Thoracic surgery has held a prominent role at McGill for generations, from the pioneering work of Edward Archibald, the world-wide reach of Norman Bethune, to the innovative clinical care of Dag Munro whose work led to the world’s first lung transplantation.

Continuing this remarkable line of surgeons, David Mulder has lead the Thoracic Division from its inception as a division separate from Cardiac Surgery in 2004 until last year at which point I was given the impossible task of filling his large shoes.

Over the years, there have been numerous changes to Thoracic Surgery at McGill. However, I feel that in the immediate years to come we will witness a transformation of this Division as significant as we have ever seen. There has been a strong push to centralize complex surgical oncologic procedures around the world, and Quebec is no exception to this. Indeed the literature abounds with data in support of centralization of pulmonary resection and particularly so for esophagectomy. High volume centres consistently demonstrate fewer complications, less mortality, and improved oncologic outcomes. Furthermore, it was recognized that these improvements reflect much more than the surgeon volume, but rather a multi and interdisciplinary programmatic impact. The Division of Thoracic Surgery and the Department of Surgery at McGill have embraced this ideal. Accordingly, we have made a strong push to completely centralize thoracic surgical care first within the MUHC, then McGill University, and finally across the entire region (RUIS McGill).

With the retirement of Jean E. Morin from clinical practice, the long presence of Thoracic Surgery at the RVH officially came to a close as all MUHC activity within this surgical domain was transferred to the Montreal General Hospital. More recently, after strategic planning within the McGill hospital network, a University wide Division of Thoracic Surgery was established in 2011 encompassing both the MUHC and JGH. Surgical services are maintained at both sites. However, complex procedures (e.g. all esophagectomies, complex pulmonary...
Dear Editor,

The great pleasure to meet you again is really mine as well. Forgive my little rush because we were just informed yesterday to be at kid’s school tonight. Anyway, I can hardly express my gratitude in words that I have learned from your teachings.

Your valuable suggestions contributed to my latest publication, and insightful recommendation enlightened my way during the time when I was wondering what my next step would be. It is a familiar and warm feeling which has encouraged me for many times while facing uncertainty.

Actually, you have already set such a great model of moving forward bravely to create your own success. You taught me that and you have been practicing in that way. It has been proven to be a right way by you and all the followers.

The Montreal General Hospital, from my angle, has been such an amazing place under your leadership, filled with the innovative and creative atmosphere. With my own eyes, I have witnessed how fancy the clinical excellence could be delicately mixed with basic science, but I could never describe well my feelings of being here for the first time, to touch the cradle of conceiving such fancy idea and inventions, to have a direct look at the real novelty I have learned in the classroom.

I wish to have the honor of following the steps of those winners who grew up under your inspiration and mentoring, and the path toward excellence, so as to share with you again in the future.

Happy Christmas and Best regards,

Adams Li, MD
Postdoctoral Fellow
Ottawa Heart Institute, Canada

Dear Editor,

I have received your 2012 summer issue of the Square Knot. I read the two short reports with great interest. One is of course your brother Thomas C.T. Chiu’s kind donation and establishment of “Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu Distinguished Scientist for Surgical Research Award”. It is really good to have that fund, because your enormous contribution to surgical research deserves to have it. If there is anything that I can do for it, please let me know. Your editor’s note is also of great interest, because it is difficult for the young generation to believe that the surgeons in your time had been trained in that way. If possible, you shall be invited to give a talk to encourage the young surgeons based on your experience and recent progress in science.

Best regards,

George J.H. Chuang, MD, MSc
Vice superintendent,
Kaoshiung Chang Gun Memorial Hospital
Kaoshiung, Taiwan, ROC

Editor’s Note:
Dr. George Chuang received his M.Sc. degree in Experimental Surgery at McGill University in 1985, and is a respected professor in pediatric surgery in the Far East.

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to see my graduating residents not all listed under General Surgery. For some reason, Mathieu Rousseau was listed under Thoracic and Helen Hsieh under Pediatrics. A revision would be appreciated.

Rita Piccioni
Senior Administrator &
Student Affairs Coordinator
General Surgery Training Program
Postgraduate Education, McGill University

Editor’s Note:
Thanks for the correction. Submission of clear and accurate manuscripts would have been appreciated.

Dear Dr. Chiu,

With the news that you are stepping down as Editor of The Square Knot, please accept my congratulations on the fine job you have done in that role. I much admired your willingness to take on the challenge in the first place and your dedication and lasting power over the years.

The Square Knot’s success and popularity is owed to the dedication of its succession of editors, all volunteers like you, who took pride in producing a quality product and enthusiastically donated their time, energy and experience to promote the Department of Surgery and enhance its cohesiveness.

I was much inspired by your example and pleased to assist you and Minh in my small way.

I’m sure I will be reading of your new ventures in future issues on-line and wish you well.

With warm regards,
Ms. Madeleine Beaulne

Editor’s Note:
Ms. Beaulne’s voluntary proof-reading for The Square Knot manuscript is greatly appreciated.

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For all of you who have been honored readers of The Square Knot, you may notice the announcement that our future publication of The Square Knot will no longer be in print form, but will be sent to you electronically. As Dr. Gerald Fried, Chairman of the McGill Department of Surgery stated (see below), this may “...allow us to make better use of colour and images and to communicate with you more frequently at a lower cost...”. We hope this represents another forward step for us all!

Historically, our ambition was to enhance close communications among leaders and various kinds and levels of surgeons at McGill. In July 1989, the first issue entitled THE SQUARE KNOT, McGill Department of Surgery Newsletter, July 1989: Vo. 1.No.1 was published, with Dr. Jonathan L. Meakins as the Department of Surgery Chairman, and Ms. Jane Hutchison as the Administrative Assistant Editor. Then from year 1992 to 2005, Dr. Edmond D. Monaghan took over as the Editor, and matured it in quality and quantity.

Following Dr. Monaghan’s retirement in 2005, I was offered to succeed their achievements until this issue of The Square Knot, which is being published in year 2013. During this period, I obtained valuable assistance such as that of Mrs. Idiko Horvath who is an experienced layout designer, and Mrs. Minh Duong in distributing this newsletter. At this point, as Dr. Fried describes, it will evolve from printed paper to electronically offered communications.

History moves on, with achievements and challenges. We pray for our followers to succeed and continue to enjoy our Surgery at McGill, and pass it on to our off-spring ....... Best wishes for the new era of The Square Knot!  

I would like to wish everyone a very happy 2013 with good health, happiness and professional fulfilment.

This will be the last edition of The Square Knot to be distributed in print form. In the future we will be sending you The Square Knot electronically. This will allow us to make better use of colour images and multimedia and to communicate with you more frequently at a lower cost. It will also facilitate our use of social media so that our alumni can communicate better amongst themselves if they wish. It will be a great way for you to get back in touch with your friends and colleagues from the good-old-days. At this time I want to thank Dr. Ray Chiu for his leadership as the Editor of The Square Knot to date.

It is important that you provide us with an email address so we can continue to keep in touch with you. Please send your email address to us at mcgillsquareknot@gmail.com. We will not distribute your contact information without your specific permission. In the future we will ask you if you would be willing to make this information available to readers of The Square Knot who request this from our office.

This year will be a time of change and renewal of our research enterprise. We are currently going through a process of strategic planning. After first completing a self-study process and conducting a survey of priorities and attitudes of our faculty regarding research, we invited an external review. This was chaired by Dr. Garth Warnock, Professor of Surgery and previous Chair at University of British Columbia, and an established basic science researcher. He was ably assisted by Dr. Michael Kramer from the McGill Departments of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and formerly the CIHR, and Dr. Franco Carli, past Chair of the McGill Department of Anesthesiology and an expert on processes of care and surgical outcomes. Their insightful feedback was distributed throughout our department. This was followed by a retreat of the department, with groups addressing our graduate program in Experimental Surgery, Basic Science Research, Clinical Research, and funding. This discussion will inform our future plans and will help us restructure and better focus our research efforts. Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg, Vice-Chair of Research for the Department for many years, has
asked to step down from this position as he is fully engaged in his role as Surgeon-in-Chief of the Jewish General Hospital and his personal academic efforts. The department is enormously indebted to Lorrie for his outstanding contributions. In subsequent editions of *The Square Knot* we will update you on the evolution of our research plans.

In each of the three years since I have had the honour of chairing the McGill Department of Surgery I have travelled to the Middle East to visit our former trainees and to build new relationships. In the two previous years I visited Oman and Kuwait. In December I was invited to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to give a keynote lecture at the meeting of the Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia (ELSA). I was proud to witness the leadership of our alumni and all they have accomplished since returning home. The long-standing relationship between McGill and the Middle East countries continues to flourish. It was a wonderful feeling for me to see their impact in person. McGill is truly an international university.

Like many institutions, McGill and its teaching hospitals are going through a challenging time in this difficult economic environment. Very dramatic cuts have been imposed on university funding and on the healthcare system. As a result we are spending much of our time rethinking the way we function, with value a prime determinant of our efforts. We are also in the process of completely reorganizing the McGill University Health Centre Hospitals with closure of the Royal Vic, the Montreal Children’s and the Chest Hospitals, and opening of the Glen Site, scheduled to occur in the summer of 2015. This will be followed a few years later by closure of the Montreal Neurological Hospital and its move also to the Glen site. The Shriners will close their current hospital, across from The Montreal General, and relocate adjacent to the Montreal Children’s Hospital pavilion at the Glen. This will not only be a physical reorganization, but will be associated with a dramatic change in the way we work. It is an exciting time. Anyone driving by the construction site is impressed by the enormous size of this project and the rate at which the construction is progressing. Follow these links to get an update on the project [http://muhc.ca/new-muhc/page/glen-campus and http://blogs.montrealgazette.com/2012/02/15/lego-land-photos-show-what-the-muhc-superhospital-will-look-like-in-ndg/](http://blogs.montrealgazette.com/2012/02/15/lego-land-photos-show-what-the-muhc-superhospital-will-look-like-in-ndg/) or to see a video in our two official languages [http://muhc.ca/glen/dashboard](http://muhc.ca/glen/dashboard).

As part of this project, the Montreal General is due for a major physical transformation. Although there have already been some important redevelopment projects within the MGH, a final overall plan awaits the budget allocation from the provincial government. At the same time, the Jewish General Hospital is renovating its physical plant and expanding with construction of the completely new Pavilion K. An overview of this project can be found at [http://www.jgh.ca/en/pavkpatientsvisitors](http://www.jgh.ca/en/pavkpatientsvisitors).

We hope that those of you who have moved away from Montreal will come back and visit. Although we are changing physically, the soul and character of the department is much as you remember it.  *The Square Knot* keeps you connected with McGill. Please remember to send us your current email information so that we can continue to communicate with you. We also invite you to correspond with us so that we can hear about what you are doing and pass thought on to other McGill alumni.

I wish you all a wonderful 2013!

Gerald M. Fried, MD, FRCSC, FACS  
Edward W. Archibald Professor and Chairman  
Department of Surgery, McGill University
At present, the Division counts four members with another recruit starting in July. David Mulder, Christian Sirois, and myself are primarily based at the MGH with regular clinics and operative presence at the JGH. Nate Sheiner, the fourth member of the Division, is based solely at the JGH and has provided 50 years of tireless and exemplary thoracic surgery coverage to McGill and Montreal. Talat Chughtai is an associate member and was recently recruited to maintain a thoracic surgical presence at the Hull hospital, and through his hard work, he has provided a valuable link to one of our main regional partners. This July we welcome a new recruit, Wael Hanna, to our ranks. Wael is well known to the McGill Surgical community, having completed a General Surgery Residency here in 2011 during which he graduated with an MBA from H.E.C. He is currently completing Thoracic Surgery training in Toronto. Dr. Hanna is an outstanding clinical scientist who brings a managerial approach to improving efficiency of care for thoracic oncology patients. His skills are most welcome in the present resource-limited climate in which we find ourselves.

The unit is proud to have spearheaded numerous clinical and research innovations over the past several years that promise to maintain our leadership in the Canadian Thoracic Surgery landscape. Through David Mulder’s leadership, McGill Thoracic Surgery is highly regarded in both thoracic trauma and lung oncology. However, over the past 5 years, it is the upper GI cancer program that has truly taken off and gained international recognition for a number of clinical and research initiatives. Foremost amongst these has been the development of an endoscopic therapy program for early malignancies of the foregut. Our Division hosts North America’s first Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) Program for the resection of early esophageal and gastric cancers. Originally developed in Japan, this highly specialized technique, employing novel electrosurgical equipment passed through a standard gastroscopy, enables the en-bloc removal of cancers limited to the mucosa and superficial submucosa. To date (at the Montreal General Hospital), 25 patients have undergone this organ sparing removal of early malignancies of the foregut that leaves no scar and minimal morbidity. Overall, the upper GI cancer program has grown exponentially by 300% over the past 5 years and represents the busiest program in Canada, with over 90 resections annually. This volume supports an active clinical and translational research program, funded by both the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. To highlight some of the recent findings of the McGill program, through a recently published trial, we have established a new neoadjuvant chemotherapy regimen for esophageal adenocarcinoma currently used worldwide (Ferri et al. Annals of Oncology 2012); our group has identified a novel approach using stent + single dose brachytherapy to palliate dysphagia in patients with metastatic esophageal cancer (Hanna et al, Current Oncology 2012); and we have successfully applied an enhanced recovery program to esophagectomy reducing the median length of stay to only 8 days after this complex procedure (Li et al, Surgery 2012).

FUTURE DIRECTIONS
Recognizing the complexity and multidisciplinary care of thoracic oncology patients, the Quebec Ministry of Health has developed a plan to further centralize Thoracic Surgery across the province. Our group has independently developed such a plan well on its way to implementation. Borrowing from the well established trauma systems, the proposed plan calls for developing three tiers of thoracic oncology care centres for the McGill RUIS (Réseau Universitaire Intégré de Santé), a large region comprising over 60% of the area of Quebec and 1.8 million people. The ultimate goal of this re-organization of thoracic surgical services is to ensure high quality and efficient care for all patients within the region, irrespective of point of entry. With patient care established by commonly developed guidelines through video-conferenced tumour boards and telemedicine links, the location of specific therapy is based on the hospitals’ level of thoracic oncology as follows:

LEVEL 1 – MUHC/MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL

Esophagus –
• All esophageal resections for the RUIS
• Complex chemotherapy and radiotherapy
• Esophageal endoscopic therapies - laser, complex stenting, endoscopic resections (ESD – endoscopic submucosal dissection; EMR – endoscopic mucosal resection), ablative therapies for Barrett’s (radiofrequency ablation, cryotherapy)

Lung –
• Complex lung resections for the entire RUIS (airway resection, chest wall resection, hilar lymph node disease, planned pneumonectomies, pleural pneumonectomies, etc) and local (MUHC) patients with all stages of disease.
• Complex radiotherapy and chemotherapy
• Endobronchial therapies for airway disease (stenting, laser, endoscopic resection)

**LEVEL 2 - JGH AND HULL/GATINEAU**

**Esophagus** –
• Management coordinated with the RUIS-wide program in Upper GI Cancer
• Diagnostic and some therapeutic endoscopy - uncomplicated stenting
• Chemotherapy
• Radiotherapy

**Lung** –
• Invasive diagnostic surgery - mediastinoscopy, EBUS, wedge lung resections
• Resection of some early stage disease in patients with good performance status
• Surgery for pleural disease
• Chemotherapy
• Radiotherapy

**LEVEL 3 - AMOS, VAL’D’OR, ROUYN NORANDA, VALLEY-FIELD, SAINT MARY’S HOSPITAL, LAKESHORE GENERAL HOSPITAL, ABITIBI, VERDUN GENERAL, LASALLE, ANNA LABERGE**

**Esophagus and Lung** –
• Diagnostic endoscopy (stenting performed centrally in Level 1 or 2)
• Chemotherapy - treatment coordinated with oncology team at Level 1 or 2

Many aspects of this proposal are already in place. However, manpower is an area requiring growth. With two surgeons retiring in the near future, at least 3 additional recruits are anticipated over the next 5 years in both Montreal (2-3) and Hull (1) to address the growing need of thoracic surgeons in our region. Our vision is to have a full complement of 5-6 surgeons in Montreal covering the MUHC/JGH, and 2 in Hull/Gatineau. With a strong interest in Thoracic Surgery amongst several outstanding current residents and recent graduates, I am certain that the future of Thoracic Surgery at McGill remains as bright as its illustrious past.

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**The McGill University Health Centre Steps Up Quality Improvement Efforts by Joining National Surgical Quality Improvement Program.**

**McGill Joins the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program**

At the McGill University Health Centre, we always strive to provide the highest quality care and look for ways to improve the safety and outcomes of our patients. To help identify these areas for improvement, we recently joined the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP).

ACS NSQIP is based on collecting clinical, risk-adjusted, 30-day outcomes data in a nationally benchmarked database. By using clinical data gathered from our patients’ medical charts, rather than administrative data, we will be able to catch more complications, helping the MUHC to improve patient outcomes and cut healthcare costs. Our results can then be compared to other hospitals similar to ours in size and type across the country to help us determine where we need to make quality improvements.

On average, ACS NSQIP participating hospitals have been able to prevent 250 to 500 complications and save 12 to 36 lives each year, saving millions of dollars annually. Tracking 30-day outcomes helps identify complications such as surgical site infections, urinary tract infections and pneumonia.

The program will begin at the Royal Victoria Hospital, with Dr. Prosanto Chaudhury serving as Surgeon Champion to oversee the implementation of ACS NSQIP at the RVH, educate others on the program and work closely with the Surgical Clinical Reviewer (SCR) to accurately capture our hospital’s data.

Danielle Vigeant has been named our hospital’s SCR and will undergo special training through the American College of Surgeons. The SCR role is dedicated to collecting and entering data and works closely with the Surgeon Champion, surgeons, and internal hospital committees to ensure accurate data collection and best results. Because the SCR is responsible for tracking 30-day patient outcomes, Danielle will be contacting surgeons’ offices and hospital committees.

We will continue to provide updates as the program progresses or with questions specific to the MUHC’s quality improvement efforts. In the meantime, for more information on ACS NSQIP, visit [http://site.acsnsqip.org/](http://site.acsnsqip.org/), or contact Dr. Chaudhury at 31951 or Danielle at 36249.

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**Liane Feldman, MD, FRCS**

Director, Division of General Surgery, McGill University
Awards Dinner  
October 17, 2012

Invited by:  
The Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, The Montreal General Hospital Foundation and The Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation

List of surgeons and their Research Awards for 2012

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<th>Award</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<td>Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu Distinguished Scientist for Surgical Research Award</td>
<td>Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu</td>
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<tr>
<td>The MGH Foundation Award</td>
<td>Dr. Roupen Hatzakorzian</td>
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<td>Viola McCarthy Fellowship</td>
<td>Dr. Sender Liberman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenshield Award – Obstetrics</td>
<td>Dr. Fadi Mansour</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Nesbitt-McMaster Award for Excellence in Medicine &amp; Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Francesco Donatelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Cedars Cancer Institute Ocular Pathology Fellowship</td>
<td>Mr. Tiago Briccoli</td>
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<td>Gérard R. Douville Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Henry K.M. deKuyper Distinguished Educator in Surgery Award</td>
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<td>Margaret Forster Memorial Fellowship</td>
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<td>Henry R. Shibata Cedars Cancer Institute Fellowship Award</td>
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<td>The Astral Media Award</td>
<td>Dr. Wael Hanna</td>
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<td>Dr. Jo Miller Chair in Orthopaedic Research</td>
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<td>Molson Brothers Award in Trauma</td>
<td>Dr. Talat Chughtai</td>
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<td>William Turner Award</td>
<td>Dr. Neil Saran</td>
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<td>Stewart &amp; Leonard Blonder Research Award</td>
<td>Dr. Andrea Petrucci</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Auxiliary of the MGH Research Award</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Deckelbaum</td>
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Dear Mostafa,
I just learned that you received the very prestigious Felix Guyon Medal from the Société internationale d’urologie in June. On behalf of the entire department, we would like to offer our congratulations. Your contributions reflect wonderfully on the Department of Surgery and McGill. We are all very proud to learn of this well-deserved recognition, and will make sure that this is noted in the next Square Knot. Gerry.

Gerald M. Fried, MD  
Surgeon-in-Chief, McGill University Health Centre

Dear Gerry,
Thanks. Greatly appreciate the comments. The medal was actually awarded in June, but given during the annual meeting of the Society on September 30th 2012 at the opening ceremonies with the crown prince of Japan in attendance. It was a wonderful experience and I greatly appreciated receiving this honour. ☺

Thanks again,
Mostafa

Mostafa Elhilali, MD  
Urology Division, McGill University

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Surgery, Heritage and the MUHC

By Jonathan Meakins, OC, MD, FRCSC, FCS(Hon.), fSaCS(Hon.)

The McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) is going through some tumultuous times when one considers the draconian budget difficulties, the demand for services, the building of the Glen site hospital and the planning for the move of the Children’s, the Chest and the Vic to the Glen. The Department of Surgery is caught up in these troubles as are all clinical services.

There are not many good news stories about at the moment, but perhaps one of them is the establishment by Normand Rinfret of THE HERITAGE CENTRE of the MUHC.

One of the Oxford Dictionary’s definitions of heritage is: a nation’s historic buildings, monuments, countryside, etc., esp. when regarded as worthy of preservation. Substituting MUHC for nation, the objects worthy of preservation are inside the buildings and reflect the culture, whether historical, visual, or material, as well as the values of the institutions. These are incorporated in the archives, professional equipment, artefacts, antiques, pictures and objects of the daily life in the constituent hospitals with history dating back to 1821. The move to the Glen means that soon three hospitals will close their doors and the contents of those buildings at that moment will not be owned by the MUHC. In addition, some clinical units presently at the General will also move. On all sites, there are significant objects, papers, photos, medical and nursing equipment, furniture, pictures, portraits and memorabilia which represent our history and heritage. As the focus is naturally on other areas involved in the transition and move, the danger of losing our heritage and therefore some of our history is real. Consequently, the move presents a threat, but also an opportunity to identify, catalogue, evaluate, and preserve that heritage which is regarded as worthy of preservation, crystallizing the need for an MUHC structure enabling the exposure of our culture and heritage after the move to the Glen.

In the past, several individuals had informally recognized that there was no formal structure within the MUHC which focussed on the preservation of our past. Nevinne Fateen, Manager of Volunteer Services at the MUHC, established in 1992 an Antiques and Archives Committee which met regularly and has collected artefacts, pictures, and professional equipment at the RVH, which were stored in the attic of the Hersey pavilion. At the MGH, Herbert Bercovitz has amassed a large collection of archives, medical and nursing artefacts, brass plaques, memorabilia and photographs which are hidden away on the 21st floor of the General. Dr. Richard Fraser established a MUHC Physician and Nurses Heritage Committee. Prior to May of 2012, the only formal heritage activity at the MUHC was managed by Karine Raynor (Expert-advisor for MUHC heritage services) who has been creating an inventory of noteworthy MUHC objects, medical equipment, art and documents. Located in the Transition Support Office, to close in 2015, her role also involves the preservation of culture, future exhibition planning and strategically overseeing the integration of heritage and culture within the Glen site. The future move to the Glen entailed a risk of loss - loss of objects medical, surgical, nursing, antiques, photos and pictures - all of which reflected the heritage of the closing institutions. An inventory of the RVH, MCH and MCI ARTEFACTS AND ART remains work in progress. Karine Raynor is working collaboratively with these groups as well as the Planning and Redevelopment office and Marketing. The common objectives make the point that coordination and cross-fertilization are in the interest of all.

The Heritage and Art Committee was created as a component of the Legacy Committee, which was formed in May of 2012 to organize and coordinate the festivities around the opening of the Glen and the closing of the three hospitals. Thus a single structure integrating all of those actively interested in the preservation of our collective heritage was created. Three areas of activity were identified: the Scientific, Clinical and Social History collections, Art, and Archives. In February, the committee was integrated into the formal organigram of the MUHC as the Heritage Centre where it will assume responsibility for the preservation, exhibition and organization of heritage and art at the MUHC as well as contact with the outside world. In the letter appointing Dr. Jonathan Meakins, a volunteer, as the Director, Mr. Rinfret enunciated the Mission and Mandate of the centre.

THE MISSION:
The Heritage Centre recognizes the significant social, artistic, medical and nursing histories of the MUHC hospitals since 1821 in the development of Montreal, and seeks to preserve and highlight existing artifacts and other visual objects from this rich heritage in dedicated exhibition spaces as an integral part of the leading edge healing environment designed for patients, their families, visitors and staff at the MUHC.

THE MANDATE:
Reporting to the CEO of the MUHC, the Heritage Centre of the MUHC is a dedicated entity mandated to:

1. Centralize and manage all issues pertaining to the collection, preservation, cataloguing and promotion of heritage artefacts and medical/nursing objects in MUHC hospitals.
2. Lead decision-making activities regarding all...
future acquisitions related to the MUHC’s heritage, including collection development.

3. Recommend strategic objectives for the management of and public access to the MUHC heritage collection, including the Centre’s dedicated annual budget, heritage volunteers, and promotional program development.

4. Work collaboratively with the Transition Support Office and continue to coordinate regularly with the Planning Office, the MUHC Legacy Committee and its subcommittees and the Marketing Department.

5. Coordinate regularly with MUHC Communications and other departments and units, as the need arises, in order to ensure a unified, efficient and professional approach to the promotion of the MUHC’s social and artistic history for both internal and external stakeholders.

Surgery, perhaps more than any other clinical specialty, has an abundance of interesting instruments, many of which are in a state of constant evolution. With the vast technical changes which have taken place over the last 20 years, some interesting and classic instruments have fallen by the wayside. They nevertheless have historical interest and form a part of our history. One of the reasons to include the development of The Heritage Centre in this last print issue of The Square Knot is to encourage all surgeons with a connection to the MUHC Hospitals in the past to search their own archives to determine if they possess objects, photos, or Materia Medica et Chirurgica which might enhance the collections presently being found, catalogued, stored and preserved for the future. An example of a wonderful artefact is Dr. Roddick’s carbolic acid sprayer (see above) with which Listerism was introduced into Montreal and Canada. The yellow tag is its catalogue and inventory number.

A second example of what we are looking for is this photo (below, left) of the Sigma Nu medical fraternity of 1953-54.

At least five of this group had distinguished careers within the McGill University Hospitals as they were known at the time. Fifth from the left, third row is John Oliver (urologist, RVH). In the fourth row, John Gutelius (vascular surgery, RVH) is fourth from the right; beside him is Ross Murphy (orthopaedic surgeon, MGH) and on the far right is Joe Martin (neurologist, MGH and MNH). In the back row on the far right is Earl Wynnands (anesthetist, RVH). Jack White, pediatric surgeon at Hopkins, is fifth from the left in the first row. We would be delighted to have any photos, surgical memorabilia or other items related to our collective heritage.

The Heritage Centre, presently located within the Transition Support Office and linked to the Redevelopment office, has an executive group, with representation from all hospitals, which meets regularly and has since the summer of 2012. Our immediate goals are to deal with the issues of heritage preservation within the MUHC institutions that are closing and moving to the Glen. Networks within all institutions are being developed to ensure that we have the best chance to preserve significant objects that are in danger of being discarded for lack of interest, the pressure of time or not knowing what they represent. An example of which was the saving of a pastel portrait of Dr. Joe Stratford, distinguished neurosurgeon at the MGH, by Eva Prager, which was thrown away despite repairable damage to the image. It is in safe keeping. Much surgical instrumentation has been lost for the same reasons.

Long-term objectives include:

- ensuring the preservation of heritage and art on all sites;
- highlighting the history of medicine and healthcare at the MUHC;
- improving the hospital environment for staff and visitors;
- making our heritage accessible throughout the MUHC.

We look forward to any and all assistance which the readers of The Square Knot can provide.
The Department of Experimental Surgery held its Annual Graduate Program Research Day with the expert assistance of the Experimental Surgery Graduate Student Society. The full day event took place on January 17th, 2013 at Thompson House where graduate students, surgical residents and post-doctoral fellows presented their ongoing research. The day started with opening remarks from Dr. Elaine Davis, the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Medicine. The invited guest speaker, Dr. Chandan Sen, Professor and Vice-chairman (Research) of the Department of Surgery at Ohio State University gave an outstanding presentation on a timely and clinically important topic Oxygen and OxymiRs in Wound Healing. The impromptu discussions that Dr. Sen led at lunch hour and coffee breaks on topics that ranged from ethical issues in research to achieving career goals, were truly inspirational to both students and faculty alike. Above all, the event served as an important platform for our trainees and faculty members to network and share their research findings and areas of expertise.

We can truthfully be proud of our talented trainees. Each one of the presentations was of high caliber and exceeded expectations. As a result, the judging team which included 8 faculty members (Drs. Fackson, Haglund, Lapointe, Chevalier, Barralet, Recklies, Petropavlovskaya and Sen) deliberated for more than an hour to select the winners. The winners in the Oral (10 min) category were: 1st Place: Jonathan Cools-Lartigue (PGY-3 General Surgery, PhD Candidate Supervisor: Dr. Ferri); 2nd Place: Carter Li (PhD Candidate Supervisor: Dr. Philip); 3rd Place: Craig Hasilo (PhD Candidate, Supervisor: Dr. Paraskevas) and Rahul Gawri (PhD Candidate Supervisors: Dr. Haglund/ Dr. Mwale). The winners in the TED-Style Talks (5 min) category were: 1st Place: Dominique Behrends (MSc Candidate, Supervisors: Dr. Henderson / Dr. Martineau); 2nd Place: Fred Chan Gao (PhD Candidate, Supervisor: Dr. Henderson/Dr. Haglund); 3rd Place: Sherif Abdalla (MS Candidate, Supervisor: Dr. Cecere).

Congratulations to all the winners. Many thanks to the Judging Committee, Experimental Surgery Graduate Student Society, their executive committee and in particular their dedicated co-presidents Yoon Chi and Rahul Gawri who worked tirelessly to make the Research Day a great success. 

Welcome Dr. Marylise Boutros

The Division of General Surgery is very pleased to welcome back Dr. Marylise Boutros, a colorectal surgeon, who has joined the Jewish General Hospital. Dr. Boutros is a proud graduate of the McGill General Surgery residency program, during which she pursued a Fellowship in Medical Education. She recently completed a two-year fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida under the supervision of Dr. Steven Wexner, focusing on Advanced Laparoscopy and Endoscopy. Dr. Boutros has had a very academically successful fellowship, publishing several book chapters and articles and presenting her work widely. We look forward to adding her expertise in minimally invasive colorectal surgery techniques, including Robotics, to our Division. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Marylise Boutros to the Division of General Surgery at the JGH and McGill.
Welcome Dr. Jean-Francois Boileau 
We welcome Dr. Jean-Francois Boileau, a surgical oncologist who joined the Jewish General Hospital in September 2012, to the McGill Division of General Surgery. Dr Boileau completed his General Surgery training at the Université de Montréal, where he also obtained a Masters in Clinical Epidemiology. After a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the University of Toronto, he returned to the CHUM in 2007, where he developed a primary focus in Breast Cancer. In 2009, Dr. Boileau was recruited to the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, where he developed a strong reputation in clinical breast cancer research as principal investigator for several studies funded by the NSABP, the NCIC and the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation. Dr. Boileau will build on the strong tradition of academic surgical oncology at the JGH and we are very happy to welcome him and his family back to Montreal and to McGill.

Dr. Armen Aprikian from McGill Urology and Dr. Yves Fradet of Laval University were awarded a grant of $2,700,000 from the GRePEC program-Cancer Research Society-FRQS for a provincial study of prostate cancer development.

Division of Urology

Dr. Peter Chan (Co-investigator) from the Division of Urology and Dr. Geraldine Delbes of the Armand Frappier Institute (PI) have been awarded a three-year research grant from the Cole Foundation. Their research will focus on the impact of childhood leukemia and lymphoma on male reproductive health.

In November, Dr. Sero Andonian delivered a lecture entitled La radioprotection pour les infirmiers at the Annual Meeting of the Association Québécoise des Infirmières et des Infirmiers en Urologie (AQuIU) in Quebec City. This year, he has been invited again to be faculty lecturer for two courses (Office Based Uroradiology and Hands-on course on Percutaneous Nephrostomy) at the upcoming American Urological Association Annual Meeting in San Diego. Furthermore, Dr. Andonian has been selected to visit European centres of excellence as part of the Canadian Urological Association-European Association of Urology Visiting Professorship Exchange Program from Feb. 27th to March 20th, 2013.

The 4th Annual Urologic Oncology Golf Tournament took place on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at the prestigious Le Mirage. All proceeds went to benefit the Giuseppe Bruno Urologic Oncology Centre of the MUHC for the establishment of an endowed Chair in Kidney Cancer Research. The event was a great success. A big thank you to all.

Dr. Wassim Kassouf was invited to the Netherlands Cancer Institute to give a talk on Quality of care for invasive bladder cancer: a Canadian perspective back in September 2012. He was also invited to give a talk on Biomarkers in the diagnosis and risk-stratification of upper tract urothelial carcinoma at the Society of Urologic Oncology annual meeting held in Bethesda, Maryland. In November 2012, Dr. Kassouf was honored to give the Distinguished Alumni Lecture at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Lastly, it was Dr. Kassouf’s fifth year as course director of the 12th Annual Canadian Senior Resident Uro-oncology course that was held in October. It was a very successful 2-day event attended by every urology chief resident across Canada and 18 guest faculty members.

The 8th Annual Urologic Oncology Visiting Professor, organized by Drs. Simon Tanguay and Armen Aprikian, of the Division of Urology, was held at the Jeanne Timmins Amphitheatre of the Montreal Neurological Institute on Wednesday September 19, 2012. This year’s guest speaker was Dr. George Thalmann, Professor and Chairman Department Urology, University Hospital of Bern, Switzerland, who gave a state-of the art presentation, entitled The role of the microenvironment and of cancer stem cells in prostate cancer progression. Dr. Thalmann also gave a presentation at the Department of Urology Grand Rounds the following day entitled The evolution of urinary diversion.

There was a lunch on December 14th, 2012, for the inauguration of the Dr. Michael P. Laplante Urologic Oncology Conference Room (L8.421) at the MGH with members of the Urology and Oncology Divisions present.

Dr. Michael P. Laplante
Dr. Simon Bergman from the Division of General Surgery at the JGH was named by the Canadian Association of General Surgeons as Program co-chair for the Canadian Surgery Forum for 2012-15. Simon was also recently named as Director of Undergraduate Surgical Education for McGill.

Dr. Liane Feldman was named to the Board of Directors of the Fellowship Council to serve as member-at-large. The Fellowship Council was created to foster the development of high quality fellowships in MIS, GI, endoscopy, bariatric, HPB, colorectal and thoracic surgery through a universal application and match process. The council accredits fellowships to encourage excellence in fellowship training. Liane was also invited to serve on the American Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Board of Governors for a three-year term beginning in April 2013.

Dr. Philip H. Gordon was: (I) Invited Participant – Worst Cases - Past Presidents’ Perspectives — Complex Fistula — Annual Scientific Meeting, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, June 2-6, 2012 San Antonio Texas; (II) Invited Participant – GI Cancer Workshop: Current Controversies in Rectal Cancer Management, Montreal, Que., Aug. 28, 2012; and (III) 9th Annual International Lecture Keynote Speaker: Ontario Association of General Surgeons, Nov. 3, 2012, Toronto, Ont. on (a) Evolution of Colorectal Surgery During My Career, (b) Evaluation and Management of Rectal Carcinoma , and (c) So, you are contemplating writing a medical textbook, are you?; And (IV) Invited Speaker - 3rd Annual Career Course for Colorectal Residents Writing under different hats, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Nov. 9-10, 2012, Cleveland Ohio.

Dr. Antoine Loutfi, surgical oncologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital, is the Recipient of the Prix reconnaissance 2012 de la Direction Québécoise de Cancérologie of the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services. This recognition award is for contributions made in advancing services for cancer patients in Quebec. Dr. Anie Philip, Division of Plastic Surgery, was recently awarded a grant from the US Department of Defense for an amount of $1 million for the development of an anti-fibrotic agent based on her team’s recent findings on the inhibitory effects of CD109 on the pro-fibrotic actions of TGF-beta.

Dr. Michael Tanzer has been named as the Co-Editor of The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery Orthopaedic Highlights: Hip Surgery, and as an Elite Reviewer of the editorial board of The Journal of Arthroplasty. He presented the results of his research entitled Locally Delivered Alendronic Acid Enhances Net Bone Formation Around Porous Titanium Implants at The Hip Society meeting held at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, and at The International Hip Society held in Zurich, Switzerland.

Dr. Christo Tchervenkov, on December 4, 2012, was invited by Dr. David Eidelman, the Dean of Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, to attend a reception to celebrate him as the Inaugural Chairholder of the Tony Dobell Chair in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at Holmes Hall, Faculty of Medicine. Congratulations! ♦️

Achievements of Residents and Fellows

Dr. Ziyad Binsalamah’s publication entitled Intramyocardial sustained delivery of placental growth factor using nanoparticles as a vehicle for delivery in the rat infarct model was submitted to the McGill MedStar program. He has been chosen to receive a McGill MedStar Award in recognition of the excellent research he carried out in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University.

Dr. Lawrence Lee, a 3rd year General Surgery resident pursuing a PhD in health economics in the Surgeon Scientist Program, will receive the American Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Researcher in Training Award at the SAGES annual meeting in April 2013. SAGES is the largest North American general surgical society after the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Chao Li, a 3rd year General Surgery resident in the Surgeon Scientist Program received the Best Poster award at the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons in Calgary in September 2012, and the 1st Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) congress in Cannes, France for his study An enhanced recovery pathway reduces length of stay after esophagectomy.

Dr. Amy Neville, fellow in Bariatric Surgery, was awarded the prize of excellence for best scientific clinical paper at the Société Québécoise de Transplantation for work she completed towards a MSc in Epidemiology under the supervision of Dr. Jeffrey Barkun.

Dr. Minh Tri Nguyen, a General Surgery resident pursuing a PhD under the supervision of Dr. Steve Paraskevas, received the Transplantation Society International Basic Science Mentee–Mentor Travel Award for the 24th International Congress of the Transplantation Society, Berlin 2012. He will also receive the Basic Science Trainee Award at the upcoming Canadian Society of Transplantation annual meeting. ♦️

Dr. Lawrence Lee, a 3rd year General Surgery resident pursuing a PhD in health economics in the Surgeon Scientist Program, will receive the American Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Researcher in Training Award at the SAGES annual meeting in April 2013. SAGES is the largest North American general surgical society after the American College of Surgeons.
Invitation to the 11th Annual LD MacLean Day.
Were you trained by Dr. Lloyd D MacLean between 1962 and 1993? The Division of General Surgery invites any and all of Dr. LD MacLean’s previous clinical and research trainees and colleagues to join us on April 24, 2013 at the 11th annual LD MacLean Visiting Professor Day and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. MacLean’s arrival at McGill. This visiting professorship anchors the academic year in the Division of General Surgery, providing an opportunity for residents and students to present their research and to celebrate the academic achievements of the division as a whole. The banquet closing the day celebrates our graduating chief residents.

We will welcome Dr. Philip Schauer, Professor of Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and Director of the Cleveland Clinic Bariatric and Metabolic Institute as our Visiting Professor. Dr. Schauer is a leader in academic bariatric and metabolic surgery, immediate Past President of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, and principal investigator for the STAMPEDE trial comparing bariatric surgery to intensive medical therapy in obese patients with diabetes.

Dr. MacLean’s legacy stressing the importance of research and involvement of surgeons in science remains a cornerstone of the division today. His contributions to the study of shock and inflammation, transplantation and surgery for obesity continue to influence surgical practice and investigation. Please contact Barbara Guido (Barbara.guido@muhc.mcgill.ca or 514 934 1934 ext. 44004) if you are able to attend, would like to contribute a reminiscence about Dr. MacLean and your time at McGill to the commemorative program, or are able to contribute financially to the division academic fund in Dr. MacLean’s honour.

27th Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor in Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery
September 13-14, 2012

John G. Birch, MD, FRCS(C)
Assistant Chief of Staff, Division of Orthopaedics
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children
Professor, Department of Orthopaedics
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
"...The Anthony R.C. Dobell Visiting Professorship of Congenital Cardiac Surgery is a fitting tribute to his invaluable contributions to the field of congenital cardiac surgery as well as his crucial role in the training of numerous outstanding cardiac surgeons..." ◆

Christo Tchervenkov MD, FRCSC
Director of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery
The Montreal Children’s Hospital
McGill University

Dr. Emile Bacha

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Visiting an Old Empire...

The red Chinese letters on the rock (see attached photo) symbolize the site of the tomb of the “Yellow Emperor”, who governed China four thousand years ago!

DR. SHUM-TIM’S FREQUENT CHINESE VISITS...

This year would be my third year to visit the Guiyang Medical School Affiliated Hospital for our annual charity tour. In addition, we travelled even further peripherally to visit Xingyi, a small city at the province of Guiyang with >800,000 population. This is a city populated by 26 different minorities from China and generally very poor living conditions. Many people in the city would not be able to afford to see a doctor in their life. Although recently all the congenital heart disease patients were to receive free medical service, many people could not even afford to come to the hospital for medical attention. We successfully performed 8 open heart surgeries with one CPB machine over 2 days in Xingyi and delivered a talk on A Strong Cardiac Surgery Program in a General Hospital: A Burden or Opportunity? After a 4 days visit in Xingyi, we returned to Guiyang and performed a few more surgeries to complete our journey. Before returning to Canada, I also went to Nanjing to give a talk at the Nanjing Medical University Cardiovascular Symposium entitled: Stem Cell Therapy in Heart Diseases: What do we know and do not know? Overall, the visit was very satisfactory and more collaboration was accomplished between McGill and the hosting institutions. ◆

Dominique Shum-Tim, MD, MSc, FRCSC
Associate Professor of Surgery, McGill University

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Dear Dr. Chiu,

It was indeed great to see you and talk with you in Xian. Thanks so much for your keynote lecture. Here are some photos taken during the meeting.

Warmest regards,

Lee L. Q. Pu, MD, PhD, FACS
Chairman, Scientific Committee*
Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery
University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA, USA

EDITOR’S NOTE:

Although a cardiothoracic surgeon at McGill, I was invited as a ‘VIP guest speaker’ at The Third World Congress for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent, which took place in October 2012 at Xian City, once the Capital of China for a thousand years.
DR. HARVEY BROWN passed away on November 24th, 2012 at the Montreal General Hospital surrounded by his closest friends and family.

Dr. Brown did his Medical School at Queen’s University and always kept a great affection for that school and the medical students/residents. However his long career at the MGH/McGill University began on July 1st, 1963. Among his compatriots were Dr. David Mulder and Dr. Rea Brown, all hired for residencies by Dr. H. Rocke Robertson. He came to McGill University for his General Surgery followed by his Plastic Surgery training at the Montreal General Hospital; quite a move for a Toronto native. He studied under the then famous Chief of the Division Dr. Woollhouse as well as Dr. H Bruce Williams. His MSc Degree was on the Antigenic Properties of the Burn Wound.

After finishing his Plastic Surgery Training and obtaining both his Quebec and Royal College certifications, Dr. Brown was an RS McLaughlin Travelling Fellow and he embarked on a Fellowship with a well-known European Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Skoog in Upsala, Sweden. Dr. Skoog had developed an international reputation in cleft, flap, facelift innovation and facial reconstruction. Due to this experience, Dr. Brown brought great new techniques of reconstruction to McGill.

Dr. Brown devoted a large portion of his time to burn victims, dedicated to saving and attending the care of these patients within the MGH Trauma Program. He spent endless hours reconstructing and bringing to those patients a better functional life despite their injuries. One of his passions was wound care and wound healing, a large component of burn care. His teaching had a large impact on many students, residents and fellows. During his tribute at the Memorial Service held on December 13th, 2012, Dr. David Mulder, a close friend, related how Dr. Brown was always available to help with large and complex wounds with an amazing commitment. During his eulogy at the Memorial service, Dr. Mulder mentioned that “… He was a teacher extra - ordinaire — but not in the traditional manner.” Recently, Dr. Brown had received the Life Achievement Award at the Quebec Association with his family in attendance.

Nationally, Dr. Brown was an examiner for the Royal College for 5 years and later Chairman of the Specialty Examination Board, President of the Quebec Society of Plastic Surgeons (1976), and President of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons (1985). Internationally, he was a Member of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons (AAPS), where the membership has to be elected in a formal process (only 4 members ever from the Quebec cohort of plastic surgeons).

In 1993, Dr. Brown became Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery. A position he held with great pride until 2001. During his tenure, one of his important contributions was the recruitment of a Basic Scientist, Dr. Anie Philip, PhD for the Plastic Surgery Research Laboratories at the MGH. Dr. Philip has proven to be a tireless researcher, extremely successful obtaining grants from CIHR, NSERC and more recently from the US Department of Defense. She dedicates her research to wound healing, arthritis, scleroderma etc. studying TGF-beta and CD-109 for many years. Dr. Philip has up to 10-15 students, MScs and PHDs in her laboratory at all times.

Dr. Brown and his beautiful wife Nancy had 2 children, Christina and Alexander. He was very proud of the skills of his daughter in the advertising world and very fond of his son as well as his daughter-in-law and his 2 young grandchildren.

Dr. Brown’s impact on the numerous people with whom he worked with throughout his years is impossible to convey in words so perhaps it is best to quote his son Alexander Brown, who spoke so eloquently at the Memorial Service: “Many of the people who knew my father well professionally rather than personally have asked me over the years what he was like as a father. I never felt like I had a good answer for them. But I do now. He was – perfect. Perfectly humble yet strong, perfectly unvarnished yet highly learned; perfectly fallible, somewhat flawed and perfectly unfashionable; perfectly vulnerable and perfectly always present in our lives growing up. . . I could not wish for a better father.”

Dr. Mulder befittingly said during his tribute: “. . . while there is an enormous vacuum which will be felt by patients, colleagues, friends and especially family, he would want us to press on with the benefit of what he imparted to each of us.”

In the words of Francis Bacon: “The images of men’s wits and knowledge remain . . . They generate still, and cast their seeds in the minds of others, provoking and causing infinite actions and opinions in the minds of others, provoking and causing infinite actions and opinions in succeeding ages.”

For the Division of Plastic Surgery and the thousands of patients and children that Dr. Brown cared for at the MUHC-McGill University it is an important loss. His spirit however will always be with us in the way that Winston Churchill wrote: “We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give”. Dr. Harvey C. Brown certainly did give a lot to the McGill hospitals and the patients. ◆

Farewell to our colleague, Lucie Lessard, MD, FRCSC, FACS

Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery, McGill University
Tie one on for McGill!

The McGill Department of Surgery invites you to tie one on for the old school! The McGill red silk tie and scarf with CREST, SQUARE KNOT and FLEAM are available for purchase from the Alumni Office as follows:

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