Welcome to our summer newsletter. Our Department has been very productive and busy in all academic and clinical areas, and we are happy to share some highlights with you.

I would like to extend congratulations and a nod of appreciation to all who were involved in the preparation and conduct of the Royal College External reviews held in April 2015. There is a tremendous amount of work conducted by Program Coordinators, Program Directors, our Associate Chair of Education, Dr. Steve Kelly and faculty members, to facilitate and arrange the reviews. We have learned a lot from these reviews, and will use the feedback to continue to improve our programs.

One year ago we formed a Departmental working group on Professionalism, chaired by Dr. Stephen Kelly. The group has been meeting regularly to discuss and create a streamlined policy and resource material for our Department that will be introduced to faculty members later this year.

In these uncertain financial times, we began last year to examine our Departmental Clinical Practice Plan. A working group chaired by Dr. Michael Marcaccio has been meeting over the last year to conduct background information gathering from other academic Departments of Surgery across the country, as well as from other clinical departments at McMaster. In addition, we are examining the budgets within the Department with a view to finding efficiencies. Our Department is currently supported by the MOHLTC Academic Funding Plan, which allocates resources for academic activities conducted by our clinical faculty. Although this budget was not affected in the most recent government cutbacks, it remains a concern that the future could see a reduction or elimination of that funding. The current clinical practice plan would not be able to maintain or replace that degree of support if it was threatened. Stay tuned for further updates this fall, as the working group continues its mandate.

This spring I had the wonderful opportunity to travel with the St. Josephs International Outreach Program to Uganda. (photos and more commentary inside) I met with many surgeons, hospital and university administrators across the country to discuss training of surgeons and explore the creation of capacity and skill in Uganda through training in Canada with the support of the St Joe IOP. As a Department, we have a strong focus in International Surgery, headed by Dr. Brian Cameron, the Director of the Department of Surgery International Surgery Desk. Future collaborations are encouraged, and anyone with interest is invited to contact Dr. Cameron for direction.

I do hope you will be able to enjoy the warmer weather, and wish you a safe and healthy summer.
McMaster researcher Jehonathan Pinthus and his team will receive up to $3.5 million over five years to address the potential link between androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) — an important and common treatment for prostate cancer — and an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. The grant competition focused on minimizing burdens associated with prostate cancer treatment.

"By eliminating testosterone production, ADT reduces the risk of death and other complications from prostate cancer," said Pinthus. "However, many past studies have both raised and dismissed concerns that ADT causes heart disease in otherwise healthy subjects, or exacerbates it in people with pre-existing conditions." Pinthus will lead a multidisciplinary Canadian research team with expertise in cardiology, endocrinology and metabolism, urology oncology, radiation oncology and epidemiology.

"This has never been studied this way, where you take prostate cancer patients and you follow them to capture cardiovascular morbidity, mortality and risk factors," said Pinthus. "We are going to define which patients are at risk, using a huge biobank of serum (blood) and urine samples to investigate relevant known and novel biomarkers for cardiovascular disease." The study will be conducted out of the Population Health Research Institute of McMaster and Hamilton Health Sciences.

"In men with metastatic or advanced stage prostate cancer, ADT has demonstrated a great deal of efficacy in saving and extending lives," said Stuart Edmonds, PCC vice-president of Research, Health Promotion and Survivorship. "In order to make this important treatment as safe as possible, we need to clearly understand the cardiovascular side effects and develop a comprehensive plan to monitor and manage them. This study aims to do just that."

The grant competition "aims to improve the lives of men suffering from the effects of advanced prostate cancer treatment, and our goal is to accelerate breakthroughs in prostate cancer research that patients can benefit from in their everyday lives," said Pete Bombaci, country director, Movember Canada.

Pinthus hopes that with his research: "We will have a better understanding of the risk of cardiovascular disease with androgen deprivation therapy or hormonal therapy, which prostate cancer patients are more prone to develop, methods to predict and potentially prevent it."

Researchers Present at American Thyroid Association, San Diego

Drs Jesse Pasternak and J.E.M Young presented two poster sessions on their research at the American Thyroid Association in San Diego. These were “The Usefulness of Preoperative Localization With Multi-detector Computed Tomography and Sestamibi Scintigraphy in Primary Hyperparathyroidism” (JD Pasternak, JP Olivera, PV Nguyen, and JEM Young) and “Minimally Invasive Parathyroidectomy Without the Use of Intraoperative Parathyroid Hormone Measurements” (JD Pasternak, JP Olivera, PV Nguyen, JEM Young).
**Dr. Sabri and the Paediatric Ophthalmology Eye Research Group**

Dr. Kourosh Sabri, MB.Ch.B, FRCOPth is Founder and Director of McMaster Paediatric Eye Research Group. He is a part of the McMaster Paediatric Surgery Research Collaborative, Associate Professor, Division of Ophthalmology and Associate Member, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University. Dr. Sabri joined McMaster University in 2010. Completing his training in the United Kingdom, he finished his first paediatric ophthalmology and strabismology fellowship in the United Kingdom followed by a second fellowship at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children. He was the lead clinician in the design and fundraising for the new purpose built Pioneer Energy and Hogarth Family Paediatric Ophthalmology Centre at McMaster Children’s Hospital, opened in 2013. This clinic is one of the largest paediatric eye clinics in Ontario and was built with over $1 million dollars in donor funds. Due to the efforts of everyone working in paediatric ophthalmology, this clinic is one of the busiest services at McMaster Children’s Hospital. To date, Dr. Sabri has raised over $800,000 in research funds from sources including CIHR, MOHLC, PSI, HAHSO, MSA and McMaster University.

Dr. Sabri is founder and director of the McMaster Paediatric Eye Research Group (www.mcperg.ca) which is a team of physicians, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, research coordinators, thesis students and volunteers dedicated to researching all aspects of paediatric eye disease. It aims to answer clinically relevant questions through high quality research to improve the delivery of child eye care. The Group seeks to carry out high quality research in the field of Eye Disease and Vision Development in children encompassing delivery of evidence based primary, secondary and tertiary level eye care; to encourage communication and cross pollination of ideas with other research groups to foster the development of new research frontiers for paediatric eye disease; and to develop an interest in health research concerning paediatric ophthalmology for undergraduate and postgraduate students in medicine and related fields.

In 2011 Dr. Sabri was awarded a CIHR-PHSI grant (coming 2nd in the country of all CIHR-PHSI grant applications that year) to conduct the largest national study in Canada regarding ROP (Retinopathy of Prematurity). The study aims to develop new screening guidelines to identify which neonates need to be screened (and how often) for ROP. Currently there are no nationally accepted guidelines for this purpose in Canada. Due to this pioneer study headed by Dr. Sabri and his team, Canada will join the select countries which have evidence based guidelines for ROP screening. In this way, many unnecessary examinations can be avoided (thus having major health economic impact and reducing morbidity of unnecessary eye examinations) whilst ensuring all babies requiring treatment for ROP are captured in time. For further details please visit the study website www.screenrop.ca. Dr. Sabri is also chairing the first McMaster International ROP Conference in September to gather world experts on ROP from 4 continents to develop international research ties between McMaster and other leading research groups.

In 2013, Dr. Sabri was awarded a PSI grant to conduct a large multi-centred study looking at the use of tele-medicine for video interpretation of eye examinations on children. This would allow assessments to be done on children living in communities where there are no ophthalmologists. This study, the first of its kind, is a multi-centred study involving McMaster University, University of Toronto and University of Waterloo; McMaster as the principal site and Dr. Sabri the Principal Investigator.

In 2015 Dr. Sabri and his team were awarded a HAHSO Innovation grant to conduct studies into the feasibility of using non eye care professionals to perform vision screening on school children to address the gap in delivery of paediatric eye care in many communities in Canada. Dr. Sabri’s team has conducted several pilot studies in this field and are in the midst of developing new methods of delivering cost effective eye care to under-served children. This project has brought together for the first time the HWDSB, HWCDSB and McMaster University School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Also in 2015 Dr. Sabri was awarded a MSA Innovation grant to conduct research into the use of Google Glass to improve quality of life for visually impaired individuals. This study is currently in its design stage.

**Selected Publications**

- Gupta V, Sabri K, Whelan K, Viscardi V. Rare case of optic pathway glioma with extensive intra-orbital involvement in a child with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1). MEJJO. 2015; 22 (1):117-118.
**Dr. Anvari Recognized for Innovation in Microgravity**

The International Space Station provides researchers with a platform in microgravity where they can perform experiments and test technologies that will allow humans to travel farther into the solar system than ever before. Based on developments over the last few years from space station research, the most innovative applications were recognized at the fourth annual International Space Station Research and Development Conference July 7-9 at the Boston Marriott Copley Square. The conference was created to connect commercial and academic communities involved in new innovations, breakthroughs, and discoveries aboard humankind’s unique orbiting laboratory. It is held in coordination with the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS), the American Astronautical Society and NASA. McMaster’s own Dr. Mehran Anvari, chief executive officer and scientific director at the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation (CSii) won an award for Innovation in Biology and Medicine for his work on an Image-Guided Autonomous Robot (IGAR) for use in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

The technology used for IGAR was designed for use aboard the space station by MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (MDA) for the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). IGAR builds on the technology from computerized heavy lifters and maintenance performers for the space shuttle and space station CSA's Canadarm, Canadarm2 and Dextre.

For breast cancer, IGAR is expected to provide increased access, precision and dexterity resulting in accurate and minimally invasive procedures. IGAR works in combination with an MRI scanner which is highly sensitive to early detection of suspicious breast lesions before they possibly turn into a larger problem. IGAR fits on the patient bed so it can travel in and out of the MRI machine opening easily. This simplifies the flow of patients in the department which can be challenging to many radiologists, and optimizes patient time to diagnose disease. Future commercial applications of the technology may evolve the IGAR system to diagnose and treat other cancers of the prostate, lung and kidney. Health Canada approved a Phase II clinical trial for IGAR, launched December 2014.

"This is a nice recognition of almost 20 years of work," said Anvari. “It recognizes an incredible team of talented people including engineers, technicians, doctors and astronauts who have helped develop this technology. We believe this technology will improve efficiency in the health care system by streamlining clinical workflow and allowing highly-skilled radiologists to extend their care to a wider population through teleoperation." ISS R&D Conference information: www.issconference.org; livestream at www.issconference.org /vestream.php; awards video: [http://youtu.be/R7y1VXKWiZs](http://youtu.be/R7y1VXKWiZs) and images: [https://flic.kr/s/aHskeHevmU](https://flic.kr/s/aHskeHevmU). The Spectator article: [http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5717031-hamilton-doctor-awarded-for-b](http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5717031-hamilton-doctor-awarded-for-b). The story will be posted on the NASA-ISS website.
Research2Reality Launches Featuring McMaster Research Trailblazers

Steps from University Avenue, the Research2Reality social media campaign was launched on May 11th at MaRS to highlight Canadian scientists and their innovative and cutting-edge research. McMaster researchers Dr. Gunning, Prof. Valiant and the Department of Surgery’s Dr. Singh were joined by representatives from the Ministry of Research and Innovation, CBC Radio and Globe and Mail Science reporters, the Discovery Channel’s head and Ivan Semeniuk. Researchers from oncology to ecology and forestry all shared their research solidifying feelings of celebration and comradery on what Canada has to offer to progress these fields. Introductions to the film were made by Molly Shoichet and Mike MacMillan—a filmmaker who has been featured at Cannes and TIFF—before four short films were previewed. The short firm, “A Perfect World” featuring Dr. Singh, will be featured on the Discovery Channel as a public service announcement. Dr. Singh was also featured in "Do Stem Cells Hold the Secret to Curing Pediatric Cancer?". For more information, visit:  www.research2reality.com

The Ontario Bariatric Registry

In 2010, the Ontario Bariatric Registry was established by the Ontario Bariatric Network (OBN) lead by Dr. Anvari. This provincial database collects information on demographics, comorbidity improvement, outcomes and quality of life from patients undergoing bariatric surgical treatment in Ontario. The data is used to enhance current practices and establish guidelines to improve bariatric patient care and outcomes in Ontario. The registry data can help analyze research initiatives such as economic impact of care and the investigation of high risk populations. The project is ongoing and currently has collected data on over 15,000 patients. Data to date shows improvement in patients weight and BMI following bariatric surgery with an average weight loss of 33% at one year, 34% at two years. The impact of bariatric surgery on weight related health conditions with musculoskeletal pain reduced from 75% to 41% at two years, diabetes decreasing from 33% to 11% and Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) from 46% to 19%. Other major improvements are noted in incidence of angina, heart attack, hypertension and hyperlipidemia. Significant improvement was shown in Quality of Life scores as well as reduced medication use, most significantly diabetes, heart, and lung medications.

Image Guided Automated Robotics (IGAR) System—IGAR Breast Clinical Trials - Phase II

The Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation led by Dr. Mehran Anvari is currently conducting a multi-centre Phase II clinical study investigating the efficacy of the Image Guided Automated Robot (IGAR) for MRI breast biopsies. Patients are being recruited at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton and Hôpital Du Saint Sacrement in Québec City. The automated platform allows radiologists to place interventional tools with millimeter accuracy, ensuring precision targeting and successful sampling. Preliminary results demonstrate reduce pain and improved cosmesis for patients who have a robotic procedure compared to patients who have standard manual intervention.
**CMAS Updates**

- **CMAS has announced** that the Centre is scheduled to become an Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) Course Centre. “The Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) course is an effective method of increasing surgical competence and confidence in the operative management of penetrating injuries to the chest and abdomen.” (American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma).
- Dr. Paul Engels, Trauma Surgeon at the Hamilton General Hospital, Hamilton has been named course lead with Tracy Tazzeo as course coordinator. CMAS is planning to host the first course spring 2016.
- **CMAS has expanded beyond provincial borders with nursing courses in Alberta in March 2015, with sites Medicine Hat and Lethbridge.**
- **The Centre has purchased a new Simbionix Endoscopic Simulator and will be working with Dr. Maricaccio and Dr. Eskicoglu on course curriculum for the residents.**
- **The Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Program is thriving as part of the curriculum hosted by CMAS. The program has participants from London, Buffalo, Ottawa, Quebec and Halifax.**

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### CSII 2015 Innovation Nation Conference & Robotics Competition

**The Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation (CSII)** 2015 Innovation Nation Conference & Robotics Competition was held on May 31st at LIUNA Station in Hamilton. The event is part of CSII’s outreach program showcasing the talents of Canadian university and high school students who competed for cash prizes and industry recognition. This unique event featured the diverse voices of innovative leaders who are using their talents and expertise to make positive changes in the way we live, work and play now and in the future. Keynote speakers told of the extraordinary work being done in science, business, industry and the arts and provided us with the opportunity to glimpse the future with the insights offered by this talent group of innovators.

Speakers included:
- David Carter – Executive Director, Innovation Factory, "Fostering Innovation and Creating Clusters"
- Kevin Tuer - Vice President Strategic Initiatives, Commutech, “The Genesis of IoT”
- Michael Waterston - Business Development, CIMTEC, “Crossing Death Valley”
- Paul Cooper - Vice President of Strategic Development – MDA “How the Urge to Explore Drives Innovation”
- Laura Cole – Singer/Songwriter, “Born Singing”
- Shahira Bhimani - Manager, Strategic Initiatives, HTX, “Medtech Market Access: Increasing Complexity Demands a Proactive Approach”
- Robert Gerristen – Professor of Mechanical Engineering – Mohawk College, "Design and the Future of Additive Manufacturing"
- Patrick McKenna - Actor, Gemini Award Winner - Comedy and Drama, “Is it me or the A.D.D?”
Congratulations to Our Class of 2015 Graduating Residents

The McMaster University Department of Surgery would like to congratulate the following residents on completing their program as of June 2015. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and their assistance in enriching the field of surgery wherever they may practice.

**General Surgery**
- Dr. Paige Churchill
- Dr. Anil Dalvi
- Dr. Grham Jansz
- Dr. Tiffaney Kittmer
- Dr. Paul Lysecki
- Dr. Edward Passos
- Dr. Tim Rice
- Dr. Valerie Wuo Chao Ying

**Neurosurgery**
- Dr. Deven Reddy

**Ophthalmology**
- Dr. Vasudha Gupta

**Orthopedics**
- Dr. Khalid Hasan

**Pediatrics**
- Dr. Lisa VanHouwelingen

**Plastic Surgery**
- Dr. Wendy Ng
- Dr. Hana Farhang
- Dr. Larisa Vartija

**Urology**
- Dr. Rami Elias
- Dr. Ian Wright
- Dr. Eric Cole

**Vascular**
- Dr. Kerry Graybiel
- Dr. Craig Durant

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**Department of Surgery**

**Surgical Education Fund**

*Department of Surgery’s Surgical Education Fund will ensure our trainees and faculty receive ongoing support for the resources related to Surgical Skills Education and Research. It will ensure our trainees will benefit from the best teachers and tools in the Department of Surgery!*
The Department of Surgery congratulates Dr. Nathan Evaniew for being awarded the Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. This award is administered by CIHR and is intended to provide special recognition and support to students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in a health related field in Canada. Requirements for candidates is to have an exceptionally high potential for future research achievement and productivity. Dr. Evaniew is completing a PhD in Health Research Methodology with a specialization in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics under the supervision of Gordon Guyatt, Mohit Bhandari, and Michelle Ghert. His interests are in spine surgery and evidence-based orthopedics, and he is particularly focused on the design and conduct of collaborative randomized trials and meta-analyses.

General Surgery Awards

- Dr. Ari Doumouras (R3) awarded the Juravinski Fellowship
- Dr. Paul Lysecki(R5) has the top score in Canada for the Canadian Association of General Surgery Exams.
- Dr. Paul Lysecki(R5) received the MSA Outstanding Resident of the Year Award.

Student Formed Group Raises $1000 in Donations

Three years ago, a group of McMaster undergraduate students formed the “Students Advancing Brain Cancer Research” group - Zarbutf Mayo as their founder and Dr. Singh as faculty advisor. Their intent was to raise awareness of brain tumors, provide education to the public and student community, as well as raise money for brain cancer research. These avid students have managed to raise $1000 for Dr. Singh’s lab program. This money will assist in funding undergraduate summer studentships in Dr. Singh’s lab. In partnership with the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada (BTFC), a research symposium will be held for students, cancer patients/survivors, healthcare professionals and community individuals to learn of the latest developments in brain tumour research and patient care. This will take place at the McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC) CIBC Hall, 9am - 3pm.

The Department of Surgery would like to extend thanks to these enterprising students for their diligence and hard work to secure assistance for McMaster University Surgical programs.
The Department of Surgery Welcomes Our New Residents!

The McMaster Department of Surgery would like to welcome the residents who started their training in July of 2015. Twenty-four PGY-1 residents started in eight of our training programs. The below are comprised of the best students in the country and we are honoured to have them hone their skills at the McMaster Department of Surgery. We look forward to seeing what these bright minds will achieve coupled with the first class clinical training McMaster has to offer.
PLASTIC SURGERY IS RIGHT ON TARGET AT THEIR JOURNAL CLUB

The Plastic Surgery May 19 Journal Club was held at Wentworth Shooting Sports Club. The Board of Directors planned a talk that covered: Ballistics, Injuries, GSW, Gun accidents, Miss-firing injuries, Legal handling rules in Canada, and the basic understanding of different weapons. Residents and staff were taught of the varying injuries dependent on the firearm. Targets were used to demonstrate ballistics, force and impact on items such as water jugs or ballistic gel. Everyone had an opportunity to shoot at the range, giving each participant a practical of a complicated subject.

SURGICAL FOUNDATIONS CELEBRATES 2014-2015

Surgical Foundations and the SRM Program Year End Event took place on June 25th. Dr. Farrokhryar, Surgical Research Methodology Director was pleased that all residents performed well this year. Students were graded on 12 quizzes and presenting their research project; the lowest grade being a B minus based on the university grading system. The three top achiever of the SRM program were: 1st prize - Taehyoung Lee (Urology), 2nd prize - Ryan Fielding (General Surgery) and 3rd prize - Cassandra Uy (General Surgery)

Certificates of Thanks & Appreciation were given to: David Choi, President and ENT Rep, Sydney Godzisz Vice P and General Surgery rep, Student representatives: Yuding Wang (Urology), Jiayi Hu (Plastics) Nazari Dvirnik (Cardiac), Colm McCarthy (Ortho), Michelle Kameda (Neuro Surgery), Asem Saleh (Vascular) and Alex Corneman (PGY1)

Technical Skills Awards were given to Edward Liu (Plastics PGY1) and Alana Fitzpatrick (Plastics PGY2).

Research Awards were awarded to: 1st, Taehyoung Lee (Urology), 2nd Ryan Fielding (Gen Surg) and 3rd Cassandra Uy (Gen Surg)

SRM Program Certificates (2yrs) were given to Ophthalmology residents, while SRM Program Certificates (1yrs) were given to Ob/Gyn Residents.

The 2015-2016 Resident Representatives are as follows:
- Cardiac—Ali AlSagheir
- General Surgery—Edward Maloney
- Neurology—Renee Kennedy
- Orthopedics—Anthony Bozzo
- ENT—Trevor Lewis
- Plastics—Alexandra Hatchell (VP)
- Urology—Jason Akerman
- Vascular—Fadi Elias (Present)

Plastic Surgery held an Alumni Dinner at their Canadian Meeting in Victoria June 2-4.
Please welcome Dr. Marko Simunovic as Quality Lead for Cancer Surgery and Leadership of the Regional Cancer Program Surgical Oncology Network.

Dr. Simunovic received his MD from the University of Ottawa in 1988, completed training in surgery and surgical oncology at the University of Toronto in 1997 and Surgical Oncology fellowship at the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia. He also has a Masters in Public Health from Harvard University. Department of Surgery member since 1999, Dr. Simunovic is an Associate Professor with Associate Memberships in Departments of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Oncology. Known for his expertise in colorectal surgery and health services research related to quality measures in cancer surgery, he will champion the cause of Surgical Oncology and will lead important initiatives in Surgical Oncology for our RCP.

Dr. Simunovic succeeds Dr. Tandan, who the Department wishes to thank for six years of leadership. We would like to congratulate Dr. Simunovic as he transitions into the role.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Effective April 1, 2015**

Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct)
- Majdi Qutob

Assistant Clinical Professor, Part Time
- Leo Winter

**Effective May 1, 2015**

Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct)
- Jeff Kolbasnik

**Effective June 1, 2015**

Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct)
- David Downie

**Effective July 1, 2015**

Assistant Professor
- Blake Yarascavitch

**Effective August 1, 2015**

Assistant Professor
- Matthew McRae
- Dr. Shahid Lambe

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Anvari, M. Sharma, A. Yusuf, S. et al. Bariatric Registry. Registry data as of June 1, 2015, produced and distributed by the Population Health Research Institute and the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation, supported by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Ontario 2015.
**DR. BHANDARI AWARDED “UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR”**

Dr. Bhandari Professor, Orthopedic Surgery, is Division Head of Orthopedic Surgery and Associate Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery. He holds a Canada Research Chair in Evidence Based Orthopedic Surgery. His research activities have garnered several prestigious awards including the Visionaries under age 40, Alexandra Kirkley Young Investigator Award (Canadian Orthopedic Association (COA)), Richard Maatz Award (Kuntscher Society), Edwin Bovill Award (Orthopedic Trauma Association), Jacques DuParc Award (European Federation of National Associations of Orthopedics and Traumatology), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Medal for Research, the Kappa Delta/OREF Award for research impact, CIHR/CMAJ top achievement in health care research, and the Award of Merit from the COA. He has been ranked as one of the top 10 most cited trauma surgeons in orthopedics and was named in the “Power List of 2011”, recognizing Canada's 30 most influential Indo-Canadians. The Editor of a top orthopedic journal, *the Journal of Orthopedic Trauma*, has described Dr. Bhandari as the “top academic researcher in his field”. Dr. Bhandari has published over 400 manuscripts, presented his work around the world (over 400 presentations), and educated many students through benchmark textbooks in his field (Evidence-Based Orthopedics, Wiley Publishers). He has been awarded tens of millions of dollars of research funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, National Institutes of Health, and the US Departments of Defense. He has mentored and supervised hundreds of students. He has also been cited several thousand times in the peer-reviewed literature. The title University Scholar is intended to recognize faculty members in mid-career who have already distinguished themselves as international scholars. This is a new policy that has recently been approved by the Senate Committee on Appointments and Senate.

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**DR. TANDAN REFLECTS ON TIME SPENT IN OMA AND CCO**

Dr. Tandan has much to reflect upon in the past year as President of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and Canadian Cancer Organization (CCO) member. While OMA president, Dr. Tandan encountered issues concerning compensation, funding, and further developing the Hamilton Academy of Medicine. He strived to impact the healthcare system by being catalysts to create partnerships across systems from CCAC, and ONA to name a few. Bridging these gaps between associations, Dr. Tandan feels is a necessary step to understand each other and harvest relationships. He was also instrumental in navigating the Ontario government imposing cuts on the OMA. As member of the CCO, Dr. Tandan worked to increase local surgical work. In the past, oncology surgery would participate in multidisciplinary case conferences to discuss diagnoses, available avenues before and after surgery concerning one patient; causing much disorganization on ways to best manage patients. Dr. Tandan noted this process has changed much during his course in the CCO. He assisted in the streamlining of this process as Regional Lead for better patient care and case management. Dr. Tandan remains on both committees, working for better efficiencies and developments.
INTRODUCING THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION SCIENCE

Under Dr. Stephen Kelly, Associate Chair of Education and lead by Dr. Ranil Sonnadara, the Department of Surgery is pleased to announce the formation of the Office of Education Science; a new departmental resource available to all Divisions to facilitate the integration of education science into their training programs.

Dr. Ranil Sonnadara, Associate Professor (PT) - who also sits on the Royal College's "Competence By Design Outcomes Project Executive Working Group" and has many years of experience in working with competency-based models of education in various contexts—employs a team of undergraduate students, graduate students and research assistants who will work with Division program staff and faculty. One area of focus for the Office will be to assist Divisions to integrate the Royal College's "Competence by Design" mandate into training programs whilst assuring that existing program strengths are not lost in the transition.

The Office of Education Science will also work towards ensuring the knowledge and experience gained can be leveraged to optimize the transition of remaining programs within our Department. The project team will meet with Divisions as they embark on the transition process. Any questions you may have can be directed to Krista Dunn, dunn-k5@mbx.mcmaster.ca.

DR. FARROKHYAR NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH SERVICES

Dr. Forough Farrokhyar PhD, Clinical Epidemiologist/Biostatistician and Director of the Surgical Research Methodology (SRM) Program, has been appointed Director of the Office of Surgical Research Services (OSRS), Department of Surgery. Dr. Farrokhyar’s role in the OSRS is to advise and provide support to our faculty and residents with writing grant proposals and manuscripts as well as assistance around research methodology and statistical analyses.

Her role in the SRM Program is to direct the two year program that includes one year of lecture sessions focusing on the principles of research methods and statistics and one year supervising residents on the initiation, conduction and presentation of a research project. Dr. Farrokhyar is involved in many projects from inception to knowledge translation, as well as supervising residents and graduate students in their research work.

Contact Information: 905-522-1155 x34194; farrokh@mcmaster.ca
**CBC NEWS FEATURES**
**DR. AYENI**
Femoroacetabular Impingement (FAI) is a condition that affects adolescents and young adults. It is the result of a congenital size and shape mismatch between the articulating femoral head and acetabulum (ball and socket joint mismatch). Symptoms arise due to abnormal rubbing or impingement of the hip joint. The affected patient typically presents with hip and groin pain with daily activities and sports. The diagnosis is confirmed with an MRI and is often associated with injuries such as cartilage and labral tears. This is a relatively new condition in Orthopedic Surgery and currently there are less than 10 high volume hip arthroscopic surgeons addressing this condition in Canada. Currently, at McMaster University, the surgical efficacy of FAI related surgery is being investigated with a CIHR funded randomized controlled trial. Recently, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), came to film patients with this condition undergoing surgery by Dr. Ayeni in May 2015. These patients undergoing hip arthroscopy for FAI/labral tears will be featured this fall in a program titled: *Keeping Canada Alive*. The goal of the program is to capture the surgical journey of the patient and the related surgical intervention.

**AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS**

Dr. Mohit Bhandari and Dr. P. J Devereaux have been working on a trial evaluating the impact of accelerated hip fracture surgery (6 hours or less) versus standard care (24-48 hours) on major perioperative surgical outcomes. The Ontario SPOR SUPORT Unit (OSSU) issued a new program called IMPACT Awards. The HIPS ATTACK grant was 1 of 7 successful applications funded by OSSU of 125 applications. HIP ATTACK has the potential to change health care policy if their hypotheses about merits of accelerated hip surgery are correct.

Dr. Anvari, Chief executive officer and scientific director at the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation (CSii) received an International Space Station Innovation Award for Research and Development. He was awarded for Innovation in Biology and Medicine for his work on an Image-Guided Automated Robot (IGAR) for use in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Dr. Robert R. Hansebout MD, MSc, CSPQ, FRCSC, FACS, Professor Emeritus, Division of Neurosurgery was the guest speaker for the McMaster Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program’s graduation on June 24. His presentation was titled, “Therapeutic Hypothermia in Neurotrauma: A CHILLING TALE”. He has also been invited to be Chair of a Best Practice Session and to speak of his research at the BIT’s 2nd World Congress of Orthopedic Surgery in Xi’an China September 24-26.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Dr. Dath for being elected to the Faculty of Health Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee on a three-year term.

Congratulations to Dr. Sogbesan on his appointment to Ophthalmology Residency Program Director. The Department of Surgery would like to thank Dr. Ahuja for her four years of support.

Congratulations to Dr. Edward Matsumoto on his appointment to Residency Program Director of Urology. Dr. Matsumoto succeeds Dr. Kapoor who we would like to thank for his hard work.
**CLIME Leadership Course Exposes What It Takes to Be a Great Leader**

The Canadian Leadership in Medical Education (CLIME) course in Ottawa was attended by Dr. Benjamin Deheshi, Associate Professor and Mentorship Program Director of Orthopedic Surgery. He held this course in high esteem for its purposefulness and application to today and tomorrow’s physician leaders. The course was a 4-day, interactive format that covered a variety of themes. Prior to course commencement, participants were given a seemingly generic questionnaire of how one would respond to different scenarios. After completion, these questionnaires identified what type of personality trait one was. Teams were a compilation of each personality trait - weaknesses and strengths of each person was identified through placing them in stark contrast with other personalities. This juxtaposition assisted in identifying what makes the ideal leader. As an Associate Professor who manages support, clinical staff and residents, Dr. Deheshi gained insight into the different personalities of staff that surround him through the varying groups of traits. This course provided the tools necessary to deal with different people based on their personalities, provided self-awareness of one’s leadership style as well as the equipment to become a better leader. Past and future medical education leaders were present at the event allowing participants to relay ideas off each other in an interactive way to learn how to teach more efficiently. For more information, visit: [http://www.came-acem.ca/mededconferences_clime_en.php](http://www.came-acem.ca/mededconferences_clime_en.php)

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY FAMILY KEEPS GROWING!**

The Department of Surgery would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following Department of Surgery members on the recent additions to their families: Dr. Vanderbeek, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Kachur and Dr. Gmora. Wishing you and your growing families all the health and happiness your bundles of joy can bring!
Dr. Robert Hansebout MD, MSc, CSPQ, FRCS, FANA, FACS was born in Southern Ontario and raised on a farm by his parents, who had immigrated from Belgium. He attended the University of Western Ontario having been awarded 7 scholarships, being elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honour Medical Society and becoming President of the AKK Fraternity. He graduated cum laude as MD, winning the Medical Alumni Gold Medal in 1960. He trained in General Surgery (Montreal General Hospital), Neurosurgery (Adult and Paediatric) and Neuropathology at The Montreal Neurological Hospital (MNH) of McGill University finishing in 1967. Research Training was at The National Research Council of Canada. He was granted the Quebec Specialist (CSPQ) in 1966, the FRCSC in 1968 by examination and the American FACS in 1976.

Clinical practice began at Hahne- mann Medical College in Philadelphia in 1968 but he was invited to return to the Penfield- Rasmussen Service at the MNH in 1969 where he practiced for 10 years. In 1979 he transferred to McMaster University as Head of Neurosurgery at St Joseph’s Hospital. In 1988 he was unexpectedly asked by Dean Stuart MacLeod to become Acting Chair of the Department of Surgery at McMaster University and in 1989 became Chair for 10 years. He also served as Chief of Surgery at Che- doke-McMaster Hospitals and Head of the Anaesthesia/Surgery Program from 1991-1993. Memorable achievements as Chair included founding the Surgical Outcomes Research Centre, facilitating formation of the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery, hiring 32 new surgeons for the community, creating new practice and merit plans and being the first to decentralize an Academic Chair position from the Health Science Centre to more clinically appropriate hospitals.

Dr. Hansebout researched pain control at McGill University and with the National Research Council in Ottawa, developed methods of deep spinal cord cooling to improve the neurological outcome of patients with severe spinal cord injury. He invented, researched and patented the drug 4-aminopyridine to improve sensorimotor function in spinal cord disorders. It is FDA approved and is currently marketed as Ampyra or Fampyra in North America and in various other countries.

As an internationally recognized expert in spinal cord injury, The Paralysis Cure Foundation in Washington designated him “Outstanding Researcher for the Year in 1982”. He received the US Spinal Cord Society Silver Medal in 1985 for his research activities, opening a Spinal Center in Minneapolis and leading the Panel of Scientific Consultants for 5 years. Dr. Hansebout received the Distinguished Service Award from the Hamilton Academy of Medicine in 1998. The Canadian Spinal Research Association awarded him “The Champion for a Cure Award” for his pioneering work in development of Fampridine in 2008 and dubbed him “The Father of Fampridine”. His research was supported by the Medical Research Council of Canada (now CIHR) for 15 years.


After the Faculty of Health Sciences was established, 2 geographic full-time neurosurgeons were appointed. Dr Andrew Talalla (MRCS London University UK 1953 and MD Southern California 1970, PG London UK Hospitals and UCLA 1972, M - Prof. Emeritus, D 2000) came to McMaster in 1972. He performed mainly cranial surgery but did research in electrical stimulation for bladder control.

Dr. Stanley Schatz, (MD U of T 1952, PG U of T, M - Prof. Emeritus, R [retired] 1994, D 2014,) general neurosurgeon, completed a Nuffield Foundation Fellowship in 1958-59 and a McLaughlin Foundation Travelling Fellowship in 1961 and moved to Hamilton in 1974. As Head of

Continued on next page
Neurosurgery at the Hamilton Civic Hospitals from 1983-1994, he practiced mainly cranial surgery and developed transspenoidal surgery. He brought the Cavitron to Hamilton and did laser research.

The above neurosurgeons served all city hospitals as there was little rationalization, no resident help and an enormous workload. To help manage the virtually impossible clinical load, Dr. Rocco Devilliers, (MD U of Pretoria, PG Cape Town, South Africa and Toronto, M - Clin. Asst. Prof., R 2011), general neurosurgeon arrived in 1981. Dr. Robert Hollenberg (MD Harvard 1965, PG Cleveland U Hospitals and McGill, M - Associate Prof., R 2009) was enticed to come from McGill to McMaster in 1981 to handle all paediatric neurosurgical cases and help with adult call. He became Neurosurgical Division Head in 1988, Department Education Coordinator in 1994 and was a Program Director. Dr John Wells (MD Tulane 1973, PG McGill 1981, M - Assoc. Prof., R 2013) moved here from McGill in 1983 to do general neurosurgery, vascular surgery and provide education for students and residents. Both Dr Hollenberg and Wells were extraordinary teachers.

In 1975 the Hamilton General Hospital (HGH) sent its paediatrics to St. Joes and MUMC. In 1982 the HGH took the bulk of trauma. The cranial surgical cases, trauma and most spinal surgery gradually shifted from other hospitals to the HGH in the early 1980’s making it easier for the neurosurgeons on call especially when the HGH was rebuilt in 1988. The neonatal ICU moved from St. Joes to MUMC in 1981 and the bulk of paediatric trauma shifted to MUMC in about 1983. However, some adult spinal neurosurgical cases continue to be done at St Joseph’s Hospital.

Dr Joseph Schnittker, (MD Queens 1982, PG Calgary 1989), came in 1989 as a general and spinal neurosurgeon and left for Indiana in the mid 90’s. Dr. Kesava Reddy, (MBBS Mysore, India, 1979, PG - UK and Winnipeg 1989, M - Clinical Professor) came to Hamilton in 1989. In 2000 he started the very successful McMaster Neurosurgery Training Program. He is interested in research, education, general neurosurgery, skull base and minimal invasive surgery. He has been Program Director, Head of the Division and more recently Surgeon in Chief at the Hamilton Health Sciences.


Dr. Sheila Singh (MD McMaster 1997, PG and PhD, U of T, M - Associate Professor) became a fellow in 2002, as a fellowship trained spinal neurosurgeon.

Dr. Ed Kachur (MD Western 1996, PG Western 2002, came to Hamilton in 2002, as a fellowship trained spinal neurosurgeon.


We needed neurointervention expertise so 2 neurosurgeons, Dr. Paula Klurfan (MD U of Buenos Aires 1998, PG Argentina, Toronto, McMaster 2006, M - Associate Professor) came in 2006 and Dr. Thorsteinn Gunnarsson (MD, MSc U of Iceland 1995, PG Iceland, Sweden and U of T, M - Associate Professor) came in 2007. Both are researchers, neurointerventionalists, cerebrovascular and general neurosurgeons.

Some Canadians were trained in the McMaster Neurosurgical Program, the first trainee being Dr. Louis Crevier from Quebec and later Dr. Aleksa Cenic (MD McMaster 2002, PG McMaster and Calgary, M - Assistant Professor) came in 2011 as a general and spinal neurosurgeon. A number of residents from other countries joined the McMaster program since 2000. Dr Almunder Algird, (MD U of Al Fateh, 1999, PG McMaster and U of T, M - Assistant Professor) joined the neurological staff in 2013 as a general and vascular neurosurgeon.

Dr Olufemi Ajani, (MBCHB, MMED, OAU Nigeria, PG Nigeria, Qatar and Canada, M - Assistant Professor) came in 2013 as Paediatric neurosurgeon and is current Program Director. Neurosurgical Program Directors were Drs. K. Reddy, R. Hollenberg, J. Wells, E. Kachur and O. Ajani.

Dr. Hansebout is happy to have contributed to the history of the Department and concludes that surgical expertise and technique as well as teaching and research by neurosurgeons and surgeons in general at McMaster are World Class.

By Rebecca Misiak
Crossing International Borders: Dr. Susan Reid Remembers Uganda

I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Uganda in May 2015 with the St. Joseph’s International Outreach Program. Our team consisted of myself, Dr. Peter Kagoma, the Vice President Academics for the Niagara Health System, Dr. Mark Crowther, Chair of Pathology, Mr. Peter Sweeney, the president of the International Outreach Program, and Ms. Sharon Ciarolo, from McMaster University Postgraduate Education office.

Our mission was to connect with leaders in academic and hospital programs to discuss the needs and opportunities for continued collaboration between McMaster University and the hospitals and universities in Uganda, particularly how we can assist in building skill and capacity in Uganda with training opportunities in Canada. Several Ugandan physicians have travelled to Hamilton in the past for fellowships, in internal medicine, nephrology, OB/gyne and pediatrics. There has only been one surgical trainee in Orthopedics several years ago.

We hosted alumni dinners in each center to meet with past Ugandan fellows and understand how their McMaster training was utilized in Uganda and if their Canadian experiences resulted in tangible benefits for Uganda. It was thrilling to hear stories of how much impact their training at McMaster has had. Uniformly, the McMaster trained physicians had returned to Uganda to then become leaders in their communities, starting new programs, becoming champions for change and improvement in services. They were viewed by their colleagues as having a renewed sense of the possible, with the confidence to work with administration to effect positive developments for patient care.

An excellent example is the new dialysis unit opening at the Mulago Hospital with six new dialysis machines. All organized by a nephrologist after returning from training at McMaster.

I met with hospital CEO’s, department chiefs and chairs at each site including the Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Makere University, Mbarara University and Gulu University. We also had the opportunity to meet with the Ugandan Minister of Health. There is a considerable interest at all centers to explore opportunities for surgical trainees to come to McMaster, as well as have McMaster residents travel for electives to Uganda. Our message to each center was that we request a unified approach from the Ugandan hospitals and universities to determine where their greatest training needs are. Once we have this understanding, we can begin to assess our local (including Niagara) capacities for accepting advanced trainees.

Uganda is a beautiful country, the people friendly and earnest, the patient needs are immense. The population of Uganda is the same as Canada, in a space the size of one quarter of Ontario. They are keen to build their expertise and keep Ugandan doctors working in Uganda. Many of you have been involved in international work and already spent a considerable amount of time in Uganda and other countries, which is commendable and can also inform this discussion. Hopefully, as we continue dialogue with the leaders in Uganda, we can start more conversations here to search out available training opportunities in surgery to match their needs.

Susan Reid MD, FRCSC, Professor and Chair, McMaster Department of Surgery
OLYMPIC BOXER DONATES TO LAB PROGRAM

The charity BoxRun donated $54,000 to Dr. Singh’s lab. Last year, former Olympic boxer Mike Strange ran across Canada to raise awareness and funding for pediatric cancer; proceeds were split between Dr. Singh’s lab and the Ronald MacDonald house. The BoxRun learned of Dr. Singh’s lab through Lana Hill, the mother of former patient Kelsey Hill who died of a supratentorial PNET. Lana started the charity Team Kelsey that donates half of all proceeds to Dr. Singh’s lab. By the end of this year, the program will have received almost $100,000 in donations. Dr. Singh is, “Profoundly touched and honoured to receive these funds from good people in our community who are able to accomplish such amazing things. This funding inspires me and my whole lab program to work even harder on our research . . . This positive energy will only add to our momentum.”

NEURO-TOUCH DONATION

Due to the generous donation of philanthropists Glenna and Larry Cross, The Division of Neurosurgery has been fortunate to be able to acquire the “Neurotouch” surgical simulator. This is a state of the art NRC developed 3D computerized system that has several neurosurgical modules. It is designed to assist the trainees with surgical skills and provides a very realistic haptic feedback. The system is located at the Hamilton General site and is expected to play a significant role in the training of the neurosurgical residents, selection of potential applicants to the residency program and may provide significant and unique research opportunities in surgical education. Further information is available at http://www.neurotouch.ca/eng/simulators.html and related sites.

Kesh Reddy, Division Head, Neurosurgery, McMaster University

N95 MASK FIT TESTING

The Department of Surgery staff were fit tested for an N95 mask. The N95 is considered a barrier to potential air-borne biological hazards generated by patients. In cases where the staff member has to protect themselves from these potential hazards, an N95 may be required. Fit testing must occur at least every 2 years in order to be considered valid. Without a valid fit test a staff member may be restricted from patient contact if the hospital requires an N95 be worn.
THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY IS SADDENED TO ANNOUNCE…

Dr. Arthur Richard Butson, GC, OMM, CD, OSTJ, PhD, MD passed away at home on Tuesday, March 24 with his wife by his side in his 93rd year. Beloved husband of Eileen and loving father of Sarah, Caroline and Richard, grandfather of Hannah. Dr. Butson served as Chief of Surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital and was a former Commanding Officer of the 23 Hamilton Medical Company. Friends and family were present at Cresmount Funeral Home on March 29 to pay respects. Memorial Donations may be made to the Scott Polar Research Institute, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, or United Way. On-line condolences may be left at www.cresmountfennellchapel.com. Sincere condolences are sent to his family, friends and colleagues.


Did We Miss Your News?

The deadline for the next newsletter is: October 30th, 2015

All department members are welcome to submit

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