



Obstetrics & Gynaecology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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...and much more!



Message from the Chair

It is my pleasure to provide you with our Summer 2016 newsletter, to be read in the shade, ideally

on your iPad with a glass of chilled white wine or a cool beer! We have had a great academic year, and you all deserve some well-earned summer “down-time.” The past 6 months has provided many substantial successes for our Department. Let me start with huge congratulations to a record-breaking number of specialty and sub-specialty graduates. The mere fact that we can train 39 individuals to the highest level in their fields attests to the greatness of UofT-OBGYN. By the time that you read this letter, our faculty numbers will have gone over the 300 mark. We are simply the biggest and the best. Faculty development is key to our ability to deliver excellent educational programs, so it is with great pride that we note our successful Senior Promotions, with no less than three new Full Professors – all women and thus powerful role models for the majority of our trainees. I believe we now have one of the most female-advanced OBGYN departments in the world, which is something to be proud of too.

Our newsletter is studded with grant successes. To mention a few, the Department was thrilled to have a CIHR team grant success in Maternal-Fetal Medicine, which builds on the initial success of our novel “GTA-OBS” Network founded in 2013 by Jon Barrett with major support from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre Department of OBGYN. By partnering with McMaster OBGYN, the success now creates the Southern Ontario Obstetrics Network (SOON) and sets the scene for a 5-year period

of growth into an influential clinical network. By contrast, a small project, using MRI to measure fetal oxygen delivery, has evolved to a first major grant success for Han Keunen (MFM, Mount Sinai Hospital) working with Mike Seed at SickKids. Finally, the sturdy Foley catheter has a new application, so congrats to Anne Berndl (MFM, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre) for her AFP Innovation Grant.

I could not begin to imagine how we could ever achieve everything that we have in the past 12 months, were it not for an amazing Administration Team at 123E. Over the summer, two staff members (Irisz Paupera and Kristen Gane) will celebrate their first anniversaries with us, while our newly-minted Business Officer, Nelson Cabral, will celebrate 6 months. Our two Interns have exciting plans for fall 2016; Alissa Moody has already started Medical School in Michigan, USA, while Andrew Greig, the master architect of this Newsletter will start at the UofT Leslie Dan School of Pharmacy in September. Our congrats to them.

My best wishes to you all,
John Kingdom
Gordon C. Leitch Chair

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Promote our presence!

Use #UofTObGyn when posting messages and updates about the Department on social media channels.

Now you can follow us!



To have your story included in the next newsletter, contact us at obgyn.communications@utoronto.ca.

Our department was well represented at the SOGC meeting in Vancouver. We had a faculty member, a resident, and an undergraduate student (supervised by one of our faculty) win awards at the meeting. Congrats to the winners who did a great job representing our Department!



Dr. Barbara Cruickshank retired from our Department this year. We’re sad to lose such an accomplished physician from our ranks. We wish Barb all the best.



Our residents enjoyed themselves at the Resident Retreat. They went to an escape room and enjoyed a meal together at the restaurant Joey’s.



Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byaso travelled to the UK to present her research at the RCOG world conference in Birmingham.



We had 2 CIHR team grants awarded to groups led by members from our Department. Congratulations to both groups!



Wendy Wolfman was the Marlow Lecturer at this year’s SOGT Toronto Meeting. She is pictured above with Harold Drutz, head of Urogynaecology.



Drs. Jodi Shapiro, Sari Kives and Herb Wong travelled to Guatemala recently as medical volunteers. Thumbs up to all three of them for lots of OR work!

Photo credits go to Mr. Joe George, our talented photographer, who is always there to snap the most embarrassing and intriguing photos.



Dr. Kellie Murphy has been appointed as the Vice Chair of Research and Innovation for the Department. She takes over from Dr. Steven Lye, who had been Vice-Chair for the last decade. Congrats Kellie!

Congratulations to our 5 Senior Promotions for this year. Drs. Lisa Allen, Kellie Murphy, Nan Okun, Lilian Gien, and Ray Osborne were all promoted as of July 1st.



Research Day and Wayne State University Collaboration Day were held back-to-back on May 12th and 13th at Victoria College. Both events showcased UofT OBGYN’s diversity in research, with all our divisions represented as well as clinicians and basic scientists.

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Chair's Summer Studentship Program

This year was the second iteration of our Chair's Summer Student Program, a departmental initiative to provide research funding to faculty members while also facilitating research exposure for students. This year we had 9 successful applicants for the Chair's Summer Student Award, as well as 5 successful applications to the CREMS Summer Research Program. Congratulations to all the recipients! Below is a list of the faculty and student pairs. Their projects will be featured in our departmental annual report, so be sure to look there to read about their experiences! ●

research

CREMS

- Dr. Clifford Librach – Annie Qu
- Dr. Prati Sharma – Amanda Billargeon
- Dr. Crystal Chan – Yiwen Liu
- Dr. Amanda Selk – Michal Sheinis
- Dr. Ally Murji – Cassandra DeGasperi

faculty

Chair's Summer Student Award

- Dr. Lisa Allen – Katherine Steckham
- Dr. Rohan D'Souza – Vanessa Nguyen
- Dr. Rohan D'Souza – Danielle Wuebbolt
- Dr. Tomer Feigenberg – Rashida Williams
- Dr. Ann Malinowski – Jacqueline Parrish
- Dr. Kellie Murphy – Hossai Furmli
- Dr. Amanda Selk – Emily Landon
- Dr. Wendy Wolfman – Amara Mathews

trainees

Two CIHR Team Grants

In the most recent cycle of grant applications, two groups from our department received CIHR team grants.

education

Congratulations to **Drs. Howard Berger, Nir Melamed, Jon Barrett** and **Michael Geary** who were successful in the Spring 2016 CIHR Clinician-Investigator Team Grant for Obstetrics and Maternal-Fetal

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Medicine. Drs. Berger (St. Michael's Hospital) and Melamed (Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre) are the UofT site PIs for this project entitled "Non-communicable diseases in pregnancy." They are joined by Dr. Beth Murray (a Midwife) and Dr. Sarah MacDonald from the department of OBGYN at McMaster University. The grant includes University and Hospital Departmental institutional funding, matched equally with CIHR, resulting in a total budget of \$1.5M over 5 years.

Dr. Clifford Librach and **Dr. Sergey Moskovtsev** are both part of the team which received a CIHR Team Grant for their project: Developmental Origins of Health and Disease – Implications for Men, Women,



Dr. Moskovtsev (left) and Dr. Librach (right) with Drs. Weiler and Kimmins

Boys and Girls. The grant is a 5-year grant for a total of \$1,600,000. Pictured are Drs. Moskovtsev and Librach, the key investigators from UofT who work at the CREAtE fertility centre, along with Dr. Hope Weiler (the Canada Research Chair in Nutrition, Development and Aging) and Dr. Sarah Kimmins (the Canada Research Chair in Reproduction, Development and Epigenetics), both from McGill. Congratulations to Dr. Librach, Dr. Moskovtsev, and the team!

Congratulations to both groups! These grants are significant accomplishments and highlight the research potential of our department. ●

Research Presented at SOGC Vancouver

Michal Sheinis, a medical student who just finished second year at UofT, presented 2 abstracts (1 oral and 1 poster) from her work with **Dr. Amanda Selk** last summer at the SOGC meeting in Vancouver in June. Michal also was selected for the CREMS Summer Research Program to work with Dr. Selk again this summer. Congrats Michal! ●

PSI Grant Success

Dr. Han Keunen (pictured here on the left) and **Dr. Mike Seed** recently had a major grant success, receiving \$120,000 over 2 years from Physician Services Inc (PSI) Ontario, for their pioneering work together using MRI "oximetry" to define blood flow and oxygen delivery to the human fetus in various situations where the fetus is at risk of anemia or hypoxia, such as in rhesus disease or twin-twin transfusion syndrome. The grant builds on a series of successes by Mike Seed, an international leader in advanced MRI methods in



Drs. Han Keunen and Mike Seed are both smiling after their recent grant success!

pregnancy, who was cross-appointed to OBGYN in 2015. This success is a great example of how a small collaboration between interested clinicians can grow into a 'grant success.' Well done chaps! ●

Women's Health Scholar Program

The Women's Health Scholar Program is designed to provide research training opportunities for residents who wish to pursue a career as a clinician investigator or clinician scientist. Resident trainees who are interested in a career as a clinician investigator/clinician scientist are encouraged to apply during PGY3 for entry into the program at the start of PGY4. For those interested, application forms are due December 15th. For more information on the program and how to apply, visit our [website](#)!

A Masters and a Publication

Dr. Elyse Lackie has recently returned to Toronto after her year away doing an MPH at Columbia University, NYC. Building on this success, Elyse had her paper, titled "The Birth Control Pill, Thromboembolic Disease, Science and the Media: A Historical Review of the Relationship" published online in the journal *Contraception*.

UofT achievements at the national summer 2016 SOGC meeting in Vancouver

By Jon Barrett

This year's annual SOGC meeting was an outstanding event.

Two years ago the SOGC changed the mandate to emphasize the "science of our specialty." In addition to the traditional roles of education and production of clinical practice guidelines, it was felt that the organization should reflect and promote science and research in the specialty. The name of the annual conference name was changed from Annual Clinical Meeting Meeting (ACM) to Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference (ACSC). In addition, a scientific Director was appointed to the SOGC, Dr. Jocelynn Cook, who brings a long and established research, academic, government and CIHR history to the meeting and to the Society.

All those who attended ACSC 2016 were aware of a change in the meeting content; the quality of the abstracts presented were world-class with excellent keynote lectures by international faculty on pre-term birth, the microbiome and the effect of environmental toxins on reproductive outcomes, to name a few.

Congratulations to the SOGC for meeting the needs of both the clinical and scientific community, and a special congratulation to UofT members of our Department, **Dr. Elad Mei-Dan** (NYGH) and the Research team at Sunnybrook for winning both an oral and a poster prize and to **Marta Wais** for best trainee oral presentation. Here's to ACSC 2017 in Ottawa! ●

Best Poster at ISPD Berlin

Dr. Nimrah Abbassi has won a best poster prize for her research entitled "Microarray abnormalities in prenatally diagnosed omphaloceles" at the International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis (ISPD) in Berlin. Nimrah recently graduated from our MFM fellowship program, and is now a clinical associate in the MFM Division at Mount Sinai Hospital, while she completes her 2-year MSc program on quality improvement and patient safety at IHPME.

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Faculty Appointments

Congratulations to **Dr. Kellie Murphy**, who has been appointed our Vice-Chair of Research and Innovation for the 5-year period July 1st, 2016 – June 30th, 2021. Known internationally for her seminal CIHR-funded randomized control trial known affectionately as “MACS,” Dr. Murphy is currently the co-director of the MiCARE research program and Director of Research for OBGYN at Mount Sinai Hospital, with a focus on junior faculty mentorship. Dr. Murphy takes on this role at an exciting time for our Department, where so many people have become genuinely interested in contributing to the wider research mission, embracing new approaches such as quality improvement and knowledge translation. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Stephen Lye for leading us to our current enviable strengths in research over the past decade, and we look forward to watching Dr. Murphy expand upon his work with our Department. ●

Faculty Awards

Our Faculty have distinguished themselves in many areas this year, including research and education.

Dr. Ally Murji, MD MPH, Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Mount Sinai Hospital, has become our first ever recipient of a Dean’s Excellence Award, following his nomination by the Department. This is a 5-year

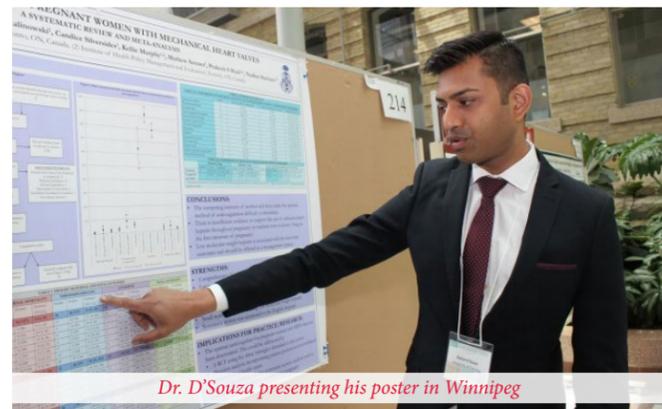


Dr. Ally Murji flanked by Drs. Solnik and Shapiro

award, supporting Ally’s efforts to create a GTA-wide Gynecologic Surgery Network to study quality improvement measures and to address specific research questions. Many of you may have seen his inspiring June, 2016 inter-hospital Grand Rounds on fibroid surgery, where he elegantly demonstrated the power of clinical research in a common scenario. The award is the equivalent of Ally receiving an initial 3-year Junior Faculty Award, followed directly by a first 2-year Merit Award. As Chair, I thank the members of his Division of Core OBGYN, led by Dr. Jodi Shapiro,

his Head of Gynaecology (Dr. Jonathon Solnik), and the Department of OBGYN at Mount Sinai Hospital led by Dr. Mathew Sermer, for supporting his academic role as a Clinician Investigator. Ally is pictured here with Jodi and Jonathon.

In May, **Dr. Rohan D’Souza** received a travel award to participate in the CIHR National Research Poster Competition in Winnipeg, Manitoba for his paper “Anticoagulation for pregnant women with mechanical heart valves: A systematic review and meta-analysis.” He won a prize for his presentation - congratulations Rohan!



Dr. D'Souza presenting his poster in Winnipeg

Dr. Ray Osborne received the International Trophoblast Diseases Society (ISSTD) gold medal for “outstanding contribution to research on diseases of the trophoblast” awarded at the XVIII World Congress in November, 2015 in Indonesia. ●

Dr. Barbara Cruickshank’s Retirement

This year, the Department bids farewell to one of the senior members of our REI division, **Dr. Barbara Cruickshank**. A retirement party was held for her on May 19 at George Restaurant. It was a very warm event, where Dr. Cruickshank was recognized and applauded for her many accomplishments including years of excellent patient care, her work as the Medical Director of the Inception Cord Blood Bank, and her 6 years as the REI Fellowship Program Director. ●



Other News

Our faculty are very involved locally, nationally, and internationally. Below are some other appointments, awards, and news from the last 6 months.

Dr. Gareth Seaward has been appointed as Co-Chair of the Maternal Newborn Advisory Committee of the Provincial Council of Maternal Child Health (PCMCH) and as a member of Council of PCMCH. PCMCH was originally established in 2008 by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in order to provide unified and strategic leadership and advice on maternal and child health care in Ontario. Working with its partners in a highly collaborative manner, the goal of PCMCH is to support a provincial system of care that provides timely, equitable, accessible, high quality, and family-centred care in an efficient and effective manner.

Dr. Andras Nagy received a Doctor Honoris Causa from the Medical Faculty of the University of Helsinki at their Conferment ceremony on June 10, 2016. Dr. Nagy was also elected as a Foreign Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on May 2, 2016.

Dr. Jon Barrett was appointed in June 2016 as Vice President SOGC and President of Canadian Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine.



Dr. Jon Barrett

Dr. Marie Czikk is now doing the Education Scholars Program (ESP) through the Centre for Faculty Development at UofT.

Dr. Anne Berndl received a grant for \$99,428 from AFP Innovation Fund as the PI on her project “High Volume Foleys Increasing Vaginal Birth (High FIVE Birth) Pilot.”



Dr. Wolfman with her husband

Dr. Wendy Wolfman was the 64th Marlow Lecturer for the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Toronto. She spoke on “Menopausal Medicine: the Neglected Pillar of Gynaecology.”

Dr. Jackie Thomas received a certificate in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) through the Stepping Stones program at the UofT Centre for Faculty Development.

Dr. Dan Farine and his two children (Tali and Jona-

than) authored a book entitled, “The World’s Shortest Bedtime Stories.” Dr. Farine also became a member of the International Academy of Perinatology, and was appointed as a Professor at Vienna University.

Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass attended the RCOG world conference in Birmingham, UK in June, 2016 where she presented a poster on documentation after assisted vaginal delivery. She is pictured with Drs. Jennifer Blake and George Carson.



Dr. Tunde-Byass (left) with Drs. Carson and Blake

Dr. Eliane Shore won an SOGC award for best oral abstract in gynecology for her project: “Validation of a Standardized Laparoscopy Curriculum for Gynecology Residents: A Randomized Controlled Trial.” This research was also accepted for publication in American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She also received an Innovation Grant for “Development of a Retroperitoneal Dissection Model.” Congrats Eliane!

Drs. Sari Kives, Jodi Shapiro and Herb Wong (later joined by Dr. Courtney Joliffe), volunteered for Medicos en Accion in January, 2016. While there, the surgeons operated at Hermano Pedro Hospital in Antigua, Guatemala. ●



Dr. Kives and Dr. Shapiro in Guatemala

Last year, **Dr. Suzanne Wong**, staff at St. Joseph’s Health Centre, travelled to Kenya to volunteer with a Medcan initiative to improve access to medical care, training, and education in northern and central Kenya. Medcan has two affiliated clinics in Kenya at which Dr. Wong spent 2 weeks last October working as a volunteer physician, helping establish a cancer



Dr. Wong at the clinic in Kenya

screening program and conducting workshops to educate local clinicians on women’s health issues. Even after returning to Toronto, Dr. Wong regularly conducts Skype calls with the clinic staff to review cases and offer support for more complex issues. [Click here](#) to read more about Dr. Wong’s experience in Kenya. ●

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Residents: Graduates and new additions

Welcome to our incoming residents for 2016! Our new PGY1s are Kailyn Brandon-Sutherland, Shirin Dason, Pavan Gill, Shira Jaclyn Gold, Kinshuk Kumar, Stephanie Lapinsky, Alisha Olsthoorn, Michael Phang, Sara Porisky, Emma Skolnik, Jessica Smith, and Geoffrey Zeni. They are joined by Rebecca Zur who is a transfer student from the Department of Family and Community Medicine and enters our program as a PGY2. We look forward to working with them and seeing them flourish in our residency program!



Our incoming residents all together at orientation

Congratulations to the 14 residents who are the graduating class of our residency program for 2016. Nasser Abu Awad, Emily Baker, Jessica Green, David Gurau, Ummi Habiba, Adrienne Li, Chaula Mehta, Rebecca Menzies, Michael Sectar, Alison Shea, Andrea Simpson, John Snelgrove, Liane Tan, and Julie Thorne all passed their Royal College exams and were recognized at our graduation ceremony. We are very proud of what they have accomplished so far and we wish them success as they continue with their careers!

JOGC Publication by the Night Float Committee

Our residency program has had an alternative Night Float (NF) call model in place since July 1, 2013. This model has undergone a number of iterations and changes have been made based on resident feedback received through the NF surveys. Our program has had a Flexi-4 Night Float system in place since April, 2015. The Flexi-4 Night float system received formal PARO approval on April 13, 2015. This is the call schedule of choice by the majority of the residents and

most recently confirmed in a NF survey, individual year surveys by resident reps and at the Town Hall meeting of May 31, 2016. The results of the NF surveys have consistently shown the NF system is preferred to traditional 24-hour call, reduces fatigue and improves continuity of patient care. Through many iterations, we achieved levels of resident morale, surgical experience and impact on family relationships comparable to the 24-hour call system. We are endeavoring to create a resilient NF call system that does not depend on overworked and fatigued residents and does not compromise clinical experience.

The NF Committee has written a manuscript accepted for publication by the JOGC, entitled "A Commentary on the Development of a Night Float Call Model for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Residency: The Process and Resident Perceptions." Authors include: Lynn Sterling, Carmen McCaffrey, Rebecca Rich, Michael Sectar, Jessica Green, Lindsay Shirreff, and Donna Steele. Thank you to Caroline Sutherland for editorial support and Joe George for Fluid Survey support and to all of our residents for their ongoing feedback to improve our NF call model. Be sure to look for this article in the JOGC in the near future! This article reviews our process for developing a NF call model along with resident perceptions and experiences, with the idea of offering insight for residency programs that are considering or instituting alternative call systems.

Awards

Mathew Leonardi won Most Innovative and Unique Project for the 2nd year in a row (GOC-APOG PAP Challenge) for "inSpeculum: Art night for Cervical Cancer Awareness." This is the second year in a row that Mathew has won this award!

Helena Frecker received a 2016 Postgraduate Medical Trainee Leadership Award from Postgraduate Medical Education at UofT.

Undergraduate Awards

Congratulations to the following students who won an OBGYN award at the Faculty of Medicine, Convocation Awards Reception on May 31st, 2016:

- Christine Edwards** - Dr. Jacob Goldstein Scholarship
- Catherine Brown** - Hendry Memorial Scholarship
- Louai Musa** - Dr. Frederick R. Papsin Award

The small (and big) things in life

Our faculty, trainees and staff lead busy lives outside of work as well! Here are some highlights.

Congratulations to **Amanda Michael** and Rami Elias, who got married on May 21st, 2016!



Leslie Proctor and her husband Graham Porter welcome their second son, James Jeffrey Porter, born on June 1st, 2016.



Jamie Kroft and her husband Michael had a baby boy on January 18, Joshua Eli. Joshua was delivered by Dr. Grace Liu at Sunnybrook. He's their third child, joining big sisters Lucy and Reese who are both very excited.

Congratulations to **Carmen McCaffrey** who gave birth to her son, Emmett James Pitton on June 29th.

Dr. Anne Berndl gave birth to her third child, Benjamin Theo Berndl-Wilson on May 9, delivered by Dr. Dini Hui and Jon Barrett. His father Murray Wilson, brother Liam and sister Lucy are overjoyed!

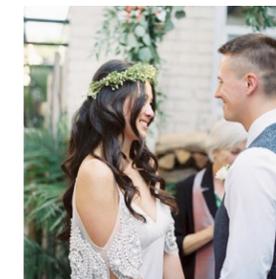
Wedding announcement! **Mathew Leonardi** and Ben got married on May 21 and spent two weeks exploring Iceland in a campervan on their honeymoon.



Marie Coroneos and Panos Christakis got married on May 28, 2016. Congratulations to Marie and Panos Christakis!



Lynn Sterling completed her Masters in Health Sciences Education through McMaster University



Marian Leung married Brian Buchan on June 11, 2016. Congrats Marian and Brian!



Dr. Danny Kreichman, Dr. Karthika Deverajan, Dr. Lynne Zolis, and Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau celebrating Dr. Pairaudeau's 40th year in practice on June 6th, 2016.

Rebecca Rich passed her thesis defense for her M.Sc. in Clinical Epidemiology at IHPME.



Emily Baker had a daughter, Evelyn Rose Schneider on June 19th, 2016. Emily still made it out (with Evelyn in tow) to our Graduation Ceremony just 3 days later! It was lovely to see both of them there!



On September 13th, 2015 **Colleen McDermott** gave birth to Myles Anderson Herzong, her third child. He was delivered by Dr. Andrea Lausman.



Kirsten Niles participated in the WUGC (Worlds Ultimate and Guts Championships) as a member of Team Canada, who came in second place!

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Research Day - Celebrating our Department and promoting collaboration

Once again, the Department hosted a successful Research Day, on Friday, May 13th, the 33rd annual event. In addition, we invited participants from Wayne State University to join us on May 12th for Wayne State University Collaboration Day. Both events took place at Victoria University at the University of Toronto, and were very well attended. Over 350 people registered and 121 abstracts were submitted across both days. A maximum of 7.0 Royal College credits in continuing medical education were available for full-day attendance on Research Day.



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We were also pleased to have Dr. Emmanuel Bujold from Laval University as our Henderson Lecturer for this year. Dr. Bujold is a full professor at the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of Laval University's School of Medicine where he holds the Jeanne et Jean-Louis Lévesque Research Chair in Perinatology. Dr Bujold's lecture addressed the common and important topic of "Prediction and prevention of uterine scar defect: 20 years of research."

We would like to thank everyone who participated, our administrative staff and volunteers, highly visible in their U of T blue shirts, who worked so hard to put it together, and all those faculty members who



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acted as Chairs and Judges. Special thanks to the Research Committee, particularly Dr. Theodore J.

Brown as Chair, and to Dr. Stephen Lye as Vice-Chair, Research, who will be stepping down from this role as of June 2016 after a decade in this leadership role.



The 2016 JW Knox Ritchie Research Awards for best abstract/presentation by trainee category were awarded during the celebratory wine and cheese reception at the end of the day. Congratulations to the following award recipients:

- Clinical Fellow:** Helena Frecker
- Post-Doctoral Fellow:** Monique Rennie
- Resident:** Rebecca Rich
- Graduate Student:** Vasilis Moisiadis
- Medical/Undergraduate Student:** Justin Wang
- People's Choice Award:** Sruthi Alahari

Additionally, we had 4 awards presented at Wayne State University Collaboration Day for best poster presentation and best oral presentation from each school. The award winners were:

- Best Oral Presentation (UofT):** Alex Pittini
- Best Poster Presentation (UofT):** Theresa Chow
- Best Oral Presentation (WSU):** Yu Yang
- Best Poster Presentation (WSU):** Diana Diaz

MFM Info Night

January 18 saw the second Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) career night at our Department. Residents interested in an MFM career, MFM fellows seeking career positions, and sites throughout the GTA that had MFM positions gathered to network. It was a wonderful evening that showcased our ability to plan together to create a coordinated GTA-wide MFM network connected by a collective desire to provide needed services to high risk women "closer to home," and create academically fulfilling careers for our MFM graduates.

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Graduation Ceremony & Alumni Event Recap

On the evening of June 23, 2016, we celebrated the successes of our clinical graduates on completion of their OBGYN Residency and Subspecialty Fellowships. The event took place at UofT's historic Hart House, building on the success of last year, and our new format since 2014. This year's Ceremony was the largest attendance so far – over 220 attendees gathered for this special occasion, 33 of which were our graduates. This year, 14 residents graduated (all of whom passed their Royal College exams) and 26 clinical fellows completed their programs, including Advanced Gynaecologic Surgery, Gynaecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Urogynecology, Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology, and Reproductive Sciences and Infertility.



The evening was filled with lots of fun for adults and kids alike, with an outside patio area dedicated to children's activities. Adults got to enjoy music by Gustav & Puente del Diablo, followed by the ceremony and reception. We were honored by the presence of Dr. Glen Bandiera, Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education, who welcomed our graduates to the alumni community. The graduates also received words of wisdom from one of their favourite highly-experienced OBGYNs, Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau from North York General Hospital. Nick reflected on the past, present, and future of obstetrics and gynaecology care and gave wise life advice to our newly-minted OBGYNs! The event wouldn't have been such a great success without our superb administrative team at 123 Edward and our MC, Dr. Adrian Brown.

We look forward to seeing you next year, **save the date – June 15, 2017!**

Listed below are our postgraduate award winners.

- Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards:*
- PGY3 – Lesley Hawkins & Marian Leung**
- PGY4 – John Ibrahim**
- PGY5 – Umami Habiba & Rebecca Menzies**

American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) Award:
Jessica Green

Dr. Sidney M. and Roselyn Tobin Compassionate Scholarship in Obstetrics & Gynaecology:
Julie Thorne

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Resident Award for Excellence in Obstetrics:
John Snelgrove

Dr. Frederick R. Papsin Award:
Michael Sector & Andrea Simpson

There were also two faculty awards given out at the ceremony:

CREOG National Faculty Award:
Sari Kives

Neelam Sierra Resident Advocacy Award:
Donna Steele



Faculty Professional Development Day Save the Date!

Preparations are under way for this year's Faculty Professional Development Day, which will be held on **Friday, November 11th, 2016** at Vaughan Estate, Estates of Sunnybrook. The event will focus on Faculty Mentorship and Wellness, with invited speakers from the OMA, CMPA, and Centre for Faculty Development. Event registration and more details are coming soon! Please save the date to attend this event!

For more details and event registration, visit our website [here](#).

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Senior Promotions

The 2015-2016 Academic Year has been very successful one for our Promotions Process. Thank you to Dr. Dan Farine, Chair of our Promotions and Awards Committee, all individuals who served on this committee, and Kristen Gane our Department Appointments and Promotions Administrator for their work to ensure the following senior promotions were successful.

Congratulations to the following faculty members, who have been promoted effective July 1st, 2016.

To Full Professor:

Lisa Allen

Division of Paediatric & Adolescent Gynaecology
SickKids Hospital
Department of Gynaecology
Mount Sinai Hospital and Women's College Hospital



Kellie Murphy

Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Mount Sinai Hospital



Nanette Okun

Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Mount Sinai Hospital



To Associate Professor:

Lilian Gien

Division of Gynaecologic Oncology
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Raymond Osborne

Division of Gynaecologic Oncology
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



New Appointments

Several new members have joined our hospitals as well as the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Here are the newest appointments and hospital recruits.

Donna Barnwell

Adjunct Lecturer
The Scarborough Hospital

Andrew Kotaska

Adjunct Lecturer
Stanton Territorial Hospital - Yellowknife

Shannon Corbett

Lecturer
Trillium Health Partners

Louise-Helene Gagnon

Lecturer
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Samuel Ko

Adjunct Lecturer
The Scarborough Hospital

Interhospital Rounds

Our Department hosts monthly Interhospital Rounds, a live lecture which is webcast via OTN to our affiliated hospitals. In 2016, these lectures have been on topics from all parts of obstetrics and gynaecology, including quality of care, new techniques, and the Zika virus. These lectures offer our faculty a chance to participate from their site or watch on their own via the webcast link, with questions being answered via email as well as at the lecture. Additionally, the broadcasts are archived on the OTN website so those who are unable to participate on the day can still view the lecture. The 2016-2017 schedule and information on how to access the archive can be found on our website [here](#). Speakers and topics will be updated for the 2017 lectures closer to the dates. Check back for updates!

City-wide MIS Journal Club

The second city-wide Minimally Invasive Surgery journal club was held on June 29th, 2016. It was organized by the Sunnybrook MIS group. Drs. Leslie Po and Grace Liu led a discussion about various morcellation techniques with a focus on practical tips and latest research. A stimulating discussion followed where all the various sites shared local best practices.

City-wide MIS journal club will be held three times a year and is an opportunity for gynecologists from across the University of Toronto sites to come together, learn and share ideas. The next event will be organized by the St. Michael's Hospital MIS group and will be held in the Fall (date TBA). If you are not already on our mailing list, please email: amurji@mtnsinai.on.ca.

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A Farewell to our Interns

Our two interns who were with the Department for the last year will be leaving to start professional degrees in healthcare. Alissa Moody worked on AMPATH-RH projects, compiled reports for our education programs, and helped organize our Faculty Professional Development Day. She started medical school this May at the University of Michigan. Andrew Greig spent the year here working on the Department's Annual Report, newsletters, and research events such as Research Day. He will be starting the PharmD program at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at UofT this fall. We would like to thank both Alissa and Andrew for their hard work and we wish them success in their studies and beyond!

Resident Retreat

The Annual Resident Retreat took place at Captive Escape Rooms and Joey's Eaton Centre and was put together by Carmen McCaffrey, Aparna Sarangapani, and Lynn Sterling. This year's focus was on team building and career development. Our team building event was a great success. In fact, our residents



were the first corporate group to escape all four rooms at Captive! Strong work, #uoftobgyn. Thank you to all who contributed, and in particular to our recent ObGyn graduates Daniela Caprara, Amanda Cipolla, Beth Cruickshank, Helena Frecker, and Lami Oyewumi, for an excellent career development panel.



Everyone at Research Day 2016

Introducing our new Business Manager

Our team at 123 Edward has changed this year. We'd like to welcome our new addition!

A new face is now at the helm of our admin team at 123 Edward Street. We would like to welcome **Nelson Cabral**, who is the new Business Manager for our Department. He was thrown right into the fire, as he started with the Department shortly before two of our biggest events, Research Day and our Graduation Ceremony. Nelson has acquitted himself quite well and has transitioned smoothly into his new role. Welcome Nelson!



The Obesity Forum

The Obesity Forum, a research event intended to spur research and collaboration within our Department, was held on June 8th at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute. The event was headlined by Dr. David Macklin, a family physician who specializes in obesity. We also had Drs. Ellen Greenblatt, Kristen Connor, Cindy Maxwell, Marcus Bernardini, and Colleen McDermott give talks on how obesity impacts the different areas of OBGYN. The event was a success and we look forward to having more research forums in the future. Stay tuned for details of the next event!

Sponsors

The Department would like to thank Dapasoft, Ferring, and Hologic who participated in our Educational Partnership Program for 2015-2016. Their contributions have helped our Department with our Research Day, the Research Day mobile app, our Interhospital Rounds lectures, and many other things. We are very grateful for their support!



Please submit entries for the next newsletter to obgyn.communications@utoronto.ca!



Obstetrics & Gynaecology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

*Photo credit: Khrystyna Levytska
Toronto Skyline*

