



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Inspiring Minds

DAL Surgery THE UPDATE

July 2012



Congratulations Graduates!



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THE UPDATE

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Message from the Head of Dal Surgery- Dr. David Kirkpatrick



THUS FAR, 2012 has been a lot about responding to shrinking budgets for our medical school and our hospitals. You may recall that 2011 was about eliminating the unnecessary, becoming more efficient and rearranging priorities. This year is a bit tougher because we had already made adjustments to things that could more easily change. Our department is still on a sound financial footing but we have had to make careful choices.

The new AFP and the Provincial Physician Resource Plan has been and will be continue to be the focus of a lot of our attention over the remainder of the year. Both of these initiatives are a response by government to their own

financial dilemma; but managed wisely they should help sustain our public health care system.

There is a decidedly different mood out there right now. There is a sense that if physicians and the leaders of government and our institutions pull together we just might be able to create a more sustainable public system. Government leaders of the neighbouring provinces want in on the action as well. The result might be a maritime health network with imbedded Faculties of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Professions. Creating the vision is fairly easy and perhaps fanciful but it is certain that our professional world is changing very quickly. Remaining as we are does not seem to be one of our options.

Although these are challenging times there is reason for optimism because everyone is seeking physician engagement and that means we are needed to design how health care is going to be delivered.

After the departures of Dr. Adrian Park and Dr. Mike Murphy, the momentum for developing a faculty medical simulation center slowed significantly. The Department of Surgery has breathed new wind into those sails and under the direction of Dr. Brock Vair, the Faculty of Medicine Medical Simulation Center is just now starting to take form with the participation of other departments.

The Department of Surgery Annual Meeting will be on September 5, 2012. I hope most of you are able to attend.

On the Cover GRADUATING RESIDENTS

Back Row L-R: Kevin Calder, Phil Allen, Mark Oppenheimer, Matt Rigby, Sean Barry, Rick Jaggi, Erin Cordeiro.

Front Row: L-R: Venkat Ganapathy, Andrew Hayward, Nathan Urquhart, Maba Al-Gilani, Mary MacDonald.

Missing: Tola Afolabi, Bryan Chung, Maral Ouzounian, Khalid Almutairi.

Message from the Director of Education ~ Dr. Brock Vair



WITH THE RECENT CONTROVERSIAL decision in Quebec of limiting resident work hours to shifts of no more than 12 to 16 hours, many training programs across Canada have adopted night shift rotations. This concept involves scheduling residents from 1100 to 0700 four times weekly, allowing participation in morning academic sessions and consistent evaluation by attending staff on call.

Residents have been strongly supportive of this change and our training programs at Dalhousie will likely be discussing night shift rotations in the near future. The incorporation of shorter work hours into residency training will require more frequent patient handovers with the potential for communication errors and compromise in patient safety.

In July, the Postgraduate Medical Education Office formed a committee with the mandate of developing a policy for safe and efficient patient handover that can be used by all residency training programs at Dalhousie. This policy will be modified and introduced within the next several months and will include a

structured format with written documentation and verbal confirmation of clinical issues and management plans.

Several surgical residents have been actively involved with PARI-MP. Dr. Richard Liu is this year's President of PARI-MP, taking over the reign from the outgoing President Dr. Matthew Smith. Both Drs. Liu and Smith are General Surgery residents. Other surgery residents with key roles are Drs. Maria Brake, ENT; Peter Davison, Plastic Surgery; Jon Bailey, Phil Davis (Negotiation Chair), and Matthew Hudson (Vice President), General Surgery.

Congratulations to Dr. Jon Bailey, General Surgery Resident, for winning the CAGS national skills competition for the second year in a row!

Dr. Michele Molinari, Transplant Surgery was the recipient of a traveling fellowship awarded annually by the AHPBA.

Drs. Alwayn, Molinari and Vair attended and gave presentations to the Lifestyles in Medicine session for the med 1 and 2 students aimed at providing the students with an understanding of the training, lifestyle and the clinical and academic activities of a General Surgeon.

A Fellowship Training Committee has been established within the Department with the mandate of optimizing and standardizing a number of issues related to training of Fellows including admission requirements, interface with residents remuneration, curriculum and accreditation.

Dal Surgery Welcomes Our New Residents:

GENERAL SURGERY

Stephanie Hiebert, Eric Hyun, Gregory Knapp, Michael Konviser, Jordan Nantais, Riley Stewart, Gavin Tansley

ORTHOPAEDICS

Almed Al-Hussain, Adam Harris, Duncan Smith, David Wilson

PLASTIC SURGERY

Sarah Al Youba, Joshua Gillis, Andrew Simpson

NEUROSURGERY

Aaron Robichaud

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Mohamed Al Ali, Elise Graham, Timothy Phillips

Message from the Director of Research - Dr. Greg Hirsch



WE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH DINNER in January of this year at the Waterfront Warehouse, where we shared the findings of the economic impact analysis that we commissioned from Lynn Lethbridge and Adrian Levy in Clinical Health and Epidemiology. The highlights of that report detailed the research activities at Dal Surgery over a 5 year period and generated over 600 full time jobs, mostly for individuals with post secondary education. During the same period of time, we contributed over \$60 million dollars to provincial economic activity solely generated from our research activity. Finally, we were able to demonstrate that among comparable sized department of surgeries, our department leads in capture of CIHR grant funding on per investigator basis. This excellent news was not only shared with members of the department and our colleagues from administration, but also key business leaders in the community. This information has already been shared with the Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. McNamara. This economic analysis of our activities is a continuing effort on part of the Dal Surgery Research office to

be accountable to the money invested both for AFP, as well as the direct contribution from the province. We continue to demonstrate that we are an excellent value for the investment and that we are making a significant contribution to the knowledge-based economy, which all agree, is the key to the financial stability of our province.

In this addition you will be introduced to New Brunswick colleagues. Dr. Kirkpatrick and I made a visit to New Brunswick in order to build a bridge to our colleagues in Dal Surgery. We look forward to increasing collaboration and meaningful interaction with our Maritime colleagues.

Dal Surgery Research Grant Awards 2012

Seed Grants:

Dr. Paul Hong, Pediatric Otolaryngology, “The Effect of Strontium Ranelate on Bone Consolidation during Distraction Osteogenesis of the Rabbit Mandible.”

Dr. Gordon Buduhan, Thoracic Surgery, “Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy vs Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation in Patients with Surgically Resectable Esophageal Carcinoma. A Pilot Study.”

Dr. Michael Bezuhly, Pediatric Plastic Surgery, “Clopidogrel as the Potential New Therapeutic Agent in Reduced Tumour Metastasis.”

New Project Seed Grants:

Dr. J.F Legare, Cardiac Surgery, “Mobilization of Fibrocytes after Cardiac Surgery.”

Dr. Camille Hancock, Cardiac Surgery, “Remote Ischemic Precondition in Transplantation: A Novel Setting for an Anti-Neutrophil Therapy.”

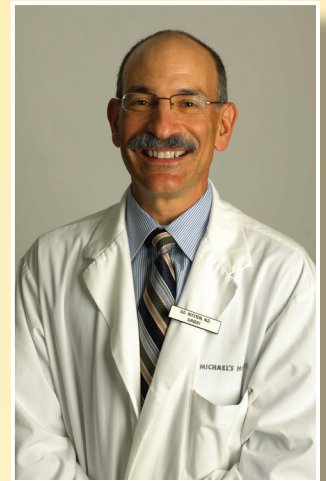
Dr. Rob Hart, ENT, “Potential Role of Pro-Inflammatory Pathway of IL-17R Axis in Predicting Thyroid Cancer Development and Progression.”

Match Grant:

Dr. J.F Legare, Cardiac Surgery, “Connective Tissue Growth Factor and Fibrocyte Recruitment to the Myocardium.”

Annual Dal Surgery Research Day ~ April 27, 2012

THE 23RD DAL SURGERY RESEARCH DAY was held at the Westin Hotel. Dr. Ori Rotstein was this year's Dr. Gordon Bethune Visiting Professor. Dr. Rotstein provided the noon-time lecture, "Clinician-Scientist: On the Verge of Extinction or on the Road to Recovery". Dr. Rotstein is a Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto, Surgeon-in-Chief at St. Michael's Hospital and The Associate Director of Basic Research at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael's Hospital. Dr. Rotstein is an internationally recognized clinical scientist for his research activities in the area of trauma, infection, and critical care. Dr. Rotstein was one of three judges for the day, along with Dr. Bill Stanish, Professor in the Division of Orthopaedics and Dr. Lara Williams, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery.



~ Dr. Phil Magown, PhD
Student in Neurosurgery,
Winner of the First Place
Resident Award,
Winner of the Robert
Stone Traveling
Fellowship.
~ Dr. Stone presenting
Dr. Magown with his
awards

2012 Research Day Winners

RESIDENT WINNERS:

1st Place Resident and Winner of the Dr. Robert Stone Traveling Fellowship:
Dr. Phil Magown, Neurosurgery
"Restoration of Motor Functions by Embryonic Stem Cell Derived Motoneurons in a Murine Model of Acute and Chronic Denervation"

2nd Place Resident: Dr. Emily Krauss, Orthopaedics
"Electromyography one and two Years after Total Knee Arthroplasty Resembles Moderate Osteoarthritis"

3rd Place Resident: Dr. Michael McNeil, ENT
"Otoplasty Impacts Hearing: A Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial Examining the Effects of Pinna Position on Speech Reception and Intelligibility"

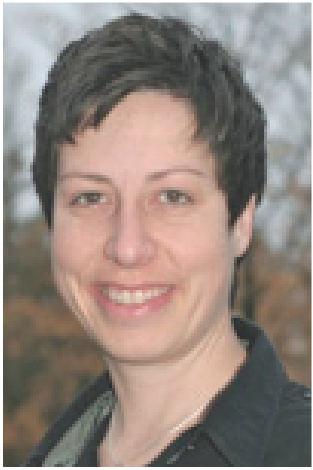
STUDENT WINNERS:

1st Place Student: Jennifer Hurry, Grad Student Orthopaedics
"The Association of X-Ray Derived Bone Attributes with Total Knee Implant Stability"

2nd Place Student: Melvin So, Technician* Atlantic Transplant Lab
"Neutrophils are Responsible for the Impaired Medial Smooth Muscle Cell Recovery and Exaggerated Allograft Vasculopathy in Aortic Allografts Exposed to Prolonged Cold Ischemia"

3rd Place Student: Dr. Jennifer Devitt, PhD, Post Doc, Immunology
"Implications of Donor Disease on Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy"

New Faculty - Dr. Lara Williams



DR. LARA WILLIAMS grew up in Southern Ontario but has strong family ties to the Maritimes. She completed her undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Guelph. Dr. Williams obtained her medical degree at the University of Western Ontario and was awarded the Medical Alumni Gold Medal.

Dr. Williams graduated from the General Surgery program at Dalhousie University in 2009. During her residency she completed her Masters of Medical Sciences, investigating the molecular pathogenesis of esophageal adenocarcinoma. She also successfully completed the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Clinician Investigator Program.

Dr. Williams has gone on to complete Fellowships in Colorectal Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Williams' clinical interests include the application of minimally invasive techniques to the surgical management of patients with colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, and other benign colorectal diseases. Her research interests include clinical outcomes and health services – related research, with a focus on the development and implementation of models of surgical care to facilitate quality improvement initiatives in Colorectal Cancer.

Dr. Williams is excited to return home to her Maritime roots as she joins the Division of General Surgery at Dalhousie.

New Faculty - Dr. Martin R. Leblanc

DR. MARTIN R. LEBLANC grew up in Memramcook, New Brunswick. He completed his undergraduate Science degree at Saint Mary's University in Halifax with a double major in biology and psychology, while playing varsity hockey with the Huskies. Dr. LeBlanc obtained his medical degree at Dalhousie University, and also had the opportunity to play varsity hockey with the Dalhousie Tigers.

Dr. LeBlanc graduated from the Plastic Surgery program at Dalhousie University in 2010. He then went on to complete a Fellowship in Hand and Microsurgery at the Buncke clinic at California Pacific Medical Centre in San Francisco, California.

Dr. LeBlanc's clinical interests include most aspects within plastic surgery with a focus in hand surgery, skin cancer care and reconstructive microsurgery including breast reconstruction. His research interests include applying a two-team approach to microsurgical reconstruction and its impact on clinical outcomes. He has also accepted a position to be coordinator of the nationally administered plastic surgery in-service exam, used by all Canadian Plastic Surgery residency programs.

Dr. Leblanc is excited to return to Halifax with his family to join his colleagues in the expanding Division of Plastic Surgery at Dalhousie.



New Faculty - Dr. Michael Bezuhly



DR. MICHAEL BEZUHLY completed a one-year fellowship in pediatric plastic surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children after completing medical school at the University of Toronto and residency training at Dalhousie University. While at Sick Kids he learned the latest techniques in cleft lip and palate surgery, ear reconstruction and pediatric upper limb surgery. He pursued an additional six months of training with Dr. Eric Arnaud at one of the world's largest pediatric craniofacial centres in Paris, France.

Dr. Bezuhly began his clinical practice at the IWK in mid-January. Besides joining the cleft lip and palate team, he has helped develop a new multidisciplinary craniofacial program and is working to establish Atlantic Canada's first team for obstetrical brachial plexus reconstruction. As a clinician-scientist, he continues to pursue the epidemiological research in which he was involved during his graduate studies at Harvard University. His laboratory research foci involve the link between clotting and cancer spread, and the use of adipose-derived stem cells to improve craniofacial healing.

Dr. Bezuhly is delighted to be part of Dal Surgery and giving back to the Maritime community that helped foster his research and clinical development. Welcome Dr. Bezuhly!

CELEBRATING COMMERCIALIZATION



Dalhousie Industry Liaison and Innovation recently announced a partnership with Ototronix, LLC to commercialize new hearing device technologies developed by Drs. Manohar Bance, Jeremy Brown and Rob Adamson. This collaborative group are represented by The Department of Surgery and The School of Biomedical Engineering.

Resident - Clinical Investigator Program

Congratulations to Dr. Matt Smith who defended his Master's thesis entitled, "Fisetin, a Flavanoid, Induces Cell Cycle Arrest and Apoptosis in Human Breast Cancer Cells"

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Livingstone for successfully defended his Master's thesis, "Optimizing Steatotic Livers for Transplantation Using Cell Penetrating Peptide Delivered Gene Therapy".

Dr. Phil Davis and Dr. Jon Bailey were awarded a NSHRF student award of \$10,000.00

Dr. Richard Liu received a CIHR Banting and Best Award for \$17,500.00.

Dr. Scott Hurton has just entered his first year of CIP and has received a CIP award for \$20,000.00 and a CIHR Banting and Best Award for \$17,500.00

New Brunswick - Department of Surgery

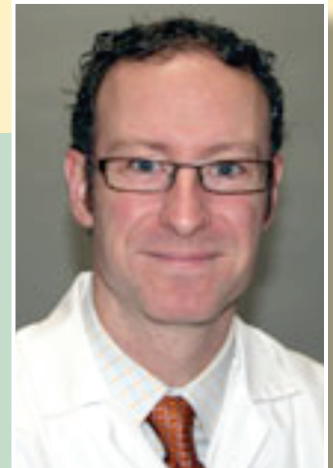
DRS. KIRKPATRICK AND HIRSCH VISITED NB Department of Surgery clinical scientists in 2011. New Brunswick has been a long standing partner in our teaching and mentoring of the Department of Surgery Residents. With the emergence of the NB Medical School and its close association with Dalhousie Medical School, it is important to recognize the many faculty members at UNB who are pivotal in teaching and research.

From the Division of Orthopaedic: A strong research program is emerging in spine care. Drs. Abraham and Manson spearhead this research.

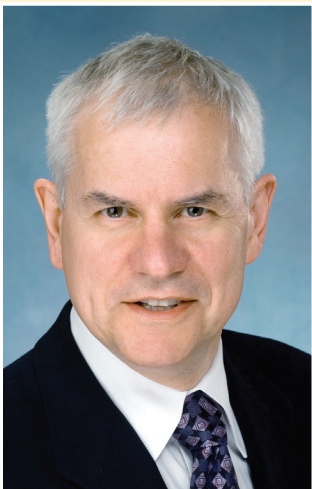


DR. EDWARD ABRAHAM, MD FRCS C is an active staff member in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Saint John, New Brunswick. He is an associate professor within the Dalhousie University Department of Surgery and an assistant professor within the Memorial University Department of Surgery. He is Past President of the Canadian Spine Society. Dr. Abraham provides 20 years of clinical experience to patient care and spine care research. He has been invited to the scientific podium over 100 times. Research efforts during this time have been focused on adjacent segment spinal degeneration, spinal instrumentation success and failure, characterizing post-op complications in complex spinal reconstruction, and spinal biologics.

DR. NEIL MANSON, MD FRCS C is an active staff member in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Saint John, New Brunswick. He is an assistant professor within both the Dalhousie University and Memorial University Departments of Surgery. Dr. Manson is currently the highest volume minimally invasive spine surgeon in Canada offering the most up-to-date technologic advancements to manage his patients' spinal pathologies. Dr. Manson has been practicing clinically for six years and research efforts during this time have been focused on spine database development, medical management of spinal pathologies, characterizing post-op complications in complex spinal reconstruction, and outcomes regarding minimally invasive surgical techniques.



In the Division of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Don Lalonde is presently the Research Director. He is a profoundly well known plastic surgeon, as a leading expert in "wide awake hand" surgery.



DR. DON LALONDE, MD, BSc, MSc, FRCS C is chief of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Saint John, NB. He is Professor of Surgery at Dalhousie University. He is the first Canadian to be elected Chairman of the American Board of Plastic Surgery. He is the Chair Elect of the American Association for Hand surgery, the second Canadian to hold that position. He has been the Chair of the following 3 organizations; Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons, RCPSC specialty committee of Plastic Surgery, and the RCPSC examination board in Plastic Surgery. He has been invited as visiting professor 31 times and has presented internationally more than 120 times. He has 76 peer reviewed journal publications and 7 book chapters. He is an editor for 4 journals including CME/MOC section editor for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.