The Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation (CSii), headed by Dr. Mehran Anvari has secured more than $14M from federal and private sources to develop and commercialize a new class of robotic platforms for targeted, less invasive surgical and medical interventions. These innovations will dramatically improve patient outcomes, reduce the length of hospital stays and recovery periods, and allow patients to return to full activity following major surgery far more quickly than conventional procedures.

The Centre combines Canada’s leadership in the field of robotics (developed by MDA for space exploration) with McMaster’s University’s expertise in minimally invasive surgery and surgical robotic interventions to develop a viable new biotech industry.

For more information email jkelly@stjosham.on.ca or visit www.csii.ca.

Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation

The Uro-Oncology Research and Innovation Forum held a meeting on September 28th 2010 at Spencer’s Burlington, chaired by Dr. Jehonathan Puthus of the Juravinski Cancer Centre. This well attended event included urologists, basic scientists, postgraduate students, other health professionals and representatives from other faculties within McMaster including DeGroote School of Business. The purpose of this group is to bring together a number of interested parties to network and support research activity in this field in our geographical area, with the aim of making McMaster University a world class collaborative research facility in Uro-oncology.

There were a number of presentations at the meeting, focusing specifically on prostate cancer followed by a round table discussion.

The next meeting, currently in the planning stages, will be held in Spring 2011, and will focus on kidney cancer issues.

Dr. Puthus expressed his appreciation to their industry sponsor, Pfizer, for their generous contribution. For more information email Jen Caruk (carukjm@mcmaster.ca).
A series of intraoperative teaching workshops has been developed for surgeons by surgeons. The Surgery Teachers Education Program, designed by Drs. Dath, Matsumoto and Szalay as part of the FHS Faculty Development Program explores how we teach our learners in the Operating Room.

Workshop 1—operative teaching principles and identifies the participants’ teaching styles.

Workshop 2—teaching challenges brought by participants for analysis and feedback.

Workshop 3—operative teaching theory, (to be held May 18, 2011 at 6:00-9:00 pm).

There is no charge for these workshops but registration is required. Contact Kathy Wilson for info (kawilson@mcmaster.ca) or go to [http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/STEP.html](http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/STEP.html).

**Alumni Corner**

Dr Robert Hansebout, neurosurgeon and Professor Emeritus is our alumni editor.

Dr Hansebout graduated in Medicine as gold medalist at University of Western Ontario, and completed residency training at McGill University, where he subsequently went on staff at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He moved to Hamilton in 1979 as Head of Neurosurgery at St. Joseph’s Hospital and (for 3 years) Chief of Surgery at Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals.

In his ten years as Chair of Surgery he established new department practice and merit plans, founded the Surgical Outcomes Research Centre and facilitated development of CMAS. Clinically, his main interest was trauma and spinal surgery and has performed over 4000 cranial, spinal and nerve operations. He established several spinal injury clinics in the USA and Canada and was a Founding Director of the Canadian Spinal Research Organization.

His research goal to improve the quality of life of those with spinal cord injury, lead him to develop new techniques for treating acute spinal cord trauma, and research a substance (FDA approved AMPYRA) which improves motor and sensory function in persons with disorders such as multiple sclerosis and cord injury. He has received several national and international awards, is a member of local, national and international societies and has spent thousands of hours in volunteer activities to help our youth and disabled persons.

For alumni news, please write to Dr. Hansebout (hansebout@mcmaster.ca).

**Appointments and Awards**

**Appointments:**
- Dr. Peter Fitzgerald - 2011 President-elect of the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons.
- Dr. Dave Williams - Chief Medical Officer, Health and Safety at SJHH.
- Dr. Mohit Bhandari - Division Head, Orthopedic Surgery
- Dr. Yaron Shargall - Division Head, Thoracic Surgery

**Awards/Grants:**
- Dr. Femi Ayeni - 2010 travelling Scholarship from the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine
- Dr. Luis Braga - systematic review chosen by the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)
- Dr. Gavin Rukholm (PGY-3 Otol) - RMA Scholarship under the supervision of Dr. J.Archibald and Dr. J. Kwiecien; also received a Research Advisory Committee grant.
- Dr. Mohit Bhandari - CIHR grants for studies of:
  - Implants re: femoral neck fractures: $1,469,086 over 4 years
  - Economics of ultrasound for tibial shaft fractures: $60,000 over 1 year
  - Comparing 2 methods of ultrasound re: knee osteoarthritis
- Drs. Kevin Teoh, Richard Whitlack and Andre Lamy - CIHR operating grant funding for Steroids in Cardiac Surgery, $406K

- Dr. Brian Cameron - CIHR Meetings, Planning and Dissemination grant for “Teaching Surgical Skills by Web-conferencing a Canada-Guyana Collaboration, $25K

- Dr. Peter Fitzgerald - CIHR Meetings, Planning and Dissemination grant for “Moving towards evidence based paediatric surgery. A full day research capacity building meeting”, $28K

- Dr. Shawn Forbes - JCCF and NIF grants to study impact of surgical safety checklists on clinical outcomes re: cancer care and LHIN4

**Dr. Karen Bailey** - HHS New Investigator Fund award in January 2011 $33K

**Dr. Luis Braga** - HHS: New Investigator Fund award in January 2011 $33K (Ors. Demaria and Farrokhyar coinvestigators)

For more information write to Catherine illc@mcmaster.ca

**Achievements:**
- Dr. John Miller - secured donation of equipment from Olympus America Inc for thoracic surgery in Haiti

**New faculty:**
- B. Deheshi (Ortho)
- S. Forbes (Gen.Surg)
- C. Finley (Thoracics)
- M. Gupta (Oto/ENT)
- J. MacLean (Peds/ENT)
- Y. Shargall (Thoracics)

**ABC Update**

Access to Best Care (ABC) is a HHS strategic plan to improve patient services in our community and involves converting MUMC’s ER from adult to pediatrics. The impact for SJHH includes an increase in adult ER volumes and a potential increase in Surgical, Medicine (GIM) and Critical Care beds.

On Monday, April 4, 2011 MUMC will close their ER department. On this date adult inpatients will be transferred from MUMC to SJHH, HGH and the Juravinski Hospital. In order to meet the expected increase in volumes internal restructuring has begun at SJH.

- Drs Dath and Tandan from SJHH to HGH - Drs Forbes, Kelly, Marcaccio, Ruo and Stephen from MUMC to HGH - date April 1
- Dr. Reid from MUMC TO HGH
- Dr Amin from JHCC to SJH - date Apr 12
- Drs Forbes, Kelly, Marcaccio, Ruo and Stephen from MUMC to JHCC - date April 1

Ref: www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca
Residents Corner

The first surgical residents accepted to the Clinician Investigator/Surgeon Scientist program with a view to pursuing a Master’s degree are:

• Dr. Clary (CJ) Faote. PGY 2 Orthopaedic s: HRM Program at McMaster University with Dr. Mohit Bhandari as his primary supervisor
• Dr. Daniel Hoppe. PGY 2 Orthopaedics: Master’s Degree in Medical Education at OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) in Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Oleg Sofir, a graduate of this Program and an Orthopaedic Surgeon at Mt. Sinai, and Dr. Heather Carnahan, a Professor and Scientist at the Wilson Centre, Toronto
• Dr. Deven Reddy. PGY 3 Neurosurgery: HRM Program at McMaster University with Dr. Farough Farrakhy as his primary supervisor
• Dr. Sophocles Voineskos. PGY 2 Plastics HRM Program at McMaster University with Dr. Mohit Bhandari as his primary supervisor.

Dr. Sheila Singh, Director of SSP comments: “I would like to congratulate our new McMaster Surgeon Scientist Program trainees for winning MOH-funded CIP positions for 2011”. Sophocles, Deven, CJ and Daniel represent our very first SSP cohort, and they have already shown all of the initiative and drive it takes to succeed as academic surgeons in the future. Together with their surgical mentors and supervisors, I look forward to assisting them as they start their exciting journeys down their respective research paths. I know they will, in time, become excellent mentors and role models to our future SSP cohorts as McMaster builds on our academic surgery mandate, one trainee at a time.”

The Department wishes these four residents every success in their endeavours. Surgical residents who are interested in pursuing graduate studies as part of the Surgeon Scientist Program are encouraged to contact Dr. Sheila Singh early in their residency (PGY-1 and 2).

For more information go to http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/ssp/ or email Kathy Wilson (kawilso@mcmaster.ca) or Dr. Sheila Singh (ssingh@mcmaster.ca).

One Day Matters

Concerned by the decrease in applicants for surgery residency positions across Canada and the belief that medical students need an earlier introduction to the OR, the Canadian Association of General Surgeons has developed a national initiative whereby first year medical students can spend one day in the OR.

The One Day Matters program was launched nationally in 2009 by Dr. Susan Reid and, by popular demand, repeated in 2010. The program matched first year medical students to both academic and community surgeons over the course of a month period across Canada and included an orientation package, a scrub session, and a day in the Operating Room with their matched surgeon.

The opportunity to spend one day in the OR, especially during the same month as their peers, not only increased the impact on each student at each site but also increased the discussion of experiences among the students at the national level.

Feedback has been very positive from both surgeons and medical students and it is anticipated that applications for surgery residency positions in two to three years time will support early indications of the program’s success.

In addition to matches in General Surgeons, this year students could also match in Orthopedics, Plastics, Otolaryngology, Thoracics, Pediatrics, Cardiac and Neurosurgery.

For more information email Katie Niblock (niblock@mcmaster.ca).

Women in Surgery

A successful inaugural Women in Surgery event, “Scalpels and Stilettos” was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at McMaster’s University Club.

The wine and cheese reception, organized by Dr. Victoria Avram, Assistant Professor, Orthopedic Surgery, was attended by 45 female faculty and medical learners and provided a forum to share experiences as women in a surgical specialty, as well to encourage casual discussion with medical students.

Featured presenter was Dr. Susan Reid who spoke on leadership roles for women in the Department of Surgery. Talks were also given by Dr. Avram, Dr. Nina Ahuja, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology and Dr. Christine Walton, Chief Resident, Orthopaedic Surgery. Each talk provided personal glimpses into some of the unique private and professional challenges confronting women opting for careers in surgery.

Future plans for the Program include the creation of a mentorship program between faculty and medical learners. Ten female faculty members have already signed up as mentors and work is now underway to link them to interested medical students and residents.

For more information on Women in Surgery contact either Dr. Avram (avramv@HHSC.CA) or Kathy Wilson (kawilso@mcmaster.ca).

Travel

The new electronic forms aim to make travel reimbursement accurate, timely and easy to use for faculty and staff by simplifying and standardizing processes and by introducing paperless travel claims using MacMEETS.

The MacMEETS program tracks the progress of travel expenses so claimants can identify any hold ups in reimbursement. It aims for a 10-15 day turnaround in reimbursements if all supporting documents are submitted.

For more information contact Sue Graci (graci@mcmaster.ca) or go to http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/macmeets.htm.
Resident Awards

Thank you to all our residents who presented at research days in 2010 (as well as their supervisors and collaborators).

Congratulations to this year’s winners:

**Urology** (UWO and McMaster)

1st: Dr. Ayman Raees
2nd: Dr. Jessica Collins (PGY4)
Honourable Mention (Clinical)
Ms. Jacqueline Piggott (Medicine, UWO)

**Plastic Surgery**

Best Clinical Presentation
Dr. Alexandra Nuttall (PGY2)
Honourable Mention (Basic)
Dr. Richard Grace (PGY3)

**Orthopaedics**

1st: Dr. Raj Sharma (PGY5)
2nd: Dr. Michael Hickey (PGY5)
Honourable Mention: Dr. Christine Walton (PGY5)

**General Surgery**

1st: Dr. Paige Churchill (PGY1)
2nd: Dr. Laura Vanderbeek (PGY4)
3rd: Dr. Ryan Suri (PGY5)

**Otolaryngology**

1st: Dr. Julie Strychowsky (PGY2)
2nd: Dr. Gavin Rukholm (PGY3)

**Neurosciences**

1st: Dr. Christina Goldstein (Ortho PGY5)
2nd: Dr. Donald Zhang (NS PGY6)
3rd: Dr. Andrew Gomez (N PGY3)

Department Residents’ Research Conference

Dr. Ted Thomas Prize for Best Presentation
Dr. Joshua Teichman (OphthPGY3)
2nd Prize
Dr. Michael Hickey (Ortho PGY5)
3rd Prize
Dr. Raj Sharma (Ortho PGY5)
Dr. AK Mighton Award for Best Presentation by a Junior Resident
Dr. Alexandra Nuttall (Plast PGY2)

For details email gillc@mcmaster.ca or visit http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgeryresearch/spotlight.html

Did we miss your news?

Write and let us know for our next issue by March 30th

Gillian Wood (DDS newsletter) (woodj@mcmaster.ca)
Dr. Robert Hansebout (alumni only) (hansebou@mcmaster.ca)
905 522 1155 ext. 34399

MacSERG

The McMaster Surgical Education Research Group (MacSERG) began as a small group of three physicians who met for the purpose of brainstorming and networking in order to figure out how to best assist each other with surgical education research.

By June 2010 Dr. Dath, Dr. Matsumoto and Dr. Szalay had been joined by Drs. Bacopulos, Baronia, Cameron, Gowing, Harlock, Iyer, Simunovic, Williams, Musson and Reid as well as Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Hoogenes and Ms. Gill Pottruff. By December 2010 there were eight active research projects underway including:

- A qualitative exploration of intraoperative teaching (Dath, Matsumoto, Szalay, Harlock, Vennettilli, Gowing, Hoogenes)
- Surgical Teachers’ Education Program (STEP) (Dath, Matsumoto, Szalay, Hoogenes, McNamara)
- Exploring patient satisfaction and whether patients’ education needs are being met by surgeons during first consultation for gallbladder and hernia complaints (Dath, Graybiel, Fernandes, Hoogenes)
- Exploring medical students’, residents’ and staff surgeons’ perceptions of general surgery as a career (Dath, Hoogenes & team of medical students and residents)
- Validation of intraoperative teaching styles and strategies (Dath, Matsumoto, Szalay, Hoogenes)
- Exploring how General Surgery clerkship rotations change medical students’ ranking of General Surgery as career choice (Nassar, Reid, Mohaisen, DeCorby, Winch)
- Standardized communication and frame of reference facilitates safe and efficient laparoscopic teaching (Hage, Elias, Williams, Farrokhyar, Matsumoto)
- Surgical leadership and peak team performance (Williams, Reid, Musson)

The MacSERG group meets quarterly and their agenda for the coming year includes developing ideas for collaborative projects as well as composing a Vision and Mission statement and Terms of Reference for the group. Kelly Dore is welcomed by the group as their new PhD researcher.

For more information contact:

- Kathy Wilson (kawilso@mcmaster.ca)
- Catherine Gill-Pottruff (gill@mcmaster.ca)