UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The Surgical Spotlight

ON ALUMNI, FACULTY, RESIDENTS & FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

FALL 2007

John Semple Chief of Surgery at the New Women's College Hospital

John Semple on Mount Everest

The Women's College Hospital will break ground for a new building starting in 2009. A new Ambulatory Care Centre will consolidate ambulatory services with a strong focus on surgery. Renovations are already underway in the current building to develop offices and clinics for surgeons under the direction of Surgeon-in-Chief John Semple. They currently run five operating rooms, with eight to be built in the new facility. Health Minister George Smitherman has designated the hospital as an "academic ambulatory surgery facility" for the LHINs. Surgery will be a major focus; the hospital's results will be used as benchmarks for the entire province.

continued on page 2

inside

Michele Landsberg, the Honourable Laurel Broten, Marilyn Emery and the Honourable George Smitherman, (left to right)

Photo compliments of Van Valkenburg Communications

The Women's College Hospital will also house programs focusing on musculoskeletal disorders, including osteoarthritis and osteoporosis, and it will be a hub for teaching sports medicine, led by John Theodoropoulis. Ethan Grober will head a Male Infertility Program in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital. His unit will be joined with the well established Female Infertility Program.

The hospital will participate in a search to recruit general surgeons for minimal access procedures and breast cancer surgery programs. Plastic surgery affiliates from other hospitals will do breast reconstruction and surgery for melanoma at WCH.

John is enthusiastic about working with the new President and CEO Marilyn Emery, who was previously Vice President of Nursing at St. Joseph's Health Sciences Centre, and with Vice-president and Chief Administrative Officer Maureen Adamson, who came from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

John will be using the operating room as a laboratory for studying new technology, new models of care, efficiency and instrumentation. He has recently visited Calgary where they have developed an excellent model for ambulatory orthopaedic surgery. There are international societies for ambulatory surgery, but currently there are very few Canadian representatives participating. John sees the future of surgery as becoming largely ambulatory and hopes to help develop Women's College as an academic ambulatory surgical facility that will carry out teaching, research and the delivery of new models of care. The original concept of the

John Semple and Family

Department of Surgery's role in an Academic Ambulatory Centre was developed with the input and direct support of Richard Reznick. John's research in regenerative medicine is described in the Fall 2003 issue of the Spotlight.

John has also conducted research on weather patterns and ozone on Mt. Everest over the past several years that have resulted in multiple visits to Himalaya, and several publications.

John is a keen jazz/blues musician and plays in a blues band that has played in some of the seediest bars in Toronto. These activities are for the most part tolerated and supported by his wife Anna and his four children Adam, Leah, Matthew and Logan.

M.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SURGERY LEADERSHIP DAY

Leadership Day will take place Friday, April 4, 2008 at the MaRS Collaboration Centre. Please contact your University Division Chair or Surgeon-in-Chief to apply. For a description of this year's program, see page 13 of the Summer issue of the Spotlight available at: http://www.surg.med.utoronto.ca/newsletter/Summer07.pdf

Five Years in Review

Richard Reznick

A few months ago I had a conversation with our Dean, Catharine Whiteside. She wanted to know whether I was prepared to seek a second term as Chair of this great Department. It is hard to believe that it has been five years on the job. These last five years have been an incredible odyssey. If you had asked me five years ago would I have been able to predict some of the seminal events of my time as Chair, the answer would have been no.

So many challenges and so many things to be proud of! To paraphrase Collins, the success of any organization is all about getting the right people on the bus. In our case, there are about 10 buses! Our faculty consisting of clinicians and scientists is strong and getting stronger each year. We currently have approximately 220 full time clinicians, 30 part time clinicians, 55 adjunct faculty, and 25 research scientists. In the last five years you have seen your Department grow through the recruitment of 50 new surgeons and scientists. We have recently instituted a policy that will see all new recruits to our surgical faculty as the successful candidate in a formal search process. We have entered into 31 practice plans. Our postgraduate programs have increased in size and now there are 11 residencies which train in excess of 200 future surgeons in any given year. We have operationalized a plan for our fellowships which now train over 175 surgeons from 15 countries. We have extended benefits to our surgeons in terms of family health coverage, day care and critical illness insurance. We have in excess of 45 million dollars of external funding, surpassing the aggressive benchmarks we set for ourselves in our last strategic plan. We have doubled the size of our skills lab, developed a new innovative curriculum for our medical students, and more vitally engaged our partially affiliated teaching hospitals in our Department. We are about to embark in a proof of principle study to model and test an innovative postgraduate curriculum. So when Dean Whiteside asked if I would consider seeking another five years, I quickly responded, "Are you kidding, I have the best job in the world!"

Last year I announced the inception of two new programs in the Department, one offering day care for our faculty and another offering benefits to those who don't have them through other sources. I am pleased to report that both programs are off the ground, and many faculty have availed themselves of these benefits. We are now expanding the Day Care Program to include a new facility closer to faculty who work at Sunnybrook.

This past year we have introduced a new benefit to all full time faculty under age 57. Hopefully no one will have to use it, but in the event that a faculty member develops one of 22 critical illnesses, he or she will receive a lump sum benefit of $60,000.

With the introduction of the new clinical faculty policy we have worked hard at insuring that all 31 of our practice plans are consistent with one of our three departmental templates. I am pleased to report that this past year has seen the first wave of accountability reports which encouragingly show a transformation from previous financial management to one that is better structured to reward academic efforts. This two-and-one-half-year challenge has proven extremely important. We are about to be the beneficiaries of additional AFP monies, 30% of which are earmarked towards teaching and research. It is your Chair's position that the academic AFP monies become part of the re-distribution pool that is modulated through annual academic performance appraisal. This recommendation has been discussed at our finance and senior executive committees and will now be brought to our 31 groups in the form of a business summit to be held this fall.

What I remember most of the last five years is the hundreds of hours of speaking with our faculty, often just catching up with business, frequently giving solicited or unsolicited advice, and occasionally peering deep into the meaning of academic life. I remember well, early in my chairmanship, meeting with an older surgeon who I did not know well. His involvement in our academic world had been somewhat peripheral. It was a humbling moment for me when this surgeon became overtly sad, and with cracking voice, told me he wished he could have relived part of his life. He felt he could have accomplished so much more. I reassured him of the value and his accomplishments of looking after thousands of patients, but there was no consolation in my inept words, no comfort in my reassurance of the meaningfulness of his work. He honestly felt he had failed in his personal mission.

continued on page 4

I remember, as we all do, the magnitude of SARS as it rocked our city, paralyzed our medical world, and reminded us of the inadequacy of our medical knowledge. Humbling moments!

What has also been striking over the last five years is the sheer volume of work. D.R. Wilson, Bernie Langer and John Wedge warned me of the marathon that typifies a Chair's term. Well, they were right, but I would suggest that the analogy is more aptly characterized by a tsunami. Just when one finishes with one wave of work, a second and even bigger wave hits.

However, the image that has been most powerful is the incredible talent of our Department. The surgical expertise is astounding. Images of Mark Cattral performing a liver transplant, David Rowed removing a brain tumour, Vern Campbell resecting an aneurysm, Mark Peterson doing his first endovascular repair, Joan Lipa restoring form and function after cancer, Jack Langer leading a team separating conjoint twins, Yaron Shargall doing a MIS lobectomy, Jeff Gollish replacing a knee... these are the enduring images.

Finally, in reflection of our academic mission I am staggered by our faculty's dedication to teaching, their devotion to research and their strong desire to embrace the academic ideal. Indeed, as I look over the last five years we have had tremendous growth in our peer reviewed funding and in a sparkling jewel of our Department -- our Surgeon Scientist Program. In fact, this past year we expanded this program to embrace a more eclectic approach to scholarship, and in so doing have created a new program called Scholarship in Surgery. As an inaugural experience, we have three surgical trainees actively pursuing their MBA, gaining skills they will hopefully bring back to the Department.

Over the last five years I have traveled often and widely. This aspect has been a wonderful part of the job as I have the privilege of representing the Department as well as visiting and learning from others. I can honestly report that I come back from virtually every trip confident and energized. Energized to carry on our course and follow our strategic plan. Confident that we have so much to be proud of, that University of Toronto Surgery stands amongst the best Departments in the world.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all in our Department for their support in my term as Chair. I have received nothing but encouragement from you and nothing but support for new initiatives. I have certainly worked harder than ever before, but each moment has been filled with important challenges and most importantly a deep respect I have learned for the caliber of individuals in this Department.

Richard K. Reznick
R.S. McLaughlin Professor and Chair

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Centre for Faculty Development (CDF) is pleased to announce the registration schedule is now posted online at the following URL address: http://www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/workshops.htm.

These workshops are devoted to the enhancement of teaching skills and are offered throughout the academic year. Each workshop is free to faculty in the Faculty of Medicine. Registration is required.

If you are not a faculty member, but are active in the teaching of health professionals at the University of Toronto, please feel free to register for workshops. Your name will be placed on the waiting list. Within three weeks of the course date you will be notified if there is space available. If at that time you are still interested in attending, you will be fully registered for the session. A $50 registration will apply to all non Faculty of Medicine participants.

Workshops meet the accreditation criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and have been accredited for 3.5 MAINPRO-M1 credits per each workshop (unless otherwise noted). Workshops have also been approved as an Accredited Group Learning Activity under Section 1 of the Framework of CPD options for the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada - 3.5 hours per workshop (unless otherwise noted).

For questions/comments please contact: Hailey Garcia-Gonzalez at: garciah@smh.toronto.on.ca at: 416-864-6060 Ext. 3524.

WELCOME NEW SURGICAL RESIDENTS

John Bohnen

A fantastic cohort of new residents has beaten the competition to enter the Gallie Program in July 2007. I wish we had room to print their CVs and recommendation letters!

Our six entry level programs continue to expand, as does the job market for our residents at the end of their training. The expertise and enthusiasm of their teachers and resident colleagues and our performance at accreditation in April 2007 promises that our residents will be the best taught ever.

Forty-two residents have entered the Department – 30 male and 12 female. Thirty-three come to us from Canadian programs, two through the Ontario International Medical Graduate stream (new Canadians who have finished med school outside Canada and will practice in Ontario), five through the Clerkship Match (Canadian-born doctors who left Canada to pursue their MD elsewhere and have returned to Canada to train), and two are "visa trainees", who will return to their home countries following training. What a great gift this diverse group of bright young minds brings to our Department. Welcome new residents!

John M.A. Bohnen
Director, Postgraduate Surgical Education

Yaasin Abdulrehman – G/S

Soha Al-Omar – N/S

Taiba Al-Rasheed – P/S

Syed Ali – G/S

Ryan Alkins – N/S

Kengo Asai – G/S

Richard Backstein – P/S

Kalkidan Belay – G/S

Danielle Bischof – G/S

Mark Camp – O/S

Joslin Cheverie – G/S

Ian Choy – G/S

Andrea Covelli – G/S

Preeti Dhar – G/S

Michael Ellis – N/S

Benjamin Escott – O/S

Christopher Geddes – O/S

Siba Haykal – P/S

Marilyn Heng – O/S

Ben Johnson – U/S

Aliyah Kanji – G/S

Melise Keays – U/S

Steve Kim – U/S

Nir Lipsman – N/S

Ryan Neinstein – P/S

Benjamin Pook – O/S

Mark Porte – O/S

Erion Qamirani – O/S

Randy Rizek – O/S

Amanda Roberts – G/S

Anvesh Roy – O/S

Bharat Sharma – G/S

Sunjay Sharma – N/S

Stephanie Tam– U/S

Tomce Trajkovski – O/S

Jack Wallen – C/S

David Wasserstein – O/S

Jefferson Wilson – N/S

Justyna Wolinska – G/S

King Wong – O/S

Frsancis Zih – G/S

Wayne Johnston Elected President of the Society of Vascular Surgeons

Wayne Johnston

Vascular surgeon Wayne Johnston is capping his distinguished career as President of the Society of Vascular Surgeons – the first Canadian in the 62-year history of the Society. He has had many distinguished contributions and honours. He has served as Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, Founding Editor of *Vascular Specialist*, Founding Editor of *VascularWeb*, Associate Editor for four editions of *Rutherford's Textbook of Vascular Surgery*, the reference standard in the field, and now is Co-editor for the next edition.

Wayne has served the Department of Surgery as Chair of the Vascular Surgery Division for two decades, Associate Chair, and as Committee Chair for the Promotions Committee, Finance Committee, and 3-year Review Committee. He has served many outside agencies including Chair of the Medical Research Council Clinician Scientist Committee and Chair of the Royal College Nucleus Committee for Vascular Surgery.

He holds the R. Fraser Elliott Chair in Vascular Surgery. He maintained continuous CIHR or Medical Research Council funding for his research with Professor Richard Cobbold from Biomedical Engineering for 30 years. He became interested in non-invasive diagnostic testing and biomedical engineering during his research fellowship at King's College Hospital and established one of the first non-invasive diagnostic laboratories in North America. He has been recipient of the Department's Lister Prize for Surgical Research.

A Silver Medalist Graduate of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine, he completed his general surgery and vascular training in Toronto and additional vascular fellowship at King's College in London, England. Wayne has a fascinating perspective on the evolution of vascular surgery and vascular surgery organizations. He chaired the Merger Committee when the American Association for Vascular Surgery joined the previously restricted academically elite Society of Vascular Surgeons. He helped overcome resistance to the merger by creating the category of Distinguished Fellow within the SVS to recognize those members who made major contributions to education, research and practice.

The highlight of his personal continuing education has been a James IV Traveling Fellowship, where he had the opportunity to think critically and reflectively about other ways of approaching the practice of medicine. Also, to further his own experience, he has been grateful to have been invited to visit numerous other universities as a lecturer and has been honoured by giving more than 10 named lectureships.

He led the field of vascular surgery in the performance of complex open procedures as well as vascular laboratory diagnostics and was among the first to introduce peripheral vascular angioplasty. Wayne's clinical study of the role of peripheral angioplasty in the early 1980s and report the world's largest prospective series of 997 well-studied patients was a major factor in the wide application of this technique. (In an echo of Y2K, his Hewlett-Packard '85 computer could not take 1000 entries into its matrix.) His trans-Canada prospective series of elective and ruptured abdominal aneurysms (887 patients operated upon by 72 surgeons during 9 months) remains the world's largest prospective detailed study and at the time established benchmarks for the surgical treatment of this problem.

In his role as an officer and active participant in organized vascular surgery, he has seen dramatic changes in the specialty. During the last decade, less invasive procedures, angioplasty, and stents have become an increasingly significant part of the practice of a vascular surgeon. There is some confusion among practitioners during this decade of change but in most centers the advanced endovascular skills of vascular surgeons have become clearly redefined. Interestingly, in the society of vascular surgery, the participation of practitioners on committees and work groups is at a high level, 240 members of the 2400 member society are actively engaged in committee and council work. This may reflect practitioners' need to be connected and informed in a period of dynamic change.

Wayne spends one or two full days per week or more

helping to manage the Society of Vascular Surgeons or traveling on its behalf. On the day that I interviewed him, he had two ninety-minute conference calls scheduled for 5 and 8 p.m. and several hours' preparation to be sure they were effective. He learned his management skills through experience at the University of Toronto and by attending executive courses for professionals and volunteers to strengthen their skills in managing boards and working with administrative staff.

Wayne enjoys gardening, photography and is a devoted fan of Formula One auto racing. His son Matthew lives in Hong Kong and is VP for strategic planning for Asia for an international investment bank. His daughter Andrea has had a 10-year career as a professional modern dancer in New York City and continues dancing professionally along with a new position as an Occupational Therapist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. His wife of 40 years, Jean, is a neurologist and specialist in electrophysiology at St. Michael's Hospital.

He has had many mentors and collaborators throughout his career. He particularly remembers the major contributions of Bernie Langer, Bruce Tovee, Don Wilson, and Ron Baird. Professor Richard Cobbold in Biomedical Engineering has been a research collaborator for more than 30 years. He has enjoyed all aspects of his academic career but in particular patient care, resident teaching, graduate student supervision, and research.

M.M.

Andras Kapus Appointed Associate Vice Chair of Research

In his newly created position as Associate Vice Chair for Research, Andras Kapus called together the 40 non-clinician scientists who work closely with members of the Department of Surgery. Widely distributed throughout the city and working often in isolation from each other, these outstanding scientists bring the disciplines of cell biology, physiology, neuroscience, education, psychology, epidemiology and other disciplines to bear on the problems encountered and analyzed by clinical surgeons. In addition, they conduct their own very significant basic research in a variety of institutes, laboratories and hospitals. Vice Chair for Research Ben Alman and Richard Reznick recognized the need to bring this group together to increase their visibility and recognition within the Department, and to optimize their working conditions and collaboration with the surgery community. At the first meeting of the NCS group, Andras emphasized the unique situation -- 40 basic scientists in a single clinical department. This could be a model for other departments in the University and more broadly in the academic community. It is likely that there will be more, not fewer, collaborating basic scientists as surgical and medical research increases in complexity.


Andras Kapus

The group is putting together a database describing their roles as teachers, supervisors, co-investigators and mentors who oversee surgeons in training and provide expert evaluation of the relevant research questions raised by clinicians. This database will be extremely helpful to surgeon scientists in the Clinician Investigator Program of the Institute of Medical Scientists to help them choose their advisors and mentors. The twelve surgical residents per year who enter the Surgeon Scientist Program spend 2-5 years in scholarly work mentored by surgeons and scientists. They find their way to these positions in an informal and unstructured way. This could be greatly improved by a well-organized website presenting the opportunities and options for surgeon scientists as well as faculty. It will be helpful to the NCS faculty to participate in the orderly and effective programs of the Department of Surgery such as the Memoranda of Agreement, the annual reviews, and the CV Program, all of which are applied to clinical faculty to help with their promotion and personal life. Andras hopes to organize a mentoring system for new principal investigators and clinicians who wish to start their own laboratories in their development as professional researchers. By creating a collaborative web of committed scientists, the mechanisms for learning, the administration and organization of laboratories, securing research fund-

ing, collaboration, and addressing issues in publication, intellectual property and patenting, will be strengthened. While some few clinical surgeons manage two careers as solid basic scientists as well as clinicians, most rely heavily on non-clinician scientists. Their role should be more clearly defined and their contribution should be recognized -- not simply as helpers but as co-supervisors and collaborators. The review process of the productivity of the NCS group will be facilitated by participation in the University Department of Surgery reviews. This will provide an objective review somewhat outside the requirements of individual research institutes and laboratories. This may help to correct problems that sometimes develop, such as reduction in laboratory space or expected infrastructure support. Ideally a Department of Surgery representative would serve on the Research Institute Review Committee and guidelines can be developed to assure the success of the NCS in the same way that Memoranda of Agreement assure that the commitments to clinical surgeons are met in order to assure their success following recruitment.

Gallie Day presents the work of clinical surgeons as described in the Summer 2007 issue. All of this outstanding work is supported by our NCS colleagues. In the future, the work of the NCS group will also be presented to the Department of Surgery in a more formal way; it is now included within the poster sessions at Gallie Day.

Andras is extremely well-suited to the role he will fulfill. His biography, interests and accomplishments are well-presented in Ben Alman's announcement below. Born and educated in Budapest, Andras is an MD, PhD cell physiologist who cites Professor Fonyo in Budapest and Sergio Grinstein at the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute as important mentors during his education. Andras has worked closely and productively with St. Michael's Surgeon-in-Chief Ori Rotstein for many years overseeing, advising and helping to launch the scientific careers of a large number of surgeon scientists like Sandro Rizoli, Ian McGilvray and others. He is currently a staff scientist at the St. Michael's Hospital Research Institute, a dynamic research centre headed by Critical Care Chair and Respirologist Arthur Slutsky. He is married to Annamaria, a radiologist and has three children, Gergely, 22, Mihaly, 19 and Anna, 17. Andras is an avid reader outside of science. He writes poetry and essays in addition to in-depth reviews and reports in *Molecular Biology of the Cell* and other high-impact scientific journals.

M.M.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Andras Kapus on his appointment as our department's inaugural Associate Vice Chair of Research. In this new position, Andras will help represent the department's 44 non-clinician scientists in departmental and university matters, and provide leadership in many of our research endeavors.

Andras was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary, received his MD from Semmelweis University of Medicine in Budapest in 1986 and subsequently received a PhD in Physiology at the same University. Following postdoctoral training at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Sergio Grinstein at the Hospital for Sick Children, Dr. Kapus returned to his home university in 1995 to take up a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology. He was recruited back to the University of Toronto and joined the Faculty in 1997.

Over the past decade, Dr. Kapus established himself as an outstanding independent scientist and teacher. He was named a scholar of the Medical Research Council of Canada and received a Premier's Research Excellence Award. He has an active lab located at St. Michael's Hospital, and has an impressive publication and student training record. Dr. Kapus' research focuses on the cellular and molecular responses of mammalian cells to hyperosmolarity and shape change.

Andras has an excellent reputation as a collaborator, a teacher, a facilitator, and an investigator who integrates fundamental science into a clinical context. As such he is extremely well suited to be our first Associate Vice Chair of Research, and will undoubtedly bring an exciting research vision to our Department.

Ben Alman
Vice Chair, Research

Barry McLellan, New CEO of Sunnybrook is a member of the Department of Surgery


Barry McLellan

Barry McLellan trained at the University of Toronto and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in emergency medicine. He was appointed to the Department of Surgery in the Trauma Program at Sunnybrook in 1985, and conducted research with Bob McMurtry. Barry interacted with residents from all surgical disciplines as a trauma team leader, teaching trauma care and trauma resuscitation. His research focussed on use of blood components, risk assessment of patients, quality assurance and trauma care outcome measures. He continued at Sunnybrook until December 1998 when he joined the coroner's office full time, pursuing his interest in injury prevention. He became Chief Coroner in 2004, but he has maintained connections to Sunnybrook and the Department of Surgery, as a teacher of undergraduates, and has continued to do collaborative research in injury prevention.

The Trauma Program targets specific groups and develops strategies and campaigns to prevent injuries. One Toronto campaign Barry initiated when previously at Sunnybrook educated seniors about the risk of being struck by motor vehicles while crossing the street (the "*DareDevil* Program"). However, the major focus for injury prevention is young people. Alcohol and substance abuse are areas of concern, as are safe driving and use of seatbelts. Barry worked with Charles Tator on a program to prevent spinal cord injury resulting from unsafe diving.

Barry's previous role at Sunnybrook, where he was vice-president responsible for trauma, the operating room, critical care, emergency and pharmacy for five years, has prepared him well for his new position as CEO, as has his role as Chief Coroner. He sees leadership and vision as the most important qualities in a CEO: "the strength of an organization lies in its team members and a CEO must be able to bring them together and move them forward." "Barry McLellan was universally admired during his time at Sunnybrook. Everyone is looking forward to his return. This is the perfect time for a leader with the energy and enthusiasm that he is bringing to the job, to take us to the next level," says Surgeon-in-Chief Robin Richards.

Though Sunnybrook has gone through a difficult time in the last five years, it is now poised for growth in many areas, particularly as an academic research institution. Specific areas of surgical research at Sunnybrook are found in cardiac with Steve Fremes, surgical oncology with Andy Smith, Calvin Law, Natalie Coburn, breast cancer with Claire Holloway, Frances Wright, and May Lynn Quan, trauma with Sandro Rizoli, Homer Tien and Lorraine Tremblay with Fred Brenneman, prostate cancer with Laurie Klotz, Rob Nam and Vasu Venkateswaran, orthopaedics with Hans Kreder, Cari Whyne, Paul Marks and Albert Yee, burn care with Rob Cartotto and Joel Fish, and craniofacial reconstruction with Oleh Antonyshyn and Jeff Fialkov.

Sunnybrook's expansion at this time will focus on recruiting new people who will develop synergy and draw in more peer reviewed funding. Sunnybrook's strategic vision has been to focus on growth in priority areas. Growth will be in the programmatic areas including specific research foci within the programs (known as "transformation priorities"). Perinatology and gynaecology will be moving up to Sunnybrook from 76 Grenville Street providing an opportunity for clinical and academic growth in this area. The Foundation is essential for both capital and academic growth. Sunnybrook benefits from excellent community support.

Barry is married to Jeanette who is a special education teacher. They have just celebrated their 25th anniversary. They have three sons; two are in university and one in highschool. The family enjoys spending time together at their cottage where they engage in many outdoor activities, including water sports, hiking and skiing.

M.M.

Our First Hybrid Radiology/Surgery Residency


Eran Shlomovitz

Eran Shlomovitz is our Department's first "hybrid resident," combining formal training in both General Surgery and Radiology. Eran began to see the need and possibilities for applying imaging techniques to surgery while an undergrad working at the Hospital for Sick Children with then Chief of Interventional Radiology Peter Chait. Together they wrote a review paper exploring the concept of a hybrid residency.(1) Eran had been accepted into the General Surgery Program when the paper was published. An application was then headed by Richard Reznick and the University of Toronto Chief of Radiology Walter Kucharczyk to the Royal College to set up a combined residency in General Surgery and Radiology. Eran has completed one year of General Surgery. He will next complete four years of Radiology, while continuing two nights a month on General Surgery call at the Toronto Western Hospital to maintain his surgical skills. The first two months of Radiology have focused on "call preparation" comprising two weeks each of chest, ultrasound, CT and neuroimaging. After four years of Radiology, Eran will spend two more years in General Surgery. He expects to follow that with a surgery fellowship applying interventional radiology techniques to hepatobiliary surgery.

Eran was born in Israel and lived there until he was fifteen, in what he describes as "a quieter time". He is a dual Israeli-Canadian citizen. He earned his Undergraduate Degree at York University and his MD at the University of Western Ontario. He is the first MD in his family. His father is an x-ray technician, his mother a secretary and his sister is doing a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy at Western. Eran and his girlfriend Adi Aviram enjoy salsa dancing, something he got into while on vacation in Cuba. He has competed in the meds Olympics in Montreal. The salsa scene is hot in Toronto, particularly in Yorkville where clubs offer lessons then give participants the opportunity to dance. Eran thanks his role models and mentors Peter Chait, Richard Reznick, Walter Kucharczyk, Lorne Rotstein, and Walter Montanera.

M.M.

(1) Shlomovitz E. Amaral JG. Chait PG. Image-guided therapy and minimally invasive surgery in children: a merging future. Pediatric Radiology. May 2006;36(5):398-404.

"I'm afraid I've got some bad news."

From Classroom to Bedside:

CROSS-TRAINING SURGEONS TO ADDRESS COMPLEX HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES

Fayez Quereshy with his wife Nariman Malik

The healthcare landscape in Ontario is strewn with challenges: rising health costs, an aging population, and human resource shortages have cumulatively reduced healthcare accessibility. There is current need for surgeons cross-trained in academic disciplines complementary to medicine in order to optimize healthcare delivery. The Scholarship in Surgery Program is a novel platform that enables residents to explore academic curricula outside of the conventional surgical arena. In the Department's 2006 Annual Report, Dr. Ben Alman notes "many advances in medicine come from the application of knowledge from areas initially unrelated to medicine". Best practice principles from parallel industries can reduce healthcare costs, improve surgical efficiency, and enhance patient care.

Given the unique challenges within the healthcare sector, the Rotman School of Management has developed a unique interdisciplinary Health Sector MBA. The program's didactic curriculum is summarized in Table 1. Internationally recognized for innovation in research, Rotman's 'Integrative Thinking' model dissects complex business problems in order to achieve novel solutions(1). Foundational coursework in finance, accounting, economics, marketing, and strategy are necessary to understand the multi-factorial influences shaping modern-day commerce. Rotman's first year curriculum culminates in the Integrative Thinking Practicum where business theory is directly applied to a 'real-life' challenge. The second year of the program allows students to concentrate coursework in one of a variety of specializations. The Health Sector MBA provides trainees with the necessary tools to understand the healthcare environment from multiple perspectives: the government, service providers, and the patient.

My experiences at the Rotman School of Management have stimulated my research interests in systems optimization, surgical efficiency, and health policy. Leveraging best practices from parallel industries can optimize service delivery. The innovative application of industry knowledge will transform Canadian healthcare toward efficient and effective management of patient care. Southwest Airlines' practice of process standardization yielded increased revenues, cost containment, and improved customer satisfaction; these principles in healthcare can increase patient throughput, limit post-operative complications, and maximize resource utilization.

As surgical residents in Toronto, we are trained to employ evidence to deliver the highest standard of patient care. Given the acuity of our patients and limited human resources, we are often left with little time to reflect on the system-wide challenges that constrain the efficiency and effectiveness of our efforts. The Rotman School of Management has provided me with the foundation to better understand healthcare challenges and begin to explore creative solutions. By complementing evidence-based medicine with evidence-based management, we can optimize the return on our investments in improving the delivery of patient care.

(1) Dean Roger Martin provides a more detailed explanation of the Integrative Thinking model in "How Successful Leaders Think" (Martin, R. 2007. "How Successful Leaders Think." *Harvard Business Review* 85(6): 60-67.)

Fayez A. Quereshy, MD
Resident, Division of General Surgery
MBA-Candidate, Rotman School of Management

TABLE 1: ROTMAN MBA CURRICULUM

MBA CURRICULUM

YEAR 1

1. Organizational Behaviour
2. Micro/Macro/International Economics
3. Corporate Finance
4. Corporate Strategy
5. Marketing Strategy
6. Financial Accounting
7. Managerial Accounting
8. Operations Management
9. Statistics
10. Leadership and Ethics
11. Negotiations
12. Integrative Thinking

YEAR 2

1. Healthcare Strategy
2. Healthcare Economics and Policy
3. Healthcare Marketing
4. Healthcare Consulting
5. Life Sciences Commercialization
6. Advanced Negotiations
7. Financial Management
8. Financial Statement Analysis
9. Entrepreneurship
10. Top Manager's Perspective

Canada's Healthcare Challenges Demand Interdisciplinary Training for the Development of Creative Solutions

Magdalini and Daniel Penello

Students in the Rotman MBA Program are strongly encouraged to seek and participate in summer placement opportunities after completing the first year of the program. Thanks to the support and encouragement of Dr. Bob Bell, Orthopaedic Surgeon - CEO of the University Health Network, who is my supervisor in the Scholarship in Surgery Program, I was given the privilege of completing an administrative internship in UHN's Corporate Planning Department this summer. To say that this experience gave me the opportunity to apply my newly-acquired business knowledge to the healthcare setting is an understatement. Although I worked with financial spreadsheets, the Balanced Scorecard, strategic planning frameworks and business plans, the real value of this experience was being exposed to a completely different but equally important side of healthcare that had been invisible to me in my role as a surgical resident. From a business point of view, Ontario hospitals are in a very difficult and unfavourable position. They are in a market where there is only one "buyer" of their services (a monopsony): the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through its new Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). The LHINs ultimately determine the funds each hospital will be given in order to provide the services they *plan to* deliver in the coming year. However, since hospitals have little control over the types of patients that walk in their door or the types of medications, tests or operations that their physicians will deem necessary, managing the budget while continuing to provide high-quality care to increasingly informed patients is a very challenging task.

Along with provincial initiatives aimed at improving accessibility to certain priority tests and procedures, there has been a widespread push towards increasing hospital accountability for the services they provide. More than ever, opera-

tional efficiency, quality measurement, knowledge transfer and performance management have become critical success factors for Ontario hospitals. Making strategic decisions that will not only streamline patient care but also allow the hospital, as an organization, to pursue its broader objectives of excellence in education, research and patient safety requires new and innovative approaches. My involvement in the development of a strategic plan for the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre this summer exposed me to the challenge of attempting to efficiently and ethically distribute limited resources (money, support staff, space and time) among many equally-deserving departments. During this process, managers must address difficult questions such as, "Is it better to invest in an area that will result in a *moderate* benefit for the majority of our patients (like a better cardiac MRI scanner), or should we invest in a new technology that will result in a *significant* benefit for a small subset of patients?"

Creative solutions to these challenges, as I have learned, arise from lateral thinking and the ability to integrate concepts and models of practice from diverse and seemingly unrelated fields. Some consider the fields of business and medicine to have irreconcilable differences in their priorities, methods and goals. This narrow view is a barrier to creative solutions and one that is generally held by those who know only one domain and have a limited understanding of the other. During my summer experience at UHN I also spent a considerable amount of time helping Rehab Solutions identify and evaluate expansion opportunities. In addition to a strong clinical understanding of the specific needs of the patient population being served, evaluating options required knowledge of real-estate development, human resource management, finance and space planning. Important decisions cannot be made in a vacuum. My experience at UHN has reaffirmed my belief that a business perspective does not seek to reduce important clinical decisions to dollars and cents, but rather injects a rich mix of relevant information into the context in which the decision must be made. An appreciation of the broader context enables effective leaders and decision-makers to understand and align the interests of key stakeholders so that creative and sustainable solutions to our many healthcare challenges can be realized.

Daniel Penello, MD
Resident, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery
MBA-Candidate, Rotman School of Management, UofT

The Harvard MBA Experience:

INTEGRATING THE SKILLS OF A SURGEON, SCIENTIST, BUSINESS MANAGER, AND LEADER

Gilbert Tang

As one of the ten MDs in a class of 900 brilliant minds in the Harvard Business School, I studied accounting, finance, marketing, operations, strategy, negotiation and entrepreneurship. The pedagogy is based on the Case Method; the cases come from real business situations (http://www.hbs.edu/mba/academics/insidethecasemethod.html). We studied J&J's Tylenol crisis, the opening of an eye hospital in India, the market launch of anticoagulant Bivalirudin and the Enron scandal. The professor serves as a conduit for us to engage in deep discussions and exchange fresh perspectives to foster our learning. Among my classmates were a Brazilian business owner, a Disney corporate strategist, a Navy Seal, a White House personal aide, and a Microsoft graphics engineer.

Baker Library, Harvard Business School

Similar to medicine, the Case Method taught me to analyze a situation with given information, make assumptions and derive an action plan. Within the amphitheatre classroom I hone my skills to listen actively, think laterally and respond thoughtfully. The pace and learning environment is intense and I work as long hours at HBS as in residency. HBS has transformed the way I approach a complex problem. This skill set will be invaluable at the bench, the bedside or the boardroom.

Amphitheatre Classroom

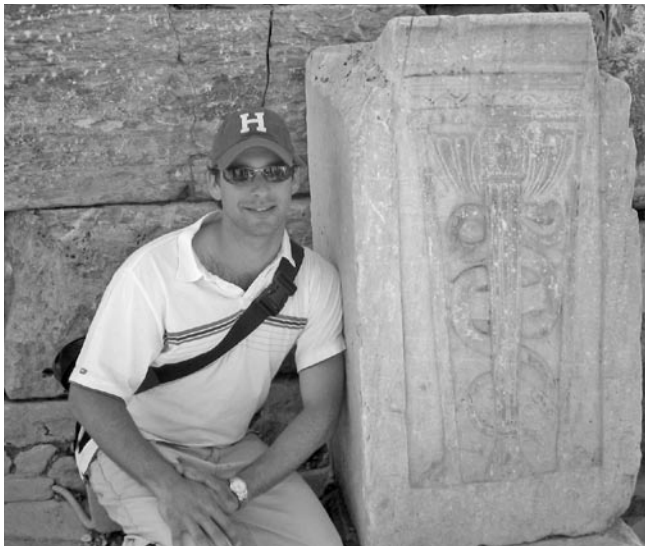
There has also been a constellation of business leaders to learn from: Microsoft CEO Steve Balmer, US Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, FBI Director Robert Mueller ... even Tony Robbins and Al Gore visited us. A team of us created a business plan to determine if a hospital should open a Bariatric Surgery Centre. I am writing a strategic plan for HBS on a Physician Business Education Program. In the fall I will be working with the world famous strategist Professor Michael Porter on novel solutions to health care delivery. I will also be helping examine quality and outcomes for the Massachusetts General Hospital Emergency Department under the supervision of Dr. David Torchiana, Chair & CEO of Massachusetts General Physicians Organization.

This summer I worked at Medtronic in Minneapolis on business and technology development in heart valve surgery, where I presented my recommendations to the President of the CardioVascular Unit Scott Ward and Senior Vice-President of Medicine & Technology Dr. Steve Oesterle. My job function enabled me to combine clinical medicine, basic research and business knowledge in a seamless fashion. Working in the industry has given me a mirroring perspective from practicing surgery, and it will help me both as an emerging academic surgeon and a leader in healthcare.

I am grateful to the financial support from the Department of Surgery Scholarship in Surgery Program and Harvard Business School McArthur Fellowship, without which would have been impossible to experience this transformation in my personal and professional career development. I look forward to returning to Toronto next summer to complete my cardiac surgery training.

Gilbert Tang, MD, MSc
Resident, Division of Cardiac Surgery
MBA 2008, Harvard Business School

Healthcare Management: Lessons Learned in the Scholarship in Surgery Program



Barry Cayen with a carving of the Rod of Asclepius (c. 300 AD) in Ephesus, Turkey

The advantage of having clinicians involved in healthcare management seems obvious: they can help ensure that policy and management decisions are made using clinical drivers -- while keeping clinician workflow in mind. The obvious disadvantage: up until recently, many clinician managers had very limited management training. Financial literacy, personnel or operations management knowledge were not prerequisites for such positions. While an intelligent group, clinicians can be no more expected to fix their cars than manage healthcare delivery without background training.

It was that disconnect which fuelled my interest to pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Healthcare Management. With the encouragement of Drs. Martin McKneally and Bob Bell, the recommendations of Drs. Nizar Mahomed and David Backstein, and Departmental support from Drs. Richard Reznick and Ben Alman through the Scholarship in Surgery (SIS) Program, I earned my MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) in 2006-2007.

There was much to learn from my colleagues at HSPH who, before entering the program had provided medical relief to children in Africa, were Department Heads in their home hospital, healthcare consultants or even hedge-fund managers. With our passion for improving healthcare, we learned from our professors and one another while taking courses such as The Financial Management and Analysis of Healthcare organizations, Operations Management, Managing People in Healthcare and Competitive Strategy. At the Brigham and Women's Hospital, I was fortunate enough to be involved in an economic analysis of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as well as help perform an operating room efficiency analysis.

One of the most interesting, albeit counterintuitive lessons I learned in the Operations Management course was the strong effect that elective surgery admissions had on Emergency Department overcrowding. Large swings in the daily volume of elective admissions can lead to bottlenecks in hospital wards and ICUs which have many downstream effects -- one of which is to back-up the Emergency Department. Surgeons can do their part to temper the overcrowding crisis in our emergency rooms by working together with operating room managers to control swings in daily volumes.

Currently in the second year of the SIS Program, I am working at a healthcare consulting firm in Toronto. I have been given the opportunity to apply the skills I learned at HSPH to projects such as a hospital information technology directive, a Provincial e-Health strategy as well as diagnostic image sharing and surgical efficiency strategies. While orthopaedic surgery remains my primary passion, I now have a new set of tools which I can use to both help transform healthcare and keep our patients the first priority.

Barry Cayen, MD, MSc, MPH
Resident, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery
Scholarship in Surgery Program

Scientists in Surgery

Approximately 15% of our surgical faculty are individuals who are non-MDs and work as full time scientists. These individuals are significant contributors to the research effort of our Department. This section will endeavour to profile excellence in research among the scientists in our Department.

CARIN WITTNICH

Professor of Surgery & Physiology
The Hospital for Sick Children, UofT

In 1971, Carin Wittnich received her Bachelor's Degree from McGill University and in 1976, her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Guelph. Her research career commenced with a Masters from McGill University (1985) where she studied the protection of the myocardium through dietary and nutritional supplementation. While squeezing in her Masters, Carin was also busy assisting in numerous research projects such as cardiac assistance using skeletal muscle for cardiac repair and studying elemental diets as protection against radiation injury which resulted in 17 published papers. She also found time to become an instructor of the Advanced Trauma Life Support course for the American College of Surgeons and worked in an emergency veterinary clinic performing emergency animal care. In 1987 Carin was appointed as an Assistant Professor within this Department and since then she has become a successful researcher, a valuable administrative asset and a tremendous educator.

Her research interests initially focused on cardiovascular neonatal/maturational differences in neonates with the goal of improving surgical outcomes. Her lab quickly discovered that there was a sub-group of children who were at greater risk than others and that they should be surgically managed in a different manner. Her team discovered that in this subgroup of

young children, cyanosis, their young age and gender appeared to be risk factors. It was also discovered that the high levels of oxygen used during cardiovascular surgery was a detrimental factor on neonates. This important research helped to explain why neonates had higher postoperative morbidity or mortality when compared to adults undergoing cardiac surgical procedures. The results of her work were published in *Circulation, Surgical Forum*, and *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. As a result of this and other innovative research, in 1991 Carin was awarded the Department's George Armstrong-Peters Award as a young investigator who had shown outstanding productivity as an independent investigator for her research work. Continued work in this area produced many important discoveries in the area of metabolic responses of the neonatal myocardium to hypoxia and functional recovery following ischemia which were published in *Critical Care Medicine*, the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* and the *Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation*.

Her work also revealed the fact that female patients seemed to be at greater risk than the male patients and led to an exciting new avenue of research -- the role of gender and its effects on hypertensive cardiovascular disease. Her work in this area revealed that gender does indeed play a role on the myocardial adaptation of the hearts of normal and hypertensive rats to hypertension and this preliminary data led to the first ever basic research gender grant handed out by the Heart & Stroke Foundation and published in the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. She led her team to the discovery that gender and progressive pathology (hypertension and myocardial hypertrophy) influenced the metabolic response to dietary manipulation especially in females with a pathology (*Journal of Nutrition*). In 2000, for Carin's continued success in research, she was awarded the Lister Prize for her outstanding and continued productivity of an international stature.

Never one to sit back and relax, Carin became Head of Research (Senior Scientist) of the Oceanographic Environmental Research Society (OERS) where she is investigating the amount of pollutants in the marine environment and their effects on marine animals. She co-authored a 70 page report looking at the world-wide concentration levels of mercury in the tissue of various marine mammal species which revealed that mercury levels were still high despite decades of regulatory enforcement. Her work in this area has been presented at international and national meetings.

Carin has always had an inherent talent for teaching and since her arrival in the Department has taught thousands of students ranging from medicine, dentistry, graduate school, undergraduate and summer/high school. She also created 5 graduate courses and an equal number of undergraduate courses at the university which continue to receive outstanding rankings by her students. She is the founding director of the award winning Cardiovascular Sciences Collaborative Program which is a unique graduate training program that brings together students from various departments who have an interest in expanding their knowledge in the area of cardiovascular studies. Her ability to make complicated topics easy to understand stems from her manner of talking **with** her students and not **to** them in presenting the information in a casual manner. Combining her teaching talent to promote research and make it interesting has led to numerous awards including a Northrop Frye Award (Individual-1996), Order of Ontario (2001), Queen's Jubilee Medal (2002), Northrop Frye Award (Divisional- 2004), and the Faculty of Medicine Graduate Teaching Award (2005).

It is very appropriate that Carin should be profiled in an issue of the Surgical Spotlight as this is her 20th year within the Department. Carin's distinguished career in research and teaching within the university has been a direct result of her hard work, dedication and perseverance. That combined with the support that she has received throughout the years from the various chairs, business officers, administrative assistants and others within this Department; Carin therefore reflects the research excellence that is promoted within a scientific community that is world renown.

Michael Belanger
CVT Tech
Department of Surgery, UofT

Surgical Skills Lab Expansion

Helen MacRae, Richard Reznick and Lisa Satterthwaite, with SimMan *(right to left)*

In February 2007 the University of Toronto Surgical Skills Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital celebrated the official opening of its new expansion area. The event was well attended by members of the University, Faculty, and Industry Partners. Working in collaboration with the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation and the University of Toronto, full funding for the project was achieved. During the opening ceremonies, attainment of accreditation status for surgical skills labs from the American College of Surgeons was also celebrated. The lab received this most prestigious honour in December 2006.

The newly developed area has doubled the total square footage of the lab adding to it a forty-seat didactic area, virtual operating room, monitor room, practice room, research lab, kitchenette, disabled washroom and shower, and enhanced change room facilities. The area has been fully integrated with state of the art telecommunications and presentation technologies including connectivity to operating rooms for live and interactive surgical demonstrations from both internal and external sources. Double LCD projection, variable lighting and sound, independent climate control, sound proofing blocks, mounted wall cameras and a state of the art document camera bring us to an advanced level of presentation and demonstration capacity.

Since the opening of the skills lab in September 1998 there had been a steep and steady up hill climb in usage of the lab from a wide variety of groups in both the surgical and medical genres. Independent practice sessions for surgical residents had more than trebled and requests for external program bookings from both industry and allied health groups had more than doubled.

One impetus for the expansion came via the 3-year Medical Student Surgical Rotation Program. Two years ago, the surgical curriculum for the three academies was revamped to create a more cohesive learning opportunity. Within this curriculum a combined one week hands-on and Didactic Program was developed. In order to maintain fluidity in learning, a separate, but immediately nearby didactic area was required to complement the already successful hands-on technical skills component held in the original lab space. Currently, the lab plays host to 210 third year medical students for six one week sessions over the academic year.

Industry has also played a surprising role in the user group category which further energized the need for the expanded space. A great number of weekends throughout the year are filled with a wide variety of industry based programs. The increase in the complexity and attendance level of the events was becoming a strain on the ability of the lab to deliver quality programs. In fact, usage had plateaued to the point that the lab could no longer provide adequate space for the type and size of events that were being requested. The new expansion area and change room facilities are now better able to accommodate the growing needs of industry training programs. The success of these events are very important to the financial status of the lab as they help garner funding for the purchase of models, equipment, and up-to-date training simulators for utilization by the surgical and medical programs currently in place.

Of course, funding for this project would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, namely The Royal Bank of Canada, Tyco Healthcare Canada, Zimmer Incorporated and the D.H. Gales Family Foundation. Funding from the groups was encouraged by the Surgical Skills Centre exhibition of strong leadership as demonstrated by Richard Reznick and Helen MacRae, a dedicated enthusiastic staff and most importantly the sense of pride established by faculty, residents and students in achieving a world recognized centre of excellence in both surgical education and research.

Lisa Satterthwaite, Manager, Surgical Skills Centre
Mount Sinai Hospital

Please see related article on page 7 of the Winter 2005-06 edition of the Spotlight http://www.surg.med.utoronto.ca/newsletter/Winter06.pdf

NEW STAFF

The Department of Surgery warmly welcomes the following individuals who have joined our Department.

Sean Cleary

The Division of General Surgery at University Health Network and the Department of Surgical Oncology, Princess Margaret Hospital, are delighted to announce the appointment of **Sean Cleary** to our faculty.

Sean completed a Fellowship in Pancreatic and Hepatobiliary Surgical Oncology and Transplantation at Toronto General Hospital after finishing his General Surgery Residency training at the University of Toronto. During his residency he obtained a Masters of Science in Cancer Genetics under the supervision of Steven Gallinger and he is currently enrolled in the MHSc Program in the Department of Public Health Sciences. Sean received his MD from the University of Western Ontario and a BScH from Queen's University. His clinical interests include the surgical treatment of pancreatic, hepatic and biliary malignancies as well as minimally invasive hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery. Sean's research interests include the genetic epidemiology of colorectal, pancreatic and hepatobiliary cancers.

Sean's personal interests include hockey, squash and travel. Sean and Janice are happily married and the proud parents of Christian and Owen.

Lorne Rotstein
Hospital Division Head, General Surgery
UHN - Toronto General Hospital

Darlene Fenech

Darlene Fenech has joined the surgical oncology group in the Division of General Surgery at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Darlene's recruitment brings further expertise in laparoscopic and locally advanced colorectal cancer surgery to our group. Darlene received her Bachelors Degree from Queen's University, her Medical Degree from McMaster University and completed her residency training at the University of Calgary. She returned home to Toronto and completed a Masters Degree in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Robin McLeod. Her fellowship training was in Colorectal Surgery also at the University of Toronto.

Darlene's main research interests are in locally advanced colorectal cancer, quality improvement and in compliance with perioperative evidence based practices.

Darlene was recently married to Dennis DiPasquale, an orthopaedic surgeon who practices at Trillium Hospital.

Andrew Smith
Hospital Division Head, General Surgery
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Heather, Keaton and Christian Veillette

Christian Veillette recently joined the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Toronto Western Hospital as a Shoulder and Elbow Surgeon.

He returned from the United States after completion of a Shoulder and Elbow Arthroscopy and Reconstruction Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He previously completed an Upper Extremity Trauma

and Reconstruction Fellowship at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, with Dr. Michael McKee.

His primary clinical interest is shoulder and elbow reconstructive surgery, especially the use of elbow arthroscopy for osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis, fractures, post-traumatic contractures and tennis elbow.

Christian is originally from Calgary, Alberta where he completed his undergraduate medical training. He completed his orthopaedic residency training at the University of Toronto including a Masters of Science as part of the Surgeon Scientist Program.

Christian has won many academic and research honours and awards. He has recently been appointed the Deputy Editor, *Information and Communication Technology for Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*. In addition, he is a Director of the Internet Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (ISOST), Lead Developer for Orthogate (www.orthogate.org), and Associate Editor and Director of Technology for Orthopaedic Web Links (www.orthopaedicweblinks.com).

We welcome Christian to the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network.

J. Roderick Davey
Hospital Division Head, Orthopaedic Surgery
UHN – Toronto Western Hospital


Subodh Verma

It is a great honour to welcome **Subodh Verma** to the Division of Cardiac Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto. He joins us as a Surgeon-Scientist with a reputation as a well-trained and highly accomplished scientist. After undergraduate training in Pharmacy, he went on to pursue an MSc and PhD in Cardiovascular Pharmacology at the University of British Columbia. Following this, he obtained his MD Degree from the University of Calgary. He then moved to Toronto where he trained as a cardiac surgeon. Remarkably, despite the rigours of this residency programme, Subodh has maintained an active research laboratory funded by external peer-reviewed funding with a simultaneous appointment in the Department of Pharmacology.

Subodh is one of Canada's pre-eminent Clinician/Scientists. He brings an international reputation in cardiovascular research to our Department. He runs an active Translational Research Program evaluating the impact of endothelial dysfunction, cardiometabolic risk and adverse vascular remodeling. He has over 170 peer-reviewed publications, most of which appear in high-impact journals such as *Circulation, Circulation Research, New England Journal of Medicine,* etc. He is presently funded for his research by the CIHR and The Heart and Stroke Foundation. Subodh has received a number of awards including the American College of Cardiology Young Investigator Award and the prestigious American Heart Association Young Investigator First Prize in Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. His research work has also been recognized in Canada receiving the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Young Investigator Award and the Paul Cartier Cardiac Surgery Award. It is not surprising that he was nominated for and was awarded a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Atherosclerosis. This honour recognizes his international profile as a Cardiovascular Scientist.

The Division of Cardiac Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital takes pride in providing superb and timely cardiac surgical consultation and care. Subodh has a special interest in bicuspid aortic valve disease associated valvular and aortic pathology, South Asian ethnicity and cardiovascular outcomes in CABG patients, and the use of minimally invasive strategies in CABG surgery. His surgical colleagues, Drs. Lee Errett, David Latter, and Daniel Bonneau look forward to working with Subodh, in both the clinical and research domains.

Subodh is married to Mekhul, with whom he shares the joys of their three-year-old son, Raj Subhash and their 7-month old daughter, Meena. Subodh's favourite pastimes include playing with Raj, watching Indian movies with Mekhul and cooking up a storm in the kitchen – his favourite dish, lamb vindaloo.

Please join me in welcoming Subodh to our Department!

Ori D. Rotstein
Surgeon-in-Chief
St. Michael's Hospital


Martin McKneally

We can feel change in the air as the combination of the axis and orbit of the earth tips us away from the sun. As summer ends in crisp autumn days and colours, we get down to work.

In this issue, Richard Reznick summarizes the outstanding accomplishments of the Department during his first term as Chair – some as unimaginable 5 years ago as parity between the Canadian and American dollars. A robust and well managed Canadian economy is responsible for growth and investment in health care, evidenced in new buildings, personnel, and research at nearly every site.

Eran Shlomovitz describes a new hybrid residency combining general surgery with radiological imaging – a breakthrough into a new generation of minimal access surgery. Four residents report from the Scholarship in Surgery Program on their experience and accomplishments as they train in health policy and management at the U of T Rotman School of Management and Harvard's schools of Public Health and Business.

The Department is on a steady upward trajectory at all sites. Barry McLellan takes the helm as CEO at Sunnybrook, amid a growth spurt for the hospital after release from a decade of paralytic merger. Newly appointed Surgeon-in-Chief John Semple begins a spectacular new building and recruiting program to house ambulatory surgery at the Women's College Hospital. Wayne Johnston caps his outstanding surgical career as President of the international Society of Vascular Surgeons.


Joshua Tepper

The able Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Long-term Care Joshua Tepper spoke to the Department after the State of the Union address at our opening University Rounds on Sept 7th. Joshua, a family doctor who still takes night call on Tuesdays, helped organize general practitioners into groups of 7 to 10 in the northern part of the province so that they would have reasonable call schedules. The general surgeons were similarly connected into groups, with the ministry providing transportation to patients so solo practitioners wouldn't be on call 24/7. These initiatives are reversing the trend toward loss of the northern physician work force. They led to Joshua's appointment to head Health Force Ontario (http://www.healthforceontario.ca), reporting to the ministries of both education and health. The Health Force is now focusing on interprofessional education. Teams can provide care better than individual caregivers if they can work together effectively. The hope is that IPE will enhance caring for the caregivers, mutual respect, and a more effective, efficient and satisfying healthcare system.

On a final note of optimism, our entering class of surgical residents is introduced to the Department in this issue. As John Bohnen notes, they are a talented and enthusiastic group; they can look forward to a bright future in surgery.

We are experimenting with a preliminary online version of the Spotlight which can be found at www.surgicalspotlight.ca. It will include links to more content. We hope that readers will help us with their comments and suggestions as we explore this format.

Martin McKneally
Editor

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editor are welcomed to keep the community informed of opinions, events and the activities of our surgeons, friends and alumni.

Dr. McKneally:
As usual I enjoyed The Surgical Spotlight which arrived today. I was pleased with the Gallie review and of course distressed with the tragic story about the lost aircraft and the transplant staff. Your comments were very appropriate. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Phil Ashmore

Paediatric and Cardiac Surgeon Phil Ashmore is the founding editor of The Surgical Times, *the newsletter of the UBC Department of Surgery.*

IN MEMORY

Borna Meisami-Fard

The world lost a fine human being when Borna Meisami-Fard suddenly passed away on July 1, 2007 shortly after his 40th birthday.

It was my privilege to know Borna in many capacities since our first meeting in 1993. It was an honour to act as Borna's teacher, mentor, adviser, counselor, tutor and coach, and see Borna develop into a highly qualified and skilled orthopaedic surgeon and arthroscopic subspecialist. My memories of Dr. Meisami-Fard present a rich tapestry. Borna was polite, professional and respectful at all times and, irrespective of the situation, always rose above negativity. Personable and driven, Borna could make things happen. He was a cheerful person with an excellent sense of humour who was kind and thoughtful throughout a long illness in my family.

Dr. Meisami-Fard brought people together and I doubt that Hart House has ever seen a more eclectic and beautiful event than the reception following Borna's wedding to Marjan. Borna was a proud father and became a fine teacher. It is unfortunate that Ava was robbed of her father at such a young age and Borna's close-knit family including his parents, Marjan and sister Tina no longer have his companionship and energetic enthusiasm. No one was more passionate and compassionate in his personal and professional life than Borna Meisami-Fard. He lived life to the fullest, bringing together many people from around the world and making the world a better place.

While it is impossible to understand why Dr. Meisami-Fard was snatched from life so prematurely, his memory will live on. The Division of Orthopaedic Surgery has created an endowed award in his memory recognizing his compassion. Everyone who met Dr. Borna Meisami-Fard became a better person for having known him. Despite our loss, in the end we are fortunate to have made his acquaintance. Even though Borna has passed on he leaves a rich legacy – he gave us an abiding perspective on how to live life.

Robin R. Richards
Surgeon-in-Chief, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto

John Bohnen Appointed Vice-Dean, Clinical Affairs

John Bohnen

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Professor John Bohnen as the new Vice-Dean, Clinical Affairs for a five-year term commencing September 1, 2007. He is a Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and has an outstanding record of academic achievement and proven leadership skills. Professor Bohnen has held the position of Vice-Chief of Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital. In the University Department of Surgery he now holds the position of Vice Chair, Education and for the past nine years has been the Director, Postgraduate Surgical Education. Professor Bohnen has experience in policy development including work on the RCPSC Core Surgery Structure, and he has published extensively.

Catharine Whiteside
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Appointment of Mitchell Brown, Program Director Division of Plastic Surgery

Mitchell Brown

The Division of Plastic Surgery is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mitchell Brown (Woman's College Hospital) to the position of Program Director commencing September 17, 2007.
Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario Medical School (8T8). He went

on to complete a comprehensive surgical internship at Toronto Western Hospital, followed by a residency in plastic surgery at the University of Toronto. In addition, Mitchell completed a Masters in Education as part of the Fellowship in Surgical Education. His research has focused on teaching and evaluating technical skills.

Mitchell has been actively involved in postgraduate surgical education since his appointment. He brings to the Program Director position numerous skills and traits including an understanding of adult learning, a strong commitment to postgraduate education and a desire to help shape the future of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Toronto. As a clinician, he has a gained an international reputation for his work in breast reconstruction.

Please join me in congratulating Mitchell on his new appointment. A special thanks also to Amy Brown, Mitchell's wife and their children Joey, Eli and Leah for supporting Mitchell as he assumes this important University role.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past Program Director, Ronald Levine at St. Joseph's Health Centre for his outstanding contribution to our Division and Department of Surgery. Best wishes to Ron in his future leadership endeavours.

Dimitrios Anastakis
University Division Chair, Plastic Surgery

HONOURS/AWARDS/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Timothy Daniels (OrthSurg), **Johnny Lau** (OrthSurg), Mark A.Glazebrook, Alastair Younger, Murray J. Penner, Kevin J.Wing, Ross Leighton and Michael Dunbar, members of the Canadian Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (COFAS), were awarded the 2007 Roger A. Mann, MD, Award for paper entitled: "Comparison of Health Related Quality of Life Between Patients with End Stage Arthritis and Hip Arthritis" presented at The American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS) Annual Summer Meeting in Toronto, on July 12 to 15, 2007. Not only a great honour, but the occasion was unique in that this award was given to MDs outside of the United States for the second time in the 25-year history of the AOFAS.

Eleftherios Diamandis (Surg) has received a Cancer Care Ontario, Cancer Research Network Award ($130,000) for project titled: "Identification of Specific, Small Molecular Weight Inhibitors of Human Tissue Kallikrein Enzymes by High-throughput Screening".

Peter Dirks (NeurSurg) has received a Cancer Care Ontario, Cancer Research Network Award ($130,000) for project titled: "High-throughput Screening of Human Brain Cancer Stem Cells".

Jaime Escallon (GenSurg) has been awarded the "Maestros de la cirugia Colombiana" translation: "Masters of Surgery in Colombia". It is the greatest honour that the Association of Surgeons of Colombia gives to a surgeon in recognition of his life's work, devoted teaching and the great support he has given to the Association, not only as a surgeon but as an individual.

Neil Fleshner (UrolSurg) has received an award from the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada for project: "Impact of Antioxidants on MRI Markers of Cell Proliferation and Hypoxia Among Men on Active Surveillance With Early Stage".

Daryl Kucey (VascSurg) has been installed as President of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery. This honour brings pride to the Department, the Division of Vascular Surgery and Sunnybrook.

Robert Nam (UrolSurg) has been awarded the Early Research Award ($150,000) by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, formerly the Premier's Research Excellence Award.

Raja Rampersaud (OrthSurg) has been awarded the 2007 Arbor Award for outstanding volunteer service to UofT and the Spine Journal Outstanding Paper Award: Surgical Science ($10,000) presented at the annual North American Spine Society (NASS) meeting.

Sandro Rizoli (GenSurg) was awarded the Best Speaker Award for the 2006-2007 Principles of Surgery Lecture Series.

Charles Tator (NeurSurg) is the recipient of the 2007 Arbor Award for outstanding volunteer service to the University of Toronto.

Michael Taylor (NeurSurg) is the recipient of a 3-year Sontag Foundation Distinguished Scholar Award for his work on: "Multiple Genetic Events Converge to Target Histone 3 Lysine 9 Methylation in Pediatric Medulloblastoma".

Vasundara Venkateswaran (Research) on behalf of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), has been invited to become a member of the "Nutrition, Food & Health" Grants Committee. She was recommended for this appointment by peers in recognition of her reputation in the field and demonstrated excellence in science. The initial term of this appointment is from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and renewable for an additional 2 years. As you know, one of CIHR's major activities is the assessment of applications for support.

Alexandre Zlotta (UrolSurg) has received an award from the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada for project: **"**Prevalence and Age Distribution of Prostate Carcinoma and its Precursor lesions in African, Asian and Caucasian Men in Autopsy Specimens: A Prospective Comparative International Study with Central Pat".

Ronald Zuker (PlasSurg) has been awarded the 2007 Art of Listening Award. This award honours a health professional who models the importance of caring receptive professionals in the lives of individuals and families living with genetic conditions. He was nominated by the Mobius Syndrome through the Genetic Alliance and was selected from over 50 nominations. The Genetic Alliance is a genetic advocacy organization based in Washington, DC.

Ivan Diamond (GenSurg Resident) was awarded 2nd Prize in the Resident Clinical Paper Competition at the annual meeting of the Canadian Pediatric Surgical Association for paper titled: "Changing the Paradigm: Omegaven for the Treatment of Liver Failure in Pediatric Short Bowel Syndrome".

The Resident Trauma Papers Competition from Western [Region XI] and Eastern [Region XII] Canada was held at the Canadian Surgical Forum meeting in Toronto on Sept. 8th. The winning papers for Region XII were:

Barbara Haas (GenSurg Resident, Supervisor: A. Nathens) received Award for Clinical Science Category for paper titled: "The Survival Advantage in Trauma Centres: Expeditious Intervention or Experience?"

Ann Parr (NeurSurg Resident, Supervisor: C. Tator) received Award for Basic Science Category for paper titled: "Transplantation of Adult Neural Stem/Progenitor Cells and Bone Marrow Derived Mesenchymal Stromal Cells in the Injured Rat Spinal Cord".

Congratulations to both winners and all the residents who participated. The two winning papers will be submitted to the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma who will chose one of these 2 papers to represent Region XII in the international competition to be held in March 2008 in Washington DC.

Betty Kim (NeurSurg Resident) has been awarded the National Cancer Institute of Canada Diamond Anniversary Student Research Award, the Joseph M. West Family Memorial Fund, the Charles F. Fell Fund and Javenthey Soobiah Scholarship.

Paul Kongkham (NeurSurg Resident) is winner of the Resident Research 1st Prize Award of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery. He will be presenting his work: "A Combined Epigenetic and Genetic Genome-wide Screen Identifies SPINT2 as a Novel Tumour Suppressor Gene in Medulloblastoma" at the upcoming meeting at the Ritz Carlton in Lake Las Vegas, Nevada. This resident research prize is the most highly sought after prize for all residents as the American Academy of Neurological Surgery is the most prestigious group of neurosurgeons in the world.

Adrian Laxton (NeurSurg Resident) received the Miriam Neveren Memorial Award and the Joseph M. West Family Memorial Fund through the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, UofT.

Demitre Serletis (NeurSurg Resident) was awarded the Miriam Neveren Memorial Award and the Joseph M. West Family Memorial Fund by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, UofT.

Jensen Tan (GenSurg Resident) has been awarded the 2007-2008 Joseph M. West Family Memorial Fund ($4,980.52) by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee, Faculty of Medicine, UofT.

Patrick Tawadros (GenSurg Resident) has been awarded the prestigious Starr Medal by the 2007-2008 Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee of the Faculty of Medicine.

GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS

Natalie Coburn (GenSurg) has received a Connaught New Staff Matching Grant ($23,000) for her project titled: "Surgical Care of Gastric Cancer Patients in Ontario: A
Population-based Study".

Michael Fehlings (NeurSurg) has received a one-year grant from the McLaughlin Centre for Molecular Medicine to study: "Spinal Cord Repair".

Michael has also received:
With collaborator **Eric Massicotte** (NeurSurg) a two-year AOSpine North America Fellowship Award.

With collaborator **Mark Erwin** (Research) a AOSpine North America Young Investigator Research Grant for their project entitled: "Investigation of Molecular Signaling and Susceptibility to Apoptosis in Canine Intervertebral Disc Notochordal Cells".

Reginald Gorczynski (Research) has been awarded a CIHR Operating Grant ($108,653) for his project titled: "The Involvement of CD200:CD200R Regulatory Axis in Turmorigenesis".

Ab Guha (NeurSurg) has been awarded a 1-year grant from NBTF for his work on: "Regional Variation in Inhibitors of Apoptosis (IAPs) in GBMs and Their Role in Apoptosis and Therapeutic Resistance".

Ab has also been successful in receiving:
A 3-year NCIC Grant for his project entitled: "Tissue Factor in Tumor Progression, Angiogenesis".

A 2-year grant from the Brain Tumor Society (BTS) of North America for his work on: "Role of IAPs in Gliomas".

Magdy Hassouna (UrolSurg) has been awarded a 2-year Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation Grant ($401,204) for the peer-reviewed proposal entitled: "Comparative Study on the Safety and Efficacy of Muscarinic M3 Receptor Antagonists in the Treatment of Neurogenic Detrusor Overactivity".

Michael Johnston (ThorSurg) has been awarded a CIHR Operating Grant ($150,000) for his project titled: "Delivery of Chemotherapeutic Agents for Treating Lymphatic Metastasis in Lung Cancer".

Paulo Koeberle (Anatomy) has been awarded a Connaught New Staff Matching Grant ($30,000) to study: "The Role of Extracellular Matrix in Adult CNS Regeneration".

Abhaya Kulkarni (NeurSurg) co-investigator received a 5-year grant from the National Cancer Institute of Canada for a joint project: "Changes in White Matter Integrity and Cognitive Function Following Cranial Radiation for Pediatric Brain Tumours".

Loch Macdonald (NeurSurg) is the recipient of a 2-year Physicians Services Incorporated Foundation Award as Principle Investigator for his work: "Calcium Channels in Cerebral Vasospasm".

As co-investigator **Loch** received a 1-year grant from the N.I.H. RO1 for a project on the: "Treatment of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage with Human Albumin".

Andrea McCart (GenSurg) has been awarded a CIHR Operating Grant ($350,112) for project titled: "Combined Oncolytic Virotherapy and Targeted Radiotherapy of Peritoneal Carcinomatosis".

Robin McLeod (GenSurg) has received from Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of Canada, Grants in Aid to study: "Post Operative Recurrence in Paediatric Crohn's Disease: Influence of Molecular Factors".

Carol-anne Moulton (GenSurg) has received a Physician's Services Incorporated Foundation Operating Grant ($41,000) for her project: "Slowing Down When You Should: A New Model of Expert Surgical Judgement".

Allan Okrainec (GenSurg) is the Faculty Award Recipient of the 2007 Canadian Surgery Research Fund Award ($10,000) for his project: "Does Virtual Surgery Translate to Better Surgery: The Impact of High Fidelity VR Simulation on Intraoperative Performance".

Raja Rampersaud (OrthSurg) has been awarded a Canadian Spine Society Grant ($60,000) for work on: "Canadian Multi-centered Study that Relates to - HRQOL for Surgical Treatment of Focal Spinal Stenosis Compared to Hip and Knee Replacement".

Barry Rubin (VascSurg) has been awarded a CIHR Operating Grant ($368,820) for a project titled: "Role of Microsomal Prostaglandin E2 Synthase- 1 in Myocardial Infarction".

Oleg Safir (OrthSurg) has received a Physician's Services Incorporated Foundation Operating Grant ($24,000) to study: "Self Regulated Scheduling of Practice of a Technical Surgical Skill".

Oleg with **Heather Carnahan** (Research) principal investigators also received a 2007 Royal College Medical Education Research Grant ($22,680) to study: "Self Regulated Scheduling of Practice for Suturing".

Khalid Syed (OrthSurg) has received a Physician's Services Incorporated Foundation Operating Grant ($32,000) to study: "Effect of Bench-model Training on Cognitive Learning in the Operating Room".

Mae Cantos (GenSurg Resident) is the Resident Award Recipient of the 2007 Canadian Surgery Research Fund Award ($10,000) for her project: "The Role of Ceramide in Oxidant-induced Increase in Surface TLR4 in Macrophages".

Betty Kim (NeurSurg Resident) has been awarded the Chisholm Memorial Fellowship**.**

Demitre Serletis (NeurSurg Resident) was awarded the Chisholm Memorial Fellowship; the Elizabeth Arbuthnot Dayson Fellowship; the Nellie L. Farthing Fellowship and the William S. Fenwick Fellowship by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, UofT.

Scellig Stone (NeurSurg Resident) has been awarded the Joseph M. West Family Memorial Prize by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, UofT.

Patrick Tawadros (GenSurg Resident) has been awarded by the 2007-2008 Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee of the Faculty of Medicine the William S. Fenwick Fellowship.

The deadline for the Winter 2007/2008 Surgery Newsletter is November 30, 2007. All members of the Department are invited to submit news items, articles, pictures, ideas or announcements. You may reach us by:

voice mail: **416-978-8177, fax: 416-978-3928 or**
e-mail: **jean.defazio@utoronto.ca**.

Please provide your name and telephone number so that we may contact you if we have any questions.

The Department of Surgery
Banting Institute
100 College Street
Room 311
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5G 1L5

Editor: Martin McKneally
Phone: 416-946-8084
Pager: 416-790-8372
Fax: 416-978-1911
E-Mail: martin.mckneally@utoronto.ca

Managing Editor: Jean DeFazio
Phone: 416-978-8177
Fax: 416-978-3928
E-Mail: jean.defazio@utoronto.ca

Assistant Editor: Julie Roorda
Phone: 416-946-8084
Fax: 416-978-1911
E-Mail: julie.roorda@utoronto.ca

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