

The Tinkler

-Changing of the Guard

Dr. David Bell, Department of Urology



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This June saw the culmination of three great careers in Urology as Dr Joseph Lawen, Dr. John Grantmyre and Dr. Wally Tien hang up their scrub hats. Collectively these three individuals have over 100 years of Urology experience and certainly represent a loss to the Department.

Joe completed both his medical school and residency training at Dalhousie and then completed a fellowship in Transplantation in Houston, Texas before returning to Halifax where he has made immeasurable contributions to kidney transplantation. His impact has been most felt by his patients, their families, and communities across Atlantic Canada. Joe has performed more than 2000 kidney transplants and 500 living donor transplants in patients of all ages and demographics from across Atlantic Canada. While transplantation was his academic focus, he also had a burgeoning general urology practice and is widely known to be an excellent teacher and educator in medicine and in all aspects of life.

In his retirement, Joe says he will catch up on long-neglected yard work and plans to spend more time with his family and friends, including his four adult children. His oldest son, Dr. Tarek Lawen, has followed in his footsteps and is currently a resident in urology at Dalhousie University.

Dr. John Grantmyre completed his residency at Dalhousie and following completion of a fellowship at Baylor University Medical Center in Houston Texas, he then returned to Halifax and began his practice of Urology with a subspecialty in male infertility.

John had a unique practice with a focus on not only improving and prolonging lives of patients but also facilitating the creation of life for hundreds of couples suffering from infertility. John is a highly respected micro surgeon, and his skill was sought out by patients from all over the Maritime provinces.

John was a notable educator of residents and medical students. He acted as the Departmental coordinator for the Undergraduate Clerkship program in Urology. He created an environment of comprehensive and collegial education for medical students, which was consistently ranked as one of the best clerkship rotations at Dalhousie. This led to many students discovering Urology and led many of them pursuing Urology as a career.



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Changing of the Guard cont.

In addition, John for many years organized the Atlantic Winter Urology Meeting which brought together the urologists of Atlantic Canada for a popular continuing medical education event well balanced with team building and networking opportunities.

John has been a highly popular physician among his colleagues and co-workers. He had the unique ability to maintain a busy medical practice and to maintain a work-life balance that alludes so many of us. His varied interests include cycling, sailing, fishing and hunting.

John will be missed as a colleague, mentor and teacher. John's daughter, Hillary, has recently joined our Urology team as an OR nurse.

Wally was a graduate of the Dalhousie Urology program and following completion he practiced community urology in Dartmouth for over 30 years. Wally is a respected physician and his commitment to his patients was highly appreciated by them and their referring physicians. Wally helped to maintain the role of Dartmouth General Hospital as an independent community hospital by providing comprehensive consultant services in Urology. Although Wally was not within the academic center he was notably a strong participant in Departmental activities and CME. Wally now has more time for family and friends and to fish the rivers of Atlantic Canada.



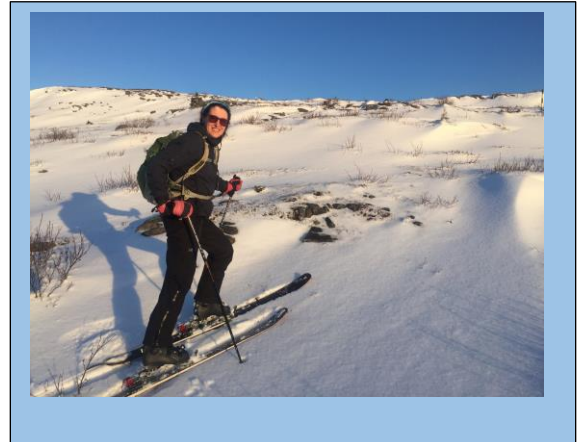
Welcome New Residents!

BECKY POWER

Hey everyone!

My name is Becky, and I am Newfoundlander from Town (St. John's)! My love for being out on the water and sailing led me to compete for Canada on the Sailing World Cup Circuit and complete my B.Sc in genetics at the University of British Columbia. Vancouver was fun for a while but I eventually headed home to the Rock to do my M.Sc in medical genetics and then medical school.

If I am not at work or trying to figure out how to apply my two degrees in genetics to urology, you can find me outside! I like to think of myself as outdoorsy. I love being in the woods, hiking, skiing, and running or out on the water sailing. Since my savings for a house can only get me a shack in Halifax, I am thinking of doing the responsible thing and buying a boat! I first encountered urology in my first year of medical school in a cooking class. My cooking partner in the class just so happened to be one of the MUN staff urologist and he urged me to check it out. The rest is history and now I am here with you today. I am excited for what the next 5 years have in store. My mentors at MUN have been singing the praises of Dal Urology for years and I can't wait to join the team!



WYATT MACNEVIN

Hello everyone!

My name is Wyatt, and I was born and raised in Bonshaw, Prince Edward Island. I completed a degree in Design Engineering at UPEI and got some experience working in the aerospace and food processing industries before deciding to trade in my calculator for a stethoscope at Dalhousie Medicine. Outside of medicine, I am passionate about technology and 3D printing, and I love playing guitar and making music with friends.

Fortunately, I discovered Urology during my pre-clerkship electives and was instantly hooked on the specialty. After getting to work with the team at Dalhousie Urology, I knew Dalhousie would be the best place for me for residency, and I am thrilled to get to spend the next 5 years working with the team!

BUDOOR SALMAN

Hello everyone! My name is Budoor, and I was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. I grew up in Jeddah, a beautiful coastal city by the red sea, where I went to school and got my undergraduate degree. I have a growing passion for cooking and trying new cuisines when I travel to new places. I can't wait to explore Halifax and all it has to offer!



-Research Update

Andrea Titterness, Research Coordinator, Dept. of Urology

Research Day

The Department of Urology held its annual Research Day on April 20th, 2022. The meeting was held online, the turnout was great, and it was nice for everyone to meet in one place. Our guest speaker was Professor Mark Emberton, who is Professor of Intervention Oncology within the Division of Surgery and Dean of the Faculty of Medical Science at University College London. Professor Emberton presented two talks entitled “The Future of Prostate Imaging” and “The Rationale and Future of Focal Therapy.” The residents and undergraduates presented their projects and showcased the innovative research being conducted in the department. Dr. Tarek Lawen received the Dr. S.A. Awad Resident Research Day Award for his talk entitled “Quantifying sarcopenia in hormone-naïve and metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer patients receiving maximal androgen suppression with abiraterone or enzalutamide.” The Doctors Nova Scotia Urology Research Day Award was presented to Aurinjoy Gupta for his talk entitled “Predictor of adverse outcomes for patients with high-risk and very high-risk prostate cancer undergoing radical prostatectomy: Results from the Canadian high-risk prostate cancer collaboration.” We look forward to seeing everyone again for Research Day in 2023!

Resident Publications

Kim, S., Breau, R., Mallick, R., Kapoor, A., Finelli, A., Pouliot, F., Tanguay, S., Fairey, A., Bhindi, B., Lavalley, L., So, A., & Rendon, R. (2022). Ultrasound Correlates Highly With Cross Sectional Imaging for Small Renal Masses in a Contemporary Cohort. *Urology*, S0090-4295(22)00174-1. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.urology.2022.02.020>

White, J, Morris, H, Ory, J, Cox, A, Rendon, R, Mason, R. (August 2021 – accepted) Urological outcomes in nonagenarians with prostate cancer. *Can Urol Assoc J*.

MacDonald, M., Ilie, G., Power, L., Whalen, S., Parker, R., Skinner, T., & Powers, A. (2021). Effect of Tranexamic Acid on Bleeding Outcomes After Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials. *Journal of endourology*, 10.1089/end.2021.0762. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1089/end.2021.0762>

Bitcon, C., Whalen, S., Coleman, J., Rendon, R., Bailly, G., Bell, D., ... & Mason, R. (2022). ASO Visual Abstract: Examining the Utility of Postoperative Serial Renal Function Monitoring in Patients Undergoing Radical Cystectomy for Urothelial Carcinoma. *Annals of surgical oncology*.

Bitcon, C., Whalen, S., Coleman, J., Rendon, R., Bailly, G., Bell, D., ... & Mason, R. (2022). Utility of Postoperative Serial Renal Function Monitoring in Patients Undergoing Radical Cystectomy for Urothelial Carcinoma. *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, 1-5.

Whalen, S., Langille, G., White, J., & Bailly, G. (2021). Access to penile prostheses differ across provinces in Canada: A survey of Canadian urologists. *Canadian Urological Association Journal*, 15(7), E346.

Resident and Undergraduate Presentations

Landan MacDonald, R. Kool, G. Marcq, and R. A. Rendon, "Outcomes of Patients Undergoing Salvage Radical Cystectomy Post-Trimodal Therapy: Results of a Multi-Institutional Canadian Cohort," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI (Podium), 2022.

Landan MacDonald, J. Ory, T. Pulakunta, and D. MacLellan, "Standardizing Urological Anatomy Teaching using a Clinical Enrichment Video," in The Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME), Calgary, AB (Moderated Poster), 2022.

Landan MacDonald, M. Thana, L. Wood, R. Rendon, D. Bell, J. Duplisea, and R. Mason, "An In-depth Analysis on the Effects of Body Composition in Patients Receiving Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy for Urothelial Carcinoma," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI (Moderated Poster), 2022.

Christopher Bitcon, "Urinary symptoms in patients with indwelling catheters receiving intravesical Onabotulinumtoxin A," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Josh White, "Outcomes of organ-sparing surgery for adult testicular tumors: a systematic review of the literature," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Josh White, "Incidence of fertility preservation procedures in prepubertal and pubertal individuals with cancer," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Sandra Kim, "Impact of post-operative opioid use on length of hospital stay following radical cystectomy," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Tarek Lawen, "A comparison of the sarcopenic effect of Abiraterone and Enzalutamide in the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer patients," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Jesse Spooner, "Septic and febrile kidney stone presentation during the COVID-19 pandemic at Nova Scotia Health Central Zone hospitals: what is the effect of lack of access to care during pandemic restrictions?" in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Jesse Ory, "Secondary polycythemia while on testosterone therapy increases risk of major adverse cardiovascular events and venous thromboembolism in men: insights from a global health research network," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Aurinjoy Gupta, "Predictors of adverse outcomes for patients with high-risk and very high-risk prostate cancer undergoing radical prostatectomy: results from the Canadian high-risk prostate cancer," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Liam Power, "Effect of tranexamic acid on bleeding outcomes after percutaneous nephrolithotomy: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Kaveh Masoumi-Ravandi, "Robotic-assisted laparoscopic partial nephrectomy results in reduced operative time, length of stay, and high-grade complications when compared to laparoscopic and open partial," in 77th Canadian Urological Association Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI, 2022.

Summer Students

The summer of 2022 is a busy one for the Department of Urology. We are happy to welcome the following students to the department and wish them all the best on their projects!

Aurinjoy Gupta

Supervisor: Dr. Ricardo Rendon

Predictor of adverse outcomes for patients with high-risk and very high-risk prostate cancer undergoing radical prostatectomy: Results from the Canadian high-risk prostate cancer collaboration.

Valerie Metlege

Supervisor: Dr. Rendon

We would like to welcome Valerie back for another summer. Valerie is continuing her work on the Canadian Bladder Cancer Information System and will be updating patient records in the database.

A special congratulations to Valerie for completing her undergraduate honours thesis in the Department of Urology. Valerie was supervised by Dr. Ricardo Rendon and successfully defended her thesis entitled "PSA kinetics of advanced prostate cancer patients receiving novel hormonal treatment."

Erica Arenovich

Supervisor: Dr. Lori Wood

Erica is an undergraduate at Saint Mary's University and will be working with Dr. Wood on the Canadian Kidney Cancer Information System during the summer.

Andrew Dysart

Supervisor: Dr. Dan Keefe

Andrew just finished his 3rd year in the Medical Sciences program at Dalhousie University and will be working with Dr. Keefe on pediatric testicular torsion.

Liam Rappoldt

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Ory

Liam recently completed a Master of Science, Anatomy and Neurobiology at Dalhousie University and will be working with Dr. Ory to investigate testosterone signaling in penile tissue.

Liam Power

Supervisor: Dr. Ashley Cox

Liam is a third-year medical student at Dalhousie University who will be working with Dr. Cox on a study that will characterize trends in medical complexity amongst urology inpatients. This study will contribute data to predict and guide allocation of healthcare resources in the future.

Centre of Applied Urology Research

The Centre of Applied Urology Research is pleased to welcome Robin Simpson, Dylan Higginbotham and Dani clegg to our team. We are also excited that Valerie Metlege has agreed to stay on with us following her term as a summer student. Our team is now comprised of 8 staff, including 7 members at the adult site and one person at the pediatrics site. We continue to have a very active unit working on a number of home grown and collaborative clinical trials as well as in house research activity.

Actively Accruing Clinical Trials Update

Prostate Cancer:

PR22: DASL-HiCaP: Darolutamide Augments Standard Therapy for Localized Very High-Risk Cancer of the Prostate (ANZUP1801). A randomized phase 3 double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of adding darolutamide to androgen deprivation therapy and definitive or salvage radiation in very high risk, clinically localized prostate cancer.

PCSX: The Role of Therapeutic Layering of Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy on Darolutamide in the Management of Oligoprogressive Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer: A pilot Phase II Trial (PCS X). GROUQ – Group of Radiation Oncologists in Urology in Québec.

MAST: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Metformin in Reducing Progression Among Men on Expectant Management for Low Risk Prostate Cancer

DAROL: Darolutamide Observational Study in non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer patients

TALAPRO-3: A phase 3, randomized, double-blind, study of talazoparib with enzalutamide versus placebo with enzalutamide in men with ddr gene mutated metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer

SPLASH: Study Evaluating Metastatic Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer Treatment Using 177Lu-PNT2002 PSMA Therapy After Second-line Hormonal Treatment

PC PEP Phase 4: Predictors of Mental Health for Men with Prostate Cancer undergoing a Patient Empowerment Program

Bladder Cancer:

TLD-1433-2: A phase II clinical study of intravesical photodynamic therapy in patients with bcg-unresponsive non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (“nmibc”) or patients who are intolerant to bcg therapy (“study”)

CBCIS: Canadian Bladder Cancer Information System

CBCRN collaboration: Investigating the application of Machine Learning to improve diagnosis and staging of Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma

Kidney Cancer:

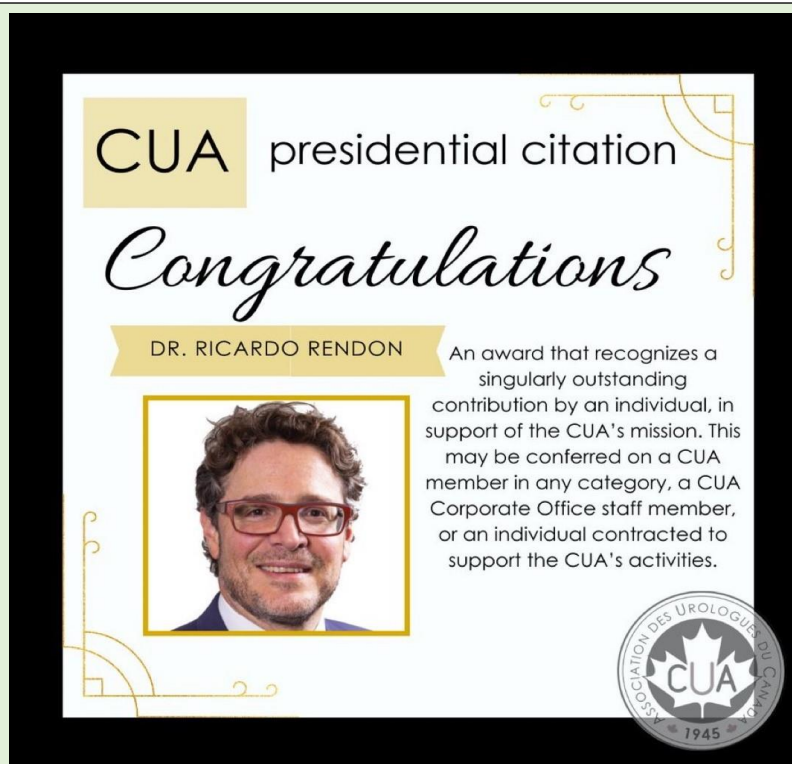
CBCIS: Canadian Bladder Cancer Information System

RAPLN vs LPN & OPN: Comparison of outcomes for robotic assisted laparoscopic partial nephrectomies versus Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy and open partial nephrectomy.

CBCRN: Investigating the application of Machine Learning to improve diagnosis and staging of Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma

Non Oncology:

Diagnostic performance of ultra-low-dose computed tomography (CT) vs. low-dose CT protocols in detection of urolithiasis: A prospective intra-individual study



The Department would also like to congratulate Dr. Chris Bitcon who was awarded the Dr. Kitt Turney Award for Resident Wellness!

Maritime Resident Doctors is pleased to announce Dr. Chris Bitcon (PGY4, Urology) is the winner of the 2022 Dr. Kitt Turney Award for Resident Wellness.

Formerly known as the Resident Well-Being Award, the award was renamed in 2020 to honour the memory of Dr. Kitt Turney, a former resident who passed away in Dec. 2019. Kitt was an Anesthesia resident from 2013-2018 at Dalhousie and a dedicated leader on the MarDocs team. She was an incredible individual who helped organize many wellness initiatives for residents during her time here, and she was the recipient of this award in 2017.

A peer-nominated award, the Dr. Kitt Turney Award for Resident Wellness recognizes a resident who makes an outstanding contribution to resident well-being. This includes being a strong team player, showing respect for peers & patients, dedication, approachability, serving as a role model for balancing work & personal life and enhancing the residency experience through teaching & support of peers.

"In addition to being an exemplary surgical resident, Chris demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the well-being of his fellow residents and colleagues," his nomination says. "Chris quietly goes above and beyond for the well-being of his co-residents to foster a sense of community and comradery. This was solidified with his nomination for the role of the Department of Urology Resident Wellness Leader. Within the first months of accepting this role, he had revamped the resident lounge. Most notably he personally built a custom shelving unit for all of the residents' OR shoes and wall-mounted a television."

Congratulations Chris!

Message from the Chair

Dr. Greg Bailly, Department of Urology

Yet again, another year flies by, and hopefully out the door, as we enter year 3 of Covid and the gift that keeps giving. Words I wish to forget: Zoom, rapid test, bed shortage, waitlist, morale, masks, and cancel. But... things are looking much better as we climb out of the Covid fear, and into a recovery stage of catching up with the backlog. Lots of work ahead of us, but I have no doubt that our team is prepared for what lies ahead. In addition to the clinical work, there is a renewed sense of academic activity and excitement in the air. Research activity is strong, and teaching will be in person (I hope!).

It's the end of an era. With the retirements of Dr. Joe Lawen, Dr. John Grantmyre, and Dr. Wally Tien, three of our longest serving Departmental members, the Department and our community finds itself losing three very experienced and wise urologists, but welcomes new blood, energy, and ideas with its newly fellowship-trained recruits. Welcome to two of our former graduates and their families: Dr. Jesse Ory (class of 2020) who will join the QE2 site and specialize in Male Infertility, Andrology, and Sexual Health, and Dr. Jon Moore (class of 2019) who will join DGH. Recruitment of a Transplant Urologist is well underway and should be completed soon. In addition, the Department has been successful in its first expansion in 40 years, as we recently received approval to add another urologic oncologist. Exciting times!

I'd like to congratulate the Department of Urology at the Saint John Regional Hospital for their recent successful campaign of landing New Brunswick's first robotics program, with the arrival of the Da Vinci Robot. Thank you to the leadership of Dr. Matt Acker and Scott Bagnell and their ability to engage the Foundation and their community partners in embracing technology and innovation into their province.

Lastly, I'd like to wish our recent graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors. Dr. Josh White is doing a fellowship in andrology and male infertility at the University of Miami. Dr. Heather Morris is at the University of Ottawa doing urologic oncology. Dr. Morgan MacDonald stayed closer to home and enters our own kidney transplant fellowship. Enjoy your summer!

Dr. Greg Bailly, Chief/Head, Department of Urology

