This spring newsletter highlights the ongoing many contributions of our faculty members, residents and staff to the academic mission of the University. I would like to offer congratulations to all of the residents who will be graduating from our training programs this year, and wish them the best on their Royal College examinations, and in their next endeavours whether that be clinical practice or fellowship training.

We had our Departmental Resident Appreciation Dinner last week, and it was a well-attended affair at the Old Mill in Ancaster. Several of our retired faculty members were present and I would like to thank Drs. Finn, Kiss, Born, Menkarios, Hansebou, Dale, Tsai, and their spouses for attending. The evening is an excellent reminder of the raison d’etre for surgical faculty: To Teach. On behalf of the faculty I would like to again say thank you to our amazing residents for all you do, the care you provide for patients, for keeping your faculty on their toes, and the privilege of working with you.

Our department continues its work on the Financial Health Project. Currently, Cathy Turner, the Department Administrator, and myself are attending Division meetings for each Division to update members on the work to date and seek opinion and input from Faculty members.

Thank you to all those who participated in the Surgical Career Transitions Survey. The results will be circulated in the near future, and with your input, we will start to build a resource section on the Department website for career and retirement planning.

The Office of Surgical Research Services recently held a very productive retreat and I hope you take the time to review the update from Dr. Farrokhya. You can access information about the Office of Surgical Research Services on our website: http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgeryresearch/office_surgical_services.html

The Office of Surgical Education Research under the direction of Dr. Ranil Sonnodara, continues its mandate along with Dr. Kelly, the Associate Chair of Education, to prepare our training programs for the transition to Competency by Design. I encourage all members to familiarize themselves with CBD. There are resources on the Department Website Education tab, http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgeryeducation/

I wish you all a productive and enjoyable spring and summer!
HAMILTON HOLDS FIRST ATOM COURSE!

The Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) course was held for the first time at the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute (TaARI) at the David Braley Research Institute (DBRI) on April 11&12. This unique course was developed by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. Hamilton now becomes only the 4th city in Canada to offer such a course to its general surgery residents and trauma fellows! This first course, which was coordinated by the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery (CMAS), involved instructors from many institutions across Canada (University of Calgary, University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, Western University) as well as local operating room nurses from the Hamilton General Hospital, and the many staff at TaARI. The course director was Dr. Paul Engels (Trauma Surgeon at the Hamilton General Hospital) and the course coordinator was Ms. Tracy Tazzeo. The course was supported in part by an educational grant from the McMaster Surgical Associates. The Hamilton ATOM Team hopes to build on this success by hosting the course annually!

Left to Right: Dr. Shawn Petrik (TaARI), Ms. Marie Fairgrieve (CMAS), Ms. Lisa TenBrinke (TaARI), Ms. Tracy Tazzeo (CMAS), Dr. Paul Engels, Ms. Heather Couture (TaARI), Dr. Peng Liao (TaARI)

STEM CELL AND CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SCC-RI)

Congratulations to both Maleeha Qazi and David Bakhshinyan in the SCC-RI lab who have recently won very prestigious and competitive CIHR PhD studentships under the supervision of Dr. Sheila Singh.
Now, all Dr. Singh’s graduate students are fully funded. Congratulations to all!

Current graduate students under the supervision of Dr. Sheila Singh and their source of funding:
Branavan Manoranjan MD PhD – CIHR Vanier Doctoral award
Mohini Singh PhD – Brain Canada PhD Studentship
Michelle Kameda – MD PhD SSP – Boris Family award
David Bakhshinyan – CIHR PhD
Maleeha Qazi – CIHR PhD

Left to Right: Dr. Sheila Singh, Maleeha Qazi and David Bakhshinvan
THE FIRST UGANDAN COURSE IN SURGICAL RESEARCH (KAMPALA, UGANDA)

Drs Petrisor and Bhandari supported by an excellent faculty (Dr. Gerard Slobogean, Dr. Herman Johal, Dr. Jay Moro, Dr. Bill Ristevski, Dr. Meaghan Rollins, Dr. Desmond Kwok) and facilitated by the Course Organizer, Nathan O’Hara welcomed its 100 attendees to an exceptional day of evidence! Dr. Isaac Kaija served as local chair and give an inspired opening call to action to the attendees, some of whom travelled hundreds of kilometers to attend the event.

Our continued collaborative work with UBC’s USTOP program and now including Maryland’s Shock Trauma occurred as well during the recent trip to Uganda. Franca Mossuto and Elizabeth Stec Nurses from Hamilton Health Sciences conducted another successful perioperative nursing course with Nurses from Mulago Hospital. The nursing team also had a half day workshop in the principles of fracture fixation.

Bioskills workshops were also conducted with local orthopaedic residents as well as multiple case reviews and sawbones discussions. McMaster faculty, Brad Petrisor, Jay Moro, Herman Johal, Meaghan Rollins and Des Kwok were joined by local faculty Moses Kakyama and Peter Ssenyonjo for a formal principles of fracture fixation course.

Surgical collaborations were undertaken throughout the week as well as an evidence based critical appraisal journal club. We give sincere thanks to Nathan O’Hara who masterfully coordinates all aspects of the groups time in Uganda. We look forward to continued collaboration with all three groups in the future and in this regard, are looking forward to hosting Edward Kironde a graduate of the Makerere University/Mulago Hospital orthopaedic program as a fellow with us over the next 6 months.

“I was inspired by the motivation and passion among attendees to improve patient care by using evidence as a key starting point!” said Dr. Bhandari MacOrtho plans to continue its collaboration with hopes of planning courses throughout Africa in the years to come!

Attendees at the first Ugandan Course in Surgical Research.
On behalf of MacOrtho Residency Program, we would like to congratulate Dr. Darren de Sa as he was recently selected as the Department of Surgery’s winner of the 2016 Hamilton Health Sciences Medical Staff Association (MSA) Resident of the Year Award. The award is presented annually to one outstanding resident from each of the 12 departments who has distinguished themselves as a scholar, teacher, researcher, and/or clinician. Darren has consistently maintained a high level of excellence both clinically and academically and is very much deserving of this award. Congratulations Darren!

Congratulations to Dr. Andrew Giles, PGY3 General Surgery resident, who was the recipient of the 2016-17 Margaret and Charles Juravinski Surgical Fellowship Award. This award is supported by a generous endowment from Margaret and Charles Juravinski that assists young general surgeons in pursuing a year of research training or other advanced skill training that will ultimately benefit the Hamilton Region. Dr. Giles will be completing a Master of Public Health in Global Health at Harvard next year, after which he will return to McMaster to complete his residency training.

Congratulations to Dr. Noor Alolabi, the recipient of the 2016 International Surgery Desk Resident Scholarship. He plans to participate in a volunteer surgical mission with McMaster faculty member, Dr. Carolyn Levis, and the Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation in November 2016. We look forward to the outcomes of the trip and how it influences Dr. Alolabi’s aspirations in the field of global surgery. Congratulations!

The division of Plastic Surgery hosted their first Annual Olympiad in the Anatomy Lab. This was a half day event where the residents competed in six different stations and an award was given to the “Most Awesomest Resident”. Dr. Voineskos was this year’s winner! Congratulations!

The division of Ophthalmology held its Annual Research Day on February 24th, 2016. This event was designated for residents and faculty to present their ongoing clinical and scientific research for appraisal and consideration of their peers. The winner was PGY-5 resident Dr. Manreet Alangh for his presentation titled, CJO RESCUE. The Ophthalmology Department would like to thank all who were involved in the organization of this event including Dr. P. Harvey, Dr. Sabri and all staff who made this event possible.
RESIDENT APPRECIATION DINNER 2016

On Tuesday May 3rd 2016, the departments of surgery of McMaster University, Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton, invited all surgical staff, surgical residents and fellows and surgical alumni to attend a Resident Appreciation Dinner at the Ancaster Old Mill. The event was well attended by all divisions and alumni—a great success! A special thank you to Danielle Fama for her excellent planning of this event.

Division of Orthopaedics

Division of Plastic Surgery residents, from left, Drs. Alex Hatchell, Maleka Ramji and Haley Augustine.

Division of Urology Residents, from left: Drs Soojin Kim, Christopher Wu, Nathan Wong, Shawn Dawson.

Division of Urology Faculty members, from left: Dr Edward Matsumoto, Dr Bobby Shayegan, and Dr Jorge DeMaria
**DR. CAROLYN LEVIS PRESENTED WITH AN AWARD OF MERIT**

Dr. Levis was presented an Award of Merit from Ukrainian President, Peter Poroshenko, for her work with Canada-Ukraine Foundation medical mission.

The team is on its fourth medical mission to help wounded soldiers and civilians in Ukraine.

When presented with the award, Dr. Levis remarked: “I draw strength from and am inspired by the patients I have treated, along with my Ukrainian counterparts at the military hospital. I gratefully accept this award on behalf of the wider Canadian community and we stand united with Ukrainians who want a better future.”

Congratulations to Dr. Levis on her well-deserved and prestigious honour.

**2016 CSPS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

It is with the greatest pleasure that the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons announces that its 2016 CSPS Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to Dr. Achilleas Thoma.

The Award presentation will take place during the President’s Banquet at the CSPS Annual Meeting, on the evening of Friday, June 17th in Ottawa.

This award honors members of the CSPS who have made outstanding contributions to the profession and to the Society. Congratulations Dr. Thoma.

**DR. NIV SNE AWARDED TEACHING AWARD**

Each year, the graduating class of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine honours the best teachers with Teaching Awards which are presented at the Oath Ceremony on graduation day.

Congratulations to Dr. Niv Sne, the Class of 2016 has voted to award Dr. Sne the Teaching Award in the General surgery Clerkship.

**DR. MARK WALTON’S VISIT TO PUERTO RICO**

Dr. Mark Walton’s visit to Puerto Rico in February 2016, proved to be a great success! He was invited as a speaker and keynote speaker by The Department of Surgery, University of Puerto Rico, School of Medicine and the American College of Surgeons, Puerto Rico Chapter. The title of his first talk was, “Competency Based Training: How, What, Where, When and Why...”.

He was also the keynote speaker at the Puerto Rico Chapter of the American College Meeting, titled “A Clinician’s Approach to Research” followed by adjudicating for the 36th Raffuci research symposium highlighting the MPSRC’s success. Congratulations to Dr. Mark Walton on his successful trip to Puerto Rico and highlighting one of the many successes of the Department of Surgery.
Congratulations to Dr. K. Sanders for being inducted into the E.J. Thomas Society May 2016 in recognition of outstanding long-term contribution to McMaster’s General Surgery residency training.

The E.J. Thomas Society award in General Surgery honors the memory of Dr. Edward John “Ted” Thomas, who during an unprecedented 19 year term as Director of the McMaster General Surgery Resident Program demonstrated a singular commitment to the welfare and achievements of his residents. His contributions to the advancement of surgical education and unlimited intellectual curiosity inspired those around him to dare to dream about the future and push the limits of their ability in pursuit of their goals. Surgeons are elected to the society by active residents and the Residency Education Committee in recognition of significant contributions to resident education over a prolonged period of time. Their “body of work” in surgical education has been judged to reflect the ideals and standards that Dr. Thomas personified.

Congratulations to Dr. N. Amin for being awarded the General Surgery’s Steel Town Scalpel award. This is awarded to a General Surgeon in the Hamilton Teaching Hospitals who has judged to have made the greatest contribution to General Surgery resident education in the current academic year.

A special farewell and thank you to Dr. Mark Walton as he steps down as Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education. He completes a 12 year term on June 30, 2016. He has undergone two successful accreditation visits and has overseen the Postgraduate specialty expansion in our Waterloo and Niagara Regional campuses and clinical education campuses. Congratulations to Dr. Walton for his plethora of accomplishments as Assistant Dean. Dr. Walton will continue in his clinical and educational duties at McMaster.

Congratulations to Dr. Richard Whitlock who was awarded a $210,000 grant from the Heart and Stroke Foundation for his study, Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion Study (LAAOS III).

Recently, two of Dr. Richard Whitlock’s mentees received CIHR awards. Graham McClure, a second year medical student, working on a systematic review of surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation was awarded a Health Professional Student Research award. Emilie Belley-Côté who is doing a Health Research Methodology PhD on troponin elevation in critical illness received a Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship.
John Douglas Miller, M.D., FRCSC, a native of New Brunswick, Canada, son of a General Surgeon and the youngest of three children, began his undergraduate and postgraduate training in General Surgery at Dalhousie University in Halifax. A member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honour Medical Society, he completed his thoracic surgical training under Drs. Joel Cooper and Robert Ginsberg and a lung transplant fellowship under Dr. Alex Patterson at the University of Toronto. He was supported by Medical Research Council of Canada Fellowship and McLaughlin Foundation Fellowships. He joined McMaster University in 1993, hired by Drs. Robert Hansebout and William Orovian with the expectation he would partner with the other Thoracic Surgeons practicing in Hamilton (Dr. Fred Bennett, one of first Toronto-trained and certified Thoracic Surgeons, and Dr. J.E.M. “Ted” Young and form a Regional Centre of Thoracic Surgery at St. Joseph’s Hospital). At that time, both Drs. Oliver-Westley James and Alphonso Parisi (retired 1996; died 2009) were slowing down their thoracic practices at the Hamilton General Hospital and about to retire.

Under Dr. Miller, Head of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at McMaster University (1995 to 2012), the clinical service at St. Joseph’s Hospital provided care for Southwestern Ontario, a catchment area of 2.0 million people. The clinical program grew 20% annually to 700 major thoracic cases each year to become one of the Canada’s busiest Thoracic Surgery sites. Dr. Miller recruited others to join the service; Dr. John Urschel, a Winnipeg-trained Thoracic Surgeon, joined as Head of the Department of Surgery at St. Joseph’s Hospital, Dr. Tom Kirby, a Toronto-trained Thoracic Surgeon joined after spending several years in the U.S., including time as Head of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, and Dr. Shannon Trainor, one of the first thoracic residents at McMaster University. Each subsequently moved elsewhere.

In May 2004, Dr. Miller was awarded the joint McMaster University Mortgage Intelligence/GMAC Residential Funding of Canada Chair in Thoracic Surgery and was appointed to academic Professor of Thoracic Surgery in 2005. His research interests focused on areas of surgical interventions for benign lung disease: a) Lung Reduction Surgery for emphysema and b) Bronchial Thermoplasty (surgery for asthma). Additionally, he has been a principal investigator and contributor to many research studies in thoracic oncology.

Throughout his career, Dr. Miller received several million dollars of research funding. In 1997, he was awarded, at the time, the largest MRC Grant awarded within the Department of Surgery at McMaster University (1.14 million dollars) to study lung volume reduction surgery for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Dr. Miller was co-principal investigator of the Canadian Lung Volume Reduction Surgery Project (CLVR) with Dr. Richard Malthaner, a thoracic colleague at the University of Western Ontario and Dr. Charles Goldsmith, a professor in the Design Measurement and Evaluation (DM&E) program at McMaster University. CLVR was a Canadian randomized controlled trial that evaluated the efficacy of lung reduction surgery for patients with end-stage emphysema. This study was the first surgical trial to identify Quality of Life as its primary outcome. The trial mirrored but preceded the NETT trial in the U.S., with both trials investigating the efficacy of a novel surgical approach to chronic respiratory disease. Dr. Miller was a co-applicant for a 17 million dollars CFI (Canada Foundation for Innovation) grant for the development of the FIHR (Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health) at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Perhaps Dr. Miller’s most significant contribution was his involvement in the creation of Bronchial Thermoplasty (BT). BT arose from a collaboration between a California-based venture capital company (Bronchus Technologies, subsequently renamed Asmatx) and Dr. Miller, who was originally supported by respirology colleagues, Dr. David Higgins and subsequently by Dr. Gerard Cox, who has continued to study BT at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton.
Within a few years it became apparent that the technology (BT) was best suited for treatment of asthma.

The BT project began as several preliminary feasibility animal and human studies, followed by safety studies and finally studies of clinical efficacy. The work that began in 1998 as a single collaborative effort between Bronchus Technologies and St. Joseph’s Hospital had evolved by 2000 into a multinational research project involving centers in Europe and South America. After completing studies designed to address FDA (Food and Drug Administration) concerns, the technology sold in 2012 to Boston Scientific for a reported 400 million dollars U.S. This is the first surgical treatment for asthma that has been shown to be feasible and effective.

Dr. Miller’s interest in medical education was evident. He became Founding Program Director for the Residency Training Program in Thoracic Surgery in 1999. A new resident was accepted every second year for this two-year sub-specialty course (PGY6 PGY7). All six of our residents who sat the FRCSC fellowship exams passed on their first attempt. These residents include: Drs. Brian Louie (2002 – 2004), Irsad Kashif (2004 – 2005), Shannon Trainor (2004 – 2006), and Adam Mohamad (2005 – 2007), Fawaz Altaf (2007 – 2009), and Mohamed Abdulmosen (2012 – 2015).

Dr. Miller was also interested in curriculum development. With Dr. Cathy Risdon and Lori Edye, a PhD student, he was co-founder of a course called Professionalization and Physician Self Awareness (PPSA) offered to students, residents and faculty from 1999 to 2002. The course highlighted the role of ethical decision-making and reflection in daily practice. PPSA was nominated for the McMaster University’s President’s Award in 2001 and remnants of it can be seen in McMaster Medical Professional competencies Program (Pro Comp), part of the medical school curriculum.

In 2012 Dr. Fred Bennet retired and shortly after that Dr. Young stopped his thoracic practice and a new wave of recruits were added to the division. In 2012, Dr. Miller retired as Division Head, and Dr. Yaron Shargall, a Toronto - trained Thoracic Surgeon became Division Head. He was joined by Dr. Christian Finley (Toronto/ Harvard trained) and Dr. Colin Schieman (Calgary/Mayo trained). They accepted the torch and have successfully rebranded and continued to develop the specialty for the community. They recently added a fourth surgeon to their ranks, Dr. Wael Hanna.

Dr. Miller has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and has presented at national and international meetings more than 200 times. In 2013, he retired from his full-time clinical Thoracic Surgery practice but continues to have an active interest in medical education and professionalism. He divides his time between the new role of Resident Affairs Director, McMaster University, where he acts as an ombudsman for all residents, and continues his work with the McMaster International Surgical Desk program.

Robert R. Hansebout MD MSc CSPQ FRCSC FAANS FACS, Professor Emeritus, McMaster
The OSRS provides exceptional research support and educational resources to research personnel, interested faculty, residents, and fellows within the department.

On April 27, 2016, the OSRS hosted a research staff meeting focused on the logistics and management of randomized controlled trials (RCTs). The event was presented by Dr. Forough Farrokhyar, Laura Schneider and Dr. Sheila Sprague of the OSRS, Division of Thoracic Surgery, and Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, respectively.

Dr. Farrokhyar shared her knowledge of grant submission outcomes and answered questions such as “Why are grants rejected?” and “What is the grant review process like?” Laura Schneider walked participants through the complex processes associated with REB applications and how to avoid delays in ethics approvals. She also provided tips on how to prevent common errors in applications, research protocols, and ICFs.

Laura Schneider and Dr. Sprague offered insight into Internet-based randomization systems such as Randomize.net and REDCap which are the current gold standard for clinical trial conduct. They emphasized that the benefits of web-based systems include an immediate indication of missing data, built-in skip logic, automatic configuration of CRFs for each visit, and real-time status of each CRF and patient visits. Laura Schneider further emphasized that REDCap databases are user-directed with no complex coding and have multifunctional uses for creating eCRFs, surveys, screening logs, and repeating forms for longitudinal studies.

The research staff found it informative to learn about the preparation and finalization of requirements documents and randomization schemes as well as programming and testing of randomization systems. Dr. Sprague also provided information on electronic data capture systems as a tool to collect, validate, and clean data in clinical trial studies. She walked participants through the step-by-step process of finalizing CRFs, selecting EDC systems based on the complexity of the studies, setting up randomization modules, and executing of EDC systems. Participants showed great enthusiasm in these discussion topics and welcomed additional workshops. They received positive comments such as “fantastic and very thoroughly put together”, that it “helped address many of the questions I have had coming in.” They also asked for future sessions on specific research methods and simple statistical analysis.

The OSRS is excited to organize additional productive workshops for the research staff in the near future!

Photos: OSRS Research staff meeting participants on April 27, 2016

SAVE THE DATE
OSRS WORKSHOP IV
RESEARCH ACCOUNT SEPTEMBER 2016
On March 4th, Dr. Reid invited all support staff to an annual appreciation luncheon held at Liuna Station. This event drew 85 staff members to enjoy a lovely luncheon, and hear some words of appreciation from Dr. Reid; as well, some fun door prizes were involved! A special thank you to Brenda Paine, Kathy Wilson and Terrie Harvie for their help and expertise planning this successful event. We are blessed with a strong and supportive staff to help us build our Department of Excellence!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CATHY TURNER**

Cathy Turner, Director of Administration, has recently completed her designation as Certified Health Executive (CHE). As a long-time member of the Canadian College of Healthcare Leaders Cathy was eligible to take part in the certification program through completion of a three phase process including an exam and a culminating project and paper. The certification is a capabilities-based program designed to align with the LEADS in a Caring Environment Framework. Cathy looks forward to the continuing education required to maintain the new certification.
Join us as innovators share their journey of discovery and vision of the future. Network with scientists, researchers, engineers, surgeons and industry experts. Share the excitement as students compete for cash prizes and recognition. Admission is free!

**OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

**SYLVAIN LAPORTE**
President, Canadian Space Agency

**KIRT COSTELLO**
OA/ International Space Station (ISS), Deputy Chief Scientist

**CASY COLEMAN**
NASA Astronaut

**RICHARD MCDONALD**
Distinguished Engineer, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)

**CAMERON PIRON**
President and Co-Founder, Synaptive Medical

**RUSLAN SALAKHUTDINOV**
Canada Research Chair in Statistical Machine Learning, Google Scholar, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

**CAROLYN MCGREGOR**
Canadian Research Chair in Health Informatics, University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Uoit)

**CHRISS ROBSON**
Mechanical Lead, Experimental Alberta1 Cube Satellite

**DANIEL MCINNIS**
Mechanical Engineering Student at the University of Toronto, Schulich Leaders Scholar & Young Entrepreneur

**TONY THOMA**
Dean, Engineering Technology Mohawk College

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SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016 | LIUNA STATION, HAMILTON, ON
Admission is free! Everyone is welcome! For information on speakers, sponsorships, and the robotics competition, visit: www.innovation-nation.ca