

**CUTTING  
EDGE NEWS**

MAY 2025

**Welcome**

Not only do we have a new newsletter, we have a new DOS LinkedIn page:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/dalhousie-university-department-of-surgery/>

Check it out!

Stephanie Puras has been recruited to be our communication consultant. She will be posting DOS stories weekly on LinkedIn so if you have a story to share please contact her at: [stephanie.puras@nshealth.ca](mailto:stephanie.puras@nshealth.ca)

We have a new email address for the department head, [DOSdepartmenthead@nshealth.ca](mailto:DOSdepartmenthead@nshealth.ca). This can be used to send or receive emails to the department head. Of course, you can still contact me directly at [gail.darling@nshealth.ca](mailto:gail.darling@nshealth.ca).

Currently we are looking for interested individuals to participate on our DOS Governance committee. Please send an email expressing your interest to [DOSdepartmenthead@nshealth.ca](mailto:DOSdepartmenthead@nshealth.ca). We also are looking for interested individuals to be our Information Lead. This individual would be our point person for NSH digital solutions and would provide a knowledgeable voice at the relevant tables and in turn communicate back to the Department. If you are interested, please send an email expressing your interest to [DOSdepartmenthead@nshealth.ca](mailto:DOSdepartmenthead@nshealth.ca)

### **Congratulations to our new Professor Emeriti: Dr Don Lalonde, Dr Geoff Porter and Dr David Kirkpatrick**

Dr Kirkpatrick served as Department Head from 2009 to 2022 during which time he guided the department to our current AFP model in particular recognizing the importance of nonclinical work such as teaching and research as having equal importance. He provided a steady hand on the wheel during some challenging times including COVID.

Dr Don Lalonde is one of the highest profile plastic surgeons in Canada and was instrumental in developing and disseminating the practice of "Wide Awake Surgery Under Local Anesthesia", not only in Atlantic Canada but across the country, the US and the world.

Dr Geoff Porter has contributed to cancer care not only here in Halifax but across Canada with a focus on quality and delivery of care. He was the inaugural Gibran and Jamile Ramia Chair in Surgical Oncology. He was a founding member of the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute, a senior scientific lead for the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, a member of the CIHR Institute of Cancer Research Advisory Board and the Ontario Institute of Cancer Research board of directors. In "retirement" he continues to work with the Cancer International Benchmarking Project.

Congratulations to you all! Well deserved!

**COMING UP**

Grand Rounds on May 14th  
 Dr. Devin Ferguson, Orthopaedics  
 Opioids in surgery

Grand Rounds on June 4th  
 Dr A.S. Macdonald lecture  
 Dr Amin Madani - AI in surgery



Please add our Golf Day to your calendar, June 4th at Chester Golf Club,

**DEPARTMENT OF  
SURGERY CONTACTS**

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**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Surgery

## CZ Periop Data

### Patients Waiting for Surgery

The number of patients waiting for surgery in CZ (does not include IWK) is 8,584. The target is 8,427. In 2022 it was 12,688. This represents terrific progress!

The number of long waiters (Lucas black and purple) as of March 31st, 2025, is: VG 1,213 (34%); HI 770 (36%); DGH 679 (32%)

### Completed Surgical Cases

Our complete cases year to date for FY2025 is 29,228 which is 4,925 more cases than in FY2020 an overall increase of 120%!

However, the biggest increases were in thoracic surgery, urology, ophthalmology, ENT and ob/gyn. General surgery and orthopedics and neurosurgery all have similar volumes compared to 2020.

### Additional OR Resources

With the additional OR resources (18 more ORs — of which we still have 2.5 to open) we are supposed to deliver 2500 additional cases but so far, we have only performed 1388. We are behind but this is largely because we only opened some of the rooms a year ago with the majority opening in the fall of 2024. So, our expectation is that once the final 2.5 rooms are opened we will be able to approach the target.

### Wait Time Targets

Overall, 63% of surgeries are completed within the surgeon assigned wait 2 target.

### OR Block Utilization

Our OR block utilization is VG 84%, HI 77%, DGH 83%, Scotia surgery 65% and Hants 59%. The target is 85%

### OR Efficiency

For on time starts we have improved overall with only 10% of cases having the patient enter the room more than 30 min after start time-compared to 13% in September 2024.

Also, only 14% of patients enter the room between 15 and 29 minutes after start time compared to 18% in September 2024; 42% of patients enter within 5 min of start time; 33% enter between 5 and 14 minutes of start time.

Of course, start time is multifactorial but as those surgeons who show up early know — your presence helps to move things along

### Turnover Times

Average Turnover times are HI 44 min, VG 35 min, DGH 33 min, Hants 27 min and Scotia 24 min.



## OPOR

The launch of OPOR at IWK has been pushed back to December 6, 2025. QEII will follow 2 months later. Surgeon engagement is required on OPOR transition teams—these are replacing some of the other teams.

We have submitted the names of individuals who have previously volunteered for this and other OPOR teams. Those involved will be notified by OPOR. This means that every division will have a representative on the transition team which will be essential as we roll out OPOR.

## EDUCATION

Dr Corsten reports that surgeons will only be assigned to OSCEs on Friday! OSCE participation represents 2.6 hours per faculty member.

Overall tutorial hours per surgeon is 12.3 hours which is a decrease because we have increased the number of faculty in the department.

R1 match: all surgical positions were filled.

CIP Director: Dr Ashley Drohan is our new director for CIP.



### LinkedIn

We plan to post items on a weekly basis to our new LinkedIn page. Most surgeons, residents and staff have LinkedIn accounts, and by having a presence on this platform it opens our doors to a new demographic.

If you have something you would like posted, please contact Stephanie Puras, her contact info is above.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/dalhousie-university-department-of-surgery/>