

# THE SQUARE

*20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

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**T**he *Square Knot* is Twenty years old. I thank **Ray Chiu** for the opportunity to reflect upon its origins and its evolution over this period of great change within the Department itself as well as within the health-care environment of the Province and its impact on the University. The fundamental stimulus for the creation of a McGill Department Newsletter was the belief that we could not continue as we were and that different approaches were required to provide the glue that would, despite our different sites and cultures, identify clearly that we were a single department.

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *The Square Knot*: A Symbol of Evolution and Spirit for McGill Surgery

By Jonathan L. Meakins, M.D.



Jonathan L. Meakins, MD  
Founder of *The Square Knot*

In 1988, there were a few McGill residency programs each based on both teaching hospitals, in CVT, Plastics and as seen in the first issue, Orthopaedics. There were nonetheless strong and sometimes fiercely independent divisions within each hospital. The Departments and Divisions at the Vic and the General had very cordial relations but no real interaction, functioning effectively as independent units within their hospitals and the Faculty of Medicine. There was a separate university surgical budget for each hospital. This state of affairs was certainly not unique to Surgery and was the case in most clinical departments. Indeed, it always seemed to me that we had effectively two medical schools at McGill and while this produced a hybrid vigour and some useful competition, it

was hard to imagine it could continue. The trend in France and some other areas of Europe but particularly in the United States was increasing subspecialisation within traditional surgical disciplines. Orthopaedics was separating into subspecialties including: spine, arthroplasty (to be further subdivided), hand, foot and ankle, elbow/ shoulder, and sports. Within General Surgery, hepatobiliary, breast, oncology, esophago-gastric and colorectal were established in major institutions. Transplantation was a specialty wishing to be recognised as such, often organ specific. Vascular wished to be independent and separated from General Surgery or CVT. Already in 1988, maintaining a critical mass was becoming difficult. ▶

(Please see *20th Anniversary* on page 10)

**Inside**

Letters to the Editor	2	20th Annual Fraser Gurd Day	12
Editor's Note	3	Kudos	18
Dr. Elhilali Steps Down from Chair	3	Divisional Activities	20
Welcome Aboard	4	2009 MUHC Men's Health Day	23
Drs. Richard and Sylvia Cruess	5	McGill, CNIS and Ethiopia	24
Welcome New Chiefs 2009-2010	7	Visiting Professors	25

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

NEWSLETTER

McGILL UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2009





## Letters to The Editor

### Dear Editor,

I have great news to share with everyone in The Square Knot. I will be joining the McGill Division of Urology on July 6th, 2009. I will be based at the RVH. After obtaining 3 degrees from McGill University (BSc, MSc, MDCM), and finishing Urology Residency training at MUHC, I have been pursuing a two-year research and clinical fellowship in Endourology/Laparoscopy/Robotics at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York. I am happy to inform you that I recently won the "Best Laparoscopic Paper Award" at the World Congress of Endourology in Shanghai, China for the paper entitled "Laparoscopic experience correlates with differential functional brain activation: An oxygen-15 labeled PET scan study". I will be joining Dr. Maurice Anidjar and Dr. Mostafa Elhilali in conducting clinical trials in Endourology, particularly in the management of renal stones.

Thank you for your time,

**Sero Andonian BSc'97, MSc'99,  
MDCM'02**

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### Dear Editor,

I trust that all goes well for you and the Dept of Surgery. This is just a short note regarding an address change and an update on a recent career move.

Thank you for the ongoing outreach efforts to the McGill Surgery Alumni.

Best, Peter.

**Peter B. Angood MD, FACS, FCCM**  
*Senior Advisor – Patient Safety  
National Quality Forum (NQF)  
Washington DC*

**Editor's Note:** An attached announcement from NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM, based in Washington DC, stated: "Dr. Angood served on NQF's Safe Practices steering committee, and has played a lead role in the World Health Organization's (WHO) Collaborating Center for Patient Safety Solutions, a component of the WHO Alliance for Patient Safety...".

**P.S.:** Dr. Angood further stated: "... The NQF is a pivotal organization in US healthcare and the opportunity for healthcare in the States is ripe for change. I will do what I am able in order to provide improved focus on patient safety and quality with the platform I am privileged to occupy.

The reaches of McGill Surgery are broad as you well know. All the best to you and the others...and thanks again." --Peter

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### Dear Editor,

I just wanted to update you on our growing family. Nadia MacDonald was born in Feb 2009, a little sister for Jaya, who is now 19 months old. Derek and I are both keeping well and send our regards to everyone at McGill.

Hope to see you soon,

**Bindu Bittira MSc, MD, FRCSC**  
*Cardiac Surgeon  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Northern  
Ontario School of Medicine*



*Sisters Jaya and Nadia MacDonald*

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### Dear Editor,

I was pleased to read the letter by Fred Inglis in the Winter issue of the Square Knot. I joined the Diploma Course in 1956 and had Fred as one of my mentors. I was happy that his principal ailments are orthopedic and correctible. Fred was also a remarkable teacher and I owe him much thanks for the fact that I passed the Fellowship exams on the first try. He corrected our written exam questions during the summer prep course

before the writtens. Without his sound advice I probably would never have learned how to organize the facts for the examiner. He also taught me that paper is cheap (as he wrote) and that I should only prepare my answers on one side of the page. I wish him well in a very deserved retirement, albeit a busy one.

**Arthur N. Freedman, M.D. MSc  
FRCS(C), FACS,**  
*Assistant Professor of Surgery, McGill,  
Senior Surgeon, Jewish General Hospital.*

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### Dear Editor,

Dr. Don Lalonde was selected by the Regional Atlantic Advisory Committee for the Atlantic Provinces. "New Brunswick 2008 Specialist of the Year" For "long standing commitment to the health and well-being of individuals and society through ethical practice, profession-led



*Dr. Don Lalonde*

regulation, and high personal standards of behavior. I am attaching a photo of him and hope that you will put it in your next addition of the newsletter.

*Thanks,  
Jan Lalonde*

**Editor's Note:** Dr. Lalonde is a Plastic and Reconstructive surgeon, trained at McGill, 1984.

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### Dear Editor,

I was delighted to receive a copy of "The Square Knot" from you, and apologize for the delay in sending along my thanks.

It is always very special for me, and our children to read anything of Jo's accomplishments. It is amazing that it was over 19 years ago – but the memory will always be there! Many thanks for your thoughtfulness,

Sincerely,  
**Mrs. Patricia D. Miller**  
*Toronto, ON*  
(Please see **Letters** on page 26) ▶



## Editor's Note

By Ray C. Chiu, M.D., Ph.D.

**T**o celebrate the twentieth anniversary of this publication *The Square Knot*, we are pleased to have its founder, **Dr. Jonathan Meakins**, then the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at McGill, contribute a lead article in this issue. He describes his vision to integrate this Department, and the historical process of how this goal had been pursued. As we celebrate this landmark date for *The Square Knot*, we wish to express our gratitude to previous editors, contributors both in manuscripts and in donations, and last but not least, to our readers, whose feedback is always appreciated.

This issue of *The Square Knot* also coincides with the 20th annual **Fraser N. Gurd Visiting Professor Day** celebration. The sentiment expressed by **Mrs. Pat Pryde**, daughter of Dr. Gurd, reflects well the McGill surgical family's respect and affection

for Dr. Gurd, and the pride in our history. As usual, the **Fraser N. Gurd Visiting Professor Day** described in this issue of *The Square Knot* is the happy occasion to congratulate and send off our graduating trainees, and we wish for their continued success in their future endeavours.

Last but not least, *The Square Knot* is indebted to the outgoing Chairman of our Department **Dr. Mostafa Elhilali**, and the Administrator **Ms. Madeleine Beaulne**, for their support and encouragement over the years. Our highly experienced past Chairman, **Dr. David Mulder**, will again steer the wheel of the Department as the Interim Chair. I recall when I retired from my job as the Director of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, he also kept the ship sailing for several years while the search committee did its work. We sincerely appreciate his endless dedication and tireless leadership. ♦

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n May 31, 2009, **Dr. Mostafa Elhilali** completed his term as the Chairman of the Department of Surgery, McGill University, and the Director of Surgical Services at McGill University Health Centre. His excellent leadership, even when facing complex and difficult challenges, did not waiver, with determination, calm and humility. We are all much indebted to his exemplary contributions and guidance. **Dr. David Mulder**, with rich chairmanship experience already behind him, agreed to serve as the Interim Chair, Department of Surgery, McGill and Interim Director of Surgical Services, MUHC as of June 1, 2009.



Dr. Mostafa Elhilali

Dr. Mostafa Elhilali was also the **First Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Urological Association** in April 2009, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association.

This award recognizes an individual, at least 25 years following the completion of residency, who is deemed to have made outstanding contributions to advance the mission and goals of the American Urological Association.

This was the first time the AUA gave this award, and they chose a Canadian for this honor!

On June 17, 2009, Dr. Elhilali was appointed an **Officer of the Order of Quebec**.

### AND MERCI ALSO TO MS. MADELEINE BEAULNE

Madeleine Beaulne has retired from her position as Administrator in the Department of Surgery at McGill and the MUHC as of July 3, 2009. Madeleine came to the Department of Surgery at the RVH as a temporary replacement for a medical secretary for Drs. Christou and Meakins in 1984, then moved on to other postings, namely with Drs. Monaghan, Milne, Lloyd MacLean and Meakins, before taking up her latest position of Administrator in 1992.

**Editor's Note:** *The Square Knot* is grateful for Madeleine's assistance over the years, particularly for her superb ability in picking up errors upon proof reading. We appreciate her offer to continue with such help. ♦

**T**he Division of Urology at McGill University has recruited **Dr. Sero Andonian** as an Assistant Professor as of July 2009. Dr. Andonian graduated from McGill University Health Centre Urology Residency Training Program in 2007. He then pursued a 2-year endourology, laparoscopy and robotic fellowship under the supervision of Drs. Arthur Smith and Louis Kavoussi in

## Welcome Aboard



*Dr. Sero Andonian*

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System in New Hyde Park, NY. Dr. Andonian's specialty will be endourology and minimally invasive urology. Please join us in wishing him all the best and in welcoming him in his new role at the MUHC.

**Dr. Sebastian Demyttenaere** was appointed to the Division of General Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital on August 1, 2009. Dr. Demyttenaere received his M.D. at McGill in 2002 and is a graduate of the McGill General Surgery residency training program (2008). During his residency he did an additional year in the Surgeon-Scientist program and obtained a Master's degree in Experimental Surgery. He has completed a one-year fellowship in minimally invasive surgery and gastrointestinal surgery at Ohio State University.



*Dr. Sherif Emil*

We would like to welcome **Dr. Sherif Emil** to the Division of General Surgery in Pediatrics as a new Program Director at the Montreal Children's Hospital. He comes to us with extensive experience in Pediatric Surgery from Orange, California. He is a graduate of McGill University Faculty of Medicine and recently held the position of Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery & Pediatrics at University of California, Irvine School of Medicine.



*Dr. Sender Liberman*

**Dr. Sender Liberman** officially joined the MUHC in July 2009 where he is already an integral part of the colorectal team at the Montreal General Hospital.



*Dr. Mario Luc*

**Dr. Mario Luc** joined the MUHC Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery on August 1, 2009 and is based at the MGH. Dr. Luc obtained a Bachelor in Pharmacy from the Université de Montréal followed by a Masters of Science in Experimental Medicine prior to obtaining his M.D. degree at Université Laval in 2003. He completed his first two years of Plastic Surgery training at the Université de Sherbrooke then transferred to McGill where he graduated in 2008. Dr. Luc completed a one-year

Microsurgery and Hand Fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is returning to McGill with expertise in brachial plexus and tendon transfers related to brachial plexus injuries, which will benefit our large practice in hand surgery trauma and rheumatoid hands.



*Dr. Melina Vassiliou*

**Dr. Melina Vassiliou** joined the Division of General Surgery at the Montreal General Hospital in May 2009. She has also taken on the position of Associate Director of the McGill Simulation Centre and has received a Career Development Award from SAGES to do a fellowship in NOTES and interventional endoscopy. Dr. Vassiliou received her MD from McGill in 2001 and graduated from McGill's residency program in General Surgery in 2007. During her training she did research in minimally invasive surgery as part of the surgical scientist program

and obtained a Masters in Education in 2006. Prior to coming on staff she completed a fellowship in advanced endoscopy at Dartmouth Medical School. ♦

**S**ince returning to Taiwan ten years ago and changing pathways in life by devoting myself to the promotion of medical education, I have had the opportunity to participate in numerous domestic and international conferences regarding medical

education. However, I have never been as excited as I was last weekend when I attended a workshop on “Teaching and Evaluating Medical Professionalism”, sponsored by the Advisory Office of the Ministry of

Education. Aside from the fact that this topic happened to be one that I care very much about and which requires active development in Taiwan, I was able to witness an elderly, silver-haired couple’s zealous dedication as well as their distinct teaching style. Even more importantly, as a soon-to-be retiree, through the sharing of their experiences, I was able to see a gleam of light leading towards a hopeful future for myself.

By Chi-Wan Lai, M.D.

## **Drs. Richard and Sylvia Cruess**

### ***Their International Dedication to Medical Education***

“一對醫學教育的神仙劍侶”

The content and method of the lectures at this conference were very unique. There were three speakers, a couple, **Drs. Richard and Sylvia Cruess**, and **Dr. John Norcini**, an international authority on the assessment of medical education. The majority of the two-day training session was led and shouldered by the couple. Dr. Richard Cruess is a well-known Professor of Orthopedic Surgery in Canada and served as the Chair of Orthopedics at McGill University for many years. He is a leading authority in orthopedics, both in research and in the clinical realm, and eventually served as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill for well over a decade. His wife, Dr. Sylvia Cruess, is a well-respected Endocrinologist and a Professor of Medicine at McGill and served as the Medical Director of the Royal Victoria Hospital. At the age of 65, both husband and wife decided to step down from their administrative responsibilities, and they took a sabbatical year and went to the United States and England to pursue further education. One year later, shedding their clinical and administrative jobs, they moved onto their “third career” in medical professionalism. For the past fourteen years, they have created a curriculum on medical professionalism at McGill and have systematically conducted research on education and evaluation in this particular area. At that time, little value was placed on medical professionalism, but the Cruesses possessed keen foresight, and their efforts have influenced medical education

tremendously. The following are my thoughts on the workshop from the past two days:

#### **1. Diligent preparation of the teaching materials and methods:**

The discussion of medical professionalism entails abstract diction, and those interested in this workshop also come with their different ideas and notions of the subject. Therefore, the Cruesses first started with a list of attributes of a physician that they have compiled from various literature, including altruism, autonomy, care and compassion, commitment, competence, confidentiality, insight, integrity and honesty, morality and ethical conduct, trustworthiness, openness, presence, respect for the healing function, respect for patient dignity and autonomy, professional responsibility, social responsibility, self-regulation and teamwork. The lecture handouts clearly listed the definition of each of these terms. Afterwards, they used a series of small group discussions to encourage participants to consider these different attributes, as well as when and how they would be best taught at medical school. Using several vignettes, Drs. Richard and Sylvia Cruess allowed everyone to explore the different issues presented, relate them to the aforementioned attributes, and discuss those patients and the general public might value in physicians. These well-designed classes, which juxtaposed didactic lectures with group discussions, gave the participants repeated opportunities to think, ruminate upon their contents, and ultimately, gain a better understanding and a deeper impression of these different attributes, their meanings and their importance.

#### **2. The practicality and realization of what we learned from these lectures:**

During the last hour of the workshop, participants from the same school or hospital were asked to gather together to discuss how their own organization could promote medical professionalism, as well as to reflect on important issues such as who the target audience would be, the goals of such teaching, the needs of the trainees, the messages that we want to convey, the kinds of teaching methods that should be used, the difficulties anticipated, how such obstacles might be overcome, the types of help needed, how the effectiveness might be evaluated, and how the program would be followed-up. At the end, each group was able to share with one another their ideas.

#### **3. An exemplary model of grace and educatedness:**

During the two-day workshop, the Cruesses were tireless in their teachings. On the morning of the second day when Dr. Norcini spoke, the couple arrived early and sat in the front row, and at the request of Dr. Norcini or ►

► the audience, they shared their comments and ideas whole-heartedly, without reserve and with indefatigable zeal. It was extremely moving to see a well-respected, well-educated, elderly couple speak with such modesty and humility. Perhaps what was most touching was when they spent about two hours introducing the educational theory of medical professionalism. They started off by saying that they were not professionals in medical education and that most of their information and materials were from their colleagues at McGill who were educational specialists. On each of their slides, they clearly credited all their sources of information by listing the names. The couple displayed genuine sincerity and humbleness, and they personally provided the best example of role models that they advocated for teaching professionalism through their words and actions.

#### 4. Romantic way of teaching:

The couple taught in a relay-style manner, smoothly giving the stage to each other like runners passing a baton. One would go through two or three slides, and the other would then “pick up the baton” to continue with the next few slides. Sometimes, both of them would give their opinions on a specific topic. If it were not for their fifty-some years of marriage with the addition of being classmates in medical school for four years, such a feat would be impossible. Throughout the workshop, it was rather touching for me to

see this seventy-nine-year-old couple stand through the day without any signs of fatigue, and watch them offer every piece of their knowledge so enthusiastically. On the first day, Dr. Sylvia Cruess accidentally choked when she was speaking, and Dr. Richard Cruess took over and continued the lecture quite naturally while his wife had some water. What amazing harmony and seamless coordination! It so happened that it was Valentine’s Day that day, and at dinner, I joked to them that this was the first time in my life to attend such a romantic lecture.

Lastly, I would like to share my feeling about seeing so many educators and doctors from different schools and hospitals all over Taiwan sacrifice their weekend to gather and discuss this very important topic on medical education at the workshop. It gave me faith to believe that Taiwan’s medical education will surely have a better tomorrow. I would like to express my utmost gratitude for the Social Medicine Department of the National Taiwan University Medical School for organizing this workshop. ◆



*Drs. Richard and Sylvia Cruess are seated in the center of the front row. To their left is the author of this article, Dr. Chi-Wan Lai who is the Executive Secretary, Medical Education Committee, Ministry of Education in Taiwan, and CEO, Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council*

# Welcome to the New Chief Residents, 2009-2010



## DIVISION OF CARDIAC SURGERY PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. KEVIN LACHAPPELLE



**Dr. Adil Al-Kindi** comes from Oman where he received both his B.Sc. Degree and MD Degree. He had the highest rank in his graduating class. He continued his research under Dr. Shum-Tim and obtained a M.Sc. in Experimental Surgery studying stem cell delivery and micro encapsulation. He was quite productive with at least 6 publications. Adil is the quiet type, but is well respected by his peers and staff, and was the resident representative during his R5 year. He is married and has two children. We welcome Adil to his chief year and are sure he will do well. Following his fellowship, he will be returning home to work with another McGill graduate from Cardiac Surgery, Dr Hilal Al-Sabti.



**Dr. Samantha Hill** comes from Montreal with a Medical Degree from McGill University where she was awarded the Golden Key. She began her cardiac residency in 2003 and obtained a M.Sc. in Epidemiology with a GPA of 4.0. Her area of interest is Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and she spent her academic enrichment year on Neurology monitoring the infant during cardiac surgery. She has had multiple presentations at national meetings. Sam is thoughtful and hardworking. She is meticulous and thorough. It will be a pleasure to have her as a chief resident. She plans to attend the Mayo Clinic for further training following her residency at McGill.

## DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. PAOLA FATA



**Dr. Jasim Al-Abbad** is a graduate from Kuwait University 2003. He started at McGill in 2005. Jasim is applying for colorectal surgery fellowship. Following his fellowship he will be returning to Kuwait University as staff.



**Dr. Awad Al-Qahtani** was a graduate from Umm AlQura University, Saudi Arabia 2004 (MBBS). He started his residency at McGill in 2005. He has completed six months of research with Dr. Meterissian and Dr. Gordon. He has presented with an Academic Success Award from the Saudi Cultural Mission in Canada. Awad is presently applying for a Fellowship position in surgical oncology/laparoscopic surgical oncology. Upon completion, he holds an academic position at College of Medicine, King Saud University Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



**Dr. Yaqoob Al-Sawafi**, is a graduate from Sultan Qaboos University-Oman. He started his General surgery residency at McGill in 2005. He completed six months of research with Dr. Mark Basik assessing a novel anti-cancer molecule in the formation of bone metastasis. He also participated in two ongoing studies, the first clinical study dealing with a novel technique of sentinel lymph node mapping and a translational study involving construction of a tissue microarray for the assessment of molecular markers in colon cancer. He's presently applying for a fellowship position in thoracic and upper GI surgery.



**Dr. Alana Beres** graduated from McGill medical school and transferred to residency at McGill in 2007 after spending time in Saskatoon and Springfield MA. She completed 6 months of research with Dr. Pramod Puligandla at the Montreal Children's Hospital and is planning a fellowship in pediatric surgery.



**Dr. Marjolaine Bourque** is a McGill graduate. She started her general surgery residency in 2005. During her research time, Marjolaine completed a project with Dr. Razek validating a trauma scoring system that can be used in resource limited areas. In addition she spent 3 months in West Africa as part of an international surgery team. Marjolaine is planning to establish a community-based practice and to pursue her interest in international surgery.



**Dr. Marylise Boutros** is a graduate from McGill University. She started her residency at McGill in 2004. She completed a Masters of Experimental Surgery with Dr. Jeffrey Barkun looking at outcomes in liver transplantation during which she was awarded the American Society of Transplantation Young Investigator Award (2008), in addition to five other research awards. She is presently applying for a fellowship position in colorectal surgery.



**Dr. Raad Fayeze** is a graduate of King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He started his residency at McGill in 2003 in Neurosurgery and quickly realized his passion for General Surgery. Raad completed six months of research with Dr. Fried and Dr. Feldman on simulation education. He is presently applying for a fellowship position in minimally invasive surgery.





▶ **Dr. Christian Zalai** is a graduate of McGill University. He completed a clinical research project in trauma surgery under Drs. Razek and Fata and presented his results as a platform presentation at the Ottawa Meeting of the Trauma Association of Canada and at the Rocke Robertson Forum. He was also the recipient of the J. Churchill-Smith Education Fund for Emergency Medicine Award. His clinical interests lie in Trauma and Acute Care Surgery.

**MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY FELLOW**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. GERALD FRIED**



**Dr. Salman Al Sabah** graduated from Kuwait medical school in 2001. He completed his residency in general surgery at McGill University between 2004-2009. During this time, he successfully completed a Master of Management degree in the International Masters for Health Leadership Program in the Faculty of Management McGill in 2008. He also found the time for research with Dr. Christou, resulting in several presentations and publications on bariatric surgery. Salman has an inquisitive and innovative approach to problems. His warm and calm demeanor makes him a pleasure to work with, and he was recognized by his peers as the "best resident teacher" in 2008. Salman plans to use his fellowship training to establish a dedicated MIS centre in Kuwait. We look forward to having Salman as the MIS fellow for 2009-2010.

**DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. REGGIE HAMDY**



**Dr. Waleed Awwad** was born and raised in Riyadh, KSA and graduated from King Saud University. He began his orthopaedic residency at McGill in July of 2005. He wishes to dedicate his training to his mother and brothers. He also wishes to thank his loving wife for her tremendous support. He is the proud father of his children, Abeer, Mohammad and Amira. Waleed is excited to return to McGill in 2010 to complete a two year fellowship in spine and scoliosis.



**Dr. Stephane Bergeron**

**OTOLARYNGOLOGY/ HEAD AND NECK SURGERY**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. JOHN MANOUKIAN**



**Dr. Talal Al-Khatib** received a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (With Honor) in 2003 from King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, then worked as a demonstrator in otolaryngology-Head and Neck surgery at King Abdulaziz University Hospital, Jeddah for a year and a half after graduation. He started residency training in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at McGill University

in 2005 and will be the Chief Resident from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. He is enrolled in the Masters of Science program (in Otolaryngology) at McGill, with interest in Medical Education (thesis project). He has presented and published at the Canadian and American societies of Otolaryngology-Head Neck Surgery, and had 5 presentations at the last Canadian meeting in Halifax 2009. He will undertake Fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology-Head and Neck surgery at the Royal Children Hospital, Melbourne, Australia in July 2010.



**Dr. Sumeet Anand** completed a B. Arts Sc (Hons) in the Arts & Science Programme and his medical training at McMaster University. Thereafter, he began his Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery residency at McGill. Under the supervision of Drs. Sam Daniel, Robert Funnell, Michael Hier and Martin Black he obtained his Masters of Science

in Experimental Surgery. His thesis focused on tumour volume in head and neck squamous cell cancer and was funded by a two-year FRSQ M.Sc. Scholarship. His recent work in the area of sentinel lymph node biopsy for differentiated thyroid cancer has been very well received. Sumeet is an avid Habs fan and enjoys hockey and basketball. He is the Administrative Chief Resident in OTO-HNS for 2009-10. Sumeet will be pursuing a fellowship in Advanced Head & Neck Oncology and Microvascular Surgery starting July 2010.

**Dr. Christopher CT Szeto** completed a B. Sc at McGill University followed by an MD at Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2002. Moved to Edmonton, Alberta where he completed 2 years of General Surgery training before starting his residency in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at McGill University in 2005. He completed 1 year clinical research with Dr. Karen Kost at the Royal Victoria Hospital in the area of laryngology and head and neck surgery, and will be presenting the results of his study at the upcoming American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery annual meeting in San Diego, California. Upon completion of his residency, he plans to do advanced training in head and neck oncology and reconstructive microvascular surgery at University of Western Ontario.



**Dr. Thien Tuong Vi Vu** graduated from University of Montreal in 2005. She then pursued her residency at McGill and won the MD Mendhelson Temporal Bone Drilling Award. She completed research on Prevention of Cisplatin Ototoxicity in an Animal Model in the auditory sciences laboratory of Dr. Sam Daniel. She is looking forward to practicing general Otolaryngology -Head & Neck Surgery in the Montreal community.



▶ **Dr. Nadine Yammine** graduated from Medicine in 2005 from the University of Ottawa. She has also completed an MSc in Health Promotion at the University of Western Ontario. She is currently completing her R5 in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at McGill University. Her life changed completely in 2007 when she thought she had the worst flu ever, when in fact, she was pregnant! She is now the proud mother of Ayden, almost 2 years old. She has received the facial plastics award for two consecutive years. She continues to give numerous talks on leadership and enjoys traveling.

**DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. PRAMOD PULIGANDLA**



**Dr. Andrea Lo** completed her undergraduate studies at Queen's University where she obtained her Bachelor of Science. She received her MD from the University of Western Ontario and was accepted into the General Surgery Program at Queen's University in 2004. The Division of Pediatric General Surgery is pleased to have Andrea Lo for its two-year fellowship training position. Andrea has many hobbies and interests, amongst them are baking, running, travel, music and musical theatre, opera, camping and skiing. We welcome Andrea to Montreal and look forward to having her join the Division.

**DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. BRUCE WILLIAMS**

**Dr. Loai Al-Salmi** is a graduate of King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. Following his fourth year of training, Dr. Al-Salmi completed a fellowship in surgical research on distraction osteogenesis. He will further his training with a Fellowship in Hand and Microsurgery. He will then return home where he plans to establish a Microsurgery Unit at The King Fahad Medical City Center. His other interests include camping in the desert and traveling.



**Dr. Ronnie Borsuk** received his medical degree from McGill University in 2005. He has received several awards including the J. W. McConnell Award and he was named to the Dean's Honour List. He has participated in several research studies during his training. Dr. Borsuk plans to do a fellowship following his Plastic Surgery Residency. His other interests include painting, sketching, and guitar.



**Dr. Anil Duggal** obtained his medical degree at McMaster University. Following a year as a Fellow in the Firefighter's Burn Unit Treatment Unit at the University of Alberta, he completed the first two years of his surgical residency at the University of Western Ontario. He then successfully

completed a Master of Science Degree in Epidemiology before returning to his residency training. He has been involved in several research projects during his plastic surgery training. Dr. Duggal has been accepted for a Hand Fellowship at the Kleinert Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, beginning July, 2010. Dr. Duggal is married with two children.

**Dr. Oren Tessler** was one of four students to be accepted into a five year joint Medical and Business Administration Degree Program at McGill University which he was successful in completing in June, 2005. He has received several academic awards. Dr. Tessler has been involved in several research projects with some of his results being published. He is currently the Vice President of Finance for Deanmark, a company that has developed the AirMouse, an innovative new computer mouse glove. Following completion of his training, Dr. Tessler plans to undertake a fellowship in microsurgery. His other interests include boxing, tennis, and the study of wine.

**DIVISION OF UROLOGY**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. SERGE CARRIER**



**Dr. Lysanne Campeau** was raised in Montreal and graduated from McGill University medical school in 2005. She has been active in clinical and basic science research all throughout her residency and has a number of publications and presentations at international meetings. Her main interests are the neurogenic bladder and urinary incontinence. After completing her chief residency year, she will undertake two years of basic science training in uropharmacology under the supervision of Dr. Karl-Erik Andersson at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. She will thereafter complete her training with a one year clinical fellowship in neuro-urology and voiding dysfunction with Dr. Victor Nitti at NYU.



**Dr. Meng Guan** received his Medical degree from McGill University in 2004. During residency, he had successfully completed basic science and clinical research on both prostate and kidney cancer. He presented and received awards at many Urological and Oncological conferences. He spent most of his vacation time travelling across the world to exotic countries in Europe, South America, the Middle East, and Asia. With the help of his fiancée, he also raises two dogs and a cat. Following completion of his training, he will pursue a fellowship in endourology and minimally Invasive surgery. ♦

## 20th Anniversary

*continued from page 1*

► The upshot of these thoughts was that over a period of time a single Department had to evolve spread over the two principal sites where the development of the specialty and subspecialty directions of Academic Surgery could be established and flourish. The idea that a newsletter could do this would have been naïve but did seem like a useful

initial step. We owe a debt of gratitude to **Jane Hutchison**, who guided the process of content, design and production. Of significance were the principal articles in these three issues: Orthopaedics, Urology and CVT each described their academic and clinical activities.

In the first issue, July 1989 (Figure 1), the Division of Orthopaedics was highlighted. The sidebar is quoted, "The integrated orthopaedic program was celebrated with sartorial elegance. The McGill Orthopaedic tie, and scarves for the ladies, sport alternate rows of the McGill shield and the Nicolas Andry orthopaedic logo." Their success provided the stimulus to design a Departmental tie. **Nelson Mitchell**, Jane Hutchison and I struggled to find a third image to add to the McGill crest and the square knot which would represent ALL of Surgery. Around this time, my mother presented me with an *EX LIBRIS*. A non-scientific *eureka moment* was apparent when looking at the top left symbol; it was a fleam.

The Fleam and Square Knot (Figure 2) represent the incision and its closure, a process common to all surgery. The Masthead evolved to include the three symbols which have continued to be a part of *The Square Knot*. The Departmental tie and scarf now included: a square knot, the fleam and the McGill crest. The initial scarf was not very good and was also late. In 1995, **Dr. David Mulder's** design committee came up with a stunningly attractive foulard, incorporating all the symbols. A confession: having spent time in a Halstedian Surgical Department the use of a square knot was hammered into the residents and NO other knot was tolerated. I never quite got over the frustration of watching residents struggle with this non-slip, usually two-handed excellent knot where three throws were sufficient if done properly whatever the suture material.

While *The Square Knot* came out of the Chair's office, Jane Hutchison coordinated the work of finding and collating the content and

organising the design and production of each issue. Following her move, **Madeleine Beaulne** took over those tasks. In the winter of 1991-92, **Ed Monaghan** took over as The Editor and production moved from the Vic to the Audiovisual Department at the General where they remained. The enterprise really took off at this time. Expanding from 12 to 20 pages, the breadth of content was increasingly inclusive, effectively including news of the residents and staff in all divisions and the affiliated hospitals.

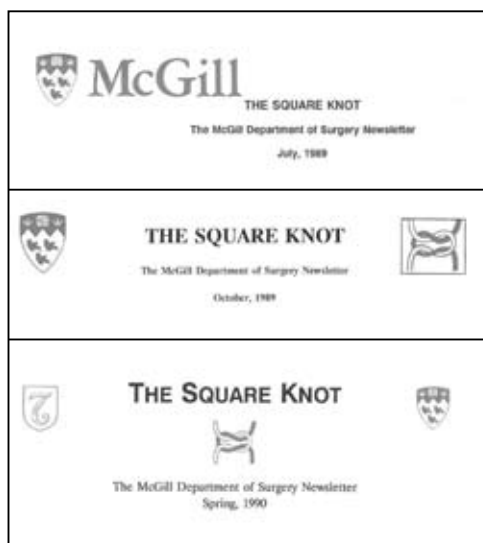
The 'letters to the editor' started early but flowered under Ed. **Emma Lisi** was effectively assistant editor from 1994, succeeding Madeleine Beaulne, to 2006 where she was followed in 2007 by **Minh Duong**. Ray Chiu took the reins in 2006 and has continued the established principles, adding his own creative touch.

Having reviewed every issue, it is apparent that the history and evolution of the Department and its major players can be followed

by reading the news of the Divisions, the Hospitals, and the accomplishments of the Residents and Faculty. Initially, highlighting the Faculty who appeared often in the Kudos section seemed like a good idea. However, there were too many and too much material and someone was bound to be or feel left out. A second recounting was going to be the Visiting Professors to the Department and its Divisions. Within four or five years, the list of surgeons of renown had filled a sheet of A4 and the idea was abandoned. Suffice to say, the record of visitors to the Department is an extraordinary catalogue of national and international leaders in all of Surgery, which speaks to our ability to attract significant Academics, all of whom will

have expected to take something away for the efforts put in to come to McGill.

At the Montreal General, **Fraser Gurd Day** was an important annual opportunity to recognise their residents, faculty and surgical research. In 1990, Fraser Gurd Day became a department wide event, celebrating the accomplishments and futures of the leaving Chief Residents. **Richard Finley** was the first of twenty extraordinary International surgical scholars in all disciplines. Two other Departmental Visiting Professorships were established in the same period. The **L.D. MacLean** Professorship continued for 12 years and then became the principal visitor to the Division of General Surgery. Also celebrating its 20th anniversary is the **EJ Tabah** Visiting Professor in Surgical Oncology. This year's visitor, **Alan Turnbull**, has returned to his roots as both ►



(Figure 1) First three issues of *The Square Knot*

► teacher and Professor. Every division has its principal visiting professor who participates in Grand Rounds for the whole Department.

The Forward Planning Task Force, chaired by **Bruce Williams** in 1989-90 culminated in a Departmental retreat in 1991. This would have been the first time the entire McGill Department, incorporating all its components, had met with a structured day long agenda. There were subsequent retreats in 1995 and 2000. In 1999, the Department met around reports from each clinical division and the new divisions of structured Research and Education. There was additionally a visit of 27 members of the department of all ages and disciplines to the University of Toronto Department of Surgery and the Surgical Services of the University Health Network. These culminated in a Mission Statement published on the cover of the Summer 2000 issue.

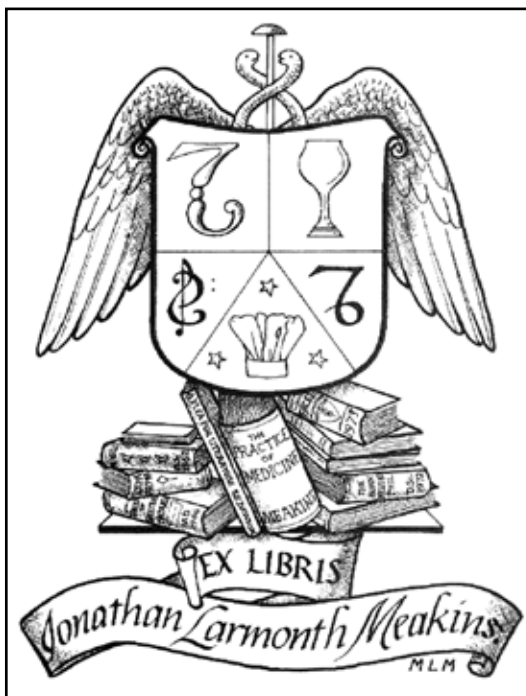
The evolution of the McGill Department of Surgery can be followed and understood, occasionally reading between the lines to sort out the background work of many. It is worthwhile to highlight two aspects of our activities which are possibly unrecognised in their local importance or international relevance. In 1995, Dr. Mulder appointed a committee of eight made up of internists, surgeons and nurses to address the delivery of vascular surgery clinical activities. It was unanimously agreed that for a variety of reasons consolidation should take place at the Vic. This would require that Drs. **Andrew Hill** and **Peter Blundell** would have to leave the General. Peter Blundell's cheerful, collaborative and collegial move to the Hornstein Vascular Unit sent, I believe, a signal saying we can make these changes work. He was a great asset. Interestingly, other consolidations have all shown that they can not only work for the individuals but were better for patient care. The second, somewhat underplayed aspect of the department is its international activities in Africa and the third world. Quietly initiated by **Antoine Loutfi** in the late 80's, educational and clinical activities in Ethiopia have gone from strength to strength

supported principally by **Peter McLean** and supported by **Marvin Wexler**. The Canadian Network for International Surgery had its start at McGill by **Ron Lett** who has continued its activities out of Vancouver. **Tarek Razeq** has continued the significant contribution of the Department to these important activities. **Fred Wiegand** was an important part of the Queen Elizabeth rotations, generally unknown were his contributions to international surgery. Perhaps the only thing Fred did that was really quiet was his work in the third world; he just did it. A part of the citation for his Order of Canada Membership reads: "A skilled and devoted humanitarian, he has served on Medical Missions with the International Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, and CAUSE Canada in some of the most impoverished and dangerous areas of the globe." We can be justifiably proud of the contributions of these members of the McGill Department of Surgery.

There have been some consistent themes through all the issues: the residents---their arrival, successful completion of education, their accomplishments; the Faculty---introduction to the community of surgeons, their achievements and subsequent promotions; Divisional activities, their visitors and progress over time; Affiliated Hospitals and their activities and development; the celebration of Departmental activities and its newer components Education and Research. The Square Knot has recorded the history of the Department over the last 20 years and has perhaps provided some of

the glue which has allowed the Department to evolve into the powerhouse that it is today. ◆

**Ed.: Jonathan L. Meakins, OC, MD, D.Sc., FRCS (Hon), FCSSA (Hon), FRCS(C, Glas.), FACS** was a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at McGill University, and Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford University.



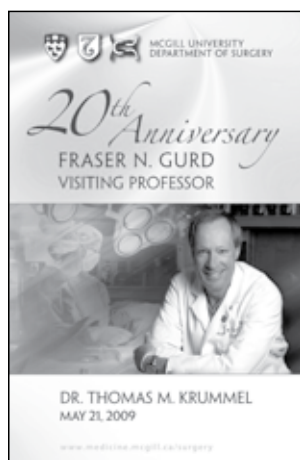
(Figure 2) DEFINITIONS OF FLEAM

*In Heraldry: the fleam represents an ancient lancet or bloodletting instrument: the fleam of Saint Luke, denoting the bearer may have been a physician or a surgeon; Symbol for a physician or surgeon, The fleam was the barber-surgeon's knife to let blood. The fleam can be found on the crests of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, the International Federation of Surgical Colleges, the Royal Australian College of Dental Surgeons and the tie of the American Board of Surgery amongst others.*

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fraser Gurd Day May 21, 2009



**D**r. Gurd's daughter **Mrs. Pat Pryde** and her husband **Doug** attended the Fraser Gurd Day banquet and commented: "Doug and I enjoyed the Fraser Gurd Day evening very much. It was a room full of fascinating people who are making a difference in the world. The Department of Surgery should be proud of all the residents, graduates and their teachers. It was all very impressive and made me think of how proud our father would be..."



**Dr. Thomas M. Krummel**, our 20th annual **Fraser N. Gurd Visiting Professor**, is currently the Emile Holman Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery at Stanford University and the first Susan B. Ford Surgeon-in-Chief at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Among the areas of his pioneering research is the application of information technology to simulation-based surgical training and surgical robotics. He

is a co-director for the Biodesign Innovation Program, which is to teach the invention and implementation of new surgical technologies through interdisciplinary education at the emerging frontiers of engineering and the biomedical sciences.



## 2009 MCGILL DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AWARD WINNERS PRESENTED AT THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FRASER GURD BANQUET

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD (*Post Graduate Education*)

**Dr. Gerald Fried and Dr. Donna Tataryn**

THE "EDDY"  
EDMOND D. MONAGHAN PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY AWARD

**Dr. Stéphane Leung-Sang**

KATHRYN ROLPH AWARD

**Dr. Simone Chevalier**

OUTSTANDING RESIDENT / FELLOW TEACHER AWARDS

Cardiac Surgery: **Dr. Rony Atoui**

General Surgery: **Dr. Jasim Al-Abbad**

Orthopaedic Surgery: **Dr. Stephane Bergeron**

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: **Dr. Dimitrios Motakis**

Urology: **Dr. Abdulaziz Baazeem**

### RESEARCH AWARDS

#### *Oral Presentations for Excellence in Basic Science Research*

1st Prize: **Dr. Saima Hassan**

*The SDF-1/CXCR4 Ligand/Receptor Axis: An Example of a Tumor-Host Interaction Determining Risk of Metastasis in Breast Cancer*

2nd Prize: **Beatrice Assouline-Thomas**

*Islet Neogenesis Associated Protein (INGAP) Induces Endocrine Differentiation of Human Adult Pancreatic Ductal Cells In Vitro by a Sequential Activation of Developmental Transcription Factors*

3rd Prize: **Gideon Sroka**

*Proficiency FLS Simulator Training Improves Laparoscopic Performance in the Operating Room – a Randomized Controlled Trial*

#### *Poster Presentations for Excellence in Basic Science Research*

Winner: **Ms. Albane Bizet**

Poster entitled: *CD109 Regulates TGF- $\beta$  Receptor Internalization and Degradation in Keratinocytes*

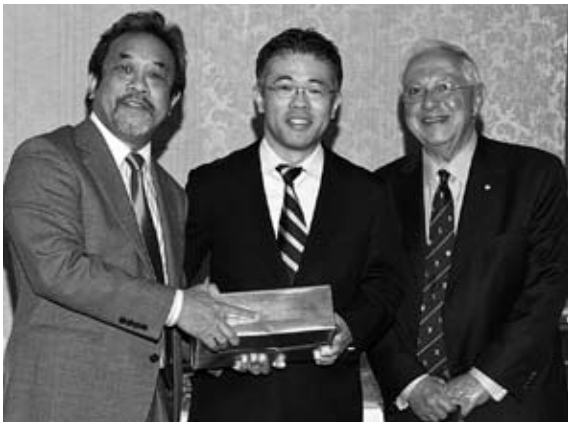
#### *Poster Presentations for Excellence in Clinical Research*

Winner: **Dr. Robert Baird**

Poster entitled: *Antibiotic Strategies and Infectious Complications in the Management of Gastroschisis*

# Highlights











**D**r. **Jeffrey Barkun** was promoted to Full Professor June 1, 2009.



**Dr. Renzo Cecere** was named to the McGill Faculty of Medicine Honor Roll for Teaching Excellence (2009-10), and also received the Division of Cardiac Surgery Residents' Teaching

## KUDOS !!

Excellence Award. Dr. Renzo and Nathalie Cecere proudly announced the birth of their twins Gianluca and Giuliana on March 10. The parents and siblings Adriano, Sofia, and Isabella are delighted with the additions to the family.



In May 2009, **Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu** delivered a series of lectures as a visiting professor at the Taipei Veterans General Hospital, a 3000 bed modern institution in Taiwan. He was an invited lecturer at an *International Symposium of Stem Cells and Bioengineering* held in Tainan City, then served in an advisory review committee for National Taiwan University Medical College, his Alma Mater. They invested heavily in basic science research and minimally invasive surgical training, which were impressive.

**Dr. Sherif Emil** has been invited to serve on the Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons Publication Committee. He will serve a five year term (2010-2014).

It is with great pleasure that we announce that **Dr. Liane Feldman** has been proposed by the Canadian section of James the IV Association as traveler for Canada 2010. This is a great honour and we know that Liane will represent McGill University very



well. The James IV Association is one for the most prestigious surgical groups internationally.

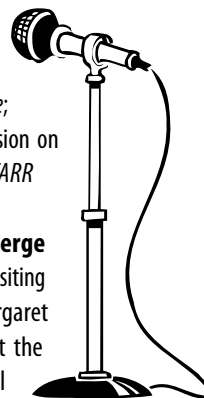
Congratulations to **Dr. Lorenzo Ferri** for receiving the 2009 American College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship to Japan. We would also like to announce that he has now been appointed as Head of Research in General Surgery.

We are all pleased that **Dr. Gerald Fried** has been elected to McGill Senate for a 3 year term starting September 1st, 2008.

**Dr. Philip H. Gordon**, Professor in Colorectal Surgery at Jewish General, was cited in *Marquis Who's Who in the World* 25th edition 2008. He was a guest speaker at the 20th Anniversary International Colorectal Disease Symposium at the Cleveland Clinic, Ft Lauderdale, Florida, Feb 12 – 14, 2009. He spoke on: (1) *Pseudomyxoma Peritonea*; (2) *Risk of Dyspasia in the Pouch and Anal Transitional Zone*; and (3) Moderated a session on *Hemorrhoids, PPH & STARR*

**Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge** was invited as the 2009 Visiting Professor for the Margaret Handy Lecture Series at the Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, Delaware. The main lecture and grand rounds was on *Prenatal Diagnosis of Surgical Malformation: The Role of the Pediatric Surgeons*.

**Dr. Sender Liberman**, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon (Colorectal Surgery) at MUHC and St. Mary's Hospital, presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons in Hollywood, California, a paper entitled: *Neoadjuvant High Dose-rate Endorectal Brachytherapy (HDREBT) in the Era of Total Mesorectal Excision (TME) for Patients with Rectal Cancer*. This paper won the



Northwest Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Award.

**Dr. Luong T. Nguyen** was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award of the MCH Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists for exemplary clinical excellence and philosophy of care as well as leadership in education, research and/or service to MCH community. It is the highest honor and most prestigious award presented by the MCH-CPDP. The presentation of this award took place at the CPDP Annual Banquet on April 24, 2009.



**Dr. Pramod S. Puligandla** was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Pediatrics at McGill. Further, he was honored with the 2009 Surgical Teaching Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to surgical teaching.

**Dr. Kenneth S. Shaw** was awarded the Jonathan Campbell Meakins and Meakins Family Memorial Fellowship for the year 2008. He received this award in recognition and support of his efforts as co-director of the Core Surgery Residency Program.

**Dr. Henry R. Shibata**, Professor Emeritus in Surgical Oncology, co-chaired a Symposium on *Problems in the Elderly* at Hiroshima, Japan last October. Later he was informed that President Toshimasa Asahara (the equivalent of our Principal), a surgeon, was honoring him with the "Presidential Award of Hiroshima University" for 2008, a prestigious award given each year to a select few. He cited that Dr. Shibata had been involved in creating an excellent bond between McGill and his alma mater, contributing to exchange of students and fellows as well as many lectures at the medical school and in Surgical Society meetings in Hiroshima. A mounted certificate and a table clock were sent to Dr. Shibata to commemorate this award. ►

► The McGill Division of Orthopaedic Surgery is proud to announce that **Dr. Michael Tanzer** was awarded the Hip Society's prestigious 2009 John Charnley Award for the best clinical research encompassing important advances in the management of hip disorders. His award winning research was entitled *Metal on Metal Hip Resurfacing vs Large Diameter Hip Arthroplasty: A Randomized Clinical Trial*. As well, **Dr. Dennis Bobyn** and **Dr. Michael Tanzer** were awarded the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery Award of Excellence for the best Scientific Exhibit at the 76th Annual Meeting, in Las Vegas for their exhibit entitled: *Locally Delivered Bisphosphonate for Enhancement of Bone Formation and Implant Fixation*. This was the seventh Hip Society award and the second Award of Excellence presented to Drs. Tanzer and Bobyn from the Jo Miller Orthopaedic Research Laboratory.



**Dr. Jean Tchervenkov** received the "2008 Grand Prix" by the Quebec Transplant Association for advancement of organ donation, a well-deserved career achievement award.

## Achievements: Residents and Fellows

**R**esidents and Fellows from **Dr. Phil Gordon's** service were authors and co-authors of the following papers: (1) **Sembawa H, Lamoureux E, Gologan A, Gotlieb W, Gordon PH.** *Multiple carcinoids of the ileum: Case reports* Can J Surg 2008;51:225-6. (2) **DiFabio F, Shrier I, Begin LR, Gordon PH.** *Absence of Prognostic Value of Nuclear Shape Factor Analysis in Colorectal Carcinoma: Relevance of Interobserver and Intraobserver Variability.* Dis Colon Rectum. 2008;51:1781-5. (3) **DiFabio F, Obrand D, Satin R, Gordon PH.** *Intra-abdominal Venous and Arterial Thromboembolism in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.* Dis Colon Rectum 2009;52:336-42.

From the Division of General Surgery, **Dr. Salman Al-Sabah**, had an excellent achievement in being the 1st across Canada in the Canadian Association of General Surgeons "In-Training" Exams and Awards. **Dr. Saima**

**Hassan** was chosen as the winner of the 2008 Canadian Research Award for Specialty Residents in the Division of General Surgery. **Jeremy Grushka** and **Jonathan Spicer** presented at the 2008 Canadian Association of General Surgeons Resident Research Retreat. Last but not least, **Amy Neville**, who is doing research under the supervision of **Dr. Jeffrey Barkun**, was accepted at the Canadian Society of Transplantation & American Hepatobiliary Association Meetings for her oral presentation on *Classification of Biliary Complications after Liver Transplantation*. We are all proud of their achievements. Congratulations!



The 40th Annual American Pediatric Surgical Association Meeting was held on May 26-31 in Farjado, Puerto Rico. **Dr. Robert Baird** presented a paper on *Infectious Complications in the Management of Gastroschisis – Canadian Practice Patterns*, supervisor **Dr. P.S. Puligandla**. **Dr. J.R. Grushka** presented a poster entitled *The effect of prenatal diagnosis on the contemporary outcome of congenital diaphragmatic hernia*, supervisors **Drs. P.S. Puligandla** and **J-M. Laberge**. ♦

## McGill Surgery – Were you there? c. 1980



Young **Dr. Rea Brown** in action, with a smile of "approval" ?!



## Divisional Activities

### PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY

**T**he Division of Pediatric General Surgery held its annual **Frank M. Guttman Visiting Professorship** June 10 and 11, 2009. It was a great honor to receive **Rebecka L. Meyers MD**, Professor of Surgery, University of Utah School of Medicine, Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Primary Children's Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dr. Meyers was instrumental in establishing the Pediatric Liver Transplant Program at Primary Children's Medical Center in 1996 and currently serves as the Surgical Director of the Pediatric Liver Transplant Program. Her career academic focus has been in the study of pediatric liver tumors and specifically the role of liver transplantation in the treatment of pediatric liver tumors. She has served on the liver surgical and rare tumor committees of the Children's Oncology Group for many years and in 2008 was named Chair of the COG liver committee.

Dr. Meyers is an active member of American College of Surgeons, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Pediatric Surgical Association, Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons, Association of Women Surgeons, Children's Oncology Group, and International Pediatric Surgical Oncology and has served leadership roles on

many committees with these organizations. She has published 31 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 6 book chapters.

*The Frank M. Guttman Visiting Professor* was held in conjunction with the North-Eastern Pediatric General Surgery Joint Rounds on June 10 and 11. The full two-day event began with Medical Grand Rounds at the Montreal Children's Hospital, presented by Dr. Meyers *A Lump in the Liver: What is it?*, followed by a full day which included a fellows' debate on *Resolved: All patients with newly diagnosed hepatoblastoma should receive neo-adjuvant chemotherapy*. The topic was debated by the fellows from the Montreal Children's Hospital and Hôpital Ste-Justine. The day continued with presentations of interesting cases by staff and residents from Hôpital Ste-Justine, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Kingston General Hospital and the Montreal Children's. On Thursday June 11, Dr. Meyers presented at McGill Multidisciplinary Surgical Grand Rounds at the Montreal General Hospital *Conjoined Twins – A tour de force in Teamwork*. The group then returned to the Montreal Children's Hospital to see interesting cases in the Surgery Clinic followed by a Neonatal Rounds presentation by Dr. Meyers entitled *What is the difference between a hepatic hemangioma and a kaposiform hemangioendothelioma?*. Activities at both sites were well attended by surgeons and residents alike. ♦

## Divisional Activities

### GENERAL SURGERY DIVISION



**Brown Cup Game:** *"To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high."*

This year the McGill General Surgery Residents Committee, along with the participation of **Dr. Ed Harvery** (Orthopedic Surgery) brought back the time-honored tradition of the annual Surgical Residents versus Attending Staff hockey game. Named after **Dr. Rea Brown**, the annual "Brown Cup Game" was played this year on April 15, 2009 at the Town of Mount Royal Hockey Arena. With Dr. Rea Brown and his family members present in the audience, the surgical residents and the attending staff battled on the ice for three solid periods to earn the right to hold high the Brown Cup and claim bragging rights for next year. The game was a defensive deadlock at 2 goals a side until a sudden

burst of offensive power from the staff team midway through the third period led to three consecutive goals and a final score of 5-2 for the staff team.

**Drew Rogers** won MVP this year for a truly amazing performance in goal for the residents' team.

The hockey game was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who participated, the spectators and of course, Dr. Brown. We are looking forward to the 2010 Brown Cup and hope that the trophy returns to the hands of the residents, where it rightfully belongs.

A very special thank you to **Dr. Mathieu Rousseau** for all of his hard work and dedication in making this event possible this year. ♦



BROWN CUP GAME 2009

## Divisional Activities

### DIVISION OF UROLOGY

**Dr. Mostafa Elhilali, President of the Société internationale d'urologie (SIU), Chaired The SIU World Uro-Oncology Conference in Santiago, Chile.**

The SIU World Uro-Oncology update conference was held between November 19-22, 2008 in Santiago, Chile. I am the current president of the Société internationale d'urologie (SIU) for 2 years until November 2009 at our next annual meeting in Shanghai China.

The meeting was extremely successful with 1600 registrants from 74 countries. The SIU membership is over 4000 members from over 100 countries. The General Secretary of the Society is **Luc Valiquette**, the Chair of Surgery at the Université de Montréal, and the adjunct secretary is **Simon Tanguay** from McGill. The Scientific Program was of the highest quality with key note speakers from a very impressive faculty. Dr Tanguay covered many state of the art lectures and presentations of key studies. Two of the Urology residents, namely **Lysane Campeau** and **Meng Guam**, presented their research work which was very well received. The social event of the meeting was very special as our hosts started the entertainment by a Chilean Folk dance that they trained for several months.

*Mostafa Elhilali, MD, PhD*

**Dr. Mostafa M. Elhilali** was also named Officer of the National Order of Québec, at a ceremony held at Québec's National Assembly Building on June 17, 2009.

Congratulations to **Dr. Cristian O'Flaherty** who recently was awarded a CIHR Operating Grant for his research on the



*Dr. Luc Valiquette, Dr. Reynaldo Gomez, the chairman of the local organising committee, and Dr. Mostafa Elhilali.*



*Dr. Mostafa and Mrs. Glenna Elhilali, and Dr. Luc Valiquette*

► regulation of redox signaling in male reproduction in the amount of \$100,000 for 1 year.

The Procure Walk of Courage, held on June 21 at Parc Jean Drapeau, was a great success. Amongst the many participants

were **Dr. Armen Aprikian**, **Dr. Simone Chevalier**, Team Biobank MUHC, **Mayor Gérald Tremblay**, **Dickie Moore** and many more who took part in the 5 km walk. A great day was had by all with 1000 walkers and over \$400,000 raised to help the fight against prostate cancer. ♦



## Urology Research Day

The Urology Division held its 19th Annual McGill Urology Research Day on April 15th, 2009. **Dr. Simone Chevalier**, McGill Director of Urology Research, summarized the different topics covered in the 20 scientific presentations. The central theme this year was Urologic Oncology with emphasis on Bladder Cancer.

The guest speaker was **Dr. Dan Theodorescu**, MD, PhD, Professor of Urologic Oncology and Molecular Physiology, Director of Paul Mellon Urologic Cancer Institute at University of Virginia. He presented two very stimulating talks on *Novel Approaches to Personalized Therapy and Drug Discovery in Cancer* and *Metastasis Suppressor Gene RHOGDI2 Discovery and Clinical Translation*.



Left to right: Ms. Laure Humbert, Dr. Mario Chevette, Mr. Roland Nassim, Dr. Simone Chevalier, Dr. Dan Theodorescu, Dr. Wassim Kassouf, Dr. Robert Segal and Dr. Armen Aprikian.

During a well-attended dinner reception, prizes were awarded to three best research presentations: **Laure Humbert** (McGill graduate student in Experimental Medicine), **Dr. Robert Segal** (McGill Urology Resident) and **Roland Nassim** (McGill graduate student in Surgical Research). ♦



## The 2009 MUHC Men's Health Day Division of Urology

By Peter Chan, M.D.

**O**n June 18, 2009 of this past Father's Day week, the Division of Urology of the MUHC organized the 4th annual MUHC Men's Health Day, a full day public health awareness event, at the Place Ville Marie Shopping Centre. A team of volunteers and healthcare professionals to promote various health issues pertaining to men joined Drs. Armen Aprikian, Peter Chan, and Wassim Kassouf, the organizers of this event.

### WHAT IS MEN'S HEALTH?

The goal of this event was to educate the general public on various health issues either more commonly, or exclusively found in men. Common conditions such as prostate cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia, erectile and sexual dysfunction, testis cancer, infertility, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic syndrome and kidney and bladder cancers, were some of the key areas highlighted during the event. Increasing the public's awareness of these conditions, through educational events like the MUHC Men's Health Day, is the first step in achieving disease prevention and early diagnosis, the best strategy in combatting diseases.



Dr. Peter Chan

### ACTIVITIES ON THE MUHC MEN'S HEALTH DAY

Through a series of presentations, the public in attendance learned about various men's health issues from a team of skilled MUHC healthcare professionals. Ms. Robin Glance, a nutritionist of the Division of the Radiation Oncology of the MUHC, joined the event again this year to provide tips of healthy diet and share recipes of various healthy and nutritious treats.

Additionally, all men were encouraged to participate in a free-of-charge health-screening program, which included on-site consultation with an MUHC Urologist for a prostate examination, a PSA blood test for cancer screening, lipid profile measurements, urine analysis, and fitness and blood pressure measurements.

Several patient support groups, including the Montreal West Island Prostate Cancer Support Group, Fondation Québécoise du Cancer, Canadian Cancer Society, Procure, McGill Urologic Oncology Group, also provided information on the various support systems available to the public. The McGill Urologic Oncology Group, headed by Dr.

Simone Chevalier, were also there, along with various research scientists of the Division of Urology, to share with the public the various advanced urology research activities that take place at the MUHC. Hundreds of public participants attending the event and the free health evaluation program. The organizers were grateful to the team of MUHC nurses, lab technicians, secretaries, medical students, residents, and fellows, who volunteered their free time to help promote public health awareness. Everyone benefited from the experience. The volunteers found the time they spent helping extremely rewarding, the residents found it an ideal opportunity to fulfill their "Health Advocate" role of the CanMed assessment criteria, and the men, who often have a hard time finding a Urologist or who are too embarrassed to talk about men's health conditions, were able to have all their questions answered.

The event was well publicized locally and nationally by CTV, CBC, CKUT and CJAD radio. Mr. Jay Bouvier, a patient advocate who is also a cancer survivor, came to the event and spoke to the public about his experience in fighting cancer and on the importance of fertility preservation. His brother Pierre, who is the lead singer of the band "Simple Plan", wrote a song entitled "Save You" for Mr. Bouvier.

### FINAL WORDS ON THE MEN'S HEALTH DAY

For years, the Division of Urology at the MUHC has taken a leading role in the promotion of men's health issues, both nationally and internationally. We are committed to promoting the early detection and the prevention of disease, and preservation of wellness in our population. Men, in general, are less health-conscious than women. They often ignore the early signs and symptoms of diseases, and neglect to follow-up with their doctors. It is therefore important for healthcare professionals to adopt a pro-active role in bringing public awareness to health-related issues through activities such as the Men's Health Day. It is our hope that the MUHC Men's Health Day will continue educating the public each year for many years to come. ♦



## McGill, CNIS and Ethiopia

By Ronald Lett, M.D.

**C**ollaboration between McGill Department of Surgery, Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) and Ethiopia continues as it has for the past decade. Several McGill surgeons have contributed substantively to International Surgery teachings in Ethiopia for more than 15 years and helped establish CNIS, which is now the largest surgical development organization in the world.

Retired McGill surgeon Dr. Peter McLean

practiced at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal from 1966-2005. He worked in Ethiopia as part of the Surgical Amendment to the McGill Ethiopia Community Health Project, teaching Essential Surgical Skills (ESS©) on several occasions and distributed a container of surgical books for CNIS in Ethiopia in 2006. Dr. McLean was one of the founding directors of CNIS, chair in 1997 and an honorary life member since 1998.

Dr. Antoine Loutfi, associate professor in the departments of Surgery and Oncology at McGill, started a surgical program in Ethiopia as part of McGill Ethiopia Community Health Project. The former CNIS Board member spent three years in Ethiopia on the project. In addition, Dr. Loutfi developed a program to train general practitioners in surgical emergencies. During his Ethiopia stay, he was joined by Dr. Peter McLean, Dr. John Oliver, a urologist, and visiting surgeons, Dr. Marvin Wexler as an external examiner and Dr. Ronald Lett as an evaluator. Dr. Lett, current President of CNIS, has continued his McGill connection as adjunct professor of surgery for 12 years. The surgeons helped in the training of residents in the Addis Ababa University program in general surgery.

Dr. Jonathan Meakins, Emeritus Professor at McGill, visited Ethiopia while Chief of the Department of Surgery at McGill. He became an honorary life member of CNIS in 2002 for his contributions to its early years. Dr. Robert Taylor, CNIS Surgical Associate, is also a McGill Medical School Alumni (1970).

Dr. Tarek Razek, director of the Trauma Program at McGill University Health Centre has taught ESS in Ethiopia, served on the board of CNIS since 2004 and has been board chair since 2008.

Dr. Razek and other McGill surgeons have been active in bringing the programs developed in Ethiopia to Tanzania. With surgical trainees at the time – Simon Bergman and Dan Deckelbaum (both of whom have returned as staff surgeons at McGill), Dr. Razek participated in the ongoing relationship and research activities with the teams in Dar es Salaam.

CNIS has been teaching surgical obstetrical and trauma care skills in Ethiopia for the last 14 years and has built 5 surgical skills lab there. CNIS' ESS course and the obstetrical-surgical learning centers were both developed and tested in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has been an important site for the innovations CNIS has established throughout east and southern Africa and recently introduced to West Africa.



*Dr. Tarek Razek, Director of the Trauma Program at The McGill University Health Centre and CNIS Board Chair.*

Ethiopia has a population of 80 million (2005), growth of 2.5 %, and a fertility rate of 5.8 births per woman. The life expectancy at birth is 50.7, maternal mortality ratio 720/100,000 live births, 6% of births have skilled attendants and there are 3 physicians per 100,000. There is generally poor health status of women and children. Ethiopia's Ministry of Health emphasizes the need to train trainers and provide continuing education to health care professionals.

CNIS conducts regular surgical courses in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. The Addis Ababa Obstetrical and Surgical Learning Center has been expanded into a national training center and the CNIS has an office in the skills lab in Addis from which African CNIS projects are implemented.

The organization hopes to name a new surgical skills centre in Addis Ababa after McGill and hence strengthen the ties between the Canadian University and the surgical teaching centre in Addis. ♦

**Ronald Lett, M.D.**  
*CNIS International Director and  
Adjunct Professor of Surgery at McGill*

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r. Ari Leppaniemi, was the 14th Annual H. Rocke Robertson Visiting Professor on January 28-29, 2009. He is the Chief of the Division of Emergency Surgery and Surgical Critical Care at the Meilahti Hospital, University of Helsinki Central Hospital in Finland. He was the Past-President of the International Association

## H. Rocke Robertson Visiting Professorship January 28-29, 2009



Dr. Ari Leppaniemi

of Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (ISTSIC), and a leader in many other surgical and trauma organizations and journals. His topics of lectures were: *Colon injuries: Has the pendulum swung too far?* and *Management of the open abdomen, when to accept the hernia.* ♦

### THE H. ROCKE ROBERTSON PRIZE WINNERS WERE :

#### 1st Prize Winner: DR. NICOLAS M. DESY

*Treatment of Subtrochanteric Femur Fractures with at Short Intramedullary Nail*

#### 2nd Prize Winner: DR. HANI SINNO

*Health State Preference (Utility) of Facial Disfigurement Requiring Facial Transplantation: Population-Based Survey*

#### 3rd Prize Winner: DR. MATHIEU ROUSSEAU

*External Validation of the Kampala Trauma Score: A Comparison with the Revised Trauma Score, the Injury Severity Score and the Trauma-Injury Severity Score in a Quebec Trauma Registry*

#### Best Case Presentation: DR. ANTHONY PERKINS

*Gunshot Wound to the Face in the Pediatric Population*

## 7th Annual L.D. MacLean Visiting Professor March 11-12, 2009

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r. Pierre Alain Clavien, Chair, Department of Visceral and Transplantation Surgery, University of Zurich, Switzerland.



Dr. Pierre Alain Clavien

Our Visiting Professor Dr. Clavien completed his medical study at the University of Geneva, and then a residency in general surgery at the universities of Basel and Geneva. Dr. Clavien moved to Toronto and obtained a PhD in immunology and medical science at the University of Toronto. He then worked as a clinical associate at the Toronto General Hospital. Dr. Clavien accepted the position of chief of the Liver Transplant Program in 1994 at the Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA, and two years later he was appointed as head of the Division of Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery at Duke University Medical Center. In July 2000, he accepted his current position of head of the Department of Visceral and Transplantation Surgery at the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Among numerous achievements over the years, he was appointed general secretary of the European Surgical Association (ESA), president-elect of the European Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (EHPBA), Councillor of the British Journal of Surgery Society (BJS), National Institute of Research of Switzerland (SNF) and Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. ♦

### THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL L. D. MACLEAN GENERAL SURGERY DAY 2009 AWARDS :

**Dr. Jasmin Al-Abbad** for the outstanding CAGS Resident Teacher Award

**Dr. Debbie Woo** for the outstanding Roger Tabah Chief Resident Teacher Award

**Dr. Sender Liberman** for the Best Teacher award chosen by the residents.

## 2009 Stikeman Visiting Professor May 7, 2009



Dr. Garret L. Walsh

► **Dr. Garrett L. Walsh**, Professor of Surgery of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, was the 41st Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery at McGill University.

At Surgical Grand Rounds in the Osler Amphitheatre of the Montreal General Hospital, Dr. Walsh spoke on *Northern Exposure; Southern Roots*. This was followed by laboratory and clinical research presentations by the residents of the Division. After lunch, the presentations continued

throughout the afternoon. The alumni from out of town at this year's event were **Dr. Salem Ratnani**, **Dr. Reza Mehran** and **Dr. Lee Errett** who attended the evening's banquet.

The annual banquet was held at the University Club in honor of the Visiting Professor and our graduating residents – **Dr. Turki Albacker**, **Dr. Rony Atoui** and **Dr. Siamak Mohammadi**.

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. Garrett Walsh, one of our alumni, as the 2009 Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery. ♦

► **Editor's note:** A lead article on the achievements of Jo Miller Orthopedic Research Laboratory at the Montreal General Hospital ("Mountain site" of MUHC) appeared in the "Winter 2009" issue of *The Square Knot* <http://www.squareknot.mcgill.ca>.

Wilfred Grenfell. They have informed me that they urgently need a surgeon to go there for July and August 2009 as a locum to cover the vacation of their Chief of Surgery. It is a spectacular country with towering cliffs, ocean and icebergs in abundance and the L'Anse Aux Meadows Viking settlement ruins nearby. Many attractions for children and family to have an unforgettable summer!

teacher. His death at the age of 55, and at the height of his career, was a major loss to the world of orthopaedics. It was a pleasure to have known him, and an honour to have been considered a friend.

**G. Ross Murphy, MD**  
*Beaconsfield, QC*

## Letters

*continued from page 2*

**Dear Editor,**

To put my name in context, I am a long term member of the Depts of Surgery and Medicine. Having originally returned to McGill as a Urologic Oncologist, I was the founding Director of the RVH and McGill Palliative Care Services and in due course the McGill Centre for Whole Person Care.

A current project has put me in touch with the folks in St. Anthony at the very northern tip of Newfoundland. The Curtis Memorial Hospital there is the central surgical referral centre for the fishing villages of the Northern Peninsula, and for the nearby coast of Labrador. A century ago it was the home base of the Grenfell Mission, started by Sir

I would appreciate it if you would post a notice in *The Square Knot* to this effect. I'd be most grateful for any assistance you can give in locating a candidate for this interesting position.

Warm greetings,

**Balfour Mount, MD**  
*balfour.mount@sympatico.ca*

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**Dear Editor,**

I was pleased to see the long overdue recognition, by McGill, of Dr. Jo Miller. He was probably McGill's most widely known Orthopedic Surgeon and rightly so. Besides being a brilliant research scientist, he was an excellent practicing surgeon and a great

**Dear Editor,**

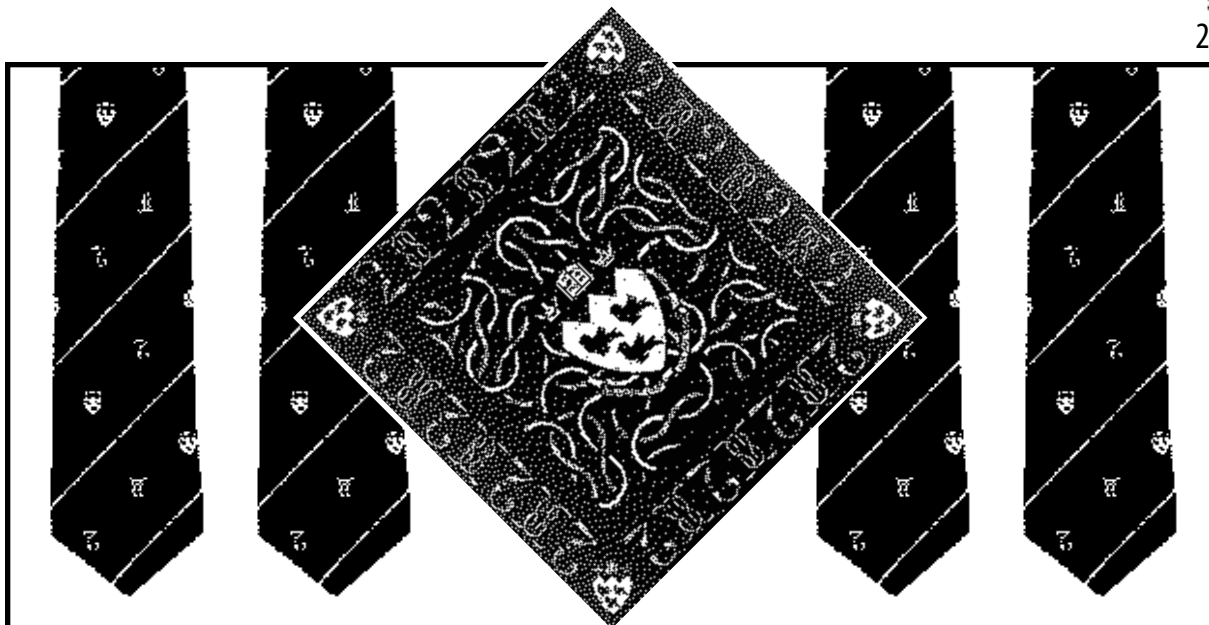
We have received our copy of *The Square Knot* and thank you for including the article about the **Dr. Gustavo Bounous** Fund; I know Dr. Bounous will be proud.

I would like to send Dr. Bounous a copy of your newsletter – would it be possible to get some additional copies for our offices?

Reading through the pages, I see how busy you are! Thank you again for taking time out of your schedule to help create a memorable day for your former colleague. ♦

Sincerely,

**Kathryn Stephens**  
*Chef, Soutien aux ventes  
et événements spéciaux  
Immunotec*



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**Ray C-J. Chiu, M.D.**  
*Editor*

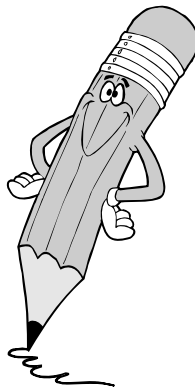
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**We can't do it  
without you !**



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**We want to hear from our readers !**

**If you have any information you want published in  
THE SQUARE KNOT, comments about our newsletter  
or suggestions, we want to hear from you!**

Send submissions to:

**Ray Chiu, M.D.** • Editor • THE SQUARE KNOT • The Montreal General Hospital  
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Contributions of \$100.00 are appreciated in ensuring the continued publication of "The Square Knot" and supporting McGill Surgery Alumni activities. Please make cheque payable to the McGill Department of Surgery and forward to Maria Bikas, McGill Surgery Alumni & Friends, The Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Avenue, Room: L9-420, Montreal (Quebec) Canada H3G 1A4 Telephone: (514) 934-1934, ext.: 42028 Fax: (514) 934-8418.

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