

THE  
**UPDATE**

February 2014



*Michelle Murray, RN, Surgical Skills Centre Coordinator with a patient in Rwanda. The Global Health Office at Dalhousie has done three trips to Rwanda initiating skills and teaching modules. Read about it on pages 6-7.*

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**DAL SURGERY  
RESEARCH DAY**

*Friday, April 4, 2014  
Westin Nova Scotian*

# *Message from the Head, Dr. David Kirkpatrick*



**FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR DEPARTMENT** who embrace change, 2014 should be a very good year. We have a new government elected on a promise to reorganize adult healthcare under one district health authority for the province. This and the physician resource plan have ignited interest in provincial clinical service planning on several fronts. Such a clinical service plan for CDHA is currently also being developed so that the architects who are designing the new facility to replace the VGH building will know what is required. In the meantime any reorganization we need to do will, where possible, align with these longer term plans.

Over the past year there have been numerous meetings relating to the new AFP. Things had been inching along but recently have slowed to a glacial pace as we approach implementation. It has taken longer than expected but this is not entirely surprising given the significant differences in the fifteen different AFPs involved. Recent discussions have focused on the role, composition and funding of the Secretariat which at this point appears destined to be a much leaner body than originally envisioned and will be tasked primarily with an accountability function.

Although the search for a new dean came up empty, the good news is that Dean Marrie will continue as our dean at least until the Fall of 2015. This will provide continuity and stability to the governance team overseeing the development of the new AFP.

Lastly, the Department of Surgery Strategic Plan provides the impetus for increasing membership involvement in departmental governance. We expanded and reorganized the Education Committee and approved the creation of the Appointments Committee last year. This year we will operationalize that committee and develop a much anticipated Quality Committee. This committee will be responsible for our CQI programs (NSQIP) and have outcomes research cross linkages with Community Health and Epidemiology.

It seems that 2014 will be a very eventful year!

## *QEII Foundation Chair in Transplant Surgery – Dr. Ian Alwayn*

In October, Dr. Ian Alwayn was announced as The QEII Foundation Endowed Chair in Transplantation. Dr. Alwayn is the Director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program (MOTP) at the QEII Health Sciences and an Associated Professor at Dalhousie Medical School. Dr. Alwayn's research looks at improving the quality of organs prior to transplantation. Dr. Alwayn's patient, Ellie O'Brien spoke eloquently at the announcement ceremony, recalling her time as a live-donor kidney transplant recipient. Her health was suddenly jeopardized while she was in high school and is now a healthy vibrant young woman. She will be graduating with her Nursing Degree from Saint Francis Xavier University this spring. We wish her much success.



# Director of Education, Dr. Brock Vair



**THE ORGANIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES** within the Department has recently been restructured as outlined below with provision of dedicated funding and time for committee Chair positions from within the Academic Funding Plan.

Postgraduate Education	Dr. Emad Massoud
Fellowship Education	Dr. Mark Glazebrook
Undergraduate Education	Dr. Chad Coles
Foundations of Surgery	Dr. David Tang
Global Surgery	Dr. Marius Hoogerboord

The Department will again be required to contribute tutors to the problem based learning seminars at the undergraduate level as well as examiners for formative and summative OSCE examinations.

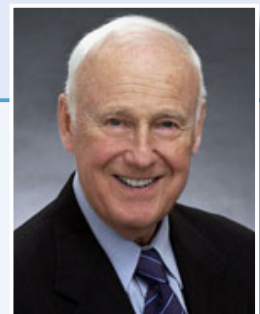
At the conclusion of each 12 week unit the undergraduate students are now scheduled for 2 week long PIER sessions dedicated to integration of learning through seminars and case presentations. The students will not be present in the hospitals during the PIER sessions .

Each undergraduate student is expected to obtain at least one formative Mini CEX evaluation during each clinical rotation. These evaluations require direct observation by teaching faculty of history taking , physical evaluation, data and imaging assessments and communication of management plans. The students are expected to schedule these evaluations with attending staff in advance of clinic attendance.

All students within the first unit were successful in passing the NBME examination in Surgery .

On November 27 an interdisciplinary education program, organized by the Departments of Anesthesia and Surgery, was held at the Faculty Building at Dalhousie. Presentations and discussions involving residents and faculty from both departments, as well as OR nursing staff, were related to interprofessional training and education based on simulation. The guest speaker was Dr. Glenn Posner from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Ottawa.

## Order of Nova Scotia - Dr. Cecil (Ed) Kinley



Dr. Ed Kinley received the Order of Nova Scotia in 2013. Dr. Kinley is a graduate of Dalhousie Medical School and is a distinguished alumni of Dal Surgery Faculty (1963-1998). He is considered the pioneer of cardiac surgery in the province performing the first cardiac bypass surgery, the first open heart surgery, the first implant of a pace maker and established the first cardiac intensive care unit. Dr. Kinley was also very dedicated to education and established the cardiac surgery residency program as well as on-going training and education for nurses and respiratory therapists.



## *Director of Research, Dr. Greg Hirsch*

**THERE HAS BEEN LOTS** of exciting activity on the research front within the Department of Surgery. Congratulations to Dr. Ian Alwayn, who has been named the QEII Foundation Chair in Transplantation and with Ian at the helm, we are all confident that this Chair will provide opportunity for growth in the already successful translational and basic research efforts on going across the spectrum of transplantation. We adjudicated our Research Funds for 2013 which this year included landmark awards to Dr. Ansar Hassan in Dalhousie – New Brunswick, as well as Dr. Sean Christie in the Division of Neurosurgery. The inclusion of our Neurosurgery and New Brunswick colleagues is an exciting development and opens the door to significant growth of the surgical research activities within our department. Funding

arrangements are being pursued with both New Brunswick and Neurosurgery that will see an increased funding base for these activities. It is very exciting to see the scope of Dal Surgery Research extend beyond the original six divisions of the AFP to include the proper university divisions and extended medical school colleagues. I was very excited to learn that Dr. Scott Hurton, a CIP Resident Researcher was awarded a \$17,500.00 award from the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute. This accomplishment bodes well for Scott's future as an academic surgeon as well reflects positively on his home program, General Surgery.

Research Day is April 4, 2014 at the Westin Nova Scotian, and call for funding has been sent with a due date of April 7, 2014.

### *2013 Grant Awards*

DR. MICHAEL DUNBAR, **Programme Support**, “Conservative and Surgical Management of Knee OA based on an Objective Pathomechanical Framework” \$50,000.00

DR. MANOHAR BANCE, **Programme Support**, “Enabling Application for New Technologies in Otologic Research” \$50,000.00

DR. PAUL HONG, **Bridge Funding**, “Tissue Engineering of Auricular Cartilage with a Novel Decellularized Auricular Cartilage Metric Scaffold” \$47,720.00

DR. MICHAEL BEZUHLY, **Seed Grant**, “Ticagrelor as a Potential New Therapeutic Agent in Reducing Tumour Metastasis” \$40,000.00

DR. IVAN WONG, **Seed Grant**, “Acetabular Labral Lesions of patients with OA Study” \$10,000.00

DR. MICHAEL BEZUHLY, **CFI Innovations Leaders Opportunity Match Fund**, \$50,000.00

DR. JF LEGARE, **Programme Support**, “Towards Better Long Term Organ Survival after Transplantation” \$43,000.00

DR. PAUL HONG, **Match Fund**, “Supporting Shared Decisions in Otolaryngology” \$21,750.00

\*DR. ANSAR HASSAN, **Seed Grant**, “Obesity in Cardiac Surgery: Do Overweight Patients have Worse Outcomes” \$50,000.00

\*DR. SEAN CHRISTIE, **Seed Grant**, “Isolation for microRNAs from Injured Pig Spinal Cord Tissue in the Context of Lipid Peroxidation” \$50,000.00

## *Clinical Investigator Program*

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH OFFICE** continues to support the endeavors of three residents presently enrolled in the CIP Program. **Dr. Richard Liu**, who is finishing up his MSc in CH&E was featured in the NSHRF annual report for being the recipient of the 2012 Colleen Elliot Award.

**Dr. Scott Hurton**, looking at Quality of Care in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Patients in Nova Scotia and will complete his MSc in CH&E this spring. Dr. Hurton has been the resident representative on the Dal Surgery Research Committee for the past year. His insight and involvement has been much appreciated. Dr. Hurton was recently awarded a Beatrice Hunter Fellowship award \$17,500.00. Dr. Scott Hurton was also recently awarded the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation's prestigious 2013 Colleen Elliot Award.

**Dr. Amanda Murphy** started her MSc in researching biomedical aspects of Autologous Fat Grafting. We are proud. Dr. Murphy received full Ministry Funding for her entire Clinical Investigative Program.

Past Residents worthy of mention come out of the Division of Orthopaedics. Drs. **Alex Soroceanu** and **Nathan Urquhart** have been selected as the COA's 2014 CFBS Travelling Fellows. Dr. Soroceanu is currently completing a spine fellowship at the NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases, while Dr. Urquhart is presently working as an extended-term locum at Dartmouth Regional Hospital and pursuing research in hip and shoulder arthroscopy. Both are graduates of the Dalhousie orthopaedic residency program. They will visit various orthopaedic centres in France, Belgium and Switzerland this fall, and will complete their tour at the SOFCOT meeting in Paris in November. Please join us in congratulating Drs. Soroceanu and Urquhart on this tremendous achievement.

## *New Faculty ~ Dr. Marius Hoogerboord*



**DR. MARIUS HOOGERBOORD** grew up in South Africa. He obtained his medical degree from the University of the Orange Free State and completed his General Surgery residency at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He immigrated to Canada in 2008 and worked as a community surgeon in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Dr. Hoogerboord successfully completed a Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at Dalhousie University in July, 2012 after which he joined the Division of General Surgery as a staff surgeon. Dr. Hoogerboord's clinical and research interests include laparoscopic colorectal, foregut and hernia surgery.

Dr. Hoogerboord has recently taken on the role of Medical Director of the newly established Dalhousie Department of Surgery Global Health Office. Dr. Hoogerboord is particularly interested in establishing partnerships with teaching institutions in low-income countries with the goal to enrich patient care through collaborative efforts in education, research and clinical practice. Dr. Hoogerboord is engaged in research and development of models to support simulation training and telementoring in low-resource settings. Welcome Dr. Hoogerboord!

# *Dalhousie Global Surgical Office - Rwanda*

**SIMULATION AND SKILLS** training has been identified as a need for residency training programs at the National University of Rwanda (NUR). This is due to the large number learners with very few staff facing overwhelming clinical demands. Members of the Dalhousie's Department of Anesthesia Global Health Office have been working with the NUR Departments of Surgery and Anesthesia to develop a simulation and skills centre. Recently that team, led by Dr Patty Livingston, received a Grand Challenges Canada grant to fund the setup costs for the centre. With dedicated space supplied by NUR at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (UTHK) the Faculty of Medicine Simulation and Skills Centre (FOMSSC) became a reality.

In February of 2013 an interdisciplinary group representing Dalhousie Departments of Surgery, Anesthesia and Critical Care travelled to Rwanda with the goal of bolstering simulation and surgical skills training at NUR.

The purpose of the visit was two-fold: 1. to strengthen the educational partnership between Dalhousie and NUR by involving Dalhousie's Department of Surgery; 2. to begin the physical setup of the FOMSSC by organizing equipment and training instructors. Two members of the newly formed Dalhousie Global Surgery Office (GSO), Jon Bailey (PGY3 General Surgery) and Michelle Murray (Skills Centre Coordinator), joined this development process in the months preceding their trip to Kigali. Ms Murray was able to gather much needed equipment based on needs identified by the Head of Surgery at UTHK, Dr. Georges Ntakiyiruta. Throughout the trip, she used her years of simulation experience to advise Dr. Georges and the Dean of Medicine, Dr. Patrick Kyamanywa, on renovations that would be required for the FOMSSC. During our visit, the team designed and delivered a two-day instructors' course on simulation education. This course was met with great enthusiasm from participants, which included division heads from surgery, anesthesia and critical care. Simultaneously, Ms. Murray was able to begin mentoring, Angelique Mugirente, the new FOMSSC program coordinator.

The grand opening of the FOMSSC took place on July 30th to much fanfare. Three national Rwandan news agencies televised coverage of the event. The FOMSSC has received international recognition being visited by former US president Bill Clinton. The most encouraging result following the opening of the FOMSSC has been the uptake of simulation education in Kigali, demonstrating the enthusiasm of Rwanda instructors and trainees. From Feb-Sept, 26 distinct courses were conducted at the FOMSSC involving 476 trainees. This includes an Essential Surgical Skills course that was lead in part by Dr. Keith Pawluck (General Surgery) and Dr. Jill Hudson (Urology), two former Dalhousie surgical residents.

In July, Ms. Murray returned to Kigali to continue mentoring her counterpart and to further develop the Simulation and Skills Centre. In conjunction with the UTHK Departments of Surgery and Anesthesia, the members of the Global Surgery Office and the Department of Anesthesia Global Health Office are continuing



*Dr. Patricia Livingstone, Dr. George Ntakiyiruta, Dr. Jon Bailey and Michelle Murray from left to right*



to seek new ways to strengthen medical education through simulation in Kigali. Dr. Marius Hoogerboord (GSO Director) is collaborating with Dr. Allan Okrainec (Director of the Temerty/Chang Tele-simulation Center at Toronto Western Hospital) to begin teaching the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) via tele-simulation.

In January 2014, Dr. David Amirault (Orthopedic Surgery) and Dr. Brock Vair (Medical Director of Simulation) recently traveled to Rwanda to co-lead a Basic Surgical Skills course, among other mentorship and teaching activities. Ms. Murray returned as well to continue her mentorship role, expanding simulation-based education capacity. Dr. Gavin Tansley (PGY2 General Surgery) has designed a study to assess retention of surgical skills following delivery of a simulation-based skills session. He implemented the first part of this study during the January trip to Rwanda along with FOMSSC staff. Our hope is that this study will guide us in refining a simulation and skills template jointly designed by the GSO and Department of Anesthesia Global Health Office.

This partnership is rapidly growing strong roots. We look forward to an ongoing relationship where mutual learning contributes to better surgical education, both here and in Rwanda.



## Haiti - Outreach Division of Orthopaedics



AS PART OF THE FIRST “HALIFAX TEAM” for Team Broken Earth, Department of Surgery members Drs. David Amirault, Chad Coles, and Marty Leblanc travelled to Haiti in November, accompanied by a skilled team of nurses, residents, fellows, and physicians from other disciplines. Team Broken Earth is committed to a sustained medical relief effort in Haiti to help rebuild and reinforce the healthcare system in one of the poorest countries in the western world. The team performed a variety of surgeries during the week ranging from the fixation of acute fractures to cleft lip reconstruction to tumour surgery. In an effort to provide sustained care and education for the local Haitian doctors and nurses, a second team from Halifax will be returning in April, including Drs. Chad Coles and John Stein. To help support this ongoing effort, please visit [www.brokenearth.ca](http://www.brokenearth.ca) to donate!

*Back Row(L-R) Dr. Andrew Jarvie, Anaesthesia, OR Nurses Kim Sampson and Denise McMabon, Dr. Keith Neufeld, Dr. David McCartney and Dr. David Amirault from Orthopaedics. Front Row(L-R) Drs. Chad Coles, Martin LeBlanc and Heather Sirounis from Orthopaedics, Plastic Surgery and Anaesthesia.*

# Dal Surgery News



**Dr. Manohar Bance** and his SENSELab co-investigators won the prestigious Innovation - Discovery Award. The

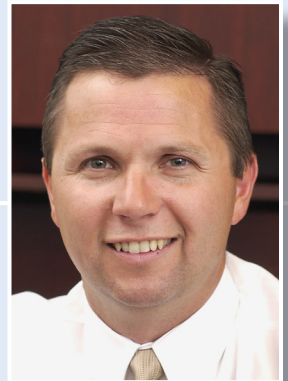
SENSELab combines both clinical and basic science to investigate enhancing bone conduction hearing, multi-sensory interaction, imaging of the ear and developing better modalities to diagnose ear function. Congratulations! (pictured Dr. Aaron Newman and Dr. Jeremy Brown)

**Dr. Lara Williams** is a Site Lead for a recently awarded Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) grant entitled: "Accelerated implementation diffusion of quality initiatives for rectal cancer across Canada". The aim of this 3 year, \$903K project is to utilize a multi-faceted knowledge translation (KT) strategy to facilitate implementation of established quality initiatives for rectal cancer and leading to improved rectal cancer care, clinical outcomes for rectal cancer patients and setting a national standard across Canada.



Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, **Dr. Ron El-Hawary** was profiled in the most recent IWK Foundation Isaak Magazine. The story which chronicles a specific successful case involving scoliosis spine correction can be read and appreciated at <http://iwkfoundation.org>

**Dr. Mark Glazebrook** was acknowledged in Orthopedics this Week, Volume 9, issue 36; as being one of the Top Foot and Ankle Surgeons on North America. "Dr. Glazebrook is a tremendous researcher who has great clarity of thought." Congratulations Dr. Glazebrook.



**Dr. Jason Williams** in Plastic Surgery received a \$145K CIHR Proof of Principle Program Grant for his study, "The Production of Decellularized Human Skin to Treat Chronic Diabetic Ulcers". Congratulations.



This is a publication of the **DAL Surgery Research Office**

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