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Upcoming Events

Jan 25—Feb 6: CaRMS Interviews (see page 4)
Feb. 22, 7:30am: Chair’s Rounds @ JCC, Results of the VISION Study
Apr. 13-15: CGS Review Program @ Delta Meadowvale, Toronto
Jun 2-4: Brain Mapping Congress @ Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/events_calendar.html

Surgical Skills Lab

The Surgical Skills Center in the redesigned and renovated Anatomy Lab allows for seamless integration of anatomy into the clinical realm of practice for medical learners within the Departments of Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emergency Medicine and Family Medicine.

Recent acquisitions include a temporal bone lab which is primarily used by residents of the Otolaryngology/Head and Neck program but is also a valuable teaching tool for residents in Orthopaedics, Plastics and Neurosurgery or any division that uses microsurgery. The four stations cost approx. $32,000, and are completely mobile to allow maximum flexibility in the use of lab space.

The Surgical Foundations curriculum makes frequent use of the Surgical Skills lab for its technical skills and anatomy sessions. In general the tech/surgical skills sessions are the most popular sessions with the residents in the SF curriculum. They enjoy the hands-on as a welcome change to the didactic sessions, and appreciate having the time to practice their technical skills. Within the tech skills curriculum itself, the Anatomy sessions are the most popular. These are cadaver sessions – for teaching of anatomy and operative technique. SF has a “new and improved” anatomy series this year. Cadavers were previously sectioned, however, this year, cadavers are left intact. Residents are responsible for returning any excised tissue and for closing all incisions, both as a matter of respect to the donor and donor’s family, and also to allow the cadaver to be used by other groups. The Anatomy series requires much Faculty support and involves 24 preceptors to cover the 4 events.

Residents may go in any time that the Anatomy lab is open to students, including evening hours and Saturday mornings. The SF cadavers are good for 3-6mths and once SF sessions requiring them are done, residents are free to organize extra sessions via the Anatomy staff, conditional on having a group supervisor and access to the SF equipment.

Medical students likewise make good use of the lab. The second annual Surgical Skills Wet Lab event, held for undergraduate MD students, took place recently under the supervision of Dr. Susan Reid. It was organized by second and third year medical students and a first year General Surgery resident to provide students with the opportunity to get hands-on surgical experience.

Four essential surgical techniques were covered: vessel dissection and ligation; incision and drainage; debridement; and suturing (including the subcuticular stitch, Z-plasty, and VY-plasty). With the assistance of staff surgeons and residents representing General Surgery, Vascular Surgery, and Plastic Surgery, students received training in each skill in a small group setting.

For more information, contact Jane Klie (kliej@mcmaster.ca)

Faculty in the News

Dr. Mohit Bhandari was recently recognized among a short list of highly accomplished Indo-Canadians in the 2011 Power List (published by India Abroad). The recipients included scientists, entrepreneurs, community activists, philanthropists and academics. Dr. Bhandari was acknowledged for his efforts to bring global awareness and evidence for the care of trauma victims and received recognition from Prime Minister, Stephen Harper.

Dr. Bhandari was also the recipient of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Mentor of the Year Award for 2011 in Region 3 (Ontario and Nunavut).

Dr. Mehran Anvari will shortly begin patient testing of a new image-guided robot, IGAR, that uses more accurate, much smaller and more effective robotic probes in conjunction with far more sensitive scanning techniques to differentiate between benign lumps and cancerous tumours even at a very early stage which could lead to better outcomes, less pain and more savings.

The lab of which Dr. Anvari is CEO and scientific director is a partnership of space-robotics giant MDA Corporation, the federal government, St. Joseph’s Healthcare and McMaster University, among others.
Although Remembrance Day is now past, I wanted to share some thoughts that this national day of respect brings to mind. As Canadian citizens we are all indebted to the thousands of men and women who have contributed and continue to contribute to war efforts and peacekeeping, with their skill and compassion, and for some, with their lives. Several times per week, I have walked along a hallway in the hospital that has a wall dedicated to the history of Hamilton Hospitals. It is a reminder of what has passed, of where we have been. These pictures and maps of long ago, depicting our community as it was, hold me in fascination as I try to figure out where we are now. Sir Winston Churchill is quoted on that wall: “The longer you look back, the farther you can look forward.” When I read that quote, I don’t feel so guilty taking a minute to ponder the past, taking the opportunity to see how the lessons of our yesteryears can guide and inspire our future years.

I believe, as Canadian surgeons, it is important to remember: not only our War Surgeons who have contributed so much to the fields of medicine and surgery during the Great Wars, but as well to recognize those surgeons who are currently devoting their time and skill in war zones overseas.

Our modern military and civilian surgeons have continued to provide heroic surgical care overseas. Their experiences will benefit surgical patients for years to come as they learn to deal with mass casualties, many from IED explosions. Tales of their ability to meet some incredible surgical challenges are inspiring, and humbling to those of us here on the home front.

At McMaster, we are working on a Living History project to recognize the pioneers of our surgical divisions, some home grown, some from afar. Video interviews are being made of our retired surgeons before they become simply a name in our memory. By reflecting on the lives of our past surgeons we are better able to focus on our own role in surgical history.

Susan Reid M.D., F.R.C.S(C)

**Newsletters**

**Lest We Forget**

A message from Dr. Susan Reid, Associate Chair, Education

**Appointments and Awards**

**Appointments**
- Ophthalmology Residency Program Director:
  - Dr. Nina Ahuja
- New faculty:
  - Dr. Jason Atlas: Clinical Assistant Professor Adjunct (ENT); 1/9/2011
  - Dr. John Ostrowski: Clinical Assistant Professor Adjunct (Ortho); 1/9/2011
  - Dr. Rajeshvar Sharda: Clinical Assistant Professor Adjunct (Ophthalmology); 1/9/2011
- Change in Status:
  - Dr. Kevin Teoh: Clinical Assistant Professor Adjunct (Cardiac); 1/10/2011

**Awards/Grants:**
- Dr. Sheila Singh received a Terry Fox New Investigator Operating Grant for The Role of Bmi1 in Neural Stem Cell maintenance and Brain Tumour Development $449,619 over 3 years.
- Dr. Samir Faidi received a New Investigator Fund grant for a Multifaceted Quality Improvement Strategy to Optimize Monitoring of Delirium in Trauma Patients. $25,000

**Neurorestorative Group**

The Hamilton Neurorestorative Group (HNG) led by Dr. Shucui Jiang, Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery (Neurobiology) links clinical and basic scientists from diverse backgrounds to explore ways of improving the function and the quality of life of individuals with disorders of the nervous system through determining the factors that influence restoration of function after severe neurological injury.

The group have collaborated on neurorestorative research with several other groups at McMaster as well as investigators in other Canadian universities such as the University of Prince Edward Island, the University of Calgary, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Toronto and Brock University. They also collaborate with researchers around the globe: University College, London, UK; the universities of Milan, Trieste, Camerino, and Ghezi-Pescara, Italy; Emory University, Atlanta, USA; the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; and Beijing University, China.

Scientists in the HNG are involved in the training of undergraduate students, graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.), residents and clinician scientists as well as offering postdoctoral training in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Their multidisciplinary approach offers an ideal learning environment for those who wish to work in a setting that covers research from the most basic level to research in a clinical setting.

Web: http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/neurorestorative

**New Manager of Finance**

The Department is pleased to welcome a new Manager of Finance, Deborah DaSilva, CGA. Deborah comes from a private accounting firm in the area and has an extensive background in accounting. Her office location is 6B45 at SJH, her extension is 33337 and her email address is ddasilv@mcmaster.ca.

**CaRMS**

It’s that time of year again when we gear up for meeting residency candidates for our programs. Please expect to hear from the program coordinators who may be asking for your support in providing space or participating in the interview process.

**Permission to Use Information (FOI)**

As of Jan 1, 2012, we become subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection Act. It is possible that some people wanting to make FOI requests may deliver them to members of staff. If any member of staff receives any communication that appears to be a Freedom of Information request; i.e., requesting hospital information with a $5.00 bill or cheque attached, it is imperative that it be immediately delivered to the FOI Office of your institution. Please do not put the request in the hospital surface mail.

- SJHH Privacy office— foi@stjoes.ca
- HHS Privacy office— privacy@hhsc.ca

**HHS Policy on Alcohol Expense Reimbursement**

An updated policy for the reimbursement of alcohol expenses on HHS-held research accounts is now in place and can be found at http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/documents/policyonalcoholreimbursement.pdf

**Chair Search Committee**

As Dr. Drovnan enters his last few months as Department Chair, a Search Committee is underway to identify a successor. Dr. Drovnan steps down as Chair at the end of his term on July 1, 2012.

**Homecoming 2012**

- Divisional events
- Semi formal gala dinner
- High profile academic event
- MainCert credits
- Recreational activities

If you know of an alumni member who does not receive this newsletter, please encourage them to contact us so we can ensure they are added to our mailing list.

Contact: kawilsa@mcmaster.ca
Alumni Corner—Dr. Robert Martin
by Dr. R. Hansebout  MD MSc FRCS C FACS

Dr. Robert Martin (MD FRCSC) was born in Sudbury, Ontario. After internship at the Toronto Western Hospital he did General Practice and Industrial Medicine at the INCO Hospital. He completed basic research and residency training in Toronto at the Banting Institute and the Toronto General Hospital from 1960 through 1965. He then took a postgraduate year in Orthopedic Surgery in Toronto and a subsequent fellowship year at the Ontario Crippled Children’s Centre in Toronto. He was granted the FRCSC designation in 1966. He was followed by a Royal College Travelling Fellowship in the United Kingdom and Europe in 1967. He came to Hamilton in 1968.

Since Dr. Martin played a major role in the development of Academic Orthopedic Surgery in the McMaster Environment, I asked him about the beginnings of the Orthopedic Training Program. He told me that in 1970, Drs. Robert Lofthouse and C. B. Mueller (then Chair of Surgery) sought approval from The Royal College to start an Orthopedic Surgery Training Program. Dr. T.D. Cooke was the first GFT orthopedic surgeon recruited to help lead the program. The early residents were Dr. G. R. Viviani, Dr. G. Mbolekwa and Dr. D. J. Kirkpatrick. As the program became established, more residents were recruited as well as GFT Faculty Dr. G. R. Viviani, Dr. C. Maseley and Dr. R. U. Repo.

In 1988 Dr. Martin became Head of Orthopedics at St. Josephs in 1976. He joined the GFT Faculty in the Department of Surgery in 1983 as Professor and was appointed Director of the Orthopedic Residency Training Program until 1991. In 1993 he moved to Chedoke-McMaster Hospital as Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery. In 1986 he was Acting Head of the Section of Surgery and was accorded Professorship and tenure at McMaster University. He continued as Head of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery until 1998. During the time of practice he became President of a number of Associations, locally, provincially and nationally. He also became an examiner for the Specialty Committee of the Royal College.

During his leadership role, residents were encouraged to take additional fellowships. Later subspecialty areas were developed in Orthopedics. Dr. Martin himself taking a pivotal role in Pediatric Orthopedics. With time, research activities increased within the Department. The advent of MRC student research grants and the Epidemiology Program at McMaster University served to magnify research within the Department. At one point the number of trainees in the Department grew to almost 50, many from abroad.

New Surgical Centre at St. Joseph’s

St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton recently unveiled its state-of-the-art surgical centre that includes the Day Surgery Unit, Operating Rooms, Recovery and Sterile Processing Unit following many months of space planning, reorganizing supplies and equipment, staff training and revised processes that incorporate the use of state-of-the-art technology and improved efficiencies. The new department has been constructed to meet the latest invasive, image guided and robotic surgical equipment, and our outstanding team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and frontline staff has elevated St. Joseph’s surgical program to a calibre that is unmatched in our region."

St. Joseph’s new $72 million project features 12 new operating rooms, 24 post-anesthesia care beds, a 50-bed day surgery unit, a minor procedures area, and a new sterile processing department. The new Centre is nearly double the architectural footprint of the Hospital’s current surgical facilities. The hospital wing is designed to make the patient experience as pleasant as possible. It features rock walls and glass surfaces. Window-filled patient care areas bring the outdoors into the new building since studies have shown that such esthetic touches can greatly improve healing and recovery. "St. Joseph’s is already a lead surgical hospital specializing in thoracic, kidney and urinary, vascular, robotic, head and neck, bariatric, and minimally invasive surgical techniques," said Dr. David Higgins, President of SJHH. "We’re the busiest urologic surgery centre in the province, and Ontario’s second largest kidney transplant centre. With numbers like that, it’s easy to see why the Surgical Centre is so important to the health of our region."

A $4 million investment in St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton from B.C. Lions and Toronto Argonauts owner Senator David Braley and his wife, Nancy Gordon, was recognized during the opening ceremony through the unveiling of a sign denoting the David Braley & Nancy Gordon Surgical Wing. A fundraising drive still has $11 million more to raise for the project.

Contact: Debbie Silva, SJHH.
Urologic Canadian Idol winner
Dr. Jeannotian Pintius was the winner of the Urologic Canadian Idol competition at the annual CUOG-CURC retreat, based upon his presentations on his kidney cancer and prostate cancer research. He beat out research competition from UBC, Sunnybrook, and across Canada to win this front of a panel of judges and attendees.

ASOPRS Research Award
Dr. John Harvey was this year’s recipient of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Research Award for the paper “Lymphatic Drainage Patterns of the Human Eyelid Assessed by Lymphoscintigraphy.” Ophthal Plast Reconstr Surg 2010; 26:429-435 (Navdeep Nijhawan, MD, FRCSC, Christopher Marriott, PhD, MD, FRCP, John T. Harvey, MD, FRCSC).

McMaster at ASE
This year was the first time the McMaster Pediatric Surgery Research Committee submitted research abstracts to the Association of Surgical Education (ASE). Two were submitted (see below) and both were accepted for main PODIUM presentations this coming March 2012 in San Diego. This conference has had Dept. representation in the past from Dr. Dath and the MacSERG group; it is exciting to be able to add the MPSRC to this.

- Exploring the hidden curriculum: a qualitative analysis of medical students’ reflections on professionalism in surgical clerkship
  Kittmer T, Haugen J, Pemberton J, Cameron BH
- Evaluating the Long Term Impact of the Trauma Team Training Course in Guyana: An Explanatory Mixed Methods Approach
  Pemberton J, Rambharan M, Cameron BH

Since this news, another main podium presentation with Dr. Dath has been accepted as well as one with the Surgical Research Team.

Resident Research Conference Winners 2012
Dr. Ted Thomas Prize for Best Presentation
- Dr. Justin Khetani (Oto PGY-5) Opioids and Post-Adenotonsillectomy Desaturations: Do Genetics Play a Role? A Prospective Study
- Dr. Blake Yarascavitch (NS PGY-4) Levels of Evidence in Neurosurgical Literature: Are We Improving?
- Dr. AK Mighton Award for Best Presentation by a Junior Resident
- Dr. Khaled Hasan (Ortho PGY-2) Prophylactic Antibiotics in Tumor Surgery

CaRMS Dates
- General Surgery: February 2, 3
- Gen Surg Niagara: February 2, 3
- Neurosurgery: February 6
- Ophthalmology: January 31
- Orthopaedics: January 31
- Otolaryngology: February 2
- Plastics: January 25
- Urology: February 4
- Vascular: February 2

Otolaryngology Residents Take Aim at their Retreat
The Otolaryngology Residents held their semi-annual Resident Retreat on November 23-24, 2011. “These retreats are a popular and important part of the residency program as they give everyone an opportunity to speak their mind about the program and hear from all of their fellow residents,” observed Dr. Diane Reid, Residency Program Director. The Retreats incorporate a team building activity which this year took the form of a LazerTag challenge. Two rounds were played and the survivors then enjoyed a well-earned sushi lunch.

New PGY1 Positions
Two programs are expanding their PGY1 intake for July 2012:
- General Surgery will have an additional PGY1 position for its St. Catharines satellite campus
- The Vascular program has applied to the RCPS for a PGY1 entry position

Both new positions will be available for the 2012 CaRMS match.

RMA Scholarship Awards
- Dr. CJ Foot: Indian Orthopaedic Multicenter Study Fracture Audit (INORMUS). Supervisor Dr. M. Bhandari
- Dr. Kevin Cheung: Comparison of the costs and effectiveness of open carpal tunnel release in Canada and the United States. Supervisor Dr. A. Thoma
- Dr. Chuck Wen: The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Colorectal Cancer Screening and Stage at Diagnosis.
- Supervisor: Shawn Forbes

Resident Appreciation Dinner
More than 150 faculty and residents recently attended dinner at the Liuna Station to celebrate the successes of our graduating residents from all surgical programs. Dr. Bain presented the awards for the Annual Residents’ Research Conference held on the 16th (see Research News) and thanked the faculty and staff assisting the residents with their work over the year. He relayed the favourable comments from our keynote Speaker, Dr. Amin Kassam who noted that the work presented over the Division and Department Residents Days was of excellent quality. Dr. Bain reminded the residents once again that their work is not finished until it is published and that the department will support their efforts.