THE McGill Division of Urology Celebrated its 20th Annual Research Day

Research has been an integral part of the Urology Division at McGill University for over 40 years. It was understood early on that a successful academic program required the presence of full-time scientists integrated with clinicians. In the 1980’s, under the leadership of Dr. Mostafa Elhilali, the Division of Urology recruited its first basic scientist, Dr. Claude Gagnon, and together developed a culture of investigation that is pervasive to this day. Several scientists were recruited throughout the years (Drs. Orest Blaschuk, Teruko Taketo, Simone Chevalier, Mario Chevrette) as well as surgeon scientists (Drs. Michel Bazinet, Howard Winfield, Jacques Corcos, Gerald Brock, Armen Aprikian, Simon Tanguay, Serge Carrier, Denise Arsenault, Maurice Anidjar, Armand Zini, Peter Chan) establishing an integrated model of basic scientist/clinician scientist foci in the Division eventually leading to international recognition. A research section was established within the Division, directed by Dr. Claude Gagnon and the very first Annual McGill Urology Research Day was held in 1990.

In 2004, Dr. Armen Aprikian became the new Head of the Urology Division and named Dr. Simone Chevalier as Director of Urology Research. Since then, the culture of research has continued to thrive across the entire division. New scientists were recruited (Drs. Junjian Chen, Jacques Lapointe, Cristian O’Flaherty) as well as surgeon scientists (Drs. Wassim Kassouf, Sero Andonian and newly appointed Chief of Urology at the JGH, Franck Bladou from France). The Division of Urology currently has one of the largest contingents of full-time primary appointed basic scientists (N=7) in a surgical division across the country. In addition, several of the surgeon scientists in the faculty either have been or are FRSQ scientists (Drs. Aprikian, Tanguay, Kassouf, Chan). Finally, the true measure of research success is based on academic output, and the Division is quite proud of its achievements over the past 5 years with over 300 peer-reviewed publications and over $10 million in research funding.

(See Urology on page 15)
Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,

I always get The Square Knot! I love it & in my opinion it just keeps getting better! Keep up the good work.

Dawn Anderson, MD

Editor's Note: Dr. Anderson is Head of the Department of Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital, Montreal.

Dear Editor,

I enjoy every publication of The Square Knot, having been involved with so many surgeons over a 55 year period acting for and being part of McGill Hospital on a variety of committees. It is wonderful to read about where they are, what they have done or are doing. Occasionally it is simply remembering old friends like Alan Thompson and Bob Estrada. We are lucky to have you as Editor.

All the best,

Alex Paterson, Q.C.

Dear Editor,

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All the best,

Alex Paterson, Q.C.

Dear Editor,

Dr. Julio A. Sosa has kindly forwarded me a copy of the correspondence that you and other eminent doctors have written concerning my uncle, Dr. Arthur M Vineberg. I have reviewed your letter as well as the others and am so touched by the sincerity and support that you have expressed on behalf of my late uncle. It is really only thanks to people such as yourself that the appropriate recognition may eventually occur for Dr. Arthur Vineberg’s ingenuity and persistence for our society.

We do hope that this recognition from the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, which he and his memory so well deserve, will for once and for all be achieved. Many many thanks for your support and your description of the accomplishment of our uncle, Dr. Arthur Vineberg.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen A. Vineberg

Editor's Note: Dr. Arthur Vineberg was a historic pioneer in the surgical therapy for coronary artery disease, and inventor of the internal mammary artery implantation procedure, known as Vineberg operation. He did his research and clinical work at the Royal Victoria Hospital, McGill University.

Welcome Aboard

St. Mary’s Hospital is pleased to welcome Dr. Goffredo Arena who joined their Divisions of General Surgery and Surgical Oncology in October 2009. Dr. Arena undertook undergraduate medical studies in his native Sicily and obtained his Italian Certification in Vascular Surgery. He then came to Canada and completed a General Surgery Residency at McMaster University before coming to McGill for back-to-back fellowships, in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Hepatobiliary Surgery. He will also be working at the MUHC as an integral member of the McGill Hepatobiliary and Transplant team.

Following his two years of specialty training (2008-2010), Dr. Robert Baird has been successfully recruited to the Montreal Children’s Hospital Division of Pediatric General Surgery. Rob will join the Division on August 1, 2010 on a part-time basis and gradually increase his practice to full-time over approximately one and a half years. During this period, he will be completing the prestigious Master’s in Evidence-Based Healthcare at Oxford University. Rob is planning to pursue a strong academic career with a commitment to establishing an evidence-based clinical research program at the Montreal Children’s, and exerting a major leadership role in this area across Canada.
Editor's Note

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

The Square Knot is not an official document for our Department or our Divisions. This is a “newsletter” aimed at faculty, residents, students, nurses, our alumni and friends who are related to or interested in the Department of Surgery at McGill University. Our goal is to advance the esprit de corps of our Department, strengthening our collegiality and friendship.

If you like to find out how The Square Knot looks like over the years in pursuing this mission, you may go to the web site http://www.squareknot.mcgill.ca. As you may understand, we are not interested in simply reproducing the bureaucratic meeting pamphlets or conference programs etc. which we sometimes receive from our secretarial offices. Anyone who wishes to contribute to The Square Knot may submit suitable essays or write ups, with limited number of pictures relevant to the message.

Although The Square Knot remained as a “newsletter” for two decades, it appears to have served also as an unofficial archive of the growth and achievements of our Department. In the lead article for this issue of The Square Knot, our Division of Urology emphasizes its outstanding “Culture of Research”, illustrating the close interactions among clinical surgeons, surgeon scientists and basic scientists to advance the cutting edge of its specialty. The far sighted visions of its leaders over the years in recruiting and integrating outstanding scientists contributed significantly to such achievements. The inspiration eloquently presented in this issue by Dr. Gerald Fried, the Chairman of the Department of Surgery, also provides ambitious goals in patient care, research and professional training of future surgeons. Thus, we hope this humble newsletter may serve as a tool to propagate both our ideals and collegiality, while offering a glance of the vivid history of McGill surgery.

Chairman's Message:

By Gerald Fried, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS

It is now nine months since I became Chairman of the McGill Department of Surgery. The Square Knot is a wonderful vehicle for me to communicate with our alumni. It is this group that have become our best ambassadors around the world. I look forward to hearing from you. Please wear your McGill identity proudly no matter where you are. Let us know what you are doing. I will use this space to update you on the activities of our Department and plans for the future.

This is a time of great change in the Department of Surgery at McGill. We have been blessed with the recent recruitment of a number of bright, energetic and talented surgeons across all McGill sites and surgical disciplines. Each addition has infused passion and innovation into our clinical programs, and a commitment to generating new knowledge to further advance the care of our surgical patients.

Recent negotiations between the Federation of Medical Specialists of Quebec and the government have led to financial support for teaching and research. Coupling these programs with support from the hospitals’ foundations and research institutes, through mechanisms such as research awards and scholarships, endowed chairs, and the Tomlinson Endowment for recruitment and retention, McGill has been able to compete for the best talent in the academic surgical community. We remain committed to recruiting surgeons with a passion for academic excellence.

After many years of waiting, the redevelopment of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) has begun with earnest. The Glen site is being excavated for construction, and working groups are busy with planning and design. This is a rare opportunity for clinicians to work with design teams to create a new academic health centre from the ground up. At the same time the Montreal General Hospital site is being renovated to bring this 50+ -year old hospital building to the standards of 21st century medicine. Recently the Shriners have confirmed that their pediatric orthopedic hospital will also move to the Glen site to be adjacent to the new Montreal Children's Hospital pavilion. The Glen site will consist of an integrated Pediatric tower, Adult tower, and Cancer Centre. This will be complemented by the construction of the...
MUHC's Centre for Innovative Medicine. This $250 million CIM is made possible by a $100 million grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, matched by Quebec, and $50 million from the private sector. A main focus for the surgical research in the CIM is the Experimental Operating Suite. This will be a clinically functioning surgical suite where innovations in OR planning, image guidance, ergonomics, human-machine interfaces, and information management can be developed and assessed. At the same time, the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital (JGH) is going through a large expansion. They have recently announced plans for adding a pavilion to house an entirely new, state of the art emergency room. Their surgical focus is in cancer care and robotic surgery. After a long period of hibernation, growth and modernization of our health care facilities is worth celebrating!

The redevelopment of our physical facilities has prompted each hospital site to do strategic planning to truly define clinical priorities. This road map will inform recruitment decisions, with the goal of developing a truly integrated McGill Health Care system. The McGill surgical programs now include the MUHC (including the Royal Victoria, Montreal General, Montreal Children's, and Lachine campuses), JGH, St. Mary’s Hospital, and LaSalle. The formalized relationships between the university hospital centres and community hospitals have provided opportunities for expansion of clinical activities, and have allowed us to match the surgical procedures to the required resources more effectively.

In this newsletter, I would like to introduce two areas where I am committed to academic development, surgical education and evaluation of surgical recovery. I will describe some of the other research initiatives in future issues. The Arnold and Blema Steinberg McGill Medical Simulation Centre http://www.mcgill.ca/medsimcentre/ opened in September 2006, and has been an incredible success providing learning to 12,000 learner-visits /yr. This 18,000 ft² facility is an “interprofessional centre of excellence using medical simulation to enhance the skills of health care professionals through education, research, evaluation and innovation, thereby improving patient safety and the quality of care.” It is a great environment for surgeons to learn new procedural skills, practice crisis management through inter-disciplinary team training, and to learn professionalism and communication skills. It is organized into a procedural training area, a high-fidelity mannequin-based team training area, and a dozen examining rooms where students can interact with over 200 standardized patients. We are proud that this Centre is directed by Dr. Kevin Lachapelle (cardiac surgeon), and the Procedural Training and Research committees are led by Dr. Melina Vassiliou (general/MIS surgeon). This unique environment allows one to obtain informed consent from a standardized patient with a language barrier, perform a simulated procedure resulting in a complication, lead a multidisciplinary team including nurses and anesthesiologists in managing the physiologic derangements that can occur consequent to the complication, and then give the bad news to the standardized family of the “patient”. This process is learner-centered and poses no risk to the patient. We have leveraged this wonderful resource and a 15-year history of world-leading simulation-based research in our Department to attract surgical residents to do formal training in medical education through Masters or Diploma programs, or Fellowships. I am committed to developing this program further by prioritizing recruitment of surgical educators.

As we introduce clinical innovations into practice, we must constantly evaluate the impact on clinical care. Most new technology involves additional cost. It is our responsibility to ensure that this leads to clinical benefit, and that there is value for our investment. To address this, Dr. Liane Feldman, working with Dr. Franco Carli (anesthesiology) and Dr. Nancy Mayo (clinical epidemiology) is leading a research program to develop metrics for surgical recovery that are readily measured quantitatively, reliable and valid, and sensitive to the impact of these novel treatments. This will allow us to design less invasive surgical treatments and evidence-generated processes of care that enhance quality and safety, while accelerating recovery. We intend to be leaders in quality and this is only possible by having useful and credible metrics to generate the evidence upon which we base our processes of care.

In future editions of The Square Knot we will highlight other research initiatives in the Department, the outstanding work of our surgeons in the developing world, and McGill medical initiatives in the Middle East.  

Gerald M. Fried, MD, MSc, FRCS, FACS  
Adair Family Professor and Chairman,  
Department of Surgery, McGill University  
Surgeon-in-Chief, McGill University Health Centre

Go after exactly what you want—
not what you want.  
For you never get anything
but the things you exactly wanted.  
— Alan Gregg [1890-1957]:

Aphorism (quoted by Dr. Wilder Penfield in “The Difficult Art of Giving”, Appendix A)
Welcome to the New Chief Residents, 2010-2011

DIVISION OF CARDIAC SURGERY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. KEVIN LACHAPELLE

Dr. Fahad Altuwaijri comes to us from Saudi Arabia. He received his MD Degree from the College of Medicine at King Saud University in July 2002. During 2003-2004, he did General Surgery training in Riyadh, joining the McGill program in 2005. During his R-I residency, he won first place in the Surgical Skills Competition. Fahad did his academic enrichment year at the Imperial College of London, England under the supervision of Dr. Marlene Rose at the Magdi Yacoub Institute in Harefield, England, working on acute rejection post-transplant with over-expression of heat/shock protein 27. In March 2008, he received his Diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh (MRCSED). Fahad was the resident representative during his R-5 year. In December of last year, he got married to Alanoud Alsudairi who is completing her thesis in environmental health. Next year, Fahad will do a fellowship in the United States in the field of heart failure and minimally invasive cardiac surgery. We welcome Fahad to his chief year.

Dr. Pierre-Luc Bernier is a McGill graduate who received his MD CM in May 2005, during which time he was awarded the McConnel Award from the McGill Faculty of Science for being in the top 5% of his graduating class, was included on the Dean’s Honour List, and received the Campbell Keenan Memorial Prize in Clinical Surgery. During his academic enrichment year, he held the position of Research Fellow for the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery, studying the global epidemiology of congenital heart disease under the supervision of Dr. Christo I. Tchervenkov. Pierre-Luc recently married Dr. Karin Marianna Oliver, an ophthalmologist specializing in ocular immunology and uveitis who will begin practicing at the Montreal General Hospital this fall. Next year, Pierre-Luc will embark on his training towards becoming a congenital heart surgeon. He will begin by pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Health and will then go on to complete several international fellowships in congenital heart disease. It will be a pleasure to have him as a chief.

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. PAOLA FATA

Dr. Bader Al-Bader is a graduate from Kuwait University in 2003. He started his residency at McGill in July 2006. Bader is the most easy going resident and a proud father. He is pursuing a Critical Care Fellowship at McGill.

Dr. Saleh Al-Abbad is from Onaizah, Qassim. He graduated from King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He joined the General Surgery Program at McGill in 2005. Saleh completed a year of clinical research at MCH with the Pediatric Surgery Dept, where he presented at national conferences and published papers in recognized journals. During his PGY-4 year, Saleh got married to a lovely woman, Hanouf Al-Omran. He is looking forward to pursue a Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery.

Dr. Wael Hanna is a native of Beirut, Lebanon, who moved to Montreal in 2001 to enroll in McGill’s Faculty of Medicine. He subsequently stayed at McGill for his General Surgery residency, and upon graduation, will be moving to the University of Toronto for a Fellowship in Thoracic Surgery. He completed a Masters in Business Administration at HEC-Montreal during his research year, and has an academic interest in Heath Care Management and Outcomes research. Wael and his wife Hala will be expecting their first child at the beginning of his chief year.

Dr. Saima Hassan is a graduate of McGill University. She started her residency at McGill in 2002. She completed a Ph.D. in the Department of Experimental Surgery under the supervision of Dr. Mark Basik, entitled The diagnostic and therapeutic role of the stromal cell-derived factor (SDF)-1 and CXCR4 axis in breast cancer metastasis. Saima has received national and international awards for her research including a Breast Cancer Achievement Award for the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium (2009) and the Canadian Research Award for Specialty Residents awarded by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (2008). She is presently applying for a Fellowship in Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Mohammad Jamal decided to leave home and study Medicine abroad and graduated from the University of Aberdeen University in 2004. He started his residency at McGill in 2006. During his residency, he was able to balance a busy residency with research productivity completing 16 abstract presentations and 7 publications. He also completed a Master of Medical Education without taking time off from clinical activities. He will be the first Kuwaiti Fellowship trained Hepatobiliary surgeon.
Dr. Mohammed Nassif was raised in Ottawa. He graduated from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. Mohammed plans for a Surgical Oncology Fellowship. He was awarded the CAGS Best Resident Teacher Award in 2009-10. He is the proud father of baby girl Malak.

Dr. Amy Neville is a native of the small town of Shannon, Quebec and a graduate of McGill University Medical School. She is currently completing a Masters degree in Epidemiology on her project is entitled \textit{Biliary Complications following Liver Transplantation}. Amy was very pleased to have been awarded the ‘Excellent in Undergraduate Teaching Award’ this year. She is currently planning on a career in General Surgery and applying for a Fellowship in Advanced GI and Laparoscopic Surgery.

DIVISION OF UROLOGY  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. SERGE CARRIER

Dr. Louis-Olivier Gagnon was born and raised in Quebec City. He completed his medical school at Laval University in 2006. The first 3 years of his residency were done in Sherbrooke University, as he is part of the combined program at Sherbrooke and McGill. Throughout his medical career, he has been known as a hard-working, competent individual. On the academic side, he has always been able to distinguish himself, and in research accomplishments, he has made many presentations on the national and international stages. He also has had 4 articles published in peer-reviewed journals. His career plans are to work in his hometown of Quebec City, in a Laval University affiliated hospital. He will work as an Associate Professor in the Urology Department and his work will include laparoscopic surgery, oncology and also general urology.

Dr. Robert Segal graduated from McGill University Medical School in 2006. He has been actively involved in urological basic science as well as clinical research throughout his residency, and has been published in the area of infertility (varicocele anatomy) and oncology (bladder cancer). He has also presented at several conferences. Upon completing his residency, he plans to pursue a Fellowship in Erectile Dysfunction under the supervision of Dr. Arthur Burnett at the Brady Urological Institute, affiliated with the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He is immensely proud of his wife Laurie and twin daughters, Holly and Penelope.

Dr. Nader Fahmy graduated from Alexandria Faculty of Medicine in Egypt. He then spent 3 years in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio to get a PhD in Transplant Immunology. He is interested in pursuing an endourology career.

Dr. Saad Aldousari graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin in 2003. He worked there as an intern for a year. Then he went back to Kuwait to get a scholarship from Kuwait University for residency training at McGill. He was active in resident politics as a member of the residency training committee. He is the academic chief resident for 2010/2011. Saad has completed basic science and clinical research in the field of urologic oncology with a focus on bladder cancer. He presented at a number of international meetings including the American Urological Association annual meeting. Upon completing his residency, he will go to MD Anderson Cancer Center to do a two year urologic oncology fellowship. His goal is to be an active member in urology training in Kuwait.

Dr. Maude Carmel graduated from Medical School at the University of Sherbrooke in 2006 and started her residency in Urology in Sherbrooke. As part of the joined program, she completed 3 years of residency before coming to McGill last year. She was very involved in research during her residency and presented at various national and international meetings. Most of her work concerned female and male urinary incontinence and prostate cancer. After completion of residency, she will do a two-year fellowship in female pelvic medical and reconstructive surgery in the United States. Maude is appreciated by her colleagues for her work ethics and commitment to the highest standard of care for her patients. In her rare free time, she is an accomplished musician, and enjoys playing guitar, violin and piano. She enjoys fashion as well and has many more shoes for a weekend trip than there are tomes to the Campbell’s. She plans to come back to Quebec after her fellowship to pursue an academic career.

DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. BRUCE WILLIAMS

Dr. Hasan Alajmi is a graduate of King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia. He completed an internship and one year surgical residency prior to joining the McGill Plastic Surgery Program in July 2005. Following completion of his second year of training in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at McGill,
Dr. Omar Fouda Neel obtained his medical degree M.B.B.S. in '04 from King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It was in the following year during his internship when he fell in love with Plastic Surgery. Omar joined the Saudi Council for Health Specialties Plastic Surgery Residency training program in '05 for a year before being accepted in the McGill Plastic Surgery program. Omar intends to pursue a career in Reconstructive Microsurgery and in Craniofacial Surgery. Recently awarded the "Outstanding Resident Teacher Award" from McGill’s Division of Plastic Surgery for 2010 and “The Best Reconstructive Case Presentation” at the prestigious Mayo Clinic Reconstructive Symposium in 2010. He was recently accepted for an academic post at King Saud University.

Dr. Kylie Kvinlaug graduated with great distinction from the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine in 2004 and completed his General Surgery Residency at the same institution in June 2009. Kylie is an avid golfer and an expert curler. He is also a musician, a collector and an enthusiast of architectural design. He was recently awarded 1st prize in the ‘Concours Paul-Cartier’ at the 28th Annual ‘Les Entretiens Vasculaires,’ in Montebello, Quebec, for his paper entitled: Endovascular management of claudicants for femoropopliteal occlusive disease. Upon completion of his vascular surgery training in June 2011, he intends to return to Saskatoon where he has been offered a faculty position at the University of Saskatchewan.

No training of the surgeon can be too arduous, no discipline too stern, and none of us may measure our devotion to our cause.
For us an operation is an incident in the day’s work, but for our patients it may be, and no doubt it often is, the sternest and most dreaded of all trials, for the mysteries of life and death surround it, and it must be faced alone.

— Sir Berkeley Moynihan (1865 – 1936), Addresses on Surgical Subjects, “The Approach of Surgery”.

The surgeon of the future will not tolerate the divorce of the hand from the brain, and the surgery of the future will not again be merely a handicraft…
In the surgery of the future the individualist will be left by the road-side, for after all surgery is part of that broader field of experimental pathology to which all the medical science belong.

The highlight of the McGill Department of Surgery’s academic calendar is our annual Fraser Gurd Day. It is on this day that we recognize the contributions of our graduating residents and celebrate the research contributions throughout all surgical divisions. Our Fraser Gurd Visiting Professor is always an individual with great stature in the surgical world. The list reads like a who’s who of surgical leaders from around the world. This year, for the first time, we added a woman to the list of surgical icons, Dr. Julie Ann Freischlag. Dr. Freischlag is the William Stewart Halsted Professor, Chair of the Department of Surgery, and Surgeon-in-Chief at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Dr. Freischlag’s lecture entitled Abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) - How things have changed over 50 years was an outstanding example of translational surgical research. She provided us a lesson about how surgical treatment of this disease has evolved dramatically over time, influenced by a series of surgical trials that generated the evidence to change practice.

To pursue the theme of women in surgery, we held a symposium on Women in Surgery. Dr. Freischlag chaired the symposium and spoke of the challenges she faced as a woman in what was traditionally a male-dominated field. She was followed by Drs. Donna Tataryn, Carol-Ann Vasilevsky and Shannon Fraser from our McGill faculty who spoke of their personal experiences going through residency training and entering into practice at somewhat different times. It was a very moving insight into the very real issues of women in surgery. It was obvious, when comparing the stories of Drs. Tataryn and Vasilevsky to those of our more recent recruit, Dr. Fraser, that we have come a long way as a profession and as an institution.

Drs. Lawrence Rosenberg and Jonathan Meakins debated the question: Is basic science research obsolete for surgeons in active clinical practice. The debate was designed to illuminate the challenges for a busy clinical surgeon trying to compete with full-time scientists for grant support and recognition in the basic science research world. The debaters framed the issues extremely well and gave us all food for thought.

The resident research presentations were superb again this year. It is remarkable to see the presentation skills and the poise of the young women and men and the depth of knowledge they have acquired during their research training.

In all, Fraser Gurd Day was inspiring to all of us and Dr. Gurd would be extremely proud of the legacy he left at McGill.

Gerald M. Fried, MD
Chairman, Department of Surgery
2010 MCGILL DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AWARD WINNERS PRESENTED AT THE 21ST ANNUAL FRASER GURD BANQUET THURSDAY, MAY 20TH

HARVEY H. SIGMAN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. James D. Sullivan

POST GRADUATE EDUCATION TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. Barry Stein

KATHRYN ROLPH AWARD

Dr. Shannon Fraser

EDMOND D. MONAGHAN PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY AWARD THE “EDDY”

Dr. Tamara Mijovic

OUTSTANDING RESIDENT / FELLOW TEACHER AWARDS

Cardiac Surgery: Dr. Adil Al Kindi
General Surgery: Dr. Mohammed Nassif
Orthopaedic Surgery: Dr. Stéphane Bergeron
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: Dr. Omar Fouda Neel
Urology: Dr. Raed Al-Mannie

EXCELLENCE IN BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH

Oral Presentations for Excellence in Basic Science Research

1st Prize: Dr. Mathieu C. Rousseau
Lipopolysaccharide Promotes Human Esophageal Cancer Cell Metastatic Potential via the Selectin/Sialyl Lewis X Axis

2nd Prize: Dr. Sebastian Winocour
TGF-β Coreceptor CD 109 Regulates Extracellular Matrix Production in a Skin Flap-Induced Hypoxia Wound Model

3rd Prize: Dr. Danny Del Duca
Neonatal Hypoxia is Associated with Lasting Changes in Left Ventricular Structure and Function: An Animal Model

Poster Presentations for Excellence in Basic Science Research

Winner: Dr. Jonathan D. Spicer
Poster entitled: Neutrophils and Liver Metastasis: Friend or Foe?

Poster Presentations for Excellence in Clinical Research

Winner: Mr. Joshua Vorstenbosch
Poster entitled: Overexpression of CD 109 in the Epidermis Alters Epidermal-Dermal Interactions to Promote Wound Repair
Since 1990, the Division has hosted an annual research gathering allowing graduate students, fellows, research associates, assistants and residents to present their research endeavors. Friday, May 14th 2010 was quite special as it marked the 20th Anniversary of this longest running Urology Research Day in Canada. To commemorate the event, this year’s research day was held at the Manoir des Sables, in the Eastern Townships. Drs. Aprikian, Chevalier and Chevrette, with the assistance of Ms. Lina Ordonselli and Ms. Chrysoula Makris, organized the event and welcomed over 75 attendees with 32 scientific presentations. Dr. Ralph Buttyan, Senior Scientist of Ordway Research Institute Cancer Centre and Professor at the Albany Medical College in Albany, New York, was the invited guest speaker and delivered an eloquent lecture on Hedgehogs and Prostate Cancer. The event concluded with cocktails and a fully attended banquet dinner and entertainment. The three best research presentations were awarded to Mr. Seth Davis entitled Beyond the Pelvis in Chronic Pelvic Pain in Men, (Ph.D. student with Dr. Carrier), to Dr. Faysal Yafi on Surveillance Guidelines based on Recurrence Patterns following Radical Cystectomy for Bladder Cancer (Urology resident with Dr. Kassouf) and Mr. Khalil Choucair for Investigating the Prognostic Value of PDK1 Amplification in Prostate Cancer (MSc student with Dr. Lapointe). The event was a huge success and set the stage for the next 20 years.

Currently, urologic research at McGill covers all the important areas with an emphasis on clinical and fundamental integration. The areas include Oncology (Drs. Chevalier, Chevrette, Chen, Lapointe, Blaschuk, Aprikian, Tanguay, Kassouf, Anidjar, Taguchi, and Elhilali), Minimally Invasive Surgical Innovation and Education (Elhilali, Carrier, Anidjar, and Andonian), Male Reproductive Biology and Sexual Function (Taketo, O’Flaherty, Carrier, Zini, and Chan), Voiding Dysfunction (Elhilali, Corcos), Pediatric Urology (El-Sherbiny, Brzeziński, Capoliccio, and Jednak).

Finally, the Division has established a clinical trial program under the current leadership of Dr. Tanguay, to conduct investigator-initiated, cooperative group and industry-sponsored trials. With ten graduate students and seven fellows studying across the 5 teaching hospitals (MGH, RVH, JGH, MCH, and St. Mary’s) the Division is vibrant with research activity.

McGill Urology is very fortunate in that it has a rich past and a bright future. Following the examples set by our senior faculty members (Drs. Elhilali, Morehouse, Taguchi, Reid, Laplante) coupled with the high scientific energy of our new recruits, McGill Urology is on the path to even greater achievements.

Armen G. Aprikian, MD, FRCSC
Professor and Richard Tomlinson Chair in Prostate Cancer, Head of Urology, McGill University
Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu has been invited to join the Editorial Board of the World Journal of Surgery.

Dr. Sherif Emil delivered the commencement address at the graduation ceremonies of the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine on June 5th. The title of his address was The Quest for Significance. The speech has been posted on YouTube. He was also appointed, for a three-year term, to the program committee of the Section on Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Philip H. Gordon was an invited participant in the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Resident’s Breakfast session, on Colorectal Surgery: What’s it all about? on May 15-19, at Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. He was also an invited participant at a Symposium on Colorectal Cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on June 4, 2010.

Dr. Edward Harvey has been selected by the nominating committee of the COA to become the next Secretary of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association. Internationally, he has been also elected to be Chair of the Trauma Committee of the Orthopaedic Research Society. He has been appointed to the Board of Specialty Societies as Trauma Chair of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and has also been asked to join a taskforce on fracture care for the United States Federal Government Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Dr. Ari-Nareg Meguerditchian, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, was awarded a 4-year Clinician-Investigator award from the Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec for his research entitled: Health information technology: developing tools to optimize breast cancer care quality. His research team will study the application of province-wide quality metrics in the delivery of breast cancer care and identify opportunities for personalized decision support, real-time service tracking and prevention of variations in care.

Dr. Steven Paraskevas was appointed Chair of the Canadian Society of Transplantation Annual Scientific Meeting, at Mont Tremblant, February, 2011.

Dr. Pramod Puligandla was recently elected, by a clear majority, as the Chair of the MCH Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists (CPDP) Executive Council for a two year term. He previously held the position of Vice-Chair for two years. He will represent the interests of the MCH-CPDP membership at the Central Executive Committee of the MUHC and the Council for Services to Children and Adolescents.

On April 21, 2010 a wonderful tribute dinner was held for Dr. Henry Shibata by the Cedars Cancer Institute at the Mount Royal Club. Many notable local people, Arthur Porter, John Rae, Richard and Sylvia Cruess, Armen Aprikian, Kappy Flanders, the Consul General of Japan, Mr. Isobe and Mutsumi Takahashi attended as well as Robert Antbacka from Denver, Colorado and Alan Turnbull of New York City. The occasion was to honour Dr. Shibata for his many years of service to Cedars by naming him Chairman Emeritus of the Medical Advisory Committee. It was also a fund-raising event for the Henry R. Shibata Fellowship Fund established to award research opportunities to 5 young oncologists every year. Simultaneously at this meeting, the 80th birthday of Dr. Shibata was also celebrated and he pledged to continue his contributions to the magnificent activities of Cedars for many years to come!
Achievements
Residents and Fellows

Mr. Madhur Nayan, who is a third year medical student at McGill, received a prize for the Best Oral Presentation in Basic Sciences Research, at the 13th Annual Research Day for the Division of Geriatric Medicine, McGill University on April 9th, 2010. Mr. Nayan was a summer student and participated in the work at the Research Laboratory of the Division of Cardiac Surgery at the MUHC. The presentation was entitled Cardiac function improvement achieved by mesenchymal stem cells to aged rodent recipients is influenced by donor age. The supervisors were Drs. Dominique Shum-Tim and Ray Chiu.

Dr. Minh-Tri Nguyen, a general surgery resident in Dr. Steven Paraskevas’ lab, was awarded the 2010 American Society of Transplant Surgeons – National Kidney Foundation, Folkert Belzer, MD Research Award. He is the first ever recipient from McGill of an ASTS Award. The award is a two year fellowship for research in transplantation and immunology. The title of his proposal is Can Th17 and regulatory T cells explain the pathophysiology of delayed graft function in kidney transplant recipients? Dr. Minh-Tri Nguyen received his award in May from ASTS President Dr. Michael Abecassis, in a special ceremony at the 2010 American Transplant Congress in San Diego.

Dr. Nora Trabulsi, R3 General Surgery Resident, was awarded the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology - Pfizer Research Grant for her project entitled Adjuvant endocrine therapy in breast cancer: a novel approach in monitoring long term adherence in seniors. These funds will support her Master’s Research in Dr. Ari-Nareg Meguerditchian’s lab. Dr. Trabulsi will work on characterizing long term adherence patterns to anti-estrogen therapy in breast cancer patients and identifying novel approaches to optimizing treatment adherence.


From right to left: David Rexroad (VP of Events Management, National Kidney Foundation), Micheal Abecassis, MD, MBA (President, American Society of Transplant Surgeons), Minh-Tri Nguyen, MD and Ginny Bumgardner, MD, PhD (Chair, Awards Committee, American Society of Transplant Surgeons).
2010 STIKEMAN VISITING PROFESSOR

On May 27, 2010 Dr. Joseph E. Bavaria, the Brooke Roberts—William Maul Measey Professor of Surgery from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, was the 42nd 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. Bavaria spoke on Radical and Revolutionary Transcatheter Valve Therapy: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. This was followed by laboratory and clinical research presentations by the residents of the Divisions. After lunch, Dr. Bavaria had an informal meeting with the residents, followed by more presentations throughout the afternoon. The alumni from out of town at this year’s event were Dr. Bindu Bittira, Dr. Derek MacDonald, and Dr. Rony Atoui.

The annual banquet was held at the University Club in honour of the Visiting Professor and our graduating residents – Dr. Adil Al-Kindi and Dr. Samantha Hill.

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. Joseph Bavaria as the 2010 Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery.
Dr. Michael Ganey, a graduate of Siena College in Loudonville, NY where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology (with award of excellence). He obtained his medical degree from Albany Medical School. During medical school he participated in molecular biology research and also did missionary work in both Mozambique and Pakistan. Mike completed his residency in general surgery at Baystate Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine. As a chief resident he was awarded, by the students, the Excellence in Teaching Award and also received the Outstanding Resident in Laparoscopy Award by the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons and the faculty at Baystate. Mike is married to Julie, an RN, who is currently staying at home with their 11-month old daughter Eden Joy. Mike and Julie spent two years at the Tenwek Mission Hospital in Bomet, Kenya (2006-2008). Mike was staff surgeon and faculty member at a 300-bed mission hospital serving as a regional referral centre. Upon completion of his pediatric surgery training they plan to return to Kenya. Mike has expressed many times what a beautiful city we have and he and his wife and daughter have settled in just fine. He intends to get in some telemark skiing while in the Canadian snow…… We welcome Mike and his family to Montreal and are delighted to have him join our team.

**Divisional Activities**

**DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY**

The visiting professor Dr. Michael A. Mont is an Associate Professor at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The session was in honour of Dr. Joseph Miller, who was the Chairman of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery at McGill from 1981 to 1986. Many papers were presented and discussed. The winners for paper presentations were:

**FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH**

Dr. Alberto Carli

**FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH**

1st prize: Dr. Stephane Bergeron
2nd prize: Dr. Yung Han

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**Divisional Activities**

**DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY**

Dr. Michael Ganey, a graduate of Siena College in Loudonville, NY where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology (with award of excellence). He obtained his medical degree from Albany Medical School. During medical school he participated in molecular biology research and also did missionary work in both Mozambique and Pakistan. Mike completed his residency in general surgery at Baystate Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine. As a chief resident he was awarded, by the students, the Excellence in Teaching Award and also received the Outstanding Resident in Laparoscopy Award by the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons and the faculty at Baystate. Mike is married to Julie, an RN, who is currently staying at home with their 11-month old daughter Eden Joy. Mike and Julie spent two years at the Tenwek Mission Hospital in Bomet, Kenya (2006-2008). Mike was staff surgeon and faculty member at a 300-bed mission hospital serving as a regional referral centre. Upon completion of his pediatric surgery training they plan to return to Kenya. Mike has expressed many times what a beautiful city we have and he and his wife and daughter have settled in just fine. He intends to get in some telemark skiing while in the Canadian snow…… We welcome Mike and his family to Montreal and are delighted to have him join our team.

**DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY**

**4TH ANNUAL DAVID. R. MURPHY VISITING PROFESSOR**

ON APRIL 12, 2010, at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, the Division of Pediatric Surgery hosted Dr. Michael Harrison, Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Emeritus, University of California, San Francisco, as the 4th Annual David R. Murphy Visiting Professor. Acknowledged around the world as the “Father of Fetal Surgery”, Dr. Harrison is internationally renowned for his expertise in innovation in pediatric and fetal surgery. He was one of the original founders of the International Fetal Medicine Surgery Society, the Founder/ Director of the UCSF Fetal Treatment Center, and now the Director of the UCSF Pediatric Device Consortium. The day began with a welcome note from Dr. J.P. Farmer, Surgeon-in-Chief, and Dr. Sherif Emil, Director, Division of Pediatric General Surgery. Dr. Harrison then delivered the Murphy Lecture entitled *Surgical Innovation: The Fetus and Magnets at Pediatric Surgical*
Grand Rounds. The morning continued with a fetal diagnosis and treatment symposium moderated by Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge. The symposium was well attended and included a large number of surgeons, neonatalogists, obstetricians, and geneticists, in addition to nurses and genetic counselors. Following lunch, a multi-disciplinary surgical innovation symposium was moderated by Dr. Sherif Emil. Several graduates of the McGill general surgery and pediatric surgery programs returned to the Montreal Children's Hospital for the event.

Professor Pierro has established a “Clinical Trial Unit” which coordinates randomized controlled trials locally, nationally and internationally. He has completed three of the largest trials ever done in neonatal and paediatric surgery. His work has set the standard for future paediatric surgical clinical research. In the course of this two-day event, Professor Pierro delivered pediatric and surgical grand rounds, participated in judging the Frank M Guttman Montreal Pediatric Surgical Debate, and participated in a web symposium on necrotizing enterocolitis, at which the pediatric surgery fellows presented.

PROMPT RECOVERY TO DR. NGUYEN
Just days after his 65th birthday, Dr. Luong Nguyen, long-time pillar and praised teacher of the Division of Pediatric General Surgery at the MCH, was admitted to hospital with an acute abdominal condition and required emergency surgery. After a prolonged hospital course, he was finally discharged home and is recovering under the care of his wife and children.

The Division of Pediatric General Surgery has established the “Luong T. Nguyen Award for Superior Performance by a Core Surgical Resident in Pediatric General Surgery” to be given annually to a core surgical resident with best performance on the pediatric surgery rotation. The inaugural winner of the award was Dr. Helen Hsieh. The award was presented to Helen by Dr. Nguyen at the Division's annual dinner honoring the graduating fellow and Frank M. Guttman Visiting Professor.

Divisional Activities

DIVISION OF UROLOGY

MCGILL UROLOGY RETREAT DAY
The McGill Urology Faculty members held a Retreat on Saturday May 15th 2010 at the Manoir des Sables. Among others, teaching (residency program director: Dr. Carrier), research (Dr. Chevalier), axe leaders (Oncology: Dr. Tanguay; Andrology: Dr. Zini; Pediatrics: Dr. Jednak; Stones: Dr. Andonian), were covered, providing an opportunity to review accomplishments, discuss mutual concerns and determine the best path forward and expectations in mapping a bright future for McGill Urology. After a productive day, everyone was invited to a dinner in the evening and welcome to the night stay.

RECENT SUCCESS IN UROLOGY RESEARCH
The academic year ended with additional achievements for the Division of Urology. Congratulations to Dr. Cristian O’Flaherty who was awarded a FRQSF Junior 1 scholarship for his research program on peroxiredoxins in Reproductive Medicine. Dr. Peter Chan was part of several grants...
applications funded by CIHR in the research area of Andrology. In Urologic Oncology, three basic research projects headed by Dr. Simone Chevalier, Dr. Mario Chevrette, and Dr. Jacques Lapointe, were recently funded by Prostate Cancer Canada.

THE PROCURE WALK OF COURAGE

In support of the 2010 PROCURE Walk of Courage celebrating men and life, The PROCURE Walk of Courage for Prostate Cancer was held at Ile Ste-Hélène on Father's Day Sunday, June 20th. The McGill Urology faculty was again well represented by Drs. Aprikian, Chevalier, Tanguay, Elhilali, Kassouf, Chevrette, O’Flaherty, etc. Several team members of the MUHC-Biobank and research personnel at the MUHC-RI were present as strong supporters of this unique fundraising event for the cause of prostate cancer in Québec. Amongst the many participants was the Mayor of Montréal, Gerald Tremblay, leaders of several sport teams (hockey, football, and soccer), and representatives of Knight of Columbus who had selected Prostate Cancer as their cause from 2008-10. Over 3,000 participants took part in the festive 5 km walk and more than $400,000 was raised. This will be used to fight prostate cancer through research, information and awareness. 

A good surgeon is a good medical man who can cut.

— Martin H. Fischer (1879-1962)
Were you there in 1959-60?

An old photo of the RVH surgery residents and staff with Executive Director Dr. J. Gilbert Turner and Surgeon-in-chief Dr. Donald R. Webster in 1959-1960.

The young resident at the top right back row is Dr. Ed Monaghan, who contributed this picture and was a previous editor of The Square Knot.
Tie one on for McGill!

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

McGill Dept. of Surgery Alumni, Montreal General Hospital
1650 Cedar Avenue, Room L9.420, Montreal (Quebec) H3G 1A4
Telephone: (514) 934-1934, ext. 42028 Fax: (514) 934-8418

Please send me the McGill Department of Surgery Tie or Scarf

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McGILL SURGERY ALUMNI & FRIENDS
Contributions of $100 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.

MOVING?
If you change your address, or if you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, please drop us a line.