a major curriculum change to the residents in the matters that affect all of us. I want to be a resource for my program, and to serve the interests of my co-residents.

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?

I’ll judge the success of our Chief term based on the wellness of our residents, in the context of our program.

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.

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 Hardy and Kathryn Nelson for leading this effort.

HARRISON PETROPSIS, 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 residents in the matters that affect all of us.

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?

I’ll judge the success of our Chief term based on the wellness of our residents, in the context of our program.

“My vision is to lead a diverse group of highly trained professionals dedicated to improving health through education, research and providing exemplary clinical care to our community.”
NEW CHIEF RESIDENTS

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 (SAINST 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 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?
I felt 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 their professional roles.

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 20 three minute interviews
• Two successfully filled Visa Trainee positions

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 in the context of our program.

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.

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

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 2013. 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
Congratulations to the following recipients of this year’s Research Day Awards:

Best Overall Poster
Heather MacKenzie, PGY3 (Endocrinology – Barna Tugwulf)

Best Undergraduate Presentation
Jordan Francheville (Saint John – Dan Smyth)

Best Core Presentation
Alex Legge, PGY3 (Rheumatology – John Hardy)

Best Subspecialty Presentation
Alastair Dorrain, PGY3 (Gastroenterology – Jenn Jones)

Best Research Fellow Presentation
Anna Roessler (ID – Lisa Barrett)

Best Graduate Student Presentation
Jordan Francheville (ID – Lisa Barrett)

Research Day Award Winners

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

Alastair Dorreen, PGY5
Heather MacKenzie, PGY3
Caitlin Lees, Nerissa Campbell, Cindy Forbes have joined our advanced heart, PGY3 – her CIP sponsorship by the DoM is on behalf of Nathan Lamond. He, who entered the Department as the team for its affiliated research institutions. This year's award recipients are: [unintelligible text]

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 contributions 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.

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

Congratulations to Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, who on behalf of Dalhousie University, was recently awarded 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.

Dr. 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.

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/AEP 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 office and residents. I’d like to thank and congratulate them for their leadership and support in leading us through this busy season with another successful GRMS match and Research Day.

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 your 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 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.

We also say goodbye to two long-serving members of our Department: Dr. Bernd Pohlmann-Eden, Division of Neurology, December 31, 2016; Dr. Pohlmann-Eden now holds the title of Professor of Medicine, Dalhousie University and continues in the health authority for over 17 years working in a variety of administrative roles. She most recently was the Executive Assistant for Dr. Ian Alwyn and the Mahi Organ Transplant Program.

Wishing all the best on the second year of their 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.

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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 with us 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.

Dr. Martino Fok, who will be joining Ken Rockwood's lab later in the year, is a Dalhousie University Killam Postgraduate Fellowship Award, who will be joining Ken Rockwood's lab later in the year. He completed his PhD in Chris Blanchard's lab. This renews his membership in the team for its bronze prize with the Mult Organ Transplant Program.

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