

Department of Surgery Research Day
Monday May 11, 2026
Halifax Convention Center

Program Schedule

07:30	Coffee	Halifax Convention Centre Main Floor 1 – Room C1
08:00-08:15	Morning Announcements	
	Dr. Michael Bezuhly Director of Research, DOS	Host Housekeeping and Program Announcements
	Dr. Kim Brooks President, Dalhousie University	Opening Remarks
	<u>JUDGES:</u> Dr. Alexandra Quimby Dr. Christine Herman Dr. Samuel Jessula	
08:15-10:00	Session 1 Chair: Dr. Heather McFadgen	Presenter and Abstract 7 minute presentation 3 minute Q&A
08:15	Balgees Ajlan – Resident Neurosurgery	Femoral Access-Site Complications Among Patients Undergoing Neurointerventional Procedures: A Quality Improvement Project
08:25	Claire Carruthers – Medical Student Plastic Surgery	The Utilization of Brachial Plexus Blocks for Distal Nerve Repairs and Transfers
08:35	Allison Loewen – Resident Orthopaedics	Quality Improvement Protocol: Retrospective Chart Review of Delayed Hip Fracture Surgeries (>48 Hours) at the Halifax Infirmary
08:45	Darien McBride – Medical Student General Surgery	Preoperative Soluble AXL in Plasma Predicts Futility of Resecting Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
08:55	Nadim Ammouy – Graduate Student Biomedical Engineering	Knee morphological phenotypes differ by sex and frontal plane kinematics during walking in patients with end-stage knee osteoarthritis.
09:05	Takhliq Amir – Resident Cardiac Surgery	Size-Dependent Growth of the Ascending Aorta in a Large Contemporary Cardiac CT-Based Surveillance Cohort
09:15	Nicholas Cheverie – Graduated Student General Surgery	Targeted Hyperthermia Induces Immunogenic Tumor Remodeling and Demonstrates Early Clinical Response in Immunotherapy-Refractory Metastatic Melanoma
09:25	Victoria Taylor– Resident Otolaryngology	Oncologic outcomes in p16-positive oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas with extranodal extension: A retrospective cohort study

09:35	Peter Wong – Clinical Fellow Orthopaedics	To walk or not? A prospective randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effect of weight bearing on patient outcomes following first metatarsophalangeal joint fusion
09:45	Adele Orovec – Resident General Surgery	Predictors of Delay to Colorectal Surgical Cancer Care in Nova Scotia
09:55 - 10:20	MORNING BREAK	Room C1-C2
10:20 -11:50	Session 2 Chair: Dr. Nadim Joukhadar	Presenter and Abstract 7 minute presentation 3 minute Q&A
10:20	Methila Biswas Raya – GS Cardiac Surgery	A Multistage ML-based Delirium Risk Stratification with SHAP-driven Clinical Decision Support for Cardiac Surgery
10:30	Dylan Patel – Resident General Surgery	Application of the Palliative and Therapeutic Harmonization (PATH) Program for Shared-Decision Making for Severely Frail or Cognitively Impaired Patients Scheduled for Cancer Surgery
10:40	Kassandra Coyle – Medical Student Vascular Surgery	Missed Opportunities for Surveillance: Incidence of Prior Aneurysm in Patients Presenting with Ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
10:50	Gizelle Francis - Resident Otolaryngology	Functional and Oncologic Outcomes After Transoral Laser and Robotic Surgery for Oropharyngeal Carcinoma
11:00	Haley Glazebrook – Medical Student Orthopaedics	Video-Based Assessment of Surgical Skill in Orthopaedic Surgery: External Reviewer Validation and Evaluator Bias
11:10	Hamza Imtiaz – Graduate Student Neurosurgery	Preliminary Analysis of Neural Activity in Patients with Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Using the Percept™ Neurostimulator
11:20	Felix Leathead – Resident Thoracic Surgery	Environmental and Economic Impact Assessment of Cape Breton Thoracic Surgery Clinic
11:30	Jamil Muradov – Medical Student General Surgery	Benchmarking Prospective Colorectal Cancer Outcomes in Nova Scotia against an international collaborative
11:40	Lauren Westhaver – Graduate Student Neurosurgery	Longitudinal peripheral blood immune profiling to monitor disease progression in glioblastoma
11:50- 13:00	LUNCH BREAK	Common Area – Floor ONE
12:15 - 12:45	TRAINEE SESSION WITH KEYNOTES	TBD -Room C5 “Meet the Keynotes”
13:00- 13:45	COLLABORATIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS Brian Nosek	ROOM C1-2 <i>Shifting incentives from getting it published to getting it right</i> 30 minute talk 15 minute Q&A 7min presentation + 3min Q&A
13:45- 14:15	INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINEE PRESENTATIONS (3)	DOS Regan Duffy Representative Pediatric FFP-free cardiopulmonary bypass prime solution QI initiative
14:15 - 14:40	Break	Department of Surgery Room C1-2 Re-Set Room

14:40	Session 3 Chair: Dr. Catherine Deshaies	Presenter and Abstract 7 minute presentation 3 minute Q&A
14:40	Suna Jung – Resident Neurosurgery	Safety and outcomes of deep brain stimulation for dystonia in young children excluded from the FDA Humanitarian Device Exemption: Analysis of the CHILD-DBS registry
14:50	Ilinca Georgescu – Resident General Surgery	Updated Results – A Nova Scotia-Based Total Neoadjuvant Treatment Study: Assessing Success of Implementation and Outcomes Data Associated with a Provincially Standardized Algorithm for the Treatment of Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer
15:00	Noah Stevens -Graduate Student Pharmacology	Characterization of NOS1APc Localization and Function in the Mammalian Kidney
15:10	Emmanuel Egwuatu – Medical Student Orthopedics	Temporal Trends and Site-Level Variation in Surgical Management of Degenerative Spondylolisthesis
15:20	Olalekan Olasehinde –Clinical Fellow Global Surgery	Impact of Multi-Level Educational Interventions on Breast Cancer Care Uptake in Ile-Ife: Applying the WHO Global Breast Cancer Initiative Framework.
15:30	Hannah Brennan – Resident Otolaryngology	Cost-Efficiency Analysis of Office-Based Endoscopic Biopsies for Laryngopharyngeal Lesions
15:40	Camille Zeitouni – Resident Plastic Surgery	Better Care Sooner: Assessing Efficiency and Resident Educational Value of Dedicated Plastic Surgery Trauma Clinics
15:50	Joel Bierer – Resident Cardiac Surgery	High-exchange ULTrafiltration to enhance Recovery After pediatric cardiac surgery: the ULTRA Randomized Controlled Trial
16:00	Isabella Mendoza – Graduate Student Thoracic Surgery	Early Airway Epithelial Responses to PM2.5: Implications for Environmentally Driven Lung Cancer Risk
16:10	Gracious Kasheke – Medical Student Vascular	Is the COBRA-OS® 4 French Aortic Occlusion Device Feasible for Partial REBOA?
16:20	Harshal Patel – Medical Student Orthopaedics	Decreasing Wait times in Nova Scotia: A Pilot Multi-Disciplinary Orthopedic Rotator Cuff Assessment Pathway
16:30	Dr. Gail Darling Head, Department of Surgery	Closing Remarks
17:00	Social - AWARD PRESENTATIONS	Common Area -Floor 1

DOS Research Day Learning Objectives:

- 1. Review and discuss research in the Department of Surgery
(CanMEDS roles: Scholar, Collaborator).**
- 2. Identify innovative research approaches for impactful health care
(CanMEDS roles: Medical Expert, Health Advocate)**
- 3. Develop oral presentation skills needed to effectively present scientific research data
(CanMED roles: Scholar, Communicator)**
- 4. Develop skills related to defending their research results
(CanMEDS roles: Medical Expert, Scholar, Communicator)**

Keynote Address:



Dr. Brian Nosek

“Shifting Incentives to Getting in Published to Getting it Right”

Keynote Learning Objectives:

- 1. Review the scholarly norms and values of research.**
- 2. Asses the gap between those values and the culture reward system for researchers.**
- 3. Learn about strategies that are changing the norms, incentives and policies for researchers and consider applicably to their research**