



Inspiring Minds

DAL Surgery

THE UPDATE

July 2010



Congratulations Graduates!



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September 24, 2010

**Research
Information Day**

Head of Department of Surgery ~ Dr. David Kirkpatrick



CONGRATULATIONS

to our program directors, graduating residents and post graduate education committees for the excellent results achieved this year on the Royal College Exams. This is something that every member of our department should feel good about.

As the first phase of co-management was being implemented early this year, most of us were very skeptical about our chances of any success when our scope of responsibility was restricted to the OR supply budgets which for the most part were in the red.

Then in March, Paula Bond our new Vice President of all that is surgical arrived and everything changed. With her no nonsense management style and considerable experience in surgical services she has assembled a talented team at CDHA that shares our interest in meeting the demands for surgical services while maintaining the standards of care expected of an academic healthcare centre. This will be difficult given our government's directive that the budget be balanced but if we are lean and mean and still come up short we will be in a much better position to justify realignment of existing institutional resources to surgical care programs.

Surgical Cabinet held a retreat in May with the entire membership in attendance. This provided an opportunity to step back from an operational focus and develop a consensus about where we are heading. Cabinet affirmed its commitment to an Academic Health Care Center that combines the resources of CDHA and IWK with those of the Faculties of Medicine and Health Professions to provide advanced specialty care to the people of the Maritimes as well as primary and secondary care to the people of the district.

Over the past year we have undergone non-financial audits of our deliverables by two separate government departments, with favorable outcomes, suggesting generally we are producing what is expected of us.

While the current financial position of our department is good, there is consensus that the academic enhancement funding provided to our AFP by DOH in recognition of the time we spend on non clinical academic activities is not distributed to the divisions and ultimately to the division members in proportion to the teaching, research and administrative contributions made by those members. In response cabinet is improving productivity metrics for all non-clinical activities carried out on behalf of the department and any changes arising will honor the principal that all work done for the department is of equal value

Have a great summer and return rested and invigorated in September as there are promises to many new challenges ahead.

THE UPDATE

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Please forward any comments and ideas for contributions to:

Elaine Marsh

Department of Surgery
Research Office
RMH 8-846 VGH
1278 Tower Road
Halifax, NS B3H 2Y9

On the Cover

Front L-R: Geethan Chandran, Ben Orlik, Shannon Colohan, Nadia Murphy, Jeff Singer, A. Raizah, Lu Zhang.

Middle L-R: Yarrow McConnell, Rene Boisvert, Andrew Beckett, Martin LeBlanc, Gyorgy Roxin.

Back L-R: Rick Lau, Mike Bezubly, Ali Shabnavaz, Ali Hilal, Hosam Amodi, Mihaly Kis. **Missing:** Rebecca Nelson, Wojtek Karolak, Ciara Harraber.

Undergraduate Education

As the new undergraduate curriculum is revised from the COPS curriculum to case based learning, faculty from the Department of Surgery will be involved as tutors and clinical supervisors in teaching clinical skills as well as a wide variety of competencies fundamental to the practice of medicine. Staff are encouraged to enroll in a series of faculty development seminars in preparation for this curricular transition.

With the start of the academic year in September students at all levels of training will be scheduling electives within the various surgical sub-specialties. As a guide for students in selecting electives, those surgeons interested in accepting students for either a full year or half year elective are asked to forward a brief outline of the elective experience to the education office.

Third year clinical clerks are now expected to document their clinical experience during each unit in the form of a clinical log. This encompasses the essential clinical exposures that are expected of them during each rotation (acute abdominal pain, trauma, breast mass etc.). This document should form a part of the student's evaluation on each rotation and is accessible via the One45 system. The log format is being used within the Department of Surgery on a trial basis over the summer and will go into effect as part of every student's evaluation in September. Congratulations to Dr. David Tang, Resident in Plastic Surgery, who was selected by the students as the outstanding teacher among the surgical resident staff.



Postgraduate Education

The major challenge facing the Department in regard to Resident training will be the need to improve the efficiency of clinical and academic teaching as well as evaluation in the setting of a progressive reduction in Resident work hours. The Dean of Postgraduate Education, Dr. Martin Gardner, has formed committees mandated to recommend changes in educational concepts as well as issues related to responsibility and professionalism.

Following a very successful match process all of our training programs have begun training a new group of young Residents for careers in surgery. A warm welcome is extended to all new Residents.

All of the residency training programs within the Department of Surgery underwent internal reviews earlier this year in preparation for the formal Royal College accreditation in 2012. Although the majority of the reviews were favorable a number of important revisions will be required over the next several months.

Congratulations go out to all of the Residents within the Divisions of Cardiac Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology and Plastic Surgery who were successful in the recent Royal College Fellowship examinations. A majority of these residents are currently pursuing further training within various fellowships around the world.

Despite the weather, staff and residents enjoyed the annual classic Department of Surgery golf day, held again this year at the Chester golf club and the Shore Club in Hubbards. The winner of the staff draw for a \$200 gift certificate from Fiasco restaurant was Dr. Bernie McIntyre from General Surgery. Dr. Julia Radic, a resident in Neurosurgery, was the winner of the resident draw for a \$200 gift certificate from the Dalhousie book store.

Director of Research ~ Dr. Greg Hirsch



THE DALHOUSIE SURGERY RESEARCH AWARDS have been awarded for 2010. We at the Surgery

Research Office are proud to be sponsoring 4 residents enrolled in the clinical investigator program, one new program support award, and bridge funding. The Research Office personnel support and promote research within the department. To improve our performance, we have fine-tuned our skills in classifying and analyzing our research deliverables. The Annual Research Report for Dalhousie Surgery is an accurate testament to the great works being done here in our Department. Most importantly, the Research Report is proof of the improved patient care that comes from research, and that our clinical scientists have a positive impact on our economy, our patients, and our future trainees.

Resident Salary Awards: \$50,000.00

Dr. Matt Smith, CIP General Surgery Resident “*Molecular Basis of Anticancer Activity by the Flavonoid Fisetin*”.

Dr. Christine Herman, CIP Cardiac Surgery Resident “*Reducing Major Adverse Cardiac Events in Patients Undergoing Cardiac Surgery; PRecursor EVENT (PREVENT) Initiative*”.

Dr. Scott Livingstone “*Optimizing Steatotic Livers for Transplantation Using Cell Penetrating Peptide Delivered Gene Therapy*”.

Dr. Lindsay McDonald, “*The Role of HACE1 Tumour Suppressor in Normal Development and Tumourigenesis*”

Bridge Funding: \$37,500.00

Dr. JF Legare, “*The Role of HACE1 Tumour Suppressor in Normal Development and Tumourigenesis*”

Programme Support \$150,000.00/3 years.

Dr. Stacy O’Blenes (PI) Cardiovascular Research Group “*Building a Capacity for Multidisciplinary Translational Research within the Cardiovascular Research Group*”.

Promotions in the Department of Surgery

Dr. Ed Abraham – Associate Professor, Orthopedics, New Brunswick

Dr. Chad Coles – Associate Professor, Orthopedics, CDHA

Dr. Michael Dunbar – Professor, Orthopedics, CDHA

Dr. Ian Fleetwood – Associate Professor, Neurosurgery, CDHA

Dr. Liane Johnson – Associate Professor, ENT, IWK

Dr. Stacy O’Blenes – Associate Professor, Cardiac, CDHA

Dr. Jonathan Trites – Associate Professor, ENT, CDHA

Congratulations to Dr. Brock Vair for winning the Teaching Award from the Faculty of Medicine.

Faculty Profile ~ Dr. David W. Hoskin

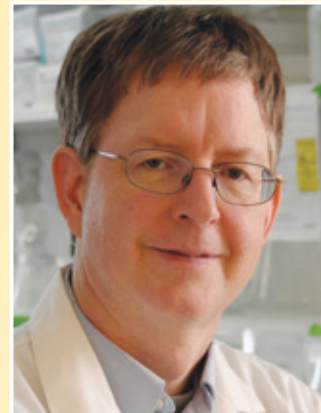
DR. DAVID W. HOSKIN was born in Quebec and grew up on a small dairy farm in the picturesque Eastern Townships located between Montreal and Sherbrooke. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Immunology (Distinction) and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Immunology from McGill University. He then moved to Toronto to pursue postdoctoral training in tumour immunology and cancer immunotherapy at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute and the University of Toronto.

Dr. Hoskin was recruited in 1989 to the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Dalhousie University, where he is now a Professor within the Departments of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, and Surgery. He is also an Affiliate Scientist in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (Capital Health). In 2008 he was named to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation-Atlantic Region Endowed Chair in Breast Cancer Research. He is also Co-Principal Investigator on the Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (PATH) Study, which is part of a much larger pan Canadian cohort study to determine the effects of environment and lifestyle on the development of cancer and other diseases. Dr. Hoskin is one of the founding members of the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute and has served on scientific review committees for the National Cancer Institute of Canada, Canadian Institutes of

Health Research, and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. He is also a member of the Editorial Board for Cancer Letters.

Dr. Hoskin's research interests include the molecular basis of anticancer activity by cationic antimicrobial peptides and dietary phytochemicals, as well as mechanisms of T cell-mediated inflammation and the role that this process plays in carcinogenesis. Translational aspects of this research are advanced in collaboration with clinician scientists, including Dr. Rob Liwski (Pathology and Laboratory Medicine) and Dr. Carman Giacomantonio (Surgery). His laboratory currently receives funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dr. Hoskin balances his busy academic career with several different hobbies that include gardening and comic book collecting. He shares his life with Eva (his partner of more than 15 years), two rather large cats, and two very spoiled Tibetan Spaniels.



Clinical Investigator Program Update

Dal Surgery has 5 surgeon scientists in training with the CIP:

Dr. Christine Herman

Dr. Lindsay McDonald

Dr. Matt Smith

Dr. Scott Livingstone

Dr. Phil Magown

Dr. Paul Yaffe successfully defended his MSc thesis in June of this year entitled, "Piperine causes Cell Cycle Arrest and Apoptosis in Colorectal Cancer Cells via the Generation of Reactive Oxygen Species" Pictured to the right are supervisors Drs. Jonathon Blay, David Hoskin, (Paul Yaffe), Mark Walsh and Carman Giacomantonio.

Resident Profile ~ Dr. Rebecca Nelson

Dr. Rebecca Nelson, in her final year of training, sought out an unforgettable encounter as part of the Division of Plastic surgery's elective experience. Dr. Nelson was asked to share her recollections of her time in Mumbai India for the Dal Surgery community.

ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS surgical training has given me is a lesson in humility. It was a privilege and an honour to travel to Mumbai, India and work at the National Burns Center as part of Operation Smile's inaugural burn surgery mission from January 8th to 30th, 2010. Dalhousie's plastic surgery training program encourages its residents to participate in international elective experiences, whether for cleft lip and palate repair, burn reconstruction or hand surgery. Unanimously our residents agree that it is one of the greatest highlights of our training and it provides us with an opportunity to work with a team of international experts, to collaborate and forge new friendships, and to use the skills we have learned in training to provide care for patients that would not have access to care otherwise. It is an incredible education in cultural sensitivity, where we have the opportunity to act as both learners and teachers in a global classroom.

Three million burns occur in India annually; one million of these result in death, and 0.5 million result in permanent disability¹. The majority of burns occur



Dr. Nelson with post-operative burn patient.

due to cooking accidents (kerosene stove blasts, hot water scalds), motor vehicle accidents and domestic abuse. During the mission we screened 59 patients and operated on 38, the majority of whom were female (88%) and were on average five years post-burn. Although most patients had received medical care acutely, they had been treated predominantly with dressing changes rather than early excision and grafting (despite having deep second and third degree burns). Lack of health insurance and low socioeconomic status were risk factors for inadequate initial treatment. The majority of patients underwent contracture release for neck scars, upper extremity scars and for microstomia due to facial burn contractures.. Treatment included the use of full-thickness skin grafts in 20 (53%) patients, split-thickness grafts in four (10%), z-plasties in 22 (58%), Kirschner wires in seven (18%) and syndactyly release in two (5%) patients. The most common complication was wound infection, occurring in four (11%) of patients. Local climate/humidity, patient hygiene and access to clean water may have been risk factors for this.

Our team consisted of an international group of plastic surgeons, anaesthetists, both OR and burn unit nurses, occupational and physiotherapists, medical records personnel, international and local mission coordinators, as well as local staff. We spent the first two days screening patients and setting up. A full week of surgery followed, including an educational



Dr. Nelson visits Karina with surgical team.

New Faculty ~ Dr. Karl Logan

DR. KARL LOGAN is joining the paediatric orthopaedic staff as an Assistant Professor

at the IWK Children's Hospital. Dr. Logan has a specialist interest in paediatric and young adult hip surgery. He did his undergraduate training at the University of Liverpool

Medical School. Following his preregistration year at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital he did basic surgical training at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital which spurred his interest in orthopaedics.

He then joined the St Bartholomews and East Anglian Orthopaedic training program, better known as the "Percival Pott Program." During his 6 years of residency he had the opportunity to work at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore, London. His fellowship in paediatric orthopaedics was undertaken at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He arrives in Halifax with his wife Joanne, and three young boys.

Welcome, Dr. Logan!

Dr. Rebecca Nelson ~ continued

day where we gave lectures on burn-related topics to local nursing and medical students. Team members also travelled to near-by schools to teach children burn safety skills. In the two weeks post-surgery, I maintained an abbreviated team to care for the remaining inpatients, initiate therapy and to perform some additional surgical procedures. Highlights of the trip included releasing Karina's leg contractures and teaching her to walk again, as well as seeing our lower lip ectropion/neck contracture patients smile for the first time in years! It was a life-changing experience and I am so grateful to Dr. Ankur Pandya (plastic surgery

team leader), Dr. Manohar Keswani (National Burns Center director), Operation Smile and my program director, Dr. Ken Wilson, for making it all possible.

The opportunity to serve as part of an international team is one I encourage all residents to avail themselves of. Whether in a third world country, or simply anywhere there is need, I hope every participant will find the same sense of purpose that I did in Mumbai. As Mahatma Ghandi said "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

1. Lancet. 2009 Apr 11;373(9671):1282-8.

Welcome New Surgical Residents!

General Surgery

Adam Bassili
Robert Ennis
Scott Hurton
Jenny Lim
Angus Murray
Hasan Odeh
Scott Penner
Chakshu Sharma
Stephen Smith

Orthopaedics

Emily Krauss
Joel Morash
Caroline Tougas

Neurosurgery

David Brandman

ENT

Matthew Brace
Fawaz Makki
Adrian Mendez
Matthew Grandy

Plastic Surgery

Amanda Murphy
Hana Farhang-Khoei

DAL Surgery Day ~ April 29, 2010

THE 21ST DAL SURGERY RESEARCH DAY was held at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel. **Dr. Geoffrey Gurtner** was this year's Dr. Gordon Bethune Visiting Professor. Dr. Gurtner provided the noon-time lecture, "*Developing New Medical Technologies: The Essential Role of the Surgeon-Scientist*". Dr. Gurtner's research interests investigate the role the physical environment (both mechanical and chemical) and stem/progenitor cells play in how organisms respond to injury. Dr. Gurtner was one of three judges for the day, along with Dr. David Clarke and Dr. Michael Dunbar.

Dr. Gurtner is currently a Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery and an Associate Chairman of Surgery at Stanford University.



2010 DAL SURGERY RESEARCH DAY WINNERS

Resident Award Winners

1st Prize and Winner of the Dr. Robert Stone Traveling Fellowship

Dr. Devon Richardson, CIP Student and GSx PGY 3 Resident

"A Population-Based Assessment of Surgical Outcomes and Local Recurrence after Treatment for Rectal Cancer"

2nd Prize

Dr. Adrienne Kelly, Orthopaedic PGY4 Resident

"Accelerometric Gait Analysis of Cervical Myelopathy"

3rd Prize

Dr. Michael Bezuhly, Former CIP Student and Plastic Surgery PGY5 Resident

"Role of Activated Protein C and its Receptor in Inhibition of Melanoma Metastasis"

Student

1st Place

David Konadu, Graduate Student in Biomedical Engineering

"Tibial Bone Mineral Density is Associated with Total Knee Implant Migration"

2nd Place

DJ Wilson, Medical Student

"Preoperative Electromyography is Associated with Total Knee Implant Migration"

3rd Place

Alison Gareau, Graduate Student in Pathology

"The Role of Alloantibody in the Development of Allograft Vasculopathy"