Inside This Issue.....

Surgical Simulation - Dr. David Bell, Chief, Department of Urology

A new high-tech endoscopic surgical simulator has been acquired by the Department of Urology with the appreciated support of a generous donor who recognized the benefit of this technology in medical education. This Simulator will not only help train Dalhousie University Urology residents in common endoscopic procedures but will also contribute to improved patient care and safety.

The traditional surgery dogma of ‘see one, do one, teach one’ doesn’t really apply anymore in contemporary surgical training as the evolution of high fidelity surgical simulators allows “practice makes perfect” to evolve in a Surgical Skills center rather than in an OR theater.

This ability to operate before you actually have hands on experience in the OR will be invaluable and borrows from established practices in the aviation industry. Much of what appear to be simplest surgical techniques in Urology are very difficult to learn, so the repetitive hands-on experience the simulator offers greatly enhances the learner’s experience establishing a strong foundation for future perfection of surgical technique.

Produced by Simbionix, the TurpSim simulates the use of endoscopic equipment and provides a range of virtual endoscopic procedures. The simulator tracks time and steps of the user, providing learners with very useful feedback on technique proficiency. The system incorporates a variety of practice opportunities, and provides a training curriculum made up of basic skills, tutorials of procedural tasks, and simulation of variety full procedures.

The Department of Urology recognizes the value of simulation in both educational initiatives and in maintenance of competence of established surgeons. The Department has thus recognized this within its strategic plan and effort is underway to obtain additional simulation resources.

Resident Research Day

The Annual Urology Resident Research Day was held on April 4th and the following awards were given out:

Dr. S.A. Awad Resident Award awarded to Dr. Jon Duplisea  Urology
Section of Doctors NS Award was awarded to Dr. Peter Massaro

Shown with Drs. Duplisea and Massaro is Visiting Professor, Dr. Victor Nitti from New York University.
Current Clinical Trials

- **TACT** - Tranexamic Acid during Cystectomy Pilot study
- **MAST** - A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Metformin in Reducing Progression Among Men on Expectant Management for Low Risk Prostate Cancer
- **BNIT** - A Randomized, Double-Blind, Phase 3 Efficacy Trial of PROSTVAC-V/F ± GM-CSF in Men with Asymptomatic or Minimally Symptomatic Metastatic, Castrate-Resistant Prostate Cancer
- **CRONOS II** - Canadian Real Life Evaluation of the Effect of Diet and Exercise in Prostate Cancer Patients Managed with Lupron
- **Hypothermia** - A Randomized Controlled Trial of Renal Hypothermia during Partial Nephrectomy
- **Synergy** - A Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel-Group, Placebo- and Active-Controlled, Multi-center Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability of Combinations of Solifenacin Succinate and Mirabegron Compared to Solifenacin Succinate and Mirabegron Monotherapy in the Treatment of Overactive Bladder
- **Synergy II** - A Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel-Group, Active-Controlled, Multi-center Study to Evaluate the Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Combination of Solifenacin Succinate with Mirabegron Compared to Solifenacin Succinate and Mirabegron Monotherapy in Subjects with Overactive Bladder
- **Prosper** - A Multinational, Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Efficacy and Safety Study of Enzalutamide in Patients with Nonmetastatic Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer
- **SPAM** - Ureteral stent-related pain and mirabegron trial
- **Leadership** - A Phase II Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of AQX-1125 in Subjects with Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome Mediated by the SHIP1 Pathway
- **FIT** - A phase IV, randomized, multicentre efficacy and safety study comparing 10 months versus 4 months of degarelix (Firmagon®) therapy in prolonging the off treatment interval in men with non-metastatic prostate cancer receiving intermittent androgen deprivation therapy for biochemical progression

Abstracts Presented at Resident Research Day April 4, 2014

**Roderick Clark, Med III & Dr. Matt Acker**
Understanding the Burden of Kidney Cancer in Nova Scotia: Utilization of Administrative and Cancer Registry Data for Kidney Cancer Surveillance

**Dr. Matt Andrews**
5 Year Follow-up of Active Surveillance for Prostate Cancer: A Canadian Community-Based Urological Experience

**Dr. Peter Massaro**
Validation of a Non-Invasive Sonographic Tool to Detect Success Early on After the Pediatric Pyeloplasty

**Dr. Karim Marzouk**
Analysis of Renal Cell Carcinoma Recurrence and Mortality in a Population Based Cohort of Surgical Patients from Nova Scotia

**Dr. Ross Mason**
Type of Surgery and Not Tumor Size, Ischemia Type or Ischemia Duration is Predictive of Post-Operative Renal Function: Results from the Canadian Kidney Cancer Information System

**Dr. Peter Massaro**
The Impact of CT-Defined Calculus-Induced Renal Obstruction on the Acute Management and Disposition of the Renal Colic Patient

**Dr. Jon Duplisea**
Urological Issues in an Adult Spina Bifida (SB) Population: What is the Ideal Follow-Up Interval?

**Dr. Jeff McKay**
Practice Patterns of Extracorporeal Shockwave Lithotripsy: Variability Amongst and Between Canadian and American Urologists - Do We Need Guidelines?

**Dr. Peter Massaro**
Does Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) Pose an Increased Risk of Genitourinary Congenital Malformations in the Offspring Compared to In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

**Dr. Jeff Himmelman**
Presentation, Pathology and Outcome of Non-Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma in a Population Based Cohort of Nova Scotia Patients

**Dr. Kyle Lehmann**
Visual Enhancement of Intra-Operative Laparoscopic Surgery Using Eularian Video Magnification

**Dr. Fadi Sawaqed**
Bladder Pain Syndrome/Interstitial Cystitis in Males: Clinical Presentation and Correlation Between Symptoms, Cystoscopic and Urodynamic Findings
Meet our New Residents!

Andrea Kokorovic

I was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and moved to Toronto when I was seven years old. I completed both my undergraduate and Master's training at the University of Toronto, and subsequently went to Queen's University for medical school. What attracted me to Dalhousie Urology was the amazing group of residents and mentors I worked with, the amplitude and broad range of surgical exposure and the supportive environment inherent to the program. I immediately fell in love with Halifax and Nova Scotia during my elective and am beyond excited to start residency here in July!

Abdulrahman Alsabban

My name is Abdulrahman Alsabban, people like to call me: Sabban, I was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. After graduating from medical school, I went on a scholarship to do Master of Surgery at the University of British Columbia. I've been working for the past 2 years at the Vancouver Prostate Centre studying the insulin-like growth (IGF)/IGF binding proteins interaction in CRPC. After completing the master's degree, I was awarded a scholarship from the Department of Urology at King Abdulaziz University/Jeddah to do my residency in Canada. I am really excited to start my clinical training at Dalhousie after spending the last couple of years on basic research. I liked the collegial atmosphere, the well structured program and the high surgical exposure the residents experience at Dalhousie. I am planning to return back to Jeddah after completing my training to teach and work at the university hospital.

At my free time I enjoy playing soccer and traveling and spending time with my family. Plus, I would love to learn some golf in the near future. I am sure that my family and I will enjoy the five years we will spend in Halifax, and I am looking forward to meet all the Urology family members at Dalhousie.

Jonathan Moore

I am originally from Saint John, NB. I grew up just outside of town and, after graduating from Rothesay High School, I went to Halifax for my undergrad in Biology at Dalhousie University. I was accepted to medical school at Dalhousie and, as a New Brunswick resident, I became part of the first class of the Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick program in my hometown. I was actively involved in sports growing up with basketball being my biggest interest. Living near the water for most of my life, I enjoy spending time on the river sailing, speed boating, and swimming. Music is also a big part of my life. I like to go to concerts, play the piano, and just listen to recordings.

I have experienced the strong Urology program through my time at Dalhousie, both in Saint John and Halifax. I appreciate the combination of a professional atmosphere with a clinical focus and the attention given to achieving a balanced lifestyle fitting to my interests. The amount of surgical exposure both in Halifax and at the sites in New Brunswick is astounding without being overwhelming. There truly is a great amount of camaraderie among residents and staff. I was ecstatic when I heard I would become a member of such a remarkable team. I look forward eagerly to the next five years!

Special mention also goes to Dr. Matt Acker, PGY5, who was recently awarded the Killam Post-Graduate Award - congrats Matt!
Nurses’ Notes

Urology Nurses of Canada held their 8th Annual Dine & Learn May 1st at the Saraguay Club. Speakers this year were Dr. Mike Organ who gave a talk entitled “MS & Parkinson's and the Urology Patient.” Rosann MacDonald spoke on Pessaries and Sue Marsh also spoke on BCG. 70 nurses from within a two hour radius of Halifax attended this successful event!

From 10A OR – Tammy Baker is a new staff member and Anne Hayes is retiring on April 30th after 33 years of dedicated service. Happy Retirement Anne!

From Urology Clinic – Wendy Williams (Sterile Processing Aide) is retiring on June 30th after 39 years of dedicated service. Have a wonderful retirement Wendy! The new Sterile Processing Aide will be Anthony Bernard.

The Clinic is also happy to report that the new cysto x-ray table is installed and up and running! Yeah!

From 5B – welcomes new staff members Jentry Mawan, RN, Lawrence Haya, RN, Nicole Wentzell, RN & Holly Parr, LPN. Six more new RN grads will be starting in a few weeks because Terry Rossiter, RN, and Ruth Kwantes, RN, (no more white hat & uniform©) are retiring. Terry and Ruth have 26 and 30+ years of dedicated service. We will miss you Terry & Ruth!

From Cobequid Clinic – Trina Nicholson, RN will be leaving in May.

Congratulations to Dr. Rodrigo Romao (Cross Appt. Surgery) and his wife Daniela on the birth of their youngest son Nicholas on April 9th - Nicholas is shown here with his proud big brother Bernardo

Our New Website! The Dalhousie Department website has changed to the new Dalhousie format and can be found at this link http://dal.ca/urology Our website is a continual work in progress but we are proud of the new look and format. Special thanks to Yanna Theoharopoulos who worked with all staff to make this website a reality!