Department of Surgery Reunion Gala Report Coming Soon!

The Department of Surgery Reunion Gala took place on October 25th and 26th 2013. It is with great pleasure to announce the event was a great success! The wine and cheese, CME lectures and Gala dinner were well attended and enjoyed by all. It provided a great opportunity to connect with old friends, classmates, past faculty and current faculty members.

We would like to thank you for taking part in these events and a special thank you to those who have donated to the Surgical Education Fund.

All funds donated to the “Surgical Education Fund” will serve to provide ongoing support for the resources related to Surgical Skills Education. It will ensure our students will benefit from the best teachers and tools in the Department of Surgery.

Please stay tuned for a full report on the Reunion Gala events!

Reunion Gala Planning Committee

Department of Surgery Reunion Gala Planning Committee after a successful evening: From left to right: Maryann Vasic, Executive Director of the Hamilton Academy of Medicine, Julia Smerilli, Special Events and Communication Coordinator, Dr. Robert Hansebout Professor Emeritus, Past Chair, Dr. Susan Reid, Current Chair of the Department of Surgery, Dr. Frank Baillie, Associate Chair of Administration, & Cathy Turner, Director of Administration.
I find this time of year brings a bittersweet feeling; letting go of the summer vacation mode, (will I really get to the cottage one more weekend?) and the renewed feeling of expectation and excitement that the fall carries. That “return to school feeling”, with a drive to buy new notepads, sharpen the pencils and refocus our minds to academic pursuits.

I hope that each of you has found the summer a time of reflection and rejuvenation, generating hope for the year ahead. Summer, for me, meant I was able to see the last of the Annual review letters finished, after having the opportunity to meet with all of the Full time academic surgeons over the spring months. It was wonderful to connect with so many of our faculty and I look forward to this year meeting with all of our faculty who hold part-time appointments as well.

These meetings have brought me a wealth of information and suggestions for our department. In addition, I feel I was able to gain a much better understanding of each individual surgeons’ aspirations and accomplishments. One suggestion that has resonated with me was a request for a better understanding of how our Department works, how we are organized, how decisions are made. Very important questions, answers to which I want all members to be familiar with.

Over the next several newsletters, I will attempt to detail for you the inner workings of the Department. I want all to remember that the “Department of Surgery” is not me, it is not the Department Executive, it is all of us, together, working towards a common goal.

What is that goal? Over the last year our Department Executive worked on a Mission and Vision Statement. This document is meant to give each of us a sense of how we fit into the greater University mission. The document is attached for your perusal. I see it as a living document, ready for your feedback and suggestions. As I have stated, this is your Department, this Mission and Vision statement should galvanize you in your quest for excellence in clinical care, education and research. It is open for feedback, so please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Another suggestion I received from Department members was to explain the structure of the academic department, so we are preparing an organizational chart to be circulated this fall. As the Chair of the Department I am guided by the Department Executive, which consists of the Division Heads, the Hospital Chiefs of Surgery, the Associate Chairs of Education, Research and Administration. This fall we will begin to post the minutes of the Department Executive meetings to your email, so that all members can be informed regarding the issues the Executive are tackling.

Our Department Executive has been focused on the Department of Surgery Alumni Gala weekend. We are delighted to announce our celebration of over 40 years of Surgical care, training and research on October 25 and 26 was a great success!

We are also undergoing preparation for a Departmental Annual Report, a novel process for our Department. With this publication, we anticipate highlighting the amazing accomplishments of every division, including the programs resulting from our generous donors.

For many years, our Department Practice plan has been very stable. In order to ensure that we are offering the best plan for surgeons and the department as a whole, we are embarking upon a review process. Our Department Administrator, Cathy Turner together with our Finance Director, Marcy Willis will be reviewing and documenting the academic practice plans across the province. With this information as a base, we will then appoint a Working Group, with a mandate to review the information, access supplemental data, and then provide suggestions back to the Department Executive for review and consideration. As a member of the Canadian Association of Surgical Chairs, I will be able to access information and details of practice plans across the country to add to our working groups mandate.

It is also becoming very clear that in 2014, our Department needs to look at our collective costs of practice and how to best manage those expenses. The Department is undertaking a fact finding mission to explore the seemingly high Fringe benefit costs we incur, and to determine what options we have to improve efficiency in our clinical offices.

As always, I am delighted to hear from you, please do not hesitate to send me a message or drop by my office on 6 North at the General.

Wishing you a wonderful Fall.

Dr. Susan Reid
Welcome: All Residents Joining the Department of Surgery

The McMaster Department of Surgery would like to welcome the residents who started their training programs in the summer. 25 residents started in the eight training programs with PGY 1 entry and three started in the two PGY 6 entry programs.

These young surgeons, from diverse backgrounds, represent the best of their medical school classes and are worthy to continue the tradition of fine residents trained at McMaster.

Their individual talents, combined with first class clinical training and the camaraderie which comes with surgical residency will help them develop into the next generation of surgical leaders and teachers.

We wish them well in their training.

Dr. Stephen Kelly

Dr. Stephen Kelly, Associate Chair, Education, McMaster University

Welcome To...

General Surgery

Cassandra Uy
Nicholas Afagh
Diana Carter
Sherman Wong

Andrew Giles
Sydney Godzisz
Waed Mallah
Ashna Patel
Ryan Fielding

Orthopaedics

Adrian Kurz
Colm McCarthy
Marcin Partyka

Michael Brown
Michael Reidiger
Leon Van Der Watt

Otolaryngology

Pediatric Surgery

Cardiac

Plastic Surgery

Vascular

Neurosurgery

Ophthalmology

Urology

David Choi
Jenna Rebelo
Lisa VanHouwelingen.(Fellow)
Nazari Dvirnik
Alanna Borris
Jiayi Hu
Malcha Ramji

Asem Saleh
Michelle Kameda
Sarah Mullen
Nathan Wong
Taehyoung Lee
Yuding Wang
Recent Passings

SHER, Dr. Jeffrey has sadly passed away on February 22, 2013 after a battle with colon cancer. He will be remembered by the Department of Surgery for his significant contributions, both clinically and in the many leadership roles he has held in the past, including being Chief of the Department of Eye Medicine & Surgery at Hamilton Health Sciences, Chair of the Ontario Medical Association Section on Ophthalmology, President of the Association of Ontario Ophthalmologists, and Chair of the Hamilton Academy of Medicine Section of Ophthalmology. He is a founding member of the Resident Education Committee. At the time of his death, he was the Director of the Cornea, External Disease and Refractive surgery teaching program. Dr. Sher was well respected by his colleagues and patients, and will be missed.

O'BRIEN, Dr. Stephen Edward (Ted), F.R.C.S. (C), F.A.C.S. Peacefully, at Etobicoke General Hospital, Toronto, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, Ted O'Brien in his 87th year. Beloved husband of Joan Paxton-O'Brien and the late Anne O'Brien. Loving father of Bill and his wife Nancy, Peter and his wife Jan, and the late Maureen O'Brien, and survived by son-in-law Bob Clarke. Loved grandfather of Lee Anne, Hayden, Kaitlin, Colin, and Bobby. Brother-in-law of Frank (Marie) Hogan, Robert (Shannon) Hogan and Mary Ellen Hayes. Also survived by several nieces, nephews, and the Paxton family. Predeceased by his sisters Patricia O'Brien, Frances Marck, and Mary (Mollie) Callaghan, and brothers-in-law Joseph Marck and Frank Callaghan. Dr. O’Brien practiced Medicine in Hamilton for over 50 years. He was both Chief of Staff and Head of Surgery at St. Joseph’s Hospital, and was a Professor of Medicine, Department of Surgery, at McMaster University Medical School. Following his retirement from active practice, he became a strong proponent of Pre-Screening for Breast Cancer of women.

GATELY, Dr. John F. MA (Cantab), MB BChir, (Cambridge & Barts 1964) Born on the 25th of September, 1941, died peacefully surrounded by his wife Marie and children, Niki, Suzi, Genevieve, Ian and Katie on the 9th of August, 2013. Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery, McMaster University. A passionate golfer, and past board member at Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club. A heartfelt thank you to the staff of 5S at Joseph Brant Hospital for their exceptional care. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, 714 King Street West, on Friday, the 16th of August, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. Interment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery to follow. John was a sophisticated scholar with a lust for life.

Fellow & Resident Corner

Awards & Achievements

Chris Coroneos Plastic Surgery resident, received the Father Sean O’Sullivan award through St. Joseph’s in the amount of $18,000

Sophocles Voineskos, Plastic Surgery resident, successfully defended his MSc thesis in the Health Research Methodology program. He is the first resident from the program to do so through the Clinician Investigator Program.

Dr. Yury Peysakhovich, Thoracic Surgery Fellow, who is currently completing his second year fellowship in thoracic surgery, completed TS (Thoracic Surgery Directors Association) exam and scored the top score amongst all residents and fellows who took this exam.

Surgical Foundations News

Surgical Foundations - Awards 2012/2013

Tech Skills Award PGY1 – Darren De Sa
Tech Skills Award PGY2 – Edward Passos
Research Award First Prize: Harman Chaudhry
Research Award 2nd Prize: Raman Mundi
Research Award 3rd Prize: Taulee Hsieh

STEP Sessions

January 29, 2014 (6-9pm)
March 26, 2014 (6-9pm)

LOCATION: McMaster Innovation Park

For Further Information
Phone: 905-525-9140, ext. 22954
E-mail: dicroce@mcmaster.ca
New Faculty

**Dr. Hun Yang**, Colorectal surgeon, effective July 1, 2013. Dr. Yang will be based out of the Juravinski Hospital.

**Dr. Cagla Eskicoglu**, Colorectal surgeon, effective September 1, 2013. Dr. Eskicoglu will be based out of St. Joseph’s Hospital.

**Dr. Wael Hanna**, Thoracic Surgeon, effective September 1, 2013. Dr. Hanna will be based out of St. Joseph’s Hospital.

**Dr. Almunder Algird**, Neurosurgeon, effective September 1, 2013. Dr. Algird will be based out of Hamilton General Hospital.

**Dr. Paul Engels**, Trauma/General Surgeon, effective September 1 2013. Dr. Engels will be based out of Hamilton General Hospital.

**Dr. Olufemi Ajani**, Pediatric Neurosurgeon, effective October 28, 2013. Dr. Ajani will be based out of McMaster Children’s Hospital.

**Dr. Pablo Serrano**, Hepatobiliary Surgeon, effective January 1, 2014. Dr. Serrano will be based out of Juravinski Hospital.

Retirements

**Dr. John Wells**, Neurosurgeon. Dr. Wells’ retirement was effective July 1, 2013. Dr. Wells has continued to assist in Cardiac Surgery at the Hamilton General Hospital site.

**Dr. Paul Whelan**, Urology, will be retiring effective December 2013. He will be moving to Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, BC.

Resignations

**Dr. Steve Singh**, Cardiac Surgeon, has resigned and has moved to Texas Heart Institute in August 2013.

**Dr. Ben Baronia**, Neurosurgeon has resigned effective October 10, 2013.

Did We Miss Your News?

The deadline for the next newsletter is: 
**February 5, 2014**.

All members of the Department are welcome to submit.

Contact Us:

Ms. Julia Smerilli  
(smerilj@mcmaster.ca)  
905-573-7777 x 38260

Dr. Robert Hansebout  
Alumni Corner  
(hansebou@mcmaster.ca)

Correction Notice

**Dr. Jehonathan Pinthus** was selected to represent the Northeastern Section at the 2012 AUA Research Forum in Atlanta. Dr. Pinthus won the competition and received the first prize (AUA Research Forum). He presented his research, “Adiponectin as a Tumor Suppressor and Metabolic Modifier: Role in Kidney Cancer and Link to Obesity as a Risk Factor”.

At the American Urological Association 2013 Meeting, **Dr. Pinthus** won the best poster award for basic research in prostate cancer.
**AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Dr. Anthony Adili** accepted the 2013 Italian Heritage Award of Distinction. The award recognizes the positive impact Dr. Adili has made in Health Sciences and Technology in the community.

**Dr. Sheila Singh** won the Pediatric Neurology teaching award for 2012-2013. These awards are given for excellence in education, based on the votes of the Pediatric Neurology residents.

**Dr. Michael Greenspan** has been selected as the 2013 recipient of the John C. Sibley Award for part-time faculty. This annual award is presented to a part-time faculty member in the Faculty of Health Sciences who has made outstanding contributions to the education of health professionals.

**Dr. Achilleas Thoma** was recently featured as a special guest in a monthly video publication of one of the highest rated journals in plastic surgery, Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (PRS). The video is now live on YouTube. To watch the video online visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffgTXA95Hvs

**Dr. Jorge DeMaria’s** research was featured in a National Post article entitled, “Many Doctors Performing Circumcisions are Poorly Trained for Procedure: Report”. This work, which started with a $5000 resident grant, led to a McMaster Surgical Associates grant, a surgical video and a CIHR dissemination grant as well as his most recent publication: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24032062

**Dr. Luis Braga** successfully organized a one day symposium at the Pediatric Urology meeting in Las Vegas to develop a data base for reporting hypospadias research. It was attended by 45 Pediatric Urologists from US, Canada, Europe and Brazil. In addition, 2 papers were presented at the meeting and both made the 8 clinical prize finalists.

**Dr. Luis Braga** has been appointed Director of the McMaster Pediatric Surgery Research Collaborative, effective July 1, 2013

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Dr. Ranil Sonnadara’s** review paper entitled, “Reflections on Competency-based Education and Training for Surgical Residents” was accepted by the Journal of Surgical Education. Review entitled “Reflections on Current Methods for Evaluating Arthroplasty Skills: A Scoping Review” was accepted in The Bone and Joint Journal. And another review titled, “Three Year Experience with an Innovative Modular Competency-based Curriculum for Orthopaedic Training” was accepted in The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery.


**GRANTS & FUNDING**

**Dr. Richard Whitlock** along with investigators from St Michaels and Ottawa Heart have been successful as principal applicants, leading a CIHR grant on transfusion thresholds in cardiac surgery titled, Transfusion Requirement in Cardiac Surgery III (TRICS III)

**Dr. Sheila Singh** on receiving a CIHR award for her research entitled, “Clonal evolution of medulloblastoma BTICs in response to therapy: Discovering the refractory BTIC population through genes regulating stem cell self-renewal”. She has been rewarded $560,000 over five years for this study.

**Dr. Mohit Bhandari & Dr. Gerard Slobogean** received two CIHR awards. They have been awarded a $160,000 Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) Mentorship Grant for their proposal, "Development of Expertise in Surgical RCTs: An Opportunity for International Impact in Orthopaedic Fracture Care."

Drs. Slobogean and Bhandari, as Co-PIs, were also awarded a $266,000 operating grant to perform a pilot study for the FAITH-2 trial.
Alumni Corner: Dr. “Bud” Doobay

Dr. “Bud” Doobay is a Cardiovascular Surgeon who experienced the inception of Cardiac and Vascular Surgery at McMaster University.

Originally from Guyana, South America, Bud attended Medical School at the University of the West Indies, graduating in 1965 with an honours M.B.B.S. and distinction in Surgery. He obtained surgical training in England (FRCS- 1969) and Edinburgh Scotland. He then practised in Guyana as the first Cardio-thoracic Surgeon where he performed cardiac surgeries. He came to Canada in 1975 and worked at St Michael’s Hospital and The Toronto General Hospitals in Toronto after which he was granted an F.R.C.S (C) in General Surgery and Cardiovascular Surgery in 1977.

He then came to Hamilton in 1979 as an Assistant to Dr. John Gunstensen, Head of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Hamilton Civic Hospitals. Dr. Gardiner Copper was Chief of Surgery there. A staff position as a Cardiovascular Surgeon at the Hamilton General Hospital (HGH) and Assistant Clinical Professorship at McMaster University followed. He did open heart surgery for one year. At that time Vascular Surgery was practised by all Cardiovascular Surgeons (Drs. J Gunstensen, G. Evans, A. Parisa, W. Shragge and O. Wesley-James) but especially by Dr. Al Parisi, Dr. Oliver Wesley-James at the HGH.

Dr. John Gunstensen then asked Dr. Evans who was working at McMaster Medical Centre to seek formal approval to have a Residency Training Program in Vascular Surgery. This was approved by the Royal College in the late 1980s. Dr. Doobay was appointed Head of Vascular Surgery until The Hamilton Civic and Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals amalgamated in (1996). Dr. Geoffery Evans then became Head of the Division of Vascular Surgery.

Meanwhile, Dr. Doobay and the others trained a number of residents (Drs. B. Ostrow, J. Mosakoski, I Cybulsky and several from the Middle Eastern Countries, including A. Fituri, J. Pasineau, Alibhai, Moore and T. Rapanos who specialized in Vascular Surgery in Canada and abroad. In 1997 most of the Vascular Surgery became centred at the Hamilton General Hospital.

Dr. Doobay feels that a new advent in Vascular Surgery came when Dr. Claudio Cina joined the vascular surgeons at the HGH. He was very innovative and brought thoracic abdominal aneurysm resection to a higher level. He had been trained in Endovascular Surgery and introduced this subspecialty to Hamilton. Dr. Cina’s surgical expertise, his presentations and publications brought national awareness to Vascular Surgery at McMaster as patients came for procedures from Toronto and other parts of Canada. However, Dr. Cina returned to Toronto a few years ago and subsequently returned to Italy.

The division head of Vascular Surgery at McMaster University is now Dr. David Szalay and the Program Director is Dr. Theodore Rapanos. They lead a very good program with one of the highest volumes of vascular surgery cases in Canada.

Dr. Doobay is also Head of Vishnu Mandir Temple in Richmond Hill a Hindu facility. He became a member of the Order of Ontario in 1993 and has received many awards including the Queen’s Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals. He appears weekly on a number of Canadian TV Channels on a program entitled “Voice of Hinduism”. He has also supervised building a Museum with a Wall of Peace telling the World All Religions are good. In addition, he represents Canada on the Centre for Global Pluralism, headed by the Aga Khan to promote Peace between Peoples of all Religions.

Dr. Doobay is a multi-faceted individual who has contributed significantly to the Canadian environment both medically and spiritually.

Dr. Robert Hansebout
Saudi Arabia SOURCE Workshop

The Surgical Outcomes Research Centre (SOURCE) organized a successful 3-day workshop (April 15-17, 2013) on Evidence Based Surgery (EBS) principles, attracting over 50 surgeons and research students from across Middle East. This second annual unique event was conducted in collaboration with King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre (KFSH&RC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The workshop was led by Dr. Achilleas Thoma, Director of SOURCE and co-tutored by Dr. Forough Farrokhya, Dr. Charles Goldsmith and Dr. Luis Braga.

The topics for the 3-day workshop included Randomized Controlled trials, Power & Sample Size, Systematic review & meta-analysis, diagnosis, surveys & case-series. The 3-days were divided into morning and afternoon sessions where by the tutors facilitated small groups encouraging an interactive, problem based learning format.

For more information about SOURCE and the EBS workshops, visit their website: www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/source/ or email Manraj Kaur at kaurmn@mcmaster.ca

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You must sign up for a Twitter account to receive this information
McMaster University’s Forward with Integrity

McMaster University’s Vision: To achieve international distinction for creativity, innovation and excellence

Forward with Integrity Priorities: These 4 priorities will be addressed as interconnected and mutually reinforcing areas of activity:

Student Experience: Integrate three elements, experiential learning, self-directed learning and interdisciplinarity
Community Engagement: Outstanding academic work can be an extraordinary force for the good of human beings, society and nature; so our task in the future must be to consolidate and deepen that contribution
Research: There must be integrity in the relationship between our reconceived educational mission and the research enterprise, not only in alignment and orientation towards the public good, but in terms of academic values and scholarly practice as well. Alignment of academic activities, resources, goals and premises is critical if we are to maintain or increase our present level of research excellence
Internationalization: internationalization of the university by the presence of foreign students, by faculty involvement in a network of research alliances abroad, by faculty and student travel for research and development purposes and above all by the adoption of an internationalized perspective in curriculum and program design on our campus

Faculty of Health Sciences: Vision & Mission

Guiding Statement of Purpose: In health sciences education, research and care, we are here to question, to learn, to discover, to communicate and to make a difference.

Vision: Within a culture of innovation, exploration and collaboration, we lead by learning from what was, challenging what is and embracing what could be.

Tenets: Inter-professional collaboration, commitment to our communities, strategic partnerships, accountability/responsibility, innovation, excellence, integrity and respect, and optimism.

Department of Surgery: Vision & Mission

Vision: The McMaster University Department of Surgery is the world leader in the provision of evidence-based surgical education, research and patient care.

Mission: To train the next generation of academic surgeons to lead our country
To enhance the delivery of safe and effective patient care by:

- Training highly competent surgeons within our surgical training programs utilizing the most up to date evidence based teaching practices and evaluation systems.
- Educating the Undergraduate medical students in the application of evidence based surgical care
- Providing evidenced based CME for surgeons and our colleagues in other Departments
- Providing creative collaborative and innovative surgical care that improves lives of patients and their families
- Advancing research in all aspects of surgical care, from the bench to bedside utilizing the most modern technical advances and the principles of evidence based surgery