



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY

Department of Surgery

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



## Message from the Department Head

DR.GAIL DARLING



It is a privilege to serve as the Head of the Department of Surgery for Dalhousie University. We have a dynamic, committed, diverse and talented faculty. I am proud of each and every one of them.

I view 2023 as a recovery year.

COVID was hard for everyone. For surgeons it meant daily triaging of patients for scarce OR resources and even more scarce inpatient beds. COVID contributed to significant moral distress and burnout. For surgeons, like other health care professionals, the inability to deliver care and having no control over their work was damaging. Even though we thought the pandemic was over, it is still causing an impact related to staff shortages in all the groups that support delivery of surgical care: anesthesia, anesthesia assistants, medical device reprocessing, nursing in the OR, PACU or inpatient units, either by new infections, or from retirements related to burnout. Our staffing is fragile. There is no slack, or redundancy, in the system. One illness has potential huge impact on the system.

What is amazing is that despite ongoing staff shortages, (we only got back to full speed as of the end of September 2023), the Department of Surgery has achieved pre-pandemic volumes this year. During the pandemic, our surgeons innovated and changed their approach to deliver more procedures as day surgery and reduced length of stay to maximize the available beds to achieve more surgical throughput.

What about the backlog? Government has provided funding to open more operating rooms, more funding to hire nurses and anesthesiologists. It will take some time to fully staff all the new operating rooms. It will take time to build some slack into the system so that one sick call doesn't close down an OR. But we also need surgeons. The number of surgeons in most of our divisions has been static for 10 years or longer. The same number of surgeons doing the same number of operations. Yes, they can probably do a few more cases per year—but not enough to reduce the backlog significantly and not enough to meet increasing demand.

Demand for surgical services has been increasing due to demographic changes: the population of NS is aging, and the population of Central Zone is increasing. Moreover, centralization of tertiary and quaternary services has increased demand for specialty surgery in Central Zone. Central Zone is the only centre providing cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, thoracic surgery, vascular surgery and complex orthopaedic, plastics and general surgery. As specialists in smaller communities retire, many are not replaced as newly trained specialists prefer to practice with others rather than as solo practitioners. As a result, problems that used to be managed in local communities are increasingly referred to QEII HSC surgeons.



This past year, through the business case process, we applied for more surgeons and will apply for more in the next business case cycle. Once we are fully staffed, I am confident we will eliminate the backlog, reduce wait times and achieve benchmarks for delivery of surgical care.

In addition to clinical care, our faculty teach undergraduate medical students, residents and fellows as well as elective students from outside the Department of Surgery. Dalhousie Surgery is recognized for training outstanding clinical surgeons. They leave our programs ready to hit the ground running. Dalhousie Surgeons recognize the importance of teaching undergraduate medical students. In fact, three of our faculty received perfect scores and 5 were in the top 10% for medical student teaching! Additionally, our faculty contribute to the education of residents across the country through work with the Royal College on specialty committees or exam committees. They participate in and lead National Specialty Societies. This is all work surgeons do to contribute to the education and wellbeing of future surgeons as part of their professional obligations.

Research is a big part of what we do in the Department of Surgery. We have a robust research community with a research committee which awards seed grants, bridge funding and operational grants to our department members whose proposals pass a rigorous review process. We employ full time analysts to support the departments researchers in data driven studies. Our research committee includes senior scientists who provide mentorship to our faculty with respect to grant applications and study proposals.

The Department undertook a survey and held a retreat to develop our new Strategic Plan. The overarching themes included: Strategies to improve access and quality of care, expand our research productivity and to attract the best candidates to our training programs. I am pleased to report that the final document was circulated to all members in January 2024.

We had several notable events this past year. In September, our division of Neurosurgery celebrated 75 years of Neurosurgery in Nova Scotia, an event attended by current and past faculty and students. Dr. Carol Ann Moulton from the University of Toronto gave the Dr. A.S. MacDonald lecture in June entitled “Behind the Curtain” which enlightened us on surgical culture. Dr. Jaap Bonjer, Professor and Chair of Surgery at AMC Amsterdam was the keynote speaker at our annual research day speaking about innovation. Our annual research day was a huge success with terrific papers presented by medical students and residents.

In November, a research event at the NSH Innovation and Research Hub demonstrated the breadth of our work. Attendees, including our CEO Karen Oldfield, were amazed. After reading this report, I am sure you will agree that the future of Dal Surgery is bright!





## Mission, Vision, Values

### MISSION

To provide leadership and innovation in surgery, by setting and striving to exceed the highest standards for patient care, research, and education to improve the health and quality of life for the people of Atlantic Canada.

### VISION

To be an internationally renowned academic department providing exemplary surgical care, specialty and sub-specialty education, research and innovation within an integrated Atlantic Regional Health Care Network.

### VALUES

- Commitment to patient care, research, education and innovation
- Patient-family centric/evidence-based care
- Accountability and transparency
- Collaboration and engagement
- Professionalism and collegiality
- Advocacy and social responsibility



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## 2023 in Review

### WHO ARE WE?

#### NINE DIVISIONS

Cardiac Surgery  
 General Surgery  
 Neurosurgery  
 Orthopaedic Surgery  
 Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery  
 Thoracic Surgery  
 Pediatric Surgery  
 Plastic Surgery  
 Vascular Surgery

### WHO ARE OUR PATIENTS?

#### ATLANTIC CANADIANS

NS Central Zone  
 11,886 operations  
  
 Eastern, Western, Northern Zones  
 4,895 operations  
  
 PEI - 469 operations  
 NB - 368 operations  
 NL- 469 operations



ANALYSIS

### WHAT DO WE DO?

#### 142,029 PATIENT VISITS

New Patients	30,097
Follow-up Appointments	111,932
In Person	120,447
Virtual	21,582

#### 20,962 OPERATIONS

#### 45,278 OR HOURS

### WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

#### EDUCATION

1296 Undergraduate teaching hours  
 Med 3 clinical clerks: 91  
 Med 4 Electives: 82  
 Dalhousie Surgical Residents: 89  
 Elective Residents: 30  
 Fellows: 29

#### RESEARCH

Total publications: 205  
 Total Grants: \$67,672,019  
 (PI's, Co-PI's and Collaborators)  
 \$9,833,753 held as PI and Co-PI

#### ADMINISTRATION

Faculty of Medicine, Royal College, National & International committees, and societies.



## Highlights



### AS MACDONALD LECTURE

This lectureship in honour of Dr. A.S. MacDonald is held annually in June. In 2023, the Dr. A.S. MacDonald Lecturer was Dr. Carol-Anne Moulton, MD, PhD from the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. Dr. Moulton's lecture was titled: "Peeking behind the curtain; Understanding surgical performance, expert judgement and professional identity".

### 75 YEARS OF NEUROSURGERY

The Division of Neurosurgery celebrated 75 years of neurosurgery in Halifax with an excellent program of learned talks from current and previous trainees. Previous division heads Dr. Renn Holness and Dr. Ivar Mendez joined the celebration. Neurosurgery in Halifax was founded by Dr. William D. Stephenson working as a solo practitioner. Dr. Jock Murray gave an entertaining talk on the early years. The event was capped off by a sail on the tall ship Silva.



### DOS GRADUATION / GOLF DAY

A highlight of our academic year is Golf Day. This is a celebration for our graduating residents. The day starts with the Dr. A.S. MacDonald Lecture. Following this, residents and faculty head to the Chester Golf Club for a day of golf and then off to Hubbard's for a lobster dinner at the Shore Club.

### PULSE 360

In 2023, the Department of Surgery undertook a department wide survey of our members. Participation was voluntary. Over 90% of department members participated. Of those who declined, most were planning on retirement within a year and only 4 mid-career members declined. The survey focuses on "soft skills" such as communication and collaboration and our members overall rated at or above their Canadian surgical peers in all domains. This really reflects the culture in our department, which I am pleased to report is very positive. Congratulations to all!



### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION NIGHT

In November, our research information night was held at the NSH Innovation and Research Hub. This evening brought our clinical and innovative scientists together to share the breadth of our ongoing research projects. Attendees, included our residents and other trainees, CEO Karen Oldfield and Dean, Dr. David Anderson.

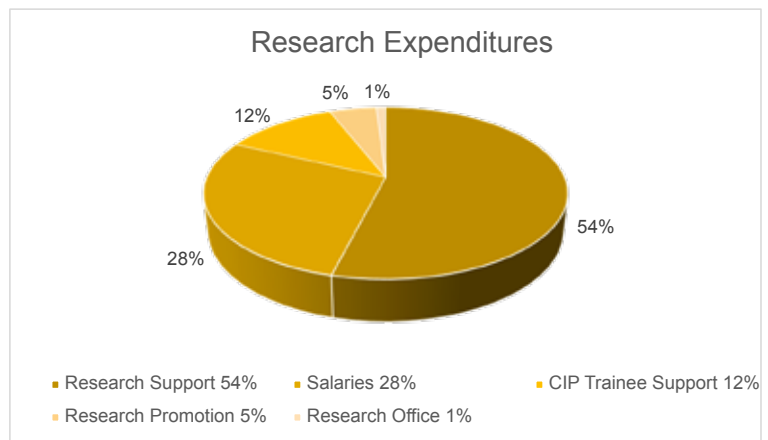


# Research

The Department of Surgery Research Committee is committed to fostering and supporting discovery in both clinical and basic research. Our main focus is to support members in the Department of Surgery in starting and maintaining a vibrant and successful career in research with a special emphasis on supporting our surgical trainees, including undergraduate, graduate students, medical students, residents and fellows. The Research Committee looks for opportunities and synergies to foster collaborations between all our divisions and affiliated researchers.

## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH BUDGET

The Research Committee oversees and adjudicates an annual budget of \$800,000. The Research Committee sends a formal call every year to our members, inviting them to submit applications for Seed, Operational, Bridge funding and Match funds. We support our clinician scientists to help grow their programs in the Faculty of Medicine. Grant requests are rigorously peer reviewed. In addition, research monies are invested to provide support for two data scientists to assist with department wide efforts to collate and examine outcomes data for the Department.



## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Department of Surgery’s major areas of research excellence include data driven outcome studies, quality of care, fragility, patient informed consent, access to surgical care, robotics and basic science.

A specific strategic focus in the past year was an investment to continue collaboration with the NSH Decision Support and Analytics group to examine 90-day return to the Emergency Department for surgical patients province wide by division and procedure. This project has provided a common platform of data and analytics across all divisions within the Department that allows identification of not only rates of return but also timing and reasons for return. As such, the Department is well positioned to offer insights into how return rates could be reduced which will help improve surgical outcomes and further reduce demand on overburdened Emergency departments. Further, this project has provided a common dataset to allow for many researchers to be involved. Currently, 11 staff surgeons in all 9 divisions of the Department are involved in supervising 2 fellows, 11 residents, and 13 medical students.



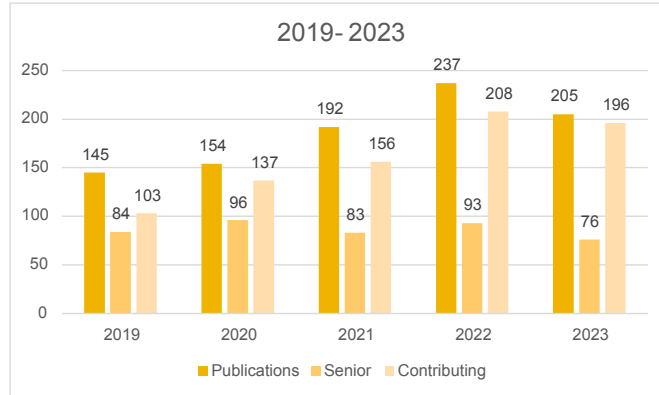


## 205 TOTAL PUBLICATIONS

In 2023 we published 205 journal articles, some have multiple authors and can cross between different divisions.

### Divisional Publications 2023

Cardiac	15
General	38
Neurosurgery	34
Orthopaedics	49
Otolaryngology	21
Plastics	16
Thoracics	28
Vascular	12



## RESEARCH IN MEDICINE

Research in Medicine (RIM) is a Dalhousie Medical School program that provides a vehicle for medical students to be exposed to research through their medical training in a self-directed learning format called experimental learning. Currently, members of the Department of Surgery are supervising 17 RIM students.

## FUTURE INITIATIVES

The QEII Foundation has recently announced \$20 million in funding for a Centre of Excellence (COE) in Surgical Robotics that members of the Department will take a leading role in. Currently, the Nova Scotia Health jurisdiction has more surgical robots than any other health jurisdiction in Canada. A primary focus of the COE in Robotics will be the collation of surgical data derived from the log files at the time of surgery and it is anticipated that such data, combined with pre-operative metrics and longitudinal outcome can be used as a common platform for AI predictive analytics that will lead to further innovation in robotics.

## CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM

The Research Committee encourages interested surgical residents in pursuing the Clinical Investigator Program (CIP) through the Royal College and takes an active role in vetting, mentoring, and funding students in their application and subsequent pursuit of their training. In 2023, there are seven residents enrolled in the CIP program.

## RESEARCH DELIVERABLES

An important role of the Research Committee is to select and implement metrics to account for research deliverables and allow for comparisons over time and between internal divisions and departments external to the Department of Surgery. Dalhousie University set the H-index as a benchmark tool to gage production across all faculties. The H-index is a global criterion weighing individual number of publications and the total number of citations of those works. The Research Committee also uses an in-house research metric, referred to as the DOS Hirsch Score, that is derived from a weighted formula measuring publications, grant capture, and presentations.



# Research Day

A highlight of the academic year in the Department of Surgery is the Annual Research Day, held every April. This flagship event provides a forum for our student learners to showcase their outstanding research efforts. Last year, 51 research projects were presented to members, our affiliated scientists and colleagues. Last year's guest speaker was the ever-popular Prof. Jaap Bonjer from the University of Amsterdam who delivered an engaging lecture entitled "Will Technology and Data Solve the Health Care Crisis?".

## The Research Day Winners - 2023



### DR. ROBERT STONE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

Anna Duncan, Plastic Surgery Resident

The effect of silver on re-epithelialization, infection, and hypertrophic scarring of partial thickness burns in pediatric patients: A randomized control trial



### BEST RESIDENT PRESENTATION

Joel Bierer, Cardiac Surgery Resident – CIP

Complement Activation is Related to Post-Operative Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction following Pediatric Cardiac Surgery with Cardiopulmonary Bypass

### BEST RESIDENT PRESENTATION

David Forner, Otolaryngology Resident

Peritonsillar Abscess Management: A Multi-Phase, Multi-Method Study



#### BEST CLINICAL FELLOW PRESENTATION

Alisha Fernandes, General Surgery Clinical Fellow

External benchmarking of colorectal resection outcomes in Nova Scotia: accurately categorizing procedures at risk of morbidity



#### BEST MEDICAL STUDENT PRESENTATION

Kennedy Brittain, Neurosurgery Medical Student

Neuroprotection Via Mitoprotection: Blocking the Mitochondrial Calcium Uniporter After Spinal Cord Injury



#### BEST BASIC SCIENCE PRESENTATION

Julia Harrison, Microbiology, Surgery Post Doctoral Fellow

Investigating angiotensin II type 2 receptor signaling in cutaneous wound healing



#### BEST GLOBAL SURGERY PRESENTATION

Chloé Blackman, Global General Surgery Medical Student

The Out-of-Pocket Cost of Breast Cancer Care in Nigeria: A Prospective Analysis



# Research Grants

## GENERAL SURGERY

### Giacomantonio

-PI	Sidney Crosby Foundation	\$200,000	2 years	2022
-Co-APP	CIHR	\$918,000	5 years	2019
-Co-APP	JD Irving Canadian Cancer -Challenge Grant	\$400,000	3 years	2022

### Gala-Lopez

-PI	Cancer Research Society	\$120,000	2 years	2021
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### Knapp

-Co-APP	NIH	\$1,314,551	5 years	2022
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### Neumann

-Co-APP	RNS	\$100,000	2 years	2022
-Co-PI	GlaxoSmithKline	\$165,341	3 years	2022

### Porter

-PI	Ramia Chair	\$750,000	5 years	2018
-Co-PI	CIHR	\$1,832,175	5 years	2018
-Co-PI	Canadian Cancer Society	\$254,142	3 years	2021
-Co-APP	CIHR	\$125,858	2 years	2022

### Spence

-PI	NSH	\$98,000	3 years	2022
-PI	NSH Innovation Hub	\$50,000	1 year	2023
-PI	NSH	\$94,000	2 years	2022

## NEUROSURGERY

### Clarke

-Co-APP	Public Safety Canada	\$1,539,000	2 years	2023
-Co-APP	Neurosciences, Mental Health/Addiction	\$887,400	5 years	2023
-Co-APP	Transport Canada	\$1,416,000	3 years	2022
-Co-APP	CIHR	\$849,150	5 years	2022
-PI	NSH	\$42,744	2 years	2022
-Co-APP	NSH	\$1,400,000	3 years	2021
-Co-APP	Transport Canada (ERSTPP)	\$1,416,770	3 years	2021

### Christie

-Co-APP	CIHR	\$520,788	5 years	2020
-Co-PI	NSH	\$99,999	3 years	2022
-Co-APP	CIHR	\$99,970	3 years	2022
-Co-APP	Environment & Climate Change Canada	\$5,999,997	6 years	2020*
-Local PI	Rick Hansen SC Injury Registry	\$120,000	2 years	2022
-Co-APP	CIHR	\$742,000	5 years	2019
-Co-APP	NSERC Alliance	\$470,500	3 years	2023
-Co-PI	NSH	\$25,000	3 years	2021
-Co-PI	NSH	\$75,000	6 years	2019
-Co-APP	BRC Knowledge Translational Grant	\$35,000	3 years	2023
-PI	NSH	\$49,922	3 years	2020
-Co-APP	RNS	\$100,000	2 years	2022



**Weeks**

-Co-APP	Canadian Cancer Society RI - Atlantic	\$150,000	3 years	2022
-Co-PI	Terry Fox Marathon of Hope	\$471,000	3 years	2023
-Co-PI	Terry Fox Research Institute - TFRI Marathon	\$12,000,000	3 years	2023

**Weise**

-PI	NSHRF	\$90,000	1 year	2023
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**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY**

**Dunbar**

-PI	QEII Chair in Arthroplasty	\$1,050,000	10 years	2015
-Co-APP	CIHR	\$4,482,900	5 years	2019
-PI	QEII/Stryker	\$1,000,000	2 years	2022
-PI	MITACS Accelerate Cluster	\$640,000	5 years	2021
-PI	NSH	\$49,429	2 years	2022
-Co-PI	Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network- Collab Catalyst Grant	\$24,944	2 years	2022
-PI	NSH Health Innovation Hub - Innovation Catalyst Fund	\$11,288	1 year	2023
-Co-APP	Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network- Collab Catalyst Grant	\$24,920	2 years	2022
-Co-APP	Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada	\$144,000	4 years	2020
-PI	Stryker Canada	\$100,000	4 years	2020

**EI-Hawary**

-Co-APP	Scoliosis Research Society	\$75,000	1 year	2023
-PI	Pediatric Spine Foundation	\$1,111,970	7 years	2019

**Wong**

-Collaborator	PSI	\$250,000	2 year	2023
-PI	Arthroscopy Association of North America	\$30,000	1 year	2023
-PI	ASAE	\$20,000	1 year	2023

**OTOLARYNGOLOGY**

**Hong**

-Co-PI	NSH	\$60,000	3 years	2023
	IWK Health	\$60,000	1 year	2023

**Morris**

-Co-APP	CIHR	\$313,652	4 years	2022
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**Rigby**

-PI	RNS Establishment Grant	\$150,000	3 years	2021
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**PLASTIC SURGERY**

**Bezuhly**

-Co-APP	New Frontiers Grant	\$ 300,000.00	3 years	2023
-Co-PI	NSERC Alliance Grant (ALLRP)	\$359,820.00	3 years	2023
-PI	Operation Smile	\$40,000.00	3 years	2022

**THORACIC SURGERY**

**Wallace**

-PI	Lung Cancer Canada Lung Ambition Award	\$50,000.00	1 year	2023
-Co-PI	TFRI ACC MOHCCN	\$459,100.00	1 year	2023
-Co-PI	Canadian Cancer Society Breakthrough Grant	\$5,197,880.00	5 years	2023*
-Co-APP	CCS/CIHR	\$500,000.00	5 years	2021
-Co-PI	DRMF- Health Influencers Grant	\$75,000.00	2 years	2022
-Co-APP	Terry Fox Research and Multiple Match Grant	\$26,000,000	3 years	2023*



# Internal Research Awards

## 2023 INTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING

\$398,574.00

The Department of Surgery awarded \$398,574.00 in internal funding to our researchers in the following areas:

**Operational Funding:** established research-driven members of the department applied for funds to support on-going research, new innovative research or other established collaborative multidisciplinary research. \$149,768.00

**Seed Funding:** New faculty (within the first 5 years of academic appointment) are encouraged to apply for start-up monies to help foster new research programs. \$ 158,806.00

**Basic Science Funding:** is awarded to our clinician bench-to-bedside researchers. Earmarked dollars and investment to help foster, grow and support our innovative scientist programs. Shared assets, technicians, materials and equipment is prioritized. \$90,000.00

All applications for funding considerations undergo a rigorous peer review.

## OPERATIONAL GRANTS AWARDED

Dr. Sean Christie \$ 48,559.00

Health Care in Climate Crisis: The Good and the Bad – Linking Individual and Planetary Health Outcomes.

Dr. Ron El-Hawary \$31,209.00

Assessing 3D Spine Imagine as a Surgical Planning tool in Idiopathic Scoliosis.

Dr. Jim Fawcett \$20,000.00

Characterization of NOS1APc in Kidney Function.

Dr. Richard Spence \$50,000.00

Application of the Palliative Therapeutic Harmonization (PATH) Program for Shared-Decision Making for Severely Frail or Cognitively Impaired Patients Scheduled for Cancer Surgery: A Randomized Control Trial.

## SEED GRANTS AWARDED

Dr. Gregory Knapp \$15,000.00

Efficacy of Intralesional IL-2 for Resectable Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Dr. Stephen Lownie \$49,987.00

The Effects of Intraoperative Tranexamic Acid on Perioperative Bleeding in Craniotomies.

Dr. Emily Krauss \$43,819.00

Nerve Transfer Surgery in Cervical Spinal Cord Injury: Surgical Evaluation and Intervention to Improve Hand Function

Dr. Alison Wallace \$50,000.00

Peri-Operative Outcomes of Lung Cancer Surgery in Women: A Canadian Nationwide Retrospective Cohort Study (POWR Study).

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# Care for all Nova Scotians

## WHO ARE OUR PATIENTS?

### ATLANTIC CANADIANS

Nova Scotia Central Zone  
11,886 operations

Patients from Eastern Zone, Western Zone and Northern Zone  
4,895 operations

Prince Edward Island  
469 operations

New Brunswick  
368 operations

Newfoundland  
469 operations





## Improved Infrastructure



### HYBRID VASCULAR OR

The Steward E. Allen Hybrid OR opened in 2023 with 500 patients treated in the first year. This OR combines the capability of a standard operating room with advanced imaging technology. This allows minimally invasive options for vascular surgery including aortic, cardiac procedures but also supports neurosurgery. The Hybrid OR is the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada and was funded by QEII Foundation donors.

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### INVESTMENT IN ROBOT TECHNOLOGY

Through support from the QEII Foundation and NSH Research and Innovation, we are on our way to becoming a Centre of Excellence for Robotics championed by Dr. Michael Dunbar. NSH now has 6 robots, but we are planning for expansion to support our surgeons and offer our patients state of the art care.





### BAYERS LAKE CLINIC

This facility opened on November 20, 2023 conveniently located near Highways 102 and 103. From the Department of Surgery perspective, this facility will not only offer a convenient location for patients to see surgeons for consultation and follow-up but it will also increase capacity for minor procedures which in some cases will allow patients to have procedures performed at the time of the initial consultation. There is an orthopaedic assessment clinic and rehabilitation facilities, as well as diagnostic imaging and laboratory specimen collection.

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### DARTMOUTH GENERAL HOSPITAL OR

The Dartmouth General Hospital renovation and expansion project was completed in 2022. This doubled the number of operating rooms and provided state of the art facilities in the operating rooms as well as in the medical device reprocessing facility. The new ORs became operational in 2023 once staffing requirements were met. This has allowed expansion of surgical services particularly arthroplasty procedures to meet ever increasing demand.



# Education



The Department of Surgery provides training programs accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in the following specialties, with 88 residents currently enrolled in 7 specialty training programs:

### CARDIAC SURGERY

6 residents in the 6 year program

David Horne - Program Director  
Idris Ali - Clerkship Representative

### GENERAL SURGERY

29 residents in the 5 year program

Lucy Helyer - Program Director  
Stephanie Hiebert - Clerkship Representative

### NEUROSURGERY

11 residents in the 6 year program

Gwynedd Pickett - Program Director  
Simon Walling - Clerkship Representative

### ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

18 residents in the 5 year program

Andrew Glennie - Program Director  
David Wilson - Clerkship Representative

### OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

10 residents in the 5 year program

Gerard Corsten - Program Director  
Nael Shoman - Clerkship Representative

### PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY

1 resident in the 2 year program, after completion of general surgery training

Chris Blackmore - Program Director  
Jessica Mills - Clerkship Representative

### PLASTIC SURGERY

13 residents in the 5 year program

Margaret Wheelock - Program Director  
Justin Paletz - Clerkship Representative

### DEPARTMENT CLERKSHIP DIRECTOR

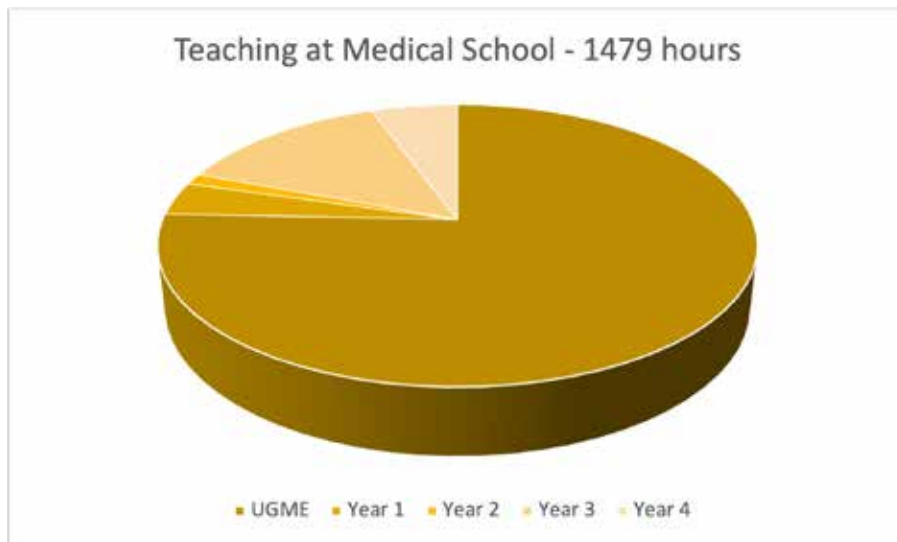
Jack Rasmussen



We currently do not have postgraduate training programs in Vascular or Thoracic Surgery. Our plan is that these divisions will be applying for approval with the Royal College to start resident training programs. This is important for Atlantic Canada to ensure surgeon resources for the future.

The Department will graduate 16 new specialty surgeons from these programs in 2024. In the past three years, 90% (36 of 40) of the residents in our Department have had success on their first attempt at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Specialty Exams for their specialty.

The Department of Surgery also supports additional sub-specialty training within various surgical disciplines. In 2023/24, we welcomed 28 fellows who were training in sub-specialty areas of their surgical discipline, typically for one or two year programs beyond their primary surgical specialty residency training program. Fellows come from across Canada and around the world to learn from our Department of Surgery faculty. We also had 30 residents come from across Canada to do elective rotations with our surgeons.



## UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Department of Surgery Faculty provide 1,119 formal teaching hours in Med 1 and 2, with 75 additional hours for electives.

In Med 3, Surgeons provide 203 hours of formal teaching. These numbers do not include the integral teaching and innumerable hours surgeons spend teaching medical students in clinics, in the operating room, at the bedside, and on ward rounds. These one-on-one teaching opportunities are the real jewel in the crown of surgical teaching. These are the moments that students remember and often open their eyes to surgical careers.



# Our Academic Community

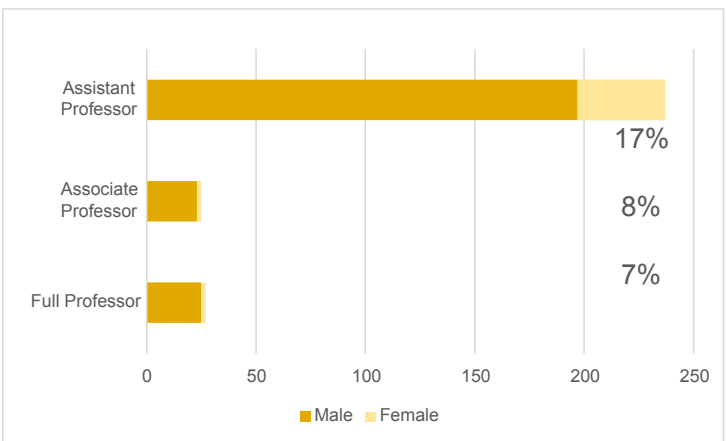
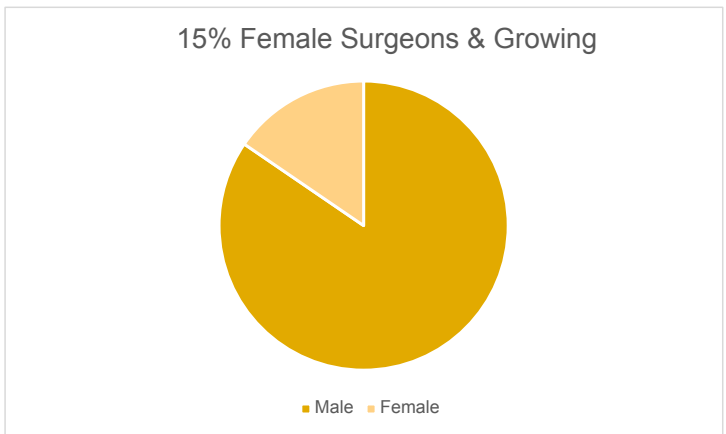
The Department of Surgery is a clinical academic department within the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Our full-time faculty practices at the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax, (Victoria General and Halifax Infirmary Sites), IWK, Dartmouth General Hospital, and the Hants Community Hospital providing secondary, tertiary and quaternary care to patients from across Nova Scotia as well as New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Our trainees' complete rotations in Saint John, Moncton and Fredericton, New Brunswick as well as community hospitals in Nova Scotia. All Department members have Dalhousie appointments and participate in the academic activities of the University. Academic achievements are recognized by promotion through a rigorous review process by the Departmental Promotions committee before going forward to the University Decanal committee.

In 2023, two department members were promoted: Dr. Gwynedd Pickett of the Division of Neurosurgery to Full Professor and Dr. Nael Shoman of the Division of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery to Associate Professor.

Within our Department, we have four Professor Emeriti, Dr. D. A. Gillis, Dr. A.S. MacDonald, Dr. W. Stanish and Dr. R. Stone.

We have 27 Professors (7% female), 25 Associate Professors (8% female) and 237 Assistant Professors (17% female).





# Retirements and Departures

## RETIREMENTS

Dr. Suvro Sett, Cardiac Surgery

Dr. Gerald Reardon, Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. Neil Smith, Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

Dr. Trevor Topp, General Surgery

Dr. Steven Morris, Plastic Surgery

## TRANSITIONING TO RETIREMENT

Dr. Keir Stewart, Cardiac Surgery

## DEPARTURES

Dr. Rodrigo Romao, IWK General Surgery / Urology

Dr. Edgar Chedrawy, Cardiac Surgery



## New Faculty Appointments



**DR. JOE CORKUM, Assistant Professor**

Dr. J. Corkum is a Plastic Surgeon originally from Nova Scotia. He completed his medical school and surgical training at Dalhousie University, followed by a fellowship in microvascular reconstructive surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas, USA. He also completed a master's degree in clinical epidemiology at the University of Toronto during his residency. He worked in PEI for nearly two years before undertaking a mini-fellowship in Gender Affirming Surgery. He is excited to offer this resource within the province so fewer people need to travel, and to start the first NS Gender Affirming Surgery clinic focused specifically on top surgery.

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**DR. ASHLEY DROHAN, Assistant Professor**

Dr. A. Drohan is a Surgical Oncologist who completed her General Surgery residency and MSc in Clinical Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University, and Complex General Surgical Oncology fellowship at the University of Toronto. She has recently returned to Halifax with a clinical focus on peritoneal malignancies, sarcoma and breast disease. Her research focus is in Health Services, particularly related to optimizing cancer system pathways.



**DR. DEVIN FERGUSON, Assistant Professor**

Dr. D. Ferguson completed his undergraduate degree at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS. He obtained his medical degree and orthopaedic surgical residency at Dalhousie University. He has completed a Masters in Surgical Science at Western University. He has just finished his Fellowship in hand & upper extremity surgery at the Roth McFarlane Hand Centre at Western University.



**DR. SAMUEL JESSULA, Assistant Professor**

Dr. S. Jessula completed a Bachelor's degree in Science as well as medical school at McGill University. He joined Dalhousie University for his general surgery training, during which time he completed the Clinical Investigator Program and a Master's in Community Health and Epidemiology. His thesis focused on developing novel priority scores for trauma to identify which mechanisms, if avoided, would provide the greatest benefit to the largest population. He recently finished his fellowship in Vascular Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital.



**DR. KAREN MILFORD, Assistant Professor**

Dr. K. Milford joined the IWK in October 2023, and is a Pediatric Surgeon and Urologist. Prior to moving to Halifax, she was working in Johannesburg, South Africa. She completed her Pediatric Surgery training at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town, and a fellowship in Pediatric Urology at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Her undergraduate medical degree was completed at the University of Pretoria.



**DR. DEVIN PICCOTT, Assistant Professor**

Dr. D. Piccott completed his undergraduate degree at Acadia University. He went on to complete his medical training and residency in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Dalhousie University. In 2021, he received a Master's in Medical Education from Acadia University.

His practice includes all aspects of modern Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. He has training and an interest in head and neck neoplasms (thyroid, parathyroid and glandular), cutaneous lesions of the head and neck, upper airway, and voice-related concerns. He also enjoys treating pediatric patients and a wide variety of otologic related needs. His research interests include access to care, quality improvement and medical education.



## Global Surgery

The philosophy of Global Surgery is about striving for equitable surgical care delivery and outcomes both at home and abroad - we seek to deliver on this vision through the pillars of research, education and service delivery. One goal of Global Surgery is to broaden the scope of the Department of Surgery (DOS) with greater interest from the Department members in matters of surgical inequity. We have been focused on the extremes of surgical inequity in the past, including surgical care delivery in resource limited environments abroad, however, the philosophy is broad by definition - to include local and regional inequities / marginalized populations. Global Surgery support requests for funding with each proposal evaluated, debated and voted on by the executive. There are newsletters and intra-Departmental events designed to engage the membership and offer opportunities to connect.

In the summer of 2023, the Global Surgery Office (GSO) welcomed two new team members: Cassandra Coyle, a second-year medicine student taking over for Dr. Bright Huo's position on the executive team and Stephanie Puras, the new GSO coordinator. Two abstracts have been selected for presentation at the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) International Conference that occurred in Dakar, Senegal, in November:

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“The Out-of-Pocket Cost of Breast Cancer Care in Nigeria: A Prospective Analysis.” Abstract by Ms. Chloe Blackman (Med student), Dr. Gregory Knapp and Dr. Funmilola Olanike Wuraola

“De-esclating Axillary Surgery in Nigeria: by Dr. Rheann Brownstone, Dr. Gregory Knapp and Dr. Lekan Olasehinde

The AORTIC conference is the largest oncology conference in sub-Saharan Africa and occurs biannually.

Dalhousie University is the only Canadian centre within the ARGO consortium. The GSO will be supporting Dr. Knapp's and Dr. Brownstone's travel to Senegal African Research Group of Oncology (ARGO)

As an active member, Dr. Knapp leads a monthly multi-disciplinary breast cancer tumour boards/case conference with Dr. Olasehinde and a team from MSK.

Dr. Rheann Brownstone (resident from General Surgery) and Dr. Knapp attended and presented at the ARGO Annual Symposium in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, in October 2023. Dr. Knapp is also supervising RIM student Korede Akindoju, who is conducting a scoping review on the breast cancer screening landscape in Nigeria.







## THE CANADIAN RWANDA OPEN-HEART PROJECT (CR-OP)

The Cardiac Surgery Group organized TWO missions to Rwanda in 2023.



Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is an acquired cardiac disease that can occur directly from having untreated streptococcal pharyngitis (strep throat). In Rwanda, strep throat has been widely untreated due to limited resources, which has led to thousands of cases of RHD within the Rwandan population.

Currently, Rwanda, a country of more than 11 million, does not have an autonomous open-heart surgery program. There are large numbers of young patients with rheumatic and congenital heart disease that will ultimately die from these conditions if they do not receive surgical intervention.

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King Faisal Hospital in Kigali, Rwanda has the infrastructure and personnel to pioneer an independent program. CR-OP is a joint effort between our Canadian surgical team in conjunction with our Polish surgical team that has established experience with over a thousand open-heart procedures each year.

Our goal is to help Rwanda establish its first independent open-heart surgery program with short term visiting surgical teams and long term support for an ongoing program. We hope to initiate and maintain educational and research arms, as well as a robust clinical program at King Faisal Hospital.





# Cardiac Surgery

## QEII

- Dr. I Ali
- Dr. R Basket
- Dr. C DiQuinzio
- Dr. C Herman
- Dr. G Hirsch
- Dr. D Horne
- Dr. M Vician
- Dr. J Wood



## CLINICAL ANALYSIS

3,038

PATIENT VISITS

1,184

OPERATIONS

5,056

OR HOURS

407

OR AFTERHOURS

The Division of Cardiac Surgery has seen a lot of changes in the 2023 calendar year. Beginning in January, Dr. Keir Stewart closed his clinical practice to take part in the Global Surgery Program in Rwanda leading three missions during the year and is due to lead several more during 2024 after which time he will retire. Dr. Suvro Sett retired from Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and Dr. Edgar Chedrawy is no longer working with the Division of Cardiac Surgery.

With the departure of three surgeons, recruitment commenced with selection committees to secure an adult cardiac surgeon as well as a pediatric/adult congenital cardiac surgeon. We have been fortunate to hire Dr. Philippe Tremblay for the role in adult cardiac surgery starting in February 2024. After finishing his training in our Cardiac Surgery Residency Program, Dr. Tremblay went on to complete a one-year Fellowship at one of the busiest programs in the world, Cedars Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles, focusing on Cardiac and Lung Transplantation and the management of heart failure. Subsequently, Dr. Tremblay gained additional experience working as a staff cardiac surgeon in Michigan and we have been fortunate to be able to hire him here at Dalhousie University. We were also very fortunate to recruit Dr. Catherine Deshaies, another Dalhousie trainee, who is currently finishing her Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Fellowship at the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Dr. Deshaies will be completing a second Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Fellowship in Melbourne, Australia, before returning to the IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University as an attending in Pediatric/Adult Cardiac Surgery.

We continue to collaborate with our Anaesthesia and Cardiology colleagues to staff our Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) under the leadership of Dr. Michael Vician. Dr. Andrew Caddell, a Cardiologist/Intensivist, also joined our team (Drs. Roger Basket, Greg Hirsch, and Jeremy Wood are the surgical team members along with Dr. Claudio DiQuinzio, Anaesthesia, and Dr. Michael Vician, Intensivist/Critical Care) in Spring 2023. Dr. Vician has also been successful in instituting a Cardiovascular ICU Fellowship Program and our first CVICU Fellowship trainee is Dr. Yousef Abozinadah.



On the clinical side, Dr. Roger Baskett oversees scheduling of ORs and allocation of resources to best manage our patients and to navigate our staffing challenges over the past year. The members of the Division of Cardiac Surgery are actively involved in multiple collaborative programs. This includes the Transplant/VAD Team and the Laser Lead Extraction Program with our colleagues in Cardiology; the Connective Tissue Clinic including Cardiac Surgery, Cardiology, Medical Genetics, Psychology, Orthopaedics, etc. We also have an active Aortic Management Program which includes Cardiac and Vascular surgeons, and members of Interventional Radiology. The Trans-Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) Program is another collaborative initiative with Cardiology, Anaesthesia, Radiology, and PATH (Geriatrics) to provide alternatives to open valve surgery for a higher-risk population of patients. Another collaborative achievement this past year was our hosting of the Third Heritable Aortic Disorders Symposium in June 2023 which was co-chaired by Dr. Gabrielle Horne, Cardiologist, and Dr. Jeremy Wood. We continue to expand our outreach clinic initiatives with the goal of making cardiac surgical care more accessible and we currently host clinics in Sydney, Amherst, Yarmouth, and Charlottetown. Dr. Greg Hirsch, while balancing clinical, academic, and research initiatives, also serves as the Senior Medical Director of Perioperative/ Surgical Services liaising with administration to improve clinical services at Nova Scotia Health.

All our surgeons are actively involved in teaching at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Dr. Idris Ali serves on the Dalhousie Undergraduate Medical Education Committee and as a Case-Based Learning tutor. Dr. Roger Baskett serves as the Cardiac Surgery Fellowship Director. We currently have Dr. Muhanned Kheder Muhammed doing a six-month aortic fellowship with us. Dr. Muhammed Mashat completed focused training in our TAVI Program as well this past year.

Our residency training program has continued to maintain its perennial success under the leadership of Dr. David Horne. While managing the pediatric cardiac surgery program at the IWK Health Centre and also serving as our Cardiac Surgery Residency Program Director, Dr. Horne serves on several committees; internationally on the Pan-African Association of Christian Surgeons Cardiothoracic Council and Congenital Co-Lead & COSECSA Examiners and on the World University of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Organizing Committee as well as nationally for the Canadian Society of Cardiac Surgeons PGY-1 Boot Camp as Co-Director. Our residency program had two candidates this year for their Royal College Fellowship exam, and both were successful. This has continued our pattern of success since the program started in the early 1980's. Every resident who completed their training in Cardiac Surgery at Dalhousie has passed their Royal College fellowship exams and has obtained employment as a cardiac surgeon. A significant number of these surgeons have held leadership positions as Cardiac Surgery Program Chiefs and positions of leadership at national society level.

#### RESIDENTS

Dr. R Ribeiro  
Dr. C Cote  
Dr. M AlOtaibi  
Dr. D De Waard CIP  
Dr. J Bierer CIP  
Dr. T Amir

#### FELLOWS

Dr. M Muhammed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



# General Surgery

## CLINICAL ANALYSIS

17,408

PATIENT VISITS

5,687

OPERATIONS

9,692

OR HOURS

1,720

OR AFTERHOURS



### QEII

- Dr. A Drohan
- Dr. J Ellsmere
- Dr. B Gala-Lopez
- Dr. C Giacomantonio
- Dr. L Helyer
- Dr. S Hiebert
- Dr. M Hoogerboord
- Dr. P Johnson
- Dr. C Kenyon
- Dr. G Knapp
- Dr. S Livingstone
- Dr. S Minor
- Dr. K Neumann
- Dr. G Porter
- Dr. R Spence
- Dr. T Topp
- Dr. M Walsh

### DGH

- Dr. J Murdoch
- Dr. W Shih
- Dr. L Wasilewski
- Dr. J Enright
- Dr. R Stewart
- Dr. A Mitchell
- Dr. J Watson

The Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery at the QEII Health Sciences Centre (HSC) is comprised of 16 surgeons with expertise across the spectrum of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, with additional involvement in Critical Care and Transplantation. All surgeons have appointments to the Department of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University. Members of the Division at the QEII HSC, the largest hospital within Nova Scotia Health (NSH), provide secondary, tertiary and quaternary surgical services. The division also has increasing collaboration with the general surgeons at the Dartmouth General Hospital with respect to provision of clinical care in CZ as well as resident education.

The Division is subdivided into services based on clinical areas of specialization as follows:

- Surgery A – Surgical Oncology (including Breast Surgery located at IWK)
- Surgery B – Colorectal and Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Surgery C – Hepatobiliary and Transplant Surgery
- Surgery E – Acute Care Surgery

The QEII HSC is the geographic hub for the Dalhousie General Surgery Residency Program. In addition to the above services, residents in the Program do community General Surgery clinical rotations in Saint John, Fredericton and Sydney. Residents also do additional community General Surgery rotations/electives, most commonly at Moncton, Dartmouth and the Annapolis Valley.

Surgery A, B, and C are located at the Victoria General (VG) site, where over 1900 cases (mostly elective) are performed per year. Surgery E is located at the Halifax Infirmary (HI) site. This service provides all emergency consultations and admissions to the Division, and typically covers 15-30 in-patient beds. A full day operating room at the HI is available every day (Monday-Friday) for Surgery E cases. Fifteen of the sixteen Staff surgeons rotate on Surgery E on a weekly basis during which time they have no other clinical commitments.

The Surgical Oncology team at IWK see 100% of benign and malignant breast condition referrals for Central Zone and are the tertiary referral centre for Nova Scotia and PEI general surgeons for complex breast cancer cases. These surgeons perform over 350 breast operations per year and collaborate with Plastic surgery for breast reconstruction. They co-lead the NSH/DAL breast biobank with Pathology and lead the provincial breast cancer tumor board and breast cancer site team for the Cancer Care Program. They maintain a prospective breast cancer database and lead clinical trials.



The Surgical Oncology team at the Victoria General provide knowledge and operative management for cancers of stomach (adenocarcinoma/lymphoma), small bowel, colon and rectum, peritoneal malignancies, skin cancers including melanoma, adrenal conditions, and sarcoma. These surgeons also participate in tumour boards and provide tertiary and quaternary care to Nova Scotians as well as patients from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Dalhousie Division of General Surgery is one of only three programs in Canada providing a full spectrum of options including surgery for peritoneal malignancies (pseudomyxoma, mesothelioma, GI peritoneal carcinomatosis).

Surgical oncologists also manage recurrent, borderline resectable and locally advanced colorectal cancer offering complex resections including pelvic exenterations, vascular / boney resection, multi-visceral resections for Maritime Provinces collaborating with plastic surgery, neurosurgery, urology for operative management.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

Dr. Mark Walsh was appointed to the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons

Dr. Greg Knapp identified a solution during a global shortage of Tc-99 and delivered innovative sentinel lymph node mapping technology (indocyanine green - ICG)-and was first in Atlantic Canada to trial and implement this technology for lymph node mapping in breast cancer care.

Dr. Greg Knapp spearheaded innovative, patient focused localization technology (Molli Seed) and was the first in Atlantic Canada to trial and implement this technology

Dr. Greg Knapp: Established intra-disciplinary Peritoneal Oncology Fellowship

Dr. Ashley Drohan and Dr. Joseph Corkum (plastic surgery) delivered first lymphovascular anastomosis to prevent lymphedema after surgery

Dr. Geoff Porter was appointed to governing council for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Dr. Scott Livingstone was appointed as director for dialysis access leading to 100% within target wait time for surgery resulting in no emergency central access catheters required.

### MULTI ORGAN TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

The Multi Organ Transplant Program (MOTP) includes 4 hepatobiliary surgeons as well as 2 urologists, transplant nephrologists and transplant hepatologists. It also includes cardiac surgery and cardiology.

The program has grown substantially in 2023.

- 45 Regional Organ Procurements
- 13 National Organ Procurements
- 116 Kidney Transplants
- 28 Living Donors
- 23 Total Liver Transplants

### NEW GRANT FUNDING

Dr. Richard Spence, PI, was awarded \$50,000 from the NSH Innovation Hub for 1 year in 2023.

### RESIDENTS

- Dr. V Bentley
- Dr. P Patel
- Dr. R Raskin
- Dr. A Southcott
- Dr. J Tweedy
- Dr. L Attar
- Dr. A Al-Abduljabbar
- Dr. A Keeping
- Dr. V Long
- Dr. A Robinson CIP
- Dr. E Savonitto
- Dr. D Bowker
- Dr. J Coles
- Dr. J Doucett
- Dr. P Lagace
- Dr. M McNeil
- Dr. R Brownstone
- Dr. I Georgescu
- Dr. L MacDonald
- Dr. A Mounshi
- Dr. A Orovec
- Dr. D Vidovic
- Dr. L Almazroui
- Dr. B Cruickshank
- Dr. A Dame
- Dr. F Leathead
- Dr. D Patel
- Dr. C Penny

### FELLOWS

- Dr. S Alshammari
- Dr. P Urbanellis
- Dr. Z Mir - MOTP
- Dr. O Bednarek - IWK
- Dr. K Lai - IWK



## Pediatric Surgery / IWK

Dr. B Bata  
 Dr. M Bezuhly  
 Dr. C Blackmore  
 Dr. G Corsten  
 Dr. M Dahrab  
 Dr. D Davies  
 Dr. R El-Hawary  
 Dr. L Gauthier  
 Dr. P Hong  
 Dr. D Horne  
 Dr. L Johnson  
 Dr. D Keefe  
 Dr. R Laroche  
 Dr. K Logan  
 Dr. D MacLellan  
 Dr. D McNeely  
 Dr. J Mills  
 Dr. B Orlik  
 Dr V Promelle  
 Dr. J Robitaille  
 Dr. S Walling  
 Dr. M Wheelock

FELLOWS  
 Dr. O Bednarek  
 Dr. K Lai  
 Dr. A Alelaumi  
 Dr. R Habib



### CLINICAL ANALYSIS

16,454

PATIENT VISITS

3,184

OPERATIONS

5,456

OR HOURS

516

OR AFTERHOURS

The IWK Department of Surgery provides quaternary-level, surgical care for the infants, children and youth of the Atlantic Provinces. Twenty-three surgeons practice in eight specialties including:

- Orthopaedic Surgery
- General and Thoracic Surgery
- Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Congenital Cardiovascular Surgery
- Otolaryngology, Ear Nose and Throat Surgery
- Urology
- Ophthalmology

In 2023, these surgeons performed over six thousand hours of surgery during three thousand cases. Members have active roles in education, serving as program directors for four of the surgical specialties.

Fellowship training is provided in Orthopaedics and Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery. Several members are very productive in research and quality improvement initiatives.

2023 saw the retirement of Dr. Suvro Sett from our Congenital Cardiovascular Surgery division and the departure of Dr. Rodrigo Romao (General Surgery and Urology). This allowed the successful recruitment of Dr. Karen Milford who will fill the position of General Surgeon and Urologist.



# Cardiac Surgery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Dr. Christine Herman continues to serve as our Research Director to guide and motivate our trainees and there is a significant amount of research conducted both within the division and through other collaborations. Dr. Greg Hirsch, who is one of the pioneers in the topic in Canada, continues to be active in Shared Decision-Making Research. The Division received a one-million-dollar donation in memory of Mr. Perry Kohler that has been put towards a biobank for aortic research of which the cardiac surgery lead is Dr. Christine Herman in collaboration with Dr. Kishore Pasumarthi, Department of Pathology, and Dr. Ren-Ke Li, from the University of Toronto. Dr. Herman is actively involved with research with the Health Association of African Canadians with the goal being to improve heart health in these communities and improve access to care initiatives.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Dr. Roger Baskettt

- Top 10% Med 2 Skilled Clinicians

### Dr. Greg Hirsch

- Teacher of the Year Award

### Dr. Joel Bierer

- CPCA Richard Roe Competition Winner
- CSCS Dr. Paul Cartier Cardiac Surgery Resident Award
- Doctoral Award, Canada Graduate Scholarship - Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Doctoral Award - Research Nova Scotia
- President's Award - Dalhousie University
- Killam Scholarship - Postgraduate Medical Education, Dalhousie University
- Silver Scalpel Award, Second Place, Canadian Association of Chairs of Surgical Research
- First Place, Cardiothoracic Resident Poster Presentation (Congenital) - AATS 2023
- Dr David Murphy Cardiac Surgery Research Prize, Best Poster Presentation - Cardiac Research Day, Dalhousie University
- Best Resident Presentation - Department of Surgery Research Day, Dalhousie University
- Best Presentation of Research - Department of Graduate Studies, Dalhousie University

### Dr. Dominique de Waard

- Dalhousie Global Surgery Travel Grant for international elective and Canadian Rwanda Open-heart Project 2023 x2
- Killam Predoctoral Scholarship 2022-2023, 2023-2024 Level 1 (Masters) 2023-2024
- Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship at the Master's Level 2022, 2023
- Dr. Patrick Madore Clinical Investigator Traineeship 2022-2023
- Ross Stewart Smith Scholarship 2022
- Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Harold and Ruth Babcock Stipend for surgical residents



# Neurosurgery

## QEII

- Dr. J Alant
- Dr. S Barry
- Dr. S Christie
- Dr. D Clarke
- Dr. S Lownie
- Dr. D McNeely
- Dr. G Pickett
- Dr. S Walling
- Dr. A Weeks
- Dr. L Weise



## CLINICAL ANALYSIS

6,491

PATIENT VISITS

1,114

OPERATIONS

4,015

OR HOURS

802

OR AFTERHOURS

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Division of Neurosurgery became the first Neurosurgery residency program in Canada to achieve gender parity.

75th Anniversary of Neurosurgery in Halifax (1948-2023) was celebrated September 28-30 with a 2-day symposium featuring local faculty and residents, national/international faculty, and graduates of our Residency Program.

## NEW GRANT FUNDING

CIHR	2023-27, Co-Invest: Drs. David Clarke, Mark MacLean	\$887,400
Public Safety Canada	2023-25, Co-APP: Dr. David Clarke	\$1,539,000
NSERC Alliance	2023-25 Co-APP: Dr. David Clarke	\$470,500
NSERC Alliance	2023-26 Co-APP: Dr. Sean Christie	\$470,500
BRC Knowledge Translational Grant	2023-26 Co-APP: Dr. Sean Christie	\$35,000
CFI Innovation Fund	2023-26 Co-PI: Dr. Adrienne Weeks	\$600,000
Terry Fox Foundation	2023-26 Co-APP: Dr. Adrienne Weeks	\$1,200,000
CIHR	2023-26 Co-APP: Dr. Adrienne Weeks	\$150,000
NSHRF 2023 -PI	2023 PI Dr. Lutz Weise	\$90,000





## ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

### Dr. Pickett

- First female to be promoted to Professor in the history of the Department of Surgery

## TEACHING NOTABLES

Dr. Weeks and Dr. Lownie: perfect score of 5/5 for their teaching from Dalhousie's Undergraduate Medical Education office in Halifax and Dalhousie Medicine for the 2022/2023 academic year, placing them in the top 10% of Skilled Clinician 2 tutors.

## NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

### Dr. McNeely

- Visiting pediatric neurosurgeon (Jaber al Ahmad Hospital, Kuwait) Sept 17-21, 2023.

### Dr. Weise

- Secretary of the Canadian Neuromodulation Society (September, 2023)

## AWARDS

### Dr. Pickett

- Dalhousie University's 2023 Program Director of the Year-Leadership Award
- Received the annual W. H. Howes Teaching Award for excellence in teaching

### Dr. Mark Maclean

- Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, Top Overall Basic Science Research Award
- W.D. Stephenson Research Award
- Top Overall Presentation Clinical Neuroscience Day
- Resident/ Fellow Award for Neurocritical Care, Congress of Neurological Surgeons

### Dr. Jae Han

- Top Neurosurgery Presentation Clinical Neuroscience Research Day
- National Brain Tumour Society Award, Congress of Neurological Surgeons AANS/CNS Section on Brain Tumours
- Ross Stewart Smith Memorial Fellowship FOM Research Award

### Dr. Nitish Agarwal

- Best Oral Presentation Canadian Neuromodulation Society

## NEW PROGRAM

Dr. Christie spearheaded the launch of the Nova Scotia Health Spine Assessment Clinic, a new provincially funded program to facilitate early spine patient assessment, therapy and surgical referral.

Most patients do not require surgery but to date have had long waits for assessment by a spine surgeon. This new initiative will allow those patients to quickly move on to appropriate nonoperative management. Dr. Sean Christie was the first surgeon in Canada to use the Mazor Spine Robot which allows minimally invasive, spine surgery. This robot facilitates accuracy of spinal fixation every time.

## RESIDENTS

- Dr. M MacLean
- Dr. E Leck
- Dr. A Bokeris
- Dr. J Ho Han CIP
- Dr. J Smith-Forrester
- Dr. K Tourigny CIP
- Dr. A Alwadei
- Dr. R Vaughan
- Dr. S Jung
- Dr. B Ajlan
- Dr. E Parker

## FELLOWS

- Dr. A Althagafi
- Dr. T van Essen



# Orthopaedic Surgery

## QEII

- Dr. M Biddulph
- Dr. C Coady
- Dr. C Coles
- Dr. M Dunbar
- Dr. D Ferguson
- Dr. M Glazebrook
- Dr. A Glennie
- Dr. M Gross
- Dr. D Johnston
- Dr. R Leighton
- Dr. J Morash
- Dr. W Oxner
- Dr. G Richardson
- Dr. A Trenholm
- Dr. D Wilson

## IWK

- Dr. R El-Hawary
  - Dr. L Gauthier
  - Dr. K Logan
  - Dr. B Orlik
- ## DGH

- Dr. R Hurley
- Dr. D LeGay
- Dr. J Leighton
- Dr. D O'Brien
- Dr. B O'Neill
- Dr. N Urquhart



## CLINICAL ANALYSIS

42,025

PATIENT VISITS

4,851

OPERATIONS

10,082

OR HOURS

1,171

OR AFTERHOURS

The Division of Orthopaedic Surgery celebrated the career of Dr. Gerald P. Reardon in July at his retirement party. His departure, in part, made way for the addition of Dr. Devin Ferguson who specialized in Upper Extremity Surgery at the University of Western Ontario. We also celebrated Dr. Ross Leighton's achievement of PhD for his work on multi-centered randomized control trials in Orthopaedic Surgery. The upcoming year 2024 will see us preparing as the host of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting and will see the appointment of Dr. Brendan O'Neill as the Head of Orthopaedic Surgery in Dartmouth. We would like to thank Dr. Doug Legay for over two decades as head of this group.

- Dr. David Wilson - The Faculty of Medicine Early Career Award of Excellence in Clinical Practice
- Dr. David Wilson - Appointed Chair Surgical Oncology Committee
- Dr. Jennifer Leighton- COA Emerging Leader Award 2023
- Dr. Michael Biddulph - Top Trauma Academic Physician of the Year
- Drs. Andrew Glennie / William Oxner: Medtronic Spine Robot
- Drs. M Dunbar, J Leighton, G Richardson, D Wilson: Mako Orthopedic Robotics
- Dr. Ross Leighton was awarded his PhD
  - The Canadian Orthopedic Trauma Society
  - A Prospective Randomized Multicenter Trials Organization
  - Lessons Learned over 30 years of World Class Level I Orthopedic Trauma Studies



Gerald P. Reardon, M.D., retired in 2023 as an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery. He spent 41 years in our division, starting in 1982 after completing his fellowship at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Reardon graduated from the Dalhousie University Medical School in 1974. Following two years of Family Practice in Sydney, NS, he entered the Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Training Program at Dalhousie University, completing the program in 1981.

He has been a full-time active staff member of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at Dalhousie and at the QEII Health Sciences Centre since 1982. Dr. Reardon served as the Program Director for Residency Training in Orthopaedic Surgery from 1997 – 1999 and also served as Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery for Dalhousie University and for the QEII Health Sciences Centre from 1999 – 2005. Dr. Reardon is a member of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, becoming Board certified in 1984.

Dr. Reardon is known for being one of the best teachers, a good golfer and an incredible colleague.

### RESIDENT AND FELLOW AWARDS

- Dr. Luke Heinrichs: 2023 Stephen S Burkhardt Shoulder Innovation Award
- Dr. Moayd Awad: 2023 Excellence in Orthopedic Surgery
- Dr. Makena Mborgori: 2023 Sports Medicine Best Research Presentation
- Dr. Conner Sonke and Dr. Abdullah Chughtai: Undergraduate Teaching Award in Orthopedics
- Dr. Bernard Burgesson: Ross Stewart Smith Fellowship in Medical Research
- Dr. Kit Moran: Orthopedic Resident Research Day 1st Prize
- Dr. Shar Seddigh: Orthopedic Resident Research Day 2nd Prize
- Dr. Malik Ali: Orthopedic Resident Research Day 3rd Prize

### NEW GRANT FUNDING

Scoliosis Research Society	2023	Co-APP: El-Hawary	\$75,000
PSI	2023-24	Collaborator: Wong	\$250,000
Arthroscopy Assoc of NA	2023	PI: Wong	\$30,000
ASAE	2023	PI: Wong	\$20,000

### RESIDENTS

- Dr. Y Al-Saran
- Dr. K Moran
- Dr. S Seddigh CIP
- Dr. K Johnston
- Dr. F Al-Jahdali
- Dr. M Ali
- Dr. A Ashour
- Dr. M Whitcomb
- Dr. H Al-Haboubi
- Dr. A Loewen
- Dr. J McNally
- Dr. S Al-Hajraf
- Dr. A Al-Zamel
- Dr. A Chughtai
- Dr. C Sonke
- Dr. N Al-Kaabi
- Dr. N Baniyas
- Dr. T Hillier
- Dr. T Jordan

### FELLOWS

- Dr. A Ahmad
- Dr. O Al Habaishi
- Dr. M Aissa
- Dr. J Alkhateeb
- Dr. T Alqahtani
- Dr. M Arneill
- Dr. M Awad
- Dr. F Barbosa Martin
- Dr. E Chan
- Dr. J Karpyshyn
- Dr. R Kenyon
- Dr. M Mborgori
- Dr. A Philips
- Dr. N Schneider
- Dr. A Alelaumi - IWK
- Dr. R Habib - IWK



# Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

## CLINICAL ANALYSIS

16,889

PATIENT VISITS

1,172

OPERATIONS

3,268

OR HOURS

235

OR AFTERHOURS



### QEII

- Dr. T Brown
- Dr. M Corsten
- Dr. E Fung
- Dr. D Kirkpatrick
- Dr. E Massoud
- Dr. D Morris
- Dr. M Rigby
- Dr. N Shoman
- Dr. M Taylor
- Dr. J Trites

### DGH

- Dr. R Balyis
- Dr. D Piccott
- Dr. R Leblanc
- Dr. J Scott

### IWK

- Dr. G Corsten
- Dr. L Johnson
- Dr. P Hong

The Division of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (Oto-HNS) serves as the tertiary and quaternary centre for diseases of the head and neck for both Nova Scotia and the Maritime provinces. The Division is composed of 10 surgeons based at the Victoria General hospital, 4 at Dartmouth General Hospital and 3 pediatric surgeons at the IWK. The program is considered one of the top training programs in the country. The Oto-HNS educational program consists of 10 Otolaryngology residents, 3 fellows and is a common elective choice for medical students looking for both experience and potential training opportunities.

The Division provides subspecialty care in all areas of Oto-HNS. This includes head and neck oncology, otology, neurotology, rhinology, pediatric otolaryngology, laryngology, facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, sleep medicine/surgery and general otolaryngology. The program includes multidisciplinary clinics in head and neck oncology, skull base surgery, cochlear implantation, voice and airway disorders and pediatric otolaryngology.

The program is well known for its collegiality, productivity and exceptional patient care. This fosters an exceptional learning atmosphere for trainees and staff. The Division has a long track record of research excellence. Our members have been remarkably successful capturing research awards both nationally and internationally. Our Division also has collaborative research labs and programs such as the EAR (ear and auditory research) lab and our functional outcomes group for head and neck cancer patients. Our trainees have enjoyed extremely high success rates in Royal College examinations and have matched to prestigious fellowship programs following residency. Past graduates have entered excellent careers in both regional centres in general otolaryngology and positions in academic surgery.

## NEW GRANT FUNDING

NSH	2023-26	Co-PI: Hong	\$60,000
IWK Health	2023	Co-PI: Hong	\$60,000



## NEW PROGRAM

New pediatric ENT travelling clinic in Eskasoni that was established by Dr. Paul Hong, Dr. Margot Latimer, Manager Michael Sangster, Julie Francis and staff at the Eskasoni Health Center. We know that children in Eskasoni were being under served. We have data that they have more ear diseases and hearing loss than kids from other areas in the province. Yet, they were not seeing ENT specialists. To overcome the major barrier of travel and not wanting to come to a place where they don't know people, we established a pediatric ENT clinic in Eskasoni Community Health Centre. The process of setting this clinic was quite prolonged (3-4 years) but the feedback has been very good so far.



### RESIDENTS

- Dr. A Aldaihani
- Dr. V Kuta
- Dr. C Purcell
- Dr. A Clark
- Dr. U Khan
- Dr. K Munroe
- Dr. N Alhajri
- Dr. S Secord
- Dr. H Brennan
- Dr. K Hathi

### FELLOWS

- Dr. C den Besten
- Dr. R Ghedia
- Dr. D Patel

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Nael Shoman Promoted - Associate Professor.
- Dr. Paul Hong received the Honour Award of Recognition for contributions to the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery.
- Dr. David Forner: B.L. Jewett Award: “Evaluating the Rising Incidence of Thyroid Cancer and Thyroid Nodule Detection Modes: A multinational, multi-institutional analysis”
- Dr. Naser Alhajri: Divisional Resident Overall Research Award “Anosmia as an early predictor of the onset and severity of COVID-19 in Kuwait”
- Dr. Alex Clark: Poliquin Resident Research Competition Award-First Place, Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia
- Dr. Alex Clark: Second Place Clinical Research Charles Ferguson Award American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology Annual Meeting at Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings, Dallas, Texas
- Dr. Josh Farrell: PhD Awarded “Software framework for middle ear optical coherence tomography” Supervisors: Adamson, Morris
- Junzeh “Young” Wang: MASC (Masters of Applied Science) Awarded “Improved middle ear imaging with optical coherence tomography for clinical otology” Supervisors: Adamson, Morris
- Dr. Victoria Kuta, ENT PGY5: DOS Resident Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
- Dr. Rick Balys: ENT Divisional Teaching Award and Top 10% Med 2 Skilled Clinicians



# Plastic Surgery

- QEII
  - Dr. J Corkum
  - Dr. E Krauss
  - Dr. M Leblanc
  - Dr. S Morris
  - Dr. J Paletz
  - Dr. J Rasmussen
  - Dr. J Stein
  - Dr. J Williams

- DGH
  - Dr. G Davis

- IWK
  - Dr. M Bezuhly
  - Dr. M Wheelock



## CLINICAL ANALYSIS

20,274

PATIENT VISITS

1,046

OPERATIONS

2,496

OR HOURS

173

OR AFTERHOURS

It is a privilege to introduce the Division of Plastic Surgery. This is a vibrant and dedicated group, comprised of 7 surgeons based at the Halifax Infirmary, 2 at the IWK, and 1 at the Dartmouth General Hospital. The Division provides tertiary and quaternary level care to the region, and a high volume of secondary level service to Central and other Zones in Nova Scotia. Clinical services include surgical management of skin cancer, hand surgery, peripheral nerve surgery, breast surgery including reconstruction of breast cancer patients, craniofacial surgery, gender affirming chest surgery, burn surgery, advanced wound care and reconstruction, and a full range of pediatric plastic surgery including cleft lip and palate repair, craniofacial reconstruction, and congenital hand reconstruction. Our surgeons are also collaborators, working with many other specialties in a reconstructive capacity, performing flap surgeries to meet various oncologic and traumatic needs.

Our Division delivers fully on the academic mission as well. The fully accredited Plastic Surgery residency program is led by program director Dr. Margaret Wheelock, while Dr. Justin Paletz is our undergraduate education director, and Dr. Joe Corkum is our fellowship director. Our divisional research director is Dr. Emily Krauss.

The Division is proud of our past, passionate about the high-quality care, teaching and research we deliver at present, and excited about our future!



## AWARDS

### Dr. John Stein:

- Dr. Gerald L. Sparkes Faculty Teaching Award for Excellence in Plastic Surgery Education 2023

### Dr. Emily Burke:

- Winston Parkhill Undergraduate Teaching Award for excellence in teaching by a Plastic Surgery resident

### Dr. Jack Rasmussen:

- St Francis Xavier University Young Alumnus of the Year 2023

## RESIDENT AWARDS

### Dr. Connor McGuire:

- Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine Samuel R. McLaughlin Scholarship

### Dr. Anna Duncan:

- Dr Robert Stone Travelling Fellowship, Department of Surgery Research Day 2023
- F. M. Woodhouse Research Award

## RESIDENTS

- Dr. A Duncan
- Dr. R Gudimella CIP
- Dr. C McGuire
- Dr. A Al Shammari
- Dr. T Dow
- Dr. B Greene
- Dr. A Alibrahim
- Dr. C Boudreau
- Dr. E Mandawe
- Dr. T Selman
- Dr. S Al Shawaf
- Dr. S Al Shammari
- Dr. K Ross

## FELLOWS

- Dr. A Alotaibi

## NEW GRANT FUNDING

New Frontiers Grant	2023-26	Co-APP: Bezuhly	\$300,000
NSERC Alliance Grant (ALLRP)	2023-26	Co-PI: Bezuhly	\$359,820



## Thoracic Surgery

QEII

Dr. G Darling

Dr. A Ednie

Dr. D French

Dr. H Henteleff

Dr. A Mujoomdar

Dr. M Plourde

Dr. A Wallace



### CLINICAL ANALYSIS

9,984

PATIENT VISITS

2,025

OPERATIONS

3,396

OR HOURS

450

OR AFTERHOURS

The Division of Thoracic Surgery provides secondary, tertiary and quaternary care for patients from across Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Lung cancer is the most common problem managed by thoracic surgeons but we also treat esophageal cancer, other diseases of the lungs, pleural space, mediastinum as well as benign esophageal problems such as gastroesophageal reflux disease, hiatal hernias, Zencker's diverticulum, achalasia and chest trauma. Thoracic surgeons look after everything in the chest except the heart and great vessels! Minimally invasive techniques are used for most thoracic operations even esophagectomy. However, open surgery is still required on occasion, most often for very large tumours. The Division of Thoracic Surgery plans to start a robotic program as soon as QEII HSC has more robotic capacity. Endoscopic and bronchoscopic procedures are also part of the thoracic surgery armamentarium.

The Division of Thoracic Surgery includes 5 full time thoracic surgeons, plus the Department Head, one part time surgeon and an interventional respirologist who is cross appointed to the Department of Surgery. Our surgeons are based at the Victoria General while our interventional respirologist is based at the Halifax Infirmary.

Our mission is to deliver exceptional thoracic surgical services and we are dedicated to a patient first approach. Commitment to excellence and compassionate care are vital components of our team. In the spirit of patient advocacy, we now have an outreach clinic in Cape Breton which assessed 459 patients in the first year. We have transitioned the management of pleural effusions to an outpatient setting.

We embrace innovation and strive to be at the forefront of technological advancements





and surgical techniques. We participate in novel approaches in thoracic oncology and look forward to starting third space as well as robotic-assisted surgeries. Through research collaborations we have a high grant capture, and present at local, national, and international meetings in addition to publishing in peer reviewed journals.

Many of our members participate in the advancement of thoracic surgery by chairing and being members of committees for the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Alexander Ednie was appointed Associate Program Director for Surgical Foundations and the Competency Committee.
- Dr. Alison Wallace was selected for the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), for the 2024 IASLC Academy which includes a diverse cohort of 30 physicians from around the world.
- A new Thoracic Surgery clinic was established in Sydney (fall of 2022) spearheaded by Dr. Daniel French. Over 460 have been seen as well as numerous procedures including Endobronchial ultrasound.
- Dr. Gail Darling was awarded a Life-Time Achievement award at the Canadian Lung Cancer Congress
- Dr. Daniel French was appointed Chair of the Quality Committee for the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons.
- Dr. Madelaine Plourde was appointed Co-Director of the Central Zone Endoscopy Services

### NEW GRANT FUNDING

Terry Fox Research Institute	2023-26	Co-APP: Wallace	\$26,000,000
Lung Cancer Canada, Lung Ambition Award	2023	PI: Wallace	\$50,000
TFRI ACC MOHCCN	2023	Co-PI: Wallace	\$459,100
Canadian Cancer Society, Breakthrough Grant	2023-28	Co-PI: Wallace	\$5,197,880
Dalhousie DOS Seed Grant	2023	PI: Wallace	\$50,000



# Vascular Surgery

## QEII

Dr. P Casey  
Dr. R Dunn  
Dr. M Lee  
Dr. G MacKean  
Dr. CJ McDonald  
Dr. M Smith  
Dr. S Jessula

## FELLOWS

Dr. M Al Sulaimani



## CLINICAL ANALYSIS

9,466

PATIENT VISITS

699

OPERATIONS

1,817

OR HOURS

490

OR AFTERHOURS

The Division of Vascular Surgery at Dalhousie University was officially established in 1998. At the time, Halifax, along with centers in Sydney and Kentville provided vascular services for Nova Scotians.

With the cessation of vascular services in Sydney in 2016 and Kentville in 2022, our small team of dedicated surgeons and staff have been the sole providers of Vascular Surgery services in Nova Scotia. Recognizing the impact of centralization of services, the increasing prevalence of vascular disease in Nova Scotia, an aging and complex patient population, ongoing growth in the province, our Division has been approved to hire two more surgeons to join the team. Despite our current challenges, we are excited about the opportunity to strengthen and expand the Division of Vascular Surgery.

Vascular Surgery is a unique specialty where we provide both medical and surgical care in addition to longitudinal patient care. We manage a wide variety of conditions from acute and chronic limb ischemia, diseases of the carotid artery, arterial aneurysms, arterial dissections, renovascular disease, mesenteric arterial disease, hemodialysis access, arterial and venous thoracic outlet disease to name just a few. Vascular Surgery is an essential service for any tertiary/quarternary care hospital. We provide vascular support for all other surgical and medical specialties.

Over the years, it has been exciting to witness and be an active participant in the evolution of vascular surgery from predominantly open surgical based procedures to minimally invasive procedures. We performed the first endovascular abdominal aortic surgery in Atlantic Canada. We were the first surgeons in Atlantic Canada to perform endovascular peripheral vascular procedures. We are proud of our strong collaboration with our interventional radiology colleagues. By cooperating, we have developed a program for complex endovascular aortic repair that continues to expand. Our open surgical skills remain strong, with many Vascular training programs across Canada sending their residents here to learn unique approaches with high volumes.



We are delighted to be the site of the first Hybrid OR in the Atlantic provinces, made possible by our generous donor, Stewart E. Allen and the QEII Foundation. Access to this state-of-the-art technology allows for safer, better care for our patients as well as recruitment of the best and brightest in vascular surgery. The hybrid room has been a game changer for vascular surgery facilitating both minimally invasive and open surgery, with superb imaging and technical support. For patients this means less contrast required for imaging meaning less risk of kidney issues. CT Fusion technology allows for case planning: getting ideal angles and images, resulting in less radiation and contrast use for the patient. The exceptional imaging provided allows for precise placement of grafts which can mean the difference between success and failure of the procedure, and also allows us to detect pathology that we might have missed with the old portable imager. With the flexibility of the OR table, we are able to do both open and endovascular procedures with ease. Staff also benefit from low radiation levels, reducing long term risks of radiation exposure. Additionally, the ergonomics of the room with large screens on both sides of the room results in less occupational injuries from strain/poor ergonomics.

With the hybrid OR advanced endovascular surgeries continue to grow in collaboration with interventional radiology. We are able to offer lifesaving surgery to patients in a minimally invasive manner with improved outcomes and quicker recovery. As an example of the benefit of the hybrid OR, we did the first laser fenestration case in late 2023 for a complex aneurysm repair on an elderly woman where open surgery was not an option. Without the hybrid OR this complex procedure would not have been possible.

Our Division has been using virtual care to provide consultations to patients in rural areas of Nova Scotia. Doing this allows our patients to avoid using resources such as the emergency room, EHS transport, inpatient beds. We continue to be innovative in our care delivery for patients- offering video/virtual appointments with nursing support in the different health zones. This allows patients to stay closer to home while still receiving top quality specialty care. We are leaders and experts in wound care and work as part of the team in the Multi-Disciplinary Leg Ulcer Clinic.

Despite our small size, we have produced high quality research published in major vascular journals.

Our biggest strength is our people. From the vascular surgeons, to the nurses in the operating room/wards/clinics, pedorthists, pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapist, unit clerks, administrative assistants, LPNs, CCAs, we are proud of the relationships we have and the people that work with us.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Dr. Min Lee

- Top 10% Med 2 Skilled Clinicians
- Chair Exam Committee Royal College



## The Future Looks Bright



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As the Department of Surgery embarks on another year, we look forward to operationalizing our strategic plan, expanding our faculty to meet population demands and increasing our robotic assisted surgery platforms. We will be increasing support for our researchers to be competitive in grant capture, presence on the national and world stage and we will ensure our learners receive the best education. We are initiating deep dives on quality indicators to ensure our patients receive the best care. Surgeons are “get things done” type of people, it is in our DNA. The future for Dal Surgery is bright!



