The Orthopaedic Research Laboratory of the Montreal General Hospital was founded by Dr. Jo Miller in 1967 when space for biological and surgical research was provided in the University Surgical Clinic. In 1970, the space was expanded to include a biomechanics and materials testing laboratory in the MGH Research Institute in Livingston Hall. During the early 1970's Dr. Miller conducted pioneering work on porous coated implants, bone ingrowth fixation and stress-related peri-implant bone remodeling. During the mid-1970's to mid-1980's research focused on the development of improved bone cement and bone cementing techniques as well as commercial implant designs such as the MultiRadius and Miller-Galante knee systems. From the mid-1980's to the present, work has continued on implant design and testing as well as biologic fixation, porous coatings, tissue response and retrieval analysis of human joint replacement prostheses.

The surgical and resident staff of the Division of Orthopaedics conduct a wide range of prospective clinical studies that evaluate the efficacy and performance of various orthopaedic surgical procedures. Emphasis is placed on total hip and knee arthroplasty and several commercially available designs are the subject of ongoing comparisons and studies using radiography, dual energy x-ray absorptiometry and clinical scores. The clinical team works closely with the research team in these studies, providing an optimum atmosphere for scientific discourse, objective evaluation, and the formulation of new ideas for improving the quality of patient care. Both clinical and basic science research in the Jo Miller Orthopaedic Research Laboratory (J MORL) have benefited from the constant support and enthusiasm of the successive Division chiefs over the years: Dr. Emerson Brooks, Dr. Max Aebi, Dr. Michael Tanzer and, currently, Dr. Robert Turcotte.

(Please see Surgical Heritage on page 12)
Dear Editor,
The summer edition of The Square Knot motivated me to bring you up to date on the situation in Belleville. We have three young alumni here now, first Dan Steinitz in orthopedics, Nina Davies in general surgery and Andrew Pickle (more about Andy later).

For the decades of McGill residents who do not know me since I left Montreal, I came to McGill from Dalhousie and joined Diploma Course in 1955. In 1960, I came on staff at the V.C. Lloyd MacLean got us started in transplantation and I was on the original team when we transplanted the first kidney in October 1963. McGill was a very stimulating place and I enjoyed teaching the residents and students and developing a Montreal practice. At that time, I had many contemporaries and friends at McGill, such as Ed Monaghan, John Oliver, Geoff Lehman, Henry Shibata, John Duff and Peter McLean.

In 1971, the late John Gutelius invited me to beautiful Saskatoon as professor in his department and we were later joined by Charles Wright. Our family had twenty-eight grand years in Saskatchewan during which I was department head for twelve years. At seventy, I retired and Carol and I moved to her home town of Belleville Ontario, a one-hour drive from our long standing family cottage on Lake Weslemkoon where we live from mid May until after family thanksgiving dinner in October.

The first two years of retirement were fine — back to playing the piano and flying radio control model airplanes with lots of activity at the lake. However, a shortage of OR assistants in Belleville resulted in my recruitment which I rather enjoyed, assisting in general surgery, gynecology and orthopedics. Certainly, stapled hemorrhoidectomy is a great advance over the open operation which we used to do. Laparoscopic bowel resections are more common (I did lapcholes and hernias pre-retirement) and the insertion of "mini-badminton-bird like" plug into the inguinal canal seems to solve the hernia nowadays.

One evening while on call with Andy Pickle, we discussed my lumbar pain and increasingly painful limp. After consultation, x-rays and CT, he felt although the left hip was certainly arthritic, the spinal stenosis was major culprit. So this past April I underwent a five hour surgery in Trillium Hospital in Mississauga (Dr. Dana Wilson) for stenosis at T12, L2, L4 and left L4-5 disc prolapase. An extensive laminectomy with two steel plates, fourteen screws and bone grafts secured the lumbar region. The retroperitoneal dissection provided me with the wondrous personal experience of ten days of paralytic ileus — never underestimate the patient's joy on passing the first post-op flatus! The initial results of the operation were ideal — pain gone and rehabilitation active but, as frequently happens, the wear and tear of the left hip has increased the "bone-on-bone" pain which is debilitating. So Andy Pickle is providing me with a new hip early in November -- more anon.

My best regards to former colleagues and friends at McGill and the RVH residents with whom it was a pleasure to work while I was at "the VIC". A cheque is enclosed to support "The Square Knot". Sincerely,

Fred G. Inglis MD FRCS
Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Univ. Saskatchewan, 29 Kellar Drive, Belleville, On K8P 4B3

Dear Editor,

"Been a long time and I certainly appreciate the copy of The Square Knot and also the chance to contribute to McGill Surgery Alumni and Friends. Gladly done!"

It has been exactly 20 years since I had the pleasure to spend a year at the Royal Victoria Hospital as McGill’s first Vascular Fellow. I noticed there was a Fellow with 2008 after his name. Could make a guy feel old!

I have had a large picture of the "Royal Vic" here on my office walls wherever I am since leaving the finest city on the continent… Montreal in July 1988. I still love Quebec and the fine people and friends I made.

The faculty at McGill was superb and my heartfelt gratitude and respects to Alan Graham, M.D., Normand Poirier, M.D. and James F. Symes, M.D. for the superb teaching and patience.

Best of luck and regards to all there. Semper Fidelis,

P.S.: I was the first vascular fellow who also became a grandfather during the year! Miss you all. Got Email from JFS last year from Miami. Regards, Steve.

CAPT. Stephen F. McCartney
U.S. Navy Force Surgeon
Marine Special Operations Command
Camp Lejeune, N.C.
910-451-3462

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all members of the Cardiac Surgery enterprise at the London Health Sciences Centre, I would like to thank you very much for being our Visiting Professor on October 17, 2008. We very much enjoyed your fabulous presentation and I have continued to have very positive feedback about it from many members of our team during this past week. On a personal level I greatly enjoyed our lengthy conversations and our tour of the hospital and the University.

Once again, please accept our thanks for your exceptional support of our Scientific Day and extend my regards to all of my former colleagues at McGill.

Yours Sincerely,

Richard J. Novick, MD, MSc, FRCS, FACS
Professor and Chair, Division of Cardiac Surgery, University of Western Ontario
Hospital Chief of Cardiac Surgery, London Health Sciences Center

( Please see Letters on page 16)
In this issue of The Square Knot, the Chair of McGill Department of Surgery Dr. Mostafa Elhilali has contributed an article, welcoming the year 2009 sabbatical visit of Dr. Jonathan Meakins, Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the University of Oxford, UK. As it turns out, 2009 is also the 20th Anniversary of this newsletter, which was the brain child of Dr. Meakins, then chair of this Department. To commemorate this event, we plan to publish a special Anniversary issue.

In line with the Meakins medical dynasty in Canada, Joe apparently loved the “square knot” as a symbol of surgery. This basic non-slip knot is a mainstay of good surgical technique — a patient’s life could hang on the integrity of a single knot! Conceptually, we like to think that a secure knot may also tie together the role of providing Departmental information with the role of being an archive of collegiality and learning. This newsletter was then named The Square Knot, and it is graphically depicted on the front page of each issue, as well as on the Departmental necktie (advertised regularly in this publication).

Thus to celebrate the 20th anniversary of The Square Knot, we welcome essay contributions from our readers. For example, if you are senior enough to reminisce about the art and science of surgery 20 years ago, write about McGill Surgery, 1989 - 2009. Some budding surgeons today may not be able to imagine the days before Minimally Invasive Surgery became routine procedures! If so, write instead about McGill Surgery, 2009 - 2029, and dream about transplanting organs generated from stem cells, or operating from a future MUHC robotic OR on patients in the Arctic or on space stations…. As we all know, you do not have to pay tax for imagination! You are welcome to submit your masterpiece to the editor by regular mail or, preferably, by e-mail.

Wishing everyone all the best for 2009! 

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McGill surgeon Dr. Norman Bethune during the civil war in China (1937-38).
Welcome back for this Sabbatical and I would urge all members of the department to participate in this exciting project.

Mostafa Elhilali M.D., FRCSC, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair,
Department of Surgery, McGill University

Dr. Jonathan Meakins Returns to McGill

Dr. Jonathan Meakins, who is presently an Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the University of Oxford, has returned to the McGill Department of Surgery on Sabbatical for 1 year starting January 1st 2009. When he left Oxford there were some areas of scholarly interest which needed completion and which could be done in the Department of Surgery at McGill during this proposed Sabbatical year.

The first involving The Lancet presents a stimulus and an opportunity for the younger members of the Department to get involved and involves the evaluation of new techniques and new technology.

This very interesting undertaking involved statisticians, surgeons, internists, methodologists, epidemiologists, evidence-based medicine gurus and thinkers who participated with equal airtime at Balliol College in Oxford and included 3 meetings. Drs. Jeff Barkun and Pat Ergina were closely involved with the planning and the management of all three.

During his Sabbatical year these data will be published in The Lancet, outlining the issues and calling for papers to be published in an issue of the Lancet dedicated to Surgery.

The Balliol Collaboration will write the first two papers of that issue describing the outcomes to the present from the first three meetings. There will be a fourth meeting now scheduled for April 1-4, to develop a consensus on some of the knotty issues in this area, which will be the third paper from the Balliol Collaboration in that Lancet issue. There will be a call for papers inviting other surgeons to submit high quality clinical research in surgery for publication in the same issue. The issue of The Lancet will coincide with the Annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons and a session or two of the College meeting will be devoted to the subjects in the Lancet issue devoted to surgery. The opportunities presented here are exceptional and meetings are taking place regularly to turn this opportunity into a reality. The first three papers will be signed from the “Balliol Collaboration”. It will, however, be apparent that the work comes from the McGill Department of Surgery and the Nuffield Department of Surgery in Oxford.

Please join me in welcoming Dr Meakins back for this Sabbatical and I would urge all members of the department to participate in this exciting project.

Mostafa Elhilali M.D., FRCSC, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair,
Department of Surgery, McGill University

Dr. Sherif Emil has been appointed Associate Professor and Director of the Division of Pediatric General Surgery at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. Dr. Emil was born in Cairo, Egypt, grew up in several developing countries and moved to the US in 1982 to start his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He spent one year in graduate studies at Rice University in Houston, prior to starting his medical education at McGill. After graduating from McGill in 1991, he moved to California for general surgery residency at Loma Linda University. During his residency, he spent two years in laboratory research at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. He completed his residency in 1998 and spent a year as a lecturer in surgery at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, prior to returning to McGill to complete a two year clinical fellowship in pediatric surgery. He returned to California again in 2001 to join the surgical faculty at the University of California, Irvine, where he was rapidly promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and Chief of Pediatric Surgery, and remained in that position until his recruitment by the Montreal Children’s.

Dr. Emil’s clinical and research interests include neonatal bowel obstruction and perforation, gastroesophageal reflux, pediatric appendicitis, minimally invasive thoracic surgery, and surgical outcomes. He has a passion for teaching, and was honored with five major teaching awards during his seven years at UCI. He also has an ongoing interest in international surgery, and has participated in three missions to East Africa. He and his wife Marie, a Montreal native, are excited to return to Quebec, and rejoin the Montreal community.
The General Surgery Residency Program held its 8th ANNUAL WELCOME DINNER on Monday, October 6th, 2008 at Ariel Restaurant. This was a very successful evening that was well attended by staff and residents. The incoming residents were welcomed to the Division: Saleh Alnasser, Amin Andalib, Ravdeep Birdi, Simon Chow, Helen Hsieh, Janet Kwan, Maher Matar, George Melich, Ali Samkari and Nora Trabulsi. The Chief Residents received a token of appreciation and the incoming residents received a Textbook of Surgery. Thanks to all who participated in making this evening a success. Special thanks to Rita Piccioni for organizing a successful evening.

ON NOVEMBER 25, 2008, the McGill General Surgery Residency Committee organized the inaugural GENERAL SURGERY RESEARCH INFORMATION FORUM. The event was held at restaurant Deca 77. The purpose of the evening was to provide a forum for all faculty members from the Division of General Surgery to present their current research endeavors and to provide information on research opportunities available to residents in the program. The event was extremely well attended by both residents and faculty. It is our hope that events such as this will help stimulate resident interest in academic research. We hope to make this an annual event. On behalf of the General Surgery Program and the Division of General Surgery we would like to thank Dr. Jeremy Grushka for his initiative and dedication in organizing this event along with Dr. Jonathan Spicer. Special thanks to John Labelle for his technical support. This event was a success because of staff collaboration.
**DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY (CONT’D)**

**THE 6TH ANNUAL HPB AND LIVER TRANSPLANT SYMPOSIUM** was hosted by Dr. Peter Metrakos, Director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program and Director of the Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary Surgery Program at the MUHC. It was held on November 12th 2008 at Place D’Armes Hotel and followed by a banquet at Bice. The Visiting Professors as well as Fellows, Residents and Staff presented updated management options for treatment of complex HPB diseases. **Dr. Nigel Heaton**, Professor of Transplant Surgery at King’s College Hospital in London, England spoke on *Improving implantation techniques in liver transplantation*. **Dr. Kevork Peltekian** of Dalhousie spoke on *Metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular outcomes after liver transplantation*.

The first isolated limb infusion (ILI) in the province was successfully performed at the MUHC Melanoma Clinic, the country’s largest cutaneous malignancy program, by **Dr. Ari Meguerditchian**, Division of General Surgery (Surgical Oncology). Intended for patients with recurrent in-transit melanoma of the extremities, ILI consists of administering high doses of hyperthermic chemotherapy regionally, in an effort to avoid amputation. ILI replaces isolated limb perfusion (ILP), a more invasive approach to regional therapy that was also pioneered in Canada at the Royal Victoria Hospital of the MUHC many years ago. This new procedure took place on October 28th and the patient has shown a favorable clinical response. This novel technique requires a high level of integration between surgery, radiology, nursing, perfusionists and pharmacy, who also share credit for its success.

ILI is one example of regional chemotherapeutic strategies in the control of cancer. This novel field of surgical oncology combines various chemotherapeutic agents and changes in the tumor’s environment to induce a decrease in the tumor burden of otherwise unresectable cancers.
DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES

DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

McGill orthopaedic surgery staff members with our 23rd Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery Dr. James Kasser, October 9 - 10, 2008.

EARLY OCTOBER, Jacques Corcos MD, professor of surgery (Urology) at McGill has been elected General Secretary of the International Continence Society. This prestigious position is a 3 year mandate during which Dr. Corcos will lead ICS activities and growth.

Since its creation in 1971 the ICS has grown from strength to strength, boasting a membership of over 3000 from 80 different countries covering many disciplines and including physicians, surgeons, nurses, physicists, physiotherapists, bio-engineers and scientists.

The primary interest of the International Continence Society is to study storage and voiding function of the lower urinary tract, the diagnosis and management of lower urinary tract dysfunction, and to encourage research into pathophysiology, diagnostic techniques and treatment.

This society sets also the world standards in terms of urinary and bowel continence.

THE 4TH ANNUAL UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY VISITING PROFESSOR, organized by Drs. Simon Tanguay and Armen Aprikian, was held at the Jeanne Timmins Amphitheatre of the Montreal Neurological Institute on Wednesday October 29th, 2008. This year’s guest speaker was Dr. Mark Schoenberg, Professor and Director of Urologic Oncology, Johns Hopkins Hospital, who gave a state-of the art presentation entitled "My Apprenticeship: Appreciating Radical Cystectomy." Dr Schoenberg also gave a presentation at the Department of Surgery Grand Rounds the following day entitled "Learning Clinical Trials the Hard Way: NA-MSA Trial for Bladder Cancer Detection.”

MCGILL UROLOGY HELD ITS 8TH ANNUAL CANADIAN SENIOR RESIDENT UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY COURSE on October 17-18, 2008 at the Omni Hotel in Montreal organized by Dr. Wes Kassouf and co-directed by Dr. Armen Aprikian. Senior Urology residents from all across Canada attended this conference. This year’s guest speaker was Dr. Bernard Bochner from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Dr. Bochner’s lecture was on "Management of muscle invasive and locally advanced TCC."
The Division of Vascular Surgery would like to welcome Dr. Jason Bayne to the training program our 2008 Vascular Surgery Fellow. Jason is a Manitoba native who comes to McGill after completing his General Surgery Residency at the University of Calgary. His interests outside of medicine include music, cycling and skiing. We look forward to a productive 2 years with Jason in our program.

NEW "ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY FELLOWSHIP"

We wish to announce the formation and implementation of a new fellowship offered through the division. The "Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Surgery Fellowship" will be offered starting July 1, 2009. The program director is Dr. Cherrie Abraham. This is a one-year fellowship with both clinical and research components through both the Jewish General Hospital and the MUHC. The fellowship is open to candidates who have successfully completed a vascular surgery fellowship.

Endovascular therapy has evolved rapidly over the last 15 years. In the mid 1990’s, endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) i.e. intraaortic exclusion of aortic aneurysms was championed as a less invasive method of treating patients with aortic aneurysms resulting in less morbidity and mortality in patients deemed high risk for open aneurysm repair. By the year 2000, these procedures (EVAR) were the treatment of choice for elderly and high-risk patients with aneurysms of the thoracic and abdominal aorta. Advanced endovascular techniques are now being used to treat patients with more complex pathology such as fenestrated endovascular grafts for pararenal aortic aneurysms and branched endovascular grafts for thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms. In addition, more complex interventional techniques such as subintimal angioplasty for peripheral arterial occlusions or carotid angioplasty/stenting with neuroprotection are being used to further the scope of endovascular surgery.
Dr. Armen Aprikian in the Division of Urology was invited to participate in a strategic planning review meeting for the US Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program in November 2008.

In October, Dr. Jeffrey Barkun of the Division of General Surgery was invited to visit the University of Cairo, Egypt. He can be seen here after grand rounds in the company of Prof. Adel Hosny, chair of Surgery, and his team in charge of liver transplantation. During his short visit, Dr. Barkun also enjoyed the warm hospitality of Dr. Hala Elhilali and her family. She is the daughter of Dr. Mostafa Elhilali, Chairman of McGill Department of Surgery, and is a full professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Cairo.

In September 2008, Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu was invited as a visiting professor at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, a major teaching hospital center in Kaoshung City, Taiwan, where he spoke on surgical training and research. Later he delivered a lecture entitled STER (Stem cell, Tissue Engineering and Regeneration) Science and translational research at the National Health Research Institute in Taiwan. On October 17 he served as the Visiting Professor for the University of Western Ontario, Cardiac Surgery Resident Research Day, and gave a talk on Treatment strategies for the failing heart: A vision for the future. He was also an invited speaker at the Regina Cardiac Society in Regina, Saskatchewan on Nov. 27, 2008.

Dr. Liane Feldman, Division of General Surgery, was named “James IV Travelling Fellow” for year 2010. The James IV Association is one of the most prestigious surgical groups internationally.

Dr. Lorenzo Ferri of the Thoracic Surgery Division has been awarded the 2009 American College of Surgeons Travelling Fellowship to Japan. He plans to visit centers specializing in Endoscopic SubMucosal Dissection for early malignancies of the foregut, and three-field en-bloc esophagectomy for locally advanced esophageal cancer.

Dr. Gerald Fried has been elected to McGill Senate for a 3-year term starting September 1st, 2008.

Dr. Philip Gordon, on Sept 12, 2008, was conferred as an honorary fellow by the Canadian Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeon in recognition of outstanding service to Canadian Colorectal Surgery. He was also an invited Guest Lecturer at Canadian Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and Canadian Surgery Forum Annual Meeting. His lecture was entitled: A Glance to the Rear: Looking Back on Twenty-Five Years of Canadian Colorectal Surgery. Halifax, Nova Scotia Sept.13, 2008. Dr. Philip Gordon also wrote a book about the history of the Canadian Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons in Aug 2008. The title was: Reflections on the first 25 years: A Quarter Century of Achievement. 1983-2008.

Dr. Ed Harvey in the Orthopedic Division has been appointed as a co-Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Surgery. Dr Harvey, along with Drs. Hacking, Henderson and Lim were awarded first prize at the Eugene Rogala McGill Orthopaedics Research Day for their work on Microtexturing to Increase Bone Healing Response in Animal Models. He also gave 4 invited lectures at the Arkansas Hand Society Annual meeting.

Dr. Harvey continues to serve as the program chair in trauma for the Canadian Orthopedic Association (COA). At the combined COA / American Orthopaedic Association meeting he was invited to present on Bone Tissue Repair for Scapholunate Dissociation as...
Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge, Director Emeritus of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at McGill, has been elected as President of The Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons (CAPS). He will be guest editor of an issue of Seminars in Pediatric Surgery on complications, to be published in May 2009. The articles will focus on severe life-threatening complications that are potentially preventable and are either rare or not-so-rare but under-reported and for which guidelines are lacking. Dr. Laberge along with his wife Dr. Louise Caouette-Laberge was invited as guest speaker at the 7th Pan-African Pediatric Surgical Association Meeting in Ghana in August 2008. His presentations were on the following topics: A ‘homemade’ muscle nerve stimulator for use during imperforate anus repair, The Canadian Pediatric Surgical Network Evaluation treatment and outcome in Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) and gastrochisis and Prenatal Diagnosis of Surgical Malformations: The role of pediatric surgeons. During their stay in Ghana they also did missionary work. Dr. Laberge operated on children with Hirschsprung’s disease (4 cases of transanal pullthrough) and Dr. Caouette-Laberge operated on children needing cleft lip and palate repair (4 cases as well).

Dr. Kent MacKenzie was appointed to the Examination Committee for Vascular Surgery at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada beginning in 2009. He was also appointed to the Education Committee of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery, and will be the Academic Program Director for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the CSVS in Ottawa.

Dr. René St-Arnaud at Shriners Hospital for Children has been named Director of the Network for Oral and Bone Health Research (Réseau de recherche en santé buccodentaire et osseuse – RSBO). The Network is headquartered at McGill and regroups scientists studying oral biology and ecology, neurosciences and movement as it relates to the oral cavity, mineralized tissue regenerative medicine, and oral and bone clinical and public health. Over the 14 years of its existence, the Network has developed partnerships and programs that increase the recognition and productivity of its members.

Dr. Oren Steinmetz assumed the position of President of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery, at the last Annual Meeting of the CSVS in September 2008 at Saskatoon, SK.

Dr. Jean Tchervenkov received the “2008 Grand Prix” by the Quebec Transplant Association for advancement of organ donation in Quebec. Kudos to Jean from all of us.

Dr. Armand Zini, Head of the Division of Urology at St. Mary’s Hospital, was an invited Speaker at the American Society of Andrology, Albuquerque, New Mexico in April 2008. His talk was entitled Are tests of sperm DNA damage clinically useful?

Dr. Zini is also Co-PI on a new grant funded by CIHR (PI – Dr. J. Trasler and another Co-PI – Dr. M. Nagano). The title of the grant is: Sex-specific susceptibility for fetal origin of adult diseases and trans-generational effects.

In Quebec City on November 16th at the Quebec Urological Association meeting, Dr. Lysanne Campeau, R4 in urology, won the 1st prize in basic research for her work at the Lady Davis Institute under supervisors Drs. Jacques Corcos and Jacques Galipeau. The title of her presentation was: Bone marrow mesenchymal stromal cells display a smooth muscle phenotype which is enhanced by TGF-1: Potential use to treat sphincteric incontinence and bladder wall defect. Other co-authors are: Oleg Loutochin and Nicoletta Eliopoulos.

Dr. F. DiFabio, Research Fellow in Colorectal Surgery at Jewish General Hospital, published a paper in Journal of Surgical Research this year, entitled: Somatic Mosaicism of Androgen Receptor CAG Repeats in Colorectal Carcinoma Epithelial Cells from Men. The co-authors are Alvarado C, Gologan A, Salim K, Gordon PH, and Trifiro M.
The 40th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons (CAPS) was held from August 21-24, 2008 in Toronto. Dr. Jeremy Grushka presented a resident case report entitled Spindle epithelial tumor with thymus-like elements: A national case series and review of the literature, supervisor Dr. Pramod Puligandla, and was awarded the CAPS clinical research prize. He further presented an original resident paper on The effect of hospital case volume on outcome in congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH), supervisor Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge. Dr. Saleh Al-Abbad presented an original resident paper entitled The use of transanastomotic feeding tubes at the time of esophageal atresia repair, supervisors Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge and Dr. Pramod Puligandla. All three papers have been accepted for publication in the Journal of Pediatric Surgery. During the CAPS special session on complications in pediatric surgery Dr. Alana Beres presented Serious Complications from Gastrostomy Tube Changes, supervisor Jean-Martin Laberge; and Dr. Jon Ryckman presented Paraplegia after chest wall resection for primitive neuroectodermal tumor, supervisor Dr. Pramod Puligandla. Both these papers will be published in the May 2009 issue of Seminars in Pediatric Surgery (guest editor Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge). Dr. Suad Gholoum contributed a paper entitled PEComa in the rectum of a 15 year old girl: Case report and review of PEComa in the gastrointestinal tract. This paper was a collaboration of the Pediatric Surgery, Pathology, Radiology and Oncology Departments at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and has been published in the September 2008 issue of the American Journal of Surgery and Pathology.

Dr. Saima Hassan, resident physician in general surgery, received the Canadian Research Awards for Specialty Residents from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for her research on breast cancer.


Madhur Nayan (Med-1) is the first prize winner for the poster presentations by students of the Summer 2008 Research Bursary Program in McGill University Faculty of Medicine. The title was Anti-inflammatory cytokines may play a role in cellular cardiomyoplasty using mesenchymal stem cells. Coauthors are Guangyong Chen and Minh Duong, and their research was supervised by Drs. Dominique Shum-Tim and Ray Chiu of the Division of Cardiac Surgery at McGill. This is the third year in a row that summer McGill medical students from this laboratory received the first prizes, following Marie-Helen Auclair (Med-1) in 2006 and Yin Ge (Med-2) in 2007.

Congratulations to Amy Neville, doing research under Dr. Jeffrey Barkun, presented a paper at the Canadian Society of Transplantation & American Hepatobiliary Association Meetings entitled Classification of Biliary Complications after Liver Transplantation.

Dr. Jonathan Spicer - General Surgery resident in the laboratory of Dr. Lorenzo Ferri (Thoracic Surgery) - was awarded the CAGS (Canadian Association of General Surgeons) Research Grant for 2008-2009. He also won the top basic science presentation prize at the Canadian Surgical Forum held Sept 11-13, 2008 in Halifax, for a paper titled Acute Systemic Inflammation Facilitates Murine Lung Carcinoma Cell Adherence to Hepatic Sinusoids in Vivo by Neutrophil Dependent and Independent Mechanisms.

Another major focus of the JMORL is implant fixation and the tissue response to implant materials and designs. Basic research on methods for improving the fixation of implants to bone has been ongoing for over three decades. The response of osseous tissue to various implant surface treatments or porosities is assessed through undecalcified thin section histology of bone-implant specimens. The JMORL is recognized as one of the few centers in the world capable of producing undecalcified histology of the highest quality and maintains an active retrieval analysis program for joint replacement implants retrieved during revision surgery or at autopsy. The JMORL was recently instrumental in developing with industry a new porous tantalum biomaterial that is now utilized globally in tens of thousands of joint replacement implant procedures annually. The current thrust of research centers on utilizing implants that directly elute bisphosphonate compounds to bone in order to accelerate and optimize biological implant fixation (Fig. 1).

Facilities in the JMORL include undecalcified histology and microscopy equipment, computer aided design programs for creating mechanical drawings of new implants, computer driven finite element programs for predicting implant strength and design challenges, a machine shop for building implant prototypes and test jigs, servohydraulic fatigue equipment for mechanical testing, and a pin-on-disc machine and 8-station hip simulator for assessing wear of existing and new biomaterials articulations. Numerical control machining facilities are available in the Department of Mechanical Engineering for the fabrication of complex parts and scanning electron and transmission electron microscopy are available in the Department of Mining and Metallurgy for analysis of histological and wear specimens. Having had the opportunity over the years to visit other labs in North America and abroad, we realize how very fortunate we are to have the University Surgical Clinic – its facilities are both comprehensive and convenient, enabling efficient and enjoyable research.

In association with the Department of Biomedical Engineering we provide graduate student training to both Canadian and foreign students at the Masters, PhD and postdoctoral levels. The JMORL has gained an international reputation for high quality academic and applied clinical research and has been distinguished by the receipt of many national and international awards by its peers. Most notable are eight awards from the Hip Society for contributions to the literature in innovative joint replacement research (Fig. 2), second in number the world over only to Harvard University. The JMORL was most recently honored by the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society with the 2008 Founders Medal for best basic science research and by the Hip Society with the 2009 John Charnley Award for best clinical research. One of the strengths of the JMORL has been to develop collaborative research programs with other distinguished labs. These include those at Harvard University, University of Waterloo, Rush-Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and the University of Paris Diderot. Throughout these efforts, Dr. Miller has remained our inspiration for curiosity, integrity and excellence in orthopaedic research.

J. Dennis Bobyn, Ph.D.
Professor, Departments of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering
Director, JMORL

M. Tanzer, M.D.
Professor, Department of Surgery
Medical Director, JMORL

Fig. 1. Scanning electron micrographs depicting the bone response to a porous implant with (left) and without (right) local bisphosphonate elution. The additional peri-implant and intra-implant bone that forms due to the suppressive effect of the bisphosphonate on osteoclasts shortens the postoperative time for secure implant fixation and provides a more reproducible clinical result.

Fig. 2. Recipients of an Otto Aufranc Award of the Hip Society, left to right: Jan Krygier, Michael Tanzer, Edward Harvey, Dennis Bobyn, Adam Hacking.
The Dr. Gustavo Bounous Fund

Celebrating the Life and Work of Dr. Gustavo Bounous

Immunotec Hosts a Scientific Symposium at McGill University and Launches the Dr. Gustavo Bounous Fund.

On October 3rd, 2008, a Symposium sponsored by Immunotec, a company which developed Immunocal®, took place in the McGill University Faculty Club to honor the life and work of Dr. Gustavo Bounous, an investigator and Professor at McGill. His studies on the “Elemental Diets” in the early the 1960s to 80s at the laboratories of the McGill University Surgical Clinic, on the 9th floor of the Montreal General Hospital, eventually led to the realization that glutathione was the key to supporting the immune system, which in turn led to a product now known as Immunocal®. At this celebratory Symposium, invited speakers included Dr. Gerald Batist, Chairman of the Department of Oncology, and McGill surgeons Dr. David S Mulder and Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu. As each of these three men reflected on the early stages of their careers, their respect and affection for Dr. Bounous were obvious, as was his indelible imprint on their lives.

The Symposium took place in a former mansion located in the Golden Square Mile of Montreal, originally the home of Baron Alfred Baumgarten who built the ballroom setting for the Symposium on springs to help support young dancers’ feet. Fittingly, Baumgarten was a scientist who developed the refinery process of sugar beets. The McGill Faculty Club continues to be a place where great minds gather for lunch and discussion.

Dr. Gerald Batist’s discussion entitled Glutathione and Cancer, an Exciting Story was the first of the presentations. He serendipitously bumped into Gustavo Bounous over a coffee break and started a conversation about glutathione enhancement that unlocked the doors to their breakthrough research.

The next speaker who simply introduced himself as a former student, friend and colleague of Dr. Bounous, was Dr. David Mulder, past Chairman of the Department of Surgery. His description of The Bounous Effect on Surgical Nutrition was a fascinating entrée into the lives of young surgeons and the pioneering academic enrichment research projects of which they were part at the University Surgical Clinic laboratories, under then Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Dr. Fraser Gurd.

The final member of the McGill community to speak was Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu, who arrived later at the University Surgical Clinic, where Dr. Bounous and his close research collaborator, Hope McArdle, PhD, had been working for many years on surgical nutrition. His sometimes lighthearted talk Gus Bounous: A Luciano Tending the Bridge recalled a somewhat reclusive researcher in the next office who would often sing loudly in Italian, bringing to mind the famous tenor, Luciano Pavarotti.

In recognition of Dr. Bounous’ groundbreaking work and his significant achievements in research and development, Immunotec President & CEO Mr. Northrop declared the launch of the Dr. Gustavo Bounous Fund, benefiting research at McGill University. The inaugural recipient of this award, chosen by Immunotec’s Scientific Advisory Board, is Dr. Thomas Jagoe, a pulmonologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Oncology at McGill.
Recipients of the First Annual Consumer Champion Award

Dr. Robin Poole, Recipient of the first annual Consumer (Patient) Champion Award from the Consumer Advisory Council of The Canadian Arthritis Network, a National Centre of Excellence

I was a co-founder of this network and for many years was its Scientific Director. When we started the Network we made a point of involving consumers (as they prefer to be known) as equal partners in all our planning and decision making.

Today they are a part of research teams, ensuring relevance, and are involved in peer review. They have their own training programs for the integration of new members and have had a great impact in setting our Network’s research priorities (such as pain of arthritis which was once grossly neglected) and helping trainees, researchers and governments appreciate the needs of those suffering from arthritis and the importance of their work. They also play a key role in knowledge transfer to other consumers.

As a result of their activities in CAN charitable and professional organisations in other countries have chosen to promote their involvement in research and policy decision making.

I guess I always supported them when others were less enthusiastic about their involvement and so I got recognized in this way. It actually means a lot to me as it has really changed the way we work in research today; they have brought a new exciting dimension to what we do.

Robin Poole, PhD, DSc
Professor Emeritus, McGill University, Scientific Director Emeritus, Canadian Arthritis Network

New Horizon of Surgical Research at McGill

On October 3rd 2008 an application was submitted to the Canada Foundation for Innovation to establish infrastructure for pre-clinical and clinical research in trauma, regenerative and reparative medicine. Amongst the lead investigators are Edward J. Harvey, Chief of Orthopedic Trauma, and Janet E. Henderson, Director of Orthopedic Research, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, McGill University. Other surgeon scientists involved in building the application include R. Turcotte, J. Ouellet, R. Chiu, D. Shum-Tim, R. Cecere, P. Metrakos and S. Paraskevas. The application entitled TRRIP-Trauma, Regeneration & Repair Innovation Program is the result of collaboration between McGill, the McGill University Health Centre, the SMBD-Jewish General Hospital, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal and Concordia University. TRRIP research builds on interdisciplinary projects involving more than 60 engineering and health scientists whose work is aimed at minimizing damage and disability associated with traumatic injury to the nervous, skeletal and other systems. The shared infrastructure for developing, prototyping and validating interventions that will transform clinical care will be located in four cores: Core A: Material and device prototype manufacture and modeling; Core B: Material and device implantation and optimization; Core C: Functional assessment of biomaterials and devices; Core D: Human subject trauma research. The TRRIP application is an integral component of a redevelopment project that will unite clinical and research activities in trauma, neuroscience and musculoskeletal health on a single Mountain Campus of the MUHC.

Janet E Henderson, PhD
Past Associate Dean of Research, McGill Faculty of Medicine
Associate Professor and Director of Orthopedic Research Research Institute - McGill University Health Centre

Ancient Trepanation

Man has been performing delicate trepanation procedures for thousands of years.

(18th century French illustration)
Discussion and Exchange in Japan

By Henry Ryusuke Shibata, M.D.

Symposium II is a sequel to that important exchange of knowledge and experiences dealing with the ever-burgeoning problems presented by the aging population throughout the world. It was held appropriately in the city of Hiroshima with the Hiroshima University School of Medicine (my alma mater) serving as host to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of Montreal and Hiroshima as Sister Cities and the Academic Exchange Agreement between McGill University Faculty of Medicine and Hiroshima University School of Medicine.

It was timely that the Mayor Akiba and his entourage from Hiroshima were visiting and being hosted in Montreal at the same time that we were in Hiroshima. I had the privilege of reading a message from Mayor Gerald Tremblay at the meeting. I served as Co-chair with Dr. Howard Bergman, Dr. Joseph Kaufman Professor of Geriatrics and Director of the Division of Geriatric Medicine for this symposium and organized a team of 7 experts to represent Quebec at this eventful meeting.

On the Japanese side, Dr. Yasuo Harada, former Principal of Hiroshima University and Professor Masayasu Matsumoto, Chairman of the Hiroshima Department of Neurosciences and Therapeutics were the co-chair for this symposium.

The main topics that were presented with input by members of our team were:

2. Frailty in the Elderly. By Howard Bergman and Hélène Payette et al.
3. Geriatric Education. By Jose A Morais et al.
5. Care of the Aged Dementia Patient. By Howard M Chertkow et al.

There was also a tour of the different Nursing Homes and Rehabilitation Facilities dedicated to the Care of the Aged in and around Hiroshima.

A wonderful reception with entertainment was organized for our benefit as well as a tour of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial depicting the sad effects of the Atomic Bomb.

Then we enjoyed a calm and peaceful trip to the beautiful Shrine of Miyajima in the wonderful Inland Sea.

It is our hope that this mutually beneficial exchange which was partially funded jointly by the Fonds de la recherche en santé Québec, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Care will continue in the form of a third Symposium in Montreal in the near future.

Henry Ryusuke Shibata, MD, MSc, FACS, FRCS
Professor Emeritus, McGill University Faculty of Medicine

Classmates Professors Yasuo Harada and Henry Shibata
Editors Note: Dr. Novick, a McGill medical graduate, undertook General and Cardiothoracic Surgery residencies at McGill in the 1980s.

Dear Editor,
Here in Regina, Saskatchewan, we continue to receive new issues of The Square Knot with enthusiasm as we get updates from the latest events of the alumni and present surgical team at McGill.

Dr. Stephen Korkola and myself (John Tsang), graduates of McGill Cardiac surgery program from 2002 and 1999 respectively, are carrying on an active clinical practice in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. The practice here was established by another McGill alumni Dr. Edward Busse, who completed his CVT training at McGill in the late 1960’s before establishing a strong clinical group here in Regina. Dr. Busse most recently celebrated his retirement from active practice after a distinguished career with many accolades from both a medical perspective as well as for his many community achievements and contributions.

Even with Dr. Busse’s recent retirement, the McGill presence remains strong in Regina. Within our clinical practice of seven surgeons two other surgeons, Dr. David Kopriva and Dr. Jennifer Baird both graduated from McGill medical school. In fact both of Dr. Baird’s parents are McGill medical graduates as well, with Dr. Robert Baird, a fellow McGill surgical alumni, having recently retired from active clinical practice in general surgery in Vancouver, BC. My wife, Dr. Sylvie Jones, who practices family medicine, is also a McGill graduate and therefore the MDCM designation is widely used in Regina. So as you can see the McGill roots run deep here in Saskatchewan.

Our practice is active and clinically based. Of our team of four cardiothoracic surgeons, two of our colleagues, Dr Leith Dewar and Dr. Ahmad Moustapha are active clinicians but also involved at the national level with the Royal College and Canadian Cardiovascular Society. Dr. Stephen Korkola helped to develop and establish the cardiac resynchronization therapies and defibrillator program for Saskatchewan along with his busy clinical practice. This is in addition to a bustling family life raising his two boys along with his wife Emma, as well as a budding career as a multi-talented musician. I myself continue with my clinical duties in both cardiac and thoracic surgery along with my administrative duties as the section head of cardiothoracic surgery and chairing the surgical program committee in the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region. My wife Sylvie and I have three wonderful daughters.

Most recently, we were very fortunate to be able to have Dr. Ray Chiu travel to Regina to present a lecture entitled “Treatment Strategies for the Failing Heart: A Vision for the Future”. The lecture was very well received as Dr. Chiu as usual integrated the “bench to bedside” perspective describing the new technologies and future of cardiovascular care. It was also a chance for both Stephen and myself to tour Dr. Chiu around our facility as well as renew acquaintances and reminisce about our years as residents at McGill.

Therefore the link between the Prairies and McGill is much closer than you may have guessed. We will continue to show our McGill heritage with pride here in Saskatchewan.

Please continue the excellent work as we look forward to new issues of The Square Knot. Best Wishes,

John Tsang, MDCM, FRCSC

Dear Editor,
Dr. Zorn submitted the following ‘announcement’…

Dr. Kevin Zorn (McGill Urology ’05) and his wife Christina Chaniotis (former Emergency nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital) announce the birth of their son Lukas Christopher Zorn on July 4th, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois.

Kevin continues his urology practice at the University of Chicago Medical Center as an Assistant Professor, specializing in the minimally invasive surgical care of kidney and prostate cancer. He remains dedicated to academic medicine with a large interest in outcomes research and ischemia-related porcine model projects. Aside from being heavily involved with residency training, he is also the director of the Minimally-Invasive and Robotic Urology Fellowship program. Coupled with his robotic surgical team, with over 2000 procedures performed since 2003, they have the largest experience in the state of Illinois and the 7th largest daVinci robotic prostatectomy experience in the world.

Contact email: kzorn@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu

Drs. S. Korkola, R. Chiu and J Tsang

Letters continued from page 2
On September 12-13, 2008 the Canadian Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery held its annual meeting in Montreal. The first day consisted of live surgical demonstrations broadcast from the Montreal General Hospital to a downtown hotel, the Hyatt Regency.

Dr. Gaston Schwarz was the surgical coordinator of operations done by invited Guest Plastic Surgeons from Brazil, U.S.A, France and Canada. The surgical facilities utilized at the Montreal General are state of the art and the meeting was of particular interest to the Residents in Plastic Surgery who all attended. A total of thirty-two residents from various programs participated (a record for this annual meeting); the majority being from McGill University.

Dr. Schwarz has been the host before for the Canadian Society with live surgery at the RVH. The MGH facilities in the new MIS rooms/MGH (designed under Dr. G. Fried's leadership) are exceptional for this Scientific/Teaching Canadian Montreal Production.

We received great feedback as to the quality of the surgery and the outstanding quality of the Multimedia production seen during the Live-Surgery sessions. Apparently, the best ever.

It is a great honor for the McGill-Division of Plastic Surgery to have been the host for this event which was such a great success. Many thanks to all the McGill nurses and support staffs who contributed to this success.

Meeting of the Canadian Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

By Lussie Lessard, M.D.

“Anybody who is anybody seems to be getting a lift -- by plastic surgery -- these days. It’s the new world wide craze that combines the satisfactions of psychoanalysis, massage, and a trip to the beauty salon”.

— Eugenia Sheppard, New York Herald-Tribune, February 24, 1958
R. MARSHALL L. JACOBS, Clinical Professor of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, was this year’s A.R.C. Dobell Visiting Professor. The event took place at the Montreal Children’s Hospital where Dr. Jacobs gave Surgical Grand Rounds and spoke on The Morality of Innovation: A Twentieth Century Surgical Legacy. The day consisted of talks by both residents and staff as well as national and international guest speakers including Dr. Jeff Myers from Boston, USA, Dr. Robert Vincent from Atlanta, USA, Dr. Anusha Jegatheeswaran from Toronto, Dr. Noriko Kitamura from Shizuoka, Japan, Dr. Jorge L. Cervantes from Mexico City, and Dr. James Wilkinson from Melbourne, Australia.

11th Annual Anthony R.C. Dobell Visiting Professor
OCTOBER 6, 2008

By Emma K. Lisi

DR. BREEN MARIEN, a general surgeon affiliated with McGill, passed away on September 30, 2008 at the Royal Victoria Hospital, MUHC at the age of eighty-three. Dr. Marien was born on August 28, 1925, and received B.A. (1944), M.D. (1949) and M.Sc. (1952) degrees, all from McGill University. He was appointed Lecturer in the McGill Department of Surgery in 1970 as the head of a clinical teaching unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which was affiliated to the Montreal General Hospital residency program in Surgery. He was promoted to Assistant Professor part-time in 1973. Dr. Marien was an accomplished and passionate surgeon, tennis and squash player. He is survived by his wife Joan Golding and three children. He will be missed by many of his old friends.

“Wrongfully do men lament the flight of time, accusing it of being too swift, and not perceiving that its period is yet sufficient; but good memory where with Nature has endowed us causes everything long past to seem present”.

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

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