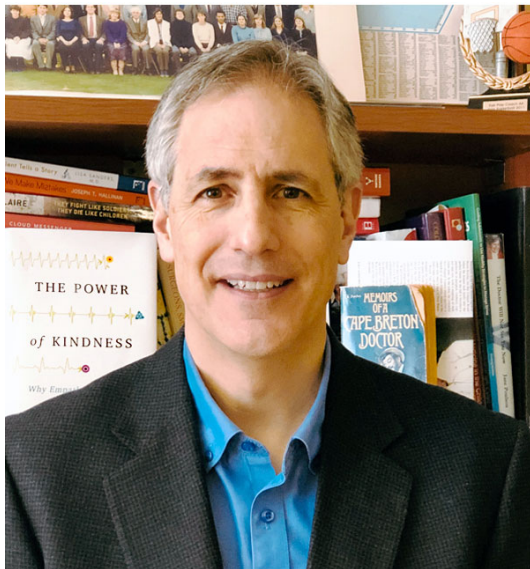


The winter 2024 edition of Pediatric Times has arrived. Display problems? [Try viewing this email in your browser.](#)



E-Newsletter, IWK Department of Pediatrics | No.4, February 2024



## Welcome Back!

Welcome back to our quarterly newsletter, where we will share updates from the IWK and our regional Maritime pediatric centers. While I take great joy in celebrating our work, I am also aware that it comes at a cost to many of our colleagues in terms of the demands and workplace stressors.

Our 2022 Departmental survey showed that while two-thirds of us are doing reasonably well, one third are feeling quite stressed, even burnt out. We have had challenges keeping key admin and booking staff despite our best efforts. There are many obstacles to conducting research that need addressing. Wait times are very long for some divisions. Across the country, pediatric leaders are advocating to “right-size” pediatric healthcare. This includes training enough community

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demands. A recent survey I conducted showed that we are graduating around one new community pediatrician each year, but we have 10 current vacancies and 10 upcoming retirements in the Maritimes. We also have 30,000 children and adolescents in Nova Scotia without a primary care home.

So how do we address these challenges? With data, consultation and determination. We will be asking FoM for more first year residents to start with us in 2025, and working with Regional colleagues to offer great community elective experiences. We are working with government to fund new community pediatric positions for individuals who will do both primary care & consultant care, within family medicine collaboratives. We are meeting with the IWK research leadership team to improve communications, consultations, strategic planning and address process headaches. In addition to implementing our own research strategic plan, we are also improving our effective, evidence-based mentorship programs. We are putting business cases together to address an expanded genetics and genomics program, and a sleep medicine program. With increasing demographic demands, several Divisions are currently in immediate need of newly funded faculty positions, including rehabilitation medicine, general pediatrics and hematology-oncology. Neurology and cardiology may also need more physicians. We have or will be submitting solid business cases to address these needs. We will be updating our “One Chance to be a Child Report” this spring, and continue to actively advocate for a Nova Scotia Child and Youth Advocate.

We will bring back departmental small group lunches, where folks from different divisions can safely break bread together and connect. We are currently reviewing and updating our remuneration process to ensure that it adheres to our principles of fairness, clarity and accountability. Our staff and leadership group will continue to work with everyone to lessen those things that we find frustrating. We will continue to offer our virtual Maritime case based seminars to our community colleagues as a way to learn and connect.

I take great joy in working with each of you, because what we do together matters for children, youth and families everywhere. And we're always looking for ways to do things better, and support one another. My door is always open. Let's stay in touch.

Best wishes,  
Andrew

*Dr. Andrew Lynk, Editor-in-Chief, Pediatric Times;  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics, IWK & Dalhousie*

## Our Maritime Community in Focus



### **Nova Scotia Yarmouth**

*—Dr. Joel Cox, Yarmouth Pediatrics,  
Yarmouth Regional Hospital*

Since establishing Yarmouth Pediatrics in January of 2022, the intervening two years have passed quickly. Although challenging, serving as the sole pediatrician for our region has never meant being alone. I have a tremendous heart of gratitude for the advice, guidance, and mentorship provided by colleagues across all departments and divisions at IWK led by **Dr. Lynk** who has graciously maintained an open line for me anytime! Locally, we have an extraordinary team of health professionals across all disciplines that serve children and youth. Together, our vision from the beginning was to provide a stable and consistent general pediatric medicine presence to support existing partnerships and to grow new services to address the burgeoning pediatric population and the evolving health complexity of this crucially

work never stops, but that vision is being realized everyday. Read on to see what we've been up to!

### **IWK–Yarmouth Pediatrics Relationship Highlights**

- Return to Intermediate Care Centre status for Pediatric Hem/Onc population–collaboration with IWK Hem/Onc service led by **Dr. Vicky Price**.
- Return of Shared Care Model for Diabetes Management - collaboration with Yarmouth DEC & IWK Endocrinology with mentorship of **Dr. Beth Cummings** and colleagues.
- Establishment of Joint Neurology/General Pediatric Clinic for shared patients – Collaboration with IWK Pediatric Neurology Travelling Clinic, with mentorship of **Dr. Ellen Wood**, and now **Dr. Richard Huntsman**.

### **Yarmouth Pediatrics Growth in Services: Procedural Sedation Program for Children with Neurodiverse Conditions**

The procedural sedation program has facilitated a minimal trauma experience for more than 50 children since beginning, and several dozen are awaiting participation.

### **Group appointments for children with suspected and confirmed ADHD**

In collaboration with the Southwest Mental Health & Addiction Services, more than 60 children have been seen in this setting since beginning in March 2023, cutting wait times for assessment and allowing earlier initiation of medical and behavioural therapy.

### **Collaborative Asthma Management clinics supported by Paediatric Nursing & Respiratory Therapy**

Under a newly developed share acre model, on average, 60-80 children are seen over two days every three months and are reviewed by a pediatric RN, RRT, and pediatrician.

### **Child & Youth Healthy Active Lifestyle Clinic**

Our family medicine staff to provide regular counseling-based support to empower parents with new strategies toward changing the relationship their children have with food and activity, focusing on modifiable factors. Thus far 10 families have engaged with the program, and we hope to add more soon.

### **Yarmouth Pediatrics' & Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation's Early Words Partnership**

Yarmouth Pediatrics was recently selected to become a site as part of the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation *Early Words Program*. This is a staged program to provide families with progressive resources across eight appointments.

### **Medical Education**

Pediatric UGME, through Dalhousie Medical School, continues to connect us with high quality, highly motivated senior medical students for selective and elective rotations. We will also welcome one of our first longitudinal students to pediatrics in the spring of 2024.

### **Research**

Participation in AALL 1731, a Phase 3 Clinical Trial with the IWK COG Service is ongoing. A new application development/submission is currently underway for an NRP 2023 Research Grant examining central line medication delivery in resuscitation.

## **Research Highlights**

### **Trainee Research Day set for April 11**

The Department of Pediatrics Trainee Research Day 2023 is slated for the **Atlantica Hotel, April 11 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Research submissions due, no later than 10 a.m. FEB. 20.

Organizers hope every division will participate.

A submission outline is available. Trainees at all levels are welcome: undergraduates, medical students, residents, fellows, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. The organizers' Dec. 12 memo promise "excellent (cash) prizes" for the best presentations.

**Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou**, the Toronto pediatric neurologist who is VP Research, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and Director of the Bloorview Research Institute, will be the honoured guest. Among other roles, she co-leads the Autism Research Centre and holds the Canada Research Chair in Translational Therapeutics in Autism Spectrum Disorder and the inaugural Dr. Stuart D. Sims Chair in Autism.

Abstracts will be accepted **by email ONLY and as a MS Word attachment**. Emailed submissions should be addressed to Administrative Assistant [Madison Laird](#)

The Research Committee will review the abstracts received by the deadline and assign them for platform or poster presentation. Individuals involved will be notified which form of presentation they have been requested to make by **March 11**, the same date by which attendees are to **RSVP** to confirm their attendance.

The event's co-chairs are **Dr. Beata Derfalvi**, Division Head, Pediatric Immunology, and **Dr. Meghan Pike**, Fellow, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at IWK Health.

Questions? Ask one of the Research Committee members: [Dr. Anthony Otley](#), Associate Chair of Research, Department of Pediatrics, [Dr. Pike](#) or [Dr. Derfalvi](#).

**Education: Postgrad**

Confusion can arise around definitions, settings and adding narrative when assessing Entrustable Professional Activities or EPAs in Competency-Based Medical Education. Here are a few areas where this happens:

### ***Types of Observation: Direct vs Case Review***

*Direct observation* means monitoring a significant portion of the medical history when it is taken and/or a physical exam when it is performed by a resident. Watching a resident inform a family would not constitute sufficient direct observation for most EPAs. Exceptions are FOD6 “Providing primary and secondary preventive care” and FOD8, “Communicating assessment findings and plans.”

### ***Specifying Settings: Longitudinal Clinic and the Community***

*A longitudinal clinic* should only be indicated as a setting if the patient has been seen longitudinally *by the resident*. This mainly occurs in the resident’s continuity clinic.

***The Community*** should only be considered a setting if the assessment is completed outside the IWK. Although some general pediatric assessments in IWK Outpatient Services may mirror what is done in the community, the intention is to ensure experiences occur across settings, not just in a tertiary facility like the IWK Health Centre.

### ***The Narrative: Things to Continue and to Work on***

Adding a brief sentence in a narrative about context/complexity helps the competence committee deliberations. It is particularly helpful if the narrative feedback relates directly to *key features* listed at the top of the EPA form. Referring to the milestones can help to guide your narrative.

REMINDER

manner. EPAs should be completed as close to the observation as possible, a maximum of one week post-observation. ITARs (In-Training Assessment Reports) should be discussed before the resident leaves the rotation and be **completed within one week** of the end of the rotation. The competence committee relies on this information for decisions and struggles when evaluations are overdue. Also, residents rely on timely evaluations in order to use the feedback from them to progress through their EPAs, CBD (Competence By Design) stages and levels of on-call responsibility.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Dr. Chris Pang**, PGY2, who was awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2SLGBTQ+ Health Hub fellowship to support his training.

In early 2021, the CIHR introduced a new funding stream, the Health Research Training Platform (H RTP) Pilot. Health Research Training Platforms are intended to support the next generation of health researchers through training and mentorship.

The 2SLGBTQ+ [Health Hub](#) is a H RTP collaboration between over 50 community leaders, scholars, researchers, and healthcare providers from across Canada. They are working together to build a national platform that will offer training, mentorship, networking, and capacity building to emerging leaders in 2SLGBTQ+ health and research.

Chris's scholarly project is called TransPYRE: Amplifying Transgender and Gender Diverse Perspectives of Youth in Nova Scotia through Qualitative Research, where he hopes to engage youth, caregivers, care providers, and related organizations through qualitative and community-based methods in generating actionable avenues for advocacy and improving access to gender-affirming care.



### ***Mandatory Faculty CBD Workshops***

*If you are a Department of Pediatrics faculty member who interacts with residents and has not attended a mandatory faculty CBD workshop, please contact [Alicia MacDonald](#).*

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### **Pediatrics Residency Program Contacts**

[Dr. Robyn McLaughlin](#), Program Director

[Dr. Beth Cummings](#), Assistant Program Director/Competence Committee Chair

[Alicia MacDonald](#), Program Coordinator

[Jennifer MacEachern](#), Administrative Assistant

—*Dr. Robyn McLaughlin, Director, Post Grad Education*

### **Education: Undergrad**



**Dr. Sarah Manos**, centre, Division of General Pediatrics, is shown at the Dec. 8, 2023 Faculty and Resident Holiday Celebration where she received the inaugural Dr. Dan Hughes Undergraduate Teaching Award (previously, the Undergraduate Teaching Award). She is flanked by pleased colleagues and supporters: **Dr. Andrew Lynk**, Chair of the Department and **Dr. Joanna Holland**, Director of the Undergraduate Program. Dr. Manos is an Associate Professor, Associate Chair of Faculty Development (Pediatrics) and Co-Program Director, Pediatric Postgraduate Medical Education.

—*Dr. Joanna Holland, Director, Undergrad Education*

## Bytes and Terabytes

## Keep Your Technology Evergreen

**The Evergreen program** replaces old standard computer devices with new standard models to ensure users have continuous access to current technology.

In general, here are a few basics you should know.

**Eligible devices:** Only standard devices are eligible for Evergreening and at the present time only defective devices are being replaced. This restriction has been temporarily imposed because our technicians are working short-handed at the moment. Greater device eligibility will return when our staff complement is back to normal. Keep in mind wait times for new devices can vary. If the particular item is not on hand, it could take weeks for it to arrive.

**Cost:** Whether it's a laptop or desktop, there is no cost. Evergreen will swap your old standard device for a new standard device. However, if you wish to Evergreen your standard device with a non-standard device, your cost centre will be charged the full amount for it.

**Questions:** Submit an incident report via the IT Self Service shortcut on your desktop or call 902-470-6700 and request a technician's assistance.

—*James Langer, Technical Analyst, Cyber Security & Digital Solutions*

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## Protect Your Data with a Free LastPass Personal Premium Account

LastPass Personal Premium Accounts that securely store login

staff and students, as part of the university's efforts to improve authentication controls.

Once set up with an account, LastPass prompts you to save logins and stores your usernames and passwords in your vault. LastPass will fill in the login fields when you open sites for which you have stored the corresponding information. The data is encrypted; LastPass cannot see your stored passwords, and Dalhousie has no access to your personal account.

With the continuing threat of data breaches, Kelvin King, the Pediatric Department's COO, recommends taking advantage of the Dalhousie offer. He has pointed out that LastPass is convenient, time-saving, and capable of generating and recalling longer and more secure passwords than most computer users. The application works on any platform or device, and can protect other sensitive information too, such as insurance cards, memberships, Wi-Fi passwords etc.

Here is how to get LastPass

- Go to [Dalhousie LastPass](#) free Premium Personal Account
- Enter your Dalhousie email account
- Choose the email account you want tied to LastPass
- Press submit
- An email will be sent to your Dalhousie account with instructions on how to obtain your LastPass Personal Premium Account

## Meet the Business Office Staff

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Office who keep the Department of Pediatrics ticking:

[Darlene Ashe](#), **Human Resources Officer**

Provides Human Resources management for the Department of Pediatrics; responsible for administrative recruitment; facilitating physician recruitment and employee relations.

[Mallory Keddy](#), **Billing Clerk (Outpatient)**

Manages outpatient billing, corresponding/reconciling claims with MSI, auditing physician billing, and management of private billing.

[Debra McKnight](#), **Accountant**

Manages Academic Pediatrics Inc. (API) contractor remuneration payments, accounts payable, accounts receivable, travel requests and financial reporting for API's accounting department.

[Rachita](#) **Executive Assistant**

Manages contractor invoices, cheque requisitions and travel claims. Manages payroll for administrative staff, ordering of office supplies and the Departmental Newsletter. Provides administrative support to COO Kelvin King and the Pediatric Business Office.

[Saju Thekkadavan](#), **Database Developer**

Manages the Business Intelligence Environment for the Department of Pediatrics, which includes overseeing databases, DataMart, the Pediatrics Intranet site, the Pediatrics SharePoint site, as well as the dashboards and reporting environment. He provides the department with the tools to interpret trends, measure performance, and enhance overall decision support. By leveraging business intelligence methodologies, he ensures the department has access to

### [Alison Thoms](#), **Billing Clerk (Inpatient)**

Manages inpatient billing, corresponding and submitting claims to MSI and provides back-up for colleagues, **Mallory Keddy** and **Virginia Manual**.

### [Philip Vautour](#), **Reporting Officer**

Meets the internal and external reporting needs of the department. This includes c/AFP contract compliance and the department's internal evaluation systems, such as the Revenue Share Model and the CARE Model. Other objectives include clinical and academic information management, project management, data collection, and performance evaluation.

## **Awards and Accolades**

**Dr. Chris Pang**, PGY-2, has received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2SLGBTQ+ Health Hub fellowship for his project, TransPYRE: Amplifying Transgender and Gender Diverse Perspectives of Youth in Nova Scotia through Qualitative Research. The project aims to improve advocacy for and access to gender-affirming care.

**Dr. Sarah Manos**, Division of General Pediatrics, Associate Chair of Faculty Development (Pediatrics) and Co-Program Director, Pediatric Postgraduated Medical Education, got an early Christmas present in December as the first recipient of the Dr. Dan Hughes Undergraduate Teaching Award. (Previously, the Undergraduate Teaching Award).

## **Promotions and Tenure Appointments**

### **How to Apply for Promotion and/or Tenure**

appointments are welcome to apply for promotion and/or tenure this spring.

Eligibility is subject to Dalhousie University's senate regulations, and faculty members must be at least in their fifth year of their current appointment to be considered for promotion.

Check the promotion criteria [here](#), on DalMedix (Peds > File Library > Promotion & Tenure/CAPR) or, on the Department of Pediatrics Sharepoint under "promotion and tenure committee." (Note: The Sharepoint option is only available to nshealth email users.)

### **Recommended Preparation**

- Review the required document.
- Do a critical self-evaluation (e.g. 2013 Clinician Teacher – do you qualify?).
- Meet with Dr. Vicky Price, Chair, Promotion & Tenure Committee to discuss the application. This is critical; the committee will not accept applications if the candidate has not met with the Chair before submitting an application.
- Assemble the required documents using Promotion and Tenure – Introduction \_General 2024 as a guide, found on DalMedix and Sharepoint.

### **2024 Submission Deadlines:**

**26 April:** Provide a letter of intent and at least 10 potential external referees, listed in order of preference, to supply arm's-length letters of assessment and support

**24 May:** Submit an electronic copy of your completed application

**Contact** [Dr. Vicky Price](#) by email or phone (902-470-6839) if you have any questions.

## Arrivals: Newly and Recently Welcomed

2024



**Dr. Jeff Wong**, from Penticton, B.C. will become the newest addition of the Division of Respiriology, Feb.19.



**Dr. Sharon Unger**, from Toronto, Ont., will be joining the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Jan. 29.





**Dr. Bahaa Abu-Raya**, from Moncton, N.B., became the newest member of the Division of Infectious Diseases, Jan.15.

**Dr. Tobias Kollman**, Infectious Diseases, (Perth, Australia) Jan. 01.

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## 2023



**Rachita**, from Markham, Ont., joined the Business Office team as an Executive Assistant in Oct.30, 2023.



**Dr. Carly Baxter**, from Ottawa, Ont., joined the Division of Endocrinology, Sept.01, 2023.



**Dr. Meghan Fife**, Halifax, took up membership in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, July 01, 2023.

**Dr. Shannon MacPhee**, General Pediatrics (Halifax) July 01, 2023.

**Dr. Erin Quigley**, Developmental, (Nova Scotia) June 05, 2023.

**Dr. Richard Huntsman**, Neurology, (Saskatoon) March 27, 2023.

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## 2022



**Dr. David Burnett**, from Saskatoon, Sask., became the newest recruit to the Division of Gastroenterology, Aug. 29, 2022.

**Dr. Rashid Aishahoumi**, Neurology, (Hamilton) Aug. 08, 2022

**Dr. Michelle Wiepjes**, Gastroenterology, (Edmonton) Aug.01, 2022

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## 2021

**Dr. Anna Kubow**, Developmental, (Vancouver) Dec. 06, 2021.

**Dr. Danielle Styranko**, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, (Saskatoon) July 01, 2021.



**Dr. Lauren Hanes**, Halifax, shown here with her two children, became a member of the Division of Pediatric Palliative Medicine, March 24, 2021.

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## Departures

### 2023

**Dr. Stephanie Villeneuve**, Hematology/Oncology, Nov. 10

**Dr. Anthony Vandersteen**, Medical Genetics, Oct. 01

**Dr. Souvik Mitra**, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, July 31

**Dr. Karina Top**, Infectious Diseases, June 30

**Dr. Stefan Kuhle**, PERU, Feb. 28

### 2022

**Dr. Andrea Martinez**, Gastroenterology, July 15

**Dr. Denis Top**, Infectious Diseases, June 30

**Dr. Pratima Gulati**, Neurology, June 30

**Dr. Zubin Grover**, Gastroenterology, June 30

### 2021

**Dr. Jon Dorling**, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, June 30

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## Retired

Dr. Suzanne Ramsey, Rheumatology, Oct. 01

Dr. Dan Hughes, Respiriology, June 30

## 2022

Dr. Noni MacDonald, Infectious Diseases, Dec. 31

Dr. John LeBlanc, General Pediatrics, July 01

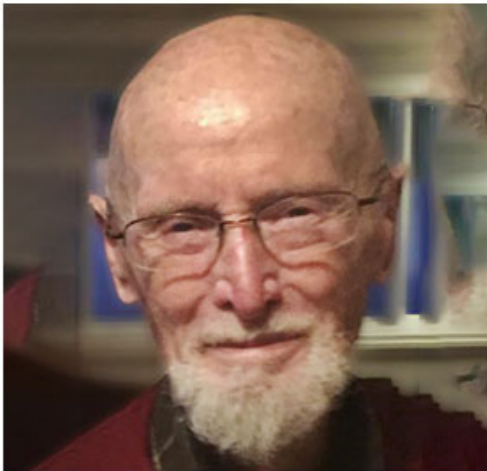
Dr. Conrad Fernandez, Hematology/Oncology, May 31

## 2021

Dr. Michael Vincer, Neonatal-Perinatal Medien, June 30

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## Remembered



### Dr. John Tibbles

**Dr. John Adrian Russell Tibbles**, Canada's first pediatric neurologist east of Quebec, who played an important role in advancing the subspecialty, died at his home in British Columbia, last September, aged 92.

In Halifax, he started out at the old Halifax Children's Hospital, one of the IWK Health Centre's antecedents. He promoted the clinical practice and study of pediatric neurology by teaching at the medical school, delivering a new medical service to a scattered population, and pursuing clinical research in his discipline. After 10 years working alone, the Division of Pediatric Neurology grew to four members that enabled travelling clinics to visit more distant parts of the Maritimes and a productive clinical research team to develop.

Largely clinically focused, his research concentrated on epilepsy and at the borders between epilepsy and migraine. Meanwhile, he served as president of the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Canadian Association of Child Neurology and as a member of the Royal College's board of examiners in neurology. The annual child neurology

Dr. Tibbles moved to Victoria in 1986 as medical director of the Queen Alexandra Children's Centre and opened a private practice in pediatric neurology. He is survived by his wife, Valerie, two daughters, a son and grandchildren.

## Our Newsmakers in the News

### 2023

**Dr. Andrew Link**, the IWK's Chief of Pediatrics, shared tips with [CBC News](#), **Dec. 17, 2023** to help prevent the spread of RSV, a condition that has been driving hospitalizations of young children.

**Dr. Joanne Langley**, Division of Infectious Disease, was a guest on the podcast [NeoChats](#), a project of the non-profit Canadian Association of Neonatal Nurses, for an episode released September 2023. She spoke about infectious diseases in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or NICU, and about RSV in particular.

**Dr. Chris McCrossin**, Division of Infectious Diseases, spoke with [CBC News](#), **March 28, 2023** about his opposition to the proposed Clayton Developments project around Sandy Lake in Bedford. About 70 doctors, nurses, scientists and allied health-care workers who form the Nova Scotia Committee of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment wrote to the province urging it to take Sandy Lake off the list of special planning areas.

## Noteable Diary Dates

**Feb. 07** | 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Grand Rounds\*

Contact: [Laura Gibson](#)

Contact: [Dr. Bruce Crooks](#)

**Feb.28** | 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Grand Rounds\*

ADHD and Substance Abuse Disorder

Contact: [Dr. Joy Eberhardt](#)

**March 06** | 9a.m.-10 a.m. Grand Rounds\*

Contact [Dr.Tobias Kollmann](#) ID

**March 13** | Grand Rounds cancelled, March Break

**April 11** | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Trainee Research Day, Atlantica Hotel

*\*Grand Rounds qualifies as an accredited group learning activity (Section1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. To receive credit, complete this [evaluation](#). Rounds are broadcast on Zoom. Meeting ID:829 4541 0189 Passcode: 127836 Recorded sessions available [here](#).*

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