In this Issue:

Research Day Update ~ p4
Faculty Appointments~ p6
GTA-OBS Network Update ~ p11

Faculty Professional Development Day recap ~ p12
New Appointments and Recruits ~ p16
...and much more!
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. This is for sure my mildest winter since joining the Department 18 years ago, March 1st, 1998. Just before the December holiday break the Executive and Strategic Planning Team had a mid-cycle update meeting, in tandem with Faculty Development Day. I am pleased to report that all five strategic priority areas are making good progress and you can see our published Update on our site together with our 2014-2015 Annual Report.

As examples of recent research successes, two department members, Annie Malinowski and Mike Seed (recently cross-appointed form Pediatrics) made the front cover of our undergrad program, providing support to mid-career faculty, using the JMA program, the bi-annual Merit Award dinner processes, two department members, and progress their research careers.

The first, our Junior Merit Award (JMA) program, provides support matched to practice plans for individuals in their initial career phase. Current JMA recipients were celebrated at the first Annual Dinner, with the Chair and Research Committee at Massey College in November, 2015. July, 2016 will see the launch of the next research support process, the expansion of our undergrad program, and the implementation of DEFFs in our residency program.

A group of our residents led by Mathew Leonardi of DEEFs in our residency program, the implementation of DEFFs in our residency program, and the implementation of DEFFs in our residency program.

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

Dr. Heather Millar, a former resident and current faculty member, is featured in this issue for her great work as Team Leader for AMPATH. Congrats Heather!

Congratulations to Dr. Karen Glass, who was awarded the Biljan Memorial Award from the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society!

The first annual Junior Merit Award dinner celebrated the work and progress of the JMA recipients. Well done! We look forward to welcoming 2016’s JMA cohort.

Congratulations to Drs. Yolanda Kirkham and Dini Hui, who were promoted from Lecturer to Assistant Professor this year.

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

We are in search for a creative newsletter name. Submit your ideas to obgyn.communications@utoronto.ca for review!

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Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Ferguson, who received a $600,000 Prevention Research Grant from the Canadian Cancer Society.

Our Faculty Professional Development Day was held at Estates of Sunnybrook on November 11th, 2015. The event was a huge success! Thanks to Filomena Melfe and Alissa Moody for putting on a great event!

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Research Day Update
As one of our biggest events, our Annual Research Day showcases our department’s strength in research, and serves to encourage new collaborations and partnerships within our department and affiliated institutions. This year, Research Day will be held on May 13th, 2016 at Victoria College, in the Goldring Student Centre, Isabel Bader Theatre, and Burwash Hall. This will be the first year we will have the Isabel Bader theatre for our oral presentation sessions and the Henderson Lecture; and it promises to be an excellent venue. The Henderson Lecture will be given by Dr. Emmanuel Bujold, who will address the common and important topic of “Prediction and prevention of uterine scar defect: 20 years of research.”

We are also excited to join Wayne State University (WSU) in hosting a joint OB/GYN Collaboration Day on May 12th! This half day (12:00pm - 6:00pm) will include oral and poster presentations from WSU and UofT trainees, breakout sessions geared towards discussing potential areas of collaboration and exchange between WSU and the University of Toronto, as well as a keynote WSU lecture from a senior member within the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Select WSU research posters on collaborative projects will be included in the Collaboration Corner on May 13, 2016.

For more information, click here.

NIH Human Placenta Project
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology investigators were shared recipients of a $2.5M USD research grant from the NIH Human Placenta Project to develop new ultrasound technology for the early detection of placental dysfunction. This study, which brings together investigators from SickKids, Mount Sinai, UHN, and Johns Hopkins as well as the Ontario Ministry for the Environment, will focus on wave mechanics in the umbilical artery to detect downstream abnormalities in the placental vasculature. Dr. John Sled, speaking for the group, said “It is a privilege to be part of this major initiative to advance our understanding of placental disease. I am also very excited to see new technologies first developed using experimental mice translated for clinical application.”

For more information, click here.

Prevention Research Grant
Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Ferguson and her colleagues who have recently secured four years of funding ($600,000) from the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, through a Prevention Research Grant, for their prospective multi-centre study entitled “Maximizing Cancer Prevention through an Enhanced Genetic Uptake Program for Lynch Syndrome Detection in Women with Endometrial and Non-Serous Epithelial Ovarian Cancer.” The main aims of the study are to: (1) assess the impacts of an enhanced universal immunohistochemistry program for Lynch Syndrome on the uptake of genetic testing and cancer incidence, (2) determine, for the first time, the frequency and characteristics of Lynch Syndrome in women with non-serous ovarian cancer, (3) determine age and sex-standardized incidence ratios of colorectal, endometrial and ovarian cancer in relatives of patients with mismatch repair-deficient tumours but no evidence of a pathogenic germline mutation or MLH1 methylation, and (4) model the cost-effectiveness of an enhanced genetic uptake program in women with endometrial and non-serous ovarian cancer.

To read more about the project, click here.

Resident Research Grant from PSI
Jason Elliott, a subspecialty fellow in REI, received a $19,500 resident research grant from Physician Services Incorporated (PSI) for his project “Non-invasive genomic analysis of human endometrial receptivity in women with polycystic ovarian syndrome.” Dr. Ellen Greenblatt is his supervisor for this project. Congratulations Jason, and keep up the good work!

Chair’s Summer Studentship Program
As many of you know, last year, one of the new initiatives for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was the Chair’s Summer Student Program. This program aims to empower the research capacity and productivity of our faculty members, while promoting training excellence and research exposure for students across the full breadth of the OB/GYN specialty. The program encompasses the University of Toronto CREMS Summer Research Program as well as the Chair’s Summer Student Award.

We are happy to announce that this program will be continued into a second year! For more information on how to apply, please visit our webpage at http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/department-obstetrics-and-gynaecology-chairs-summer-student-program.

Please note that there are several changes in the funding structure. Moving forward, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will fully fund ONE CREMS student for any faculty who is able to obtain a CREMS Summer Research Award. The faculty member will no longer be required to provide any matching funding.

For the Chair’s Summer Student Award, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will fund up to $3500 per award with a match requirement of $1500 from the faculty member. Please note that all deliverables have to be met. The purpose of these changes are to encourage faculty members to fully leverage the CREMS program as well as to promote more research opportunities for University of Toronto trainees.
Faculty Appointments

Congratulations to Dr. Marcus Bernardini, who has been appointed as Head of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the combined MSH/UHN Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology effective October 1, 2015. Dr. Bernardini has an outstanding research and education track record and has received numerous department Research and Teaching awards. We are confident that with Dr. Bernardini's commitment to innovation and exemplary quality of care, the MSH/UHN Division of Gynecologic Oncology will continue to grow.

Dr. Allan Covens has been appointed as the Head of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, effective January 1st, 2016. Dr. Covens has been a significant part of our department for many years. He has been Division Head for the Odette Cancer Centre at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre since 1992, and has played a major role in establishing a fellowship training program in Gynecologic Oncology at Moi University, Eldoret in Western Kenya. Dr. Covens assumes this position at a time of exciting change in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology via the addition of a third site at Credit Valley Hospital, Trillium Health partners, and the recruitment of several new junior faculty members.

Congratulations to Dr. Covens! We wish him success as he takes on this important leadership role in our department.

Faculty Awards

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

Dr. Karen Glass won the Biljan Memorial Award at the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) meeting in Halifax in October, 2015 for her abstract titled "Surgeon and Patient Oncocertainty Knowledge Enhancement (SPOKE): A Baseline Qualitative Study of Canadian Breast Cancer Surgeons." As part of this award, Dr. Glass was given the opportunity to present at the next British Fertility Society (BFS) held in the United Kingdom in January.

Dr. Glass was also honoured by the Fertile Future Charity for her work in the field of Oncocertainty. She was awarded at their fundraising event "An Evening of Hope," which was held on October 29th, 2015.

Dr. Eliane Shore received the Best Oral Abstract in Gynaecology for her study “Validation of a Comprehensive Evidence-Based Laparoscopic Curriculum for Gynaecology Residents” at the SOGC meeting in June, 2015.

Senior Promotion

If you would like to be considered for a Senior Promotion, please contact our Academic Appointments and Faculty Promotion Committee.

Grow Your Knowledge and Your Practice with NASPAG

By Sari Kives

For clinicians interested in pediatric and adolescent gynaecology, the answer is the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology’s 30th Annual Clinical and Research Meeting. This year I am happy to be acting as Program Chair for this national meeting and it will be held in our great city on April 7-9, 2016. This year’s meeting offers a number of sessions and workshops that will provide practical information for the adolescent-focused practitioners. Workshops will cover professional and clinical topics such as providing care to transgender youth, dealing with early-onset puberty, body acceptance, managing ovarian masses, breast disease, challenging surgical cases as well as navigating academic promotion and developing a successful clinical practice.

Visit www.naspag.org to view the entire meeting program and register for the event.

Journal Covers

Two faculty members appointed to our department had their research projects featured on the front covers of their respective journals.

Congratulations to Dr. Ann Malinowski and Dr. Preet Malhotra whose research “Pheochromocytoma in a Pregnant Woman With Prior Traumatic Aortic Injury” is featured on the front cover of the November 2015 issue of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. You can read the case report on our website here.

Dr. Mike Seed, who is cross-appointed to our department from SickKids, had his paper "MRI reveals hemodynamic changes with acute maternal hyperoxygenation in human fetuses with and without congenital heart disease" featured on the front cover of Prenatal Diagnosis.

Congratulations to Dr. Malinowski, Dr. Seed, and everyone else involved in these studies! Making the front page of a journal is a huge accomplishment!
Spotlight on a Recent Grad

Dr. Heather Millar completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UofT in June 2015. Shortly thereafter, she began a position through our department, which has given her the opportunity to fulfill a dream of hers—to live and work full time in a developing country as part of a program that is doing development work in a way that is sustainable, ethical, and is making a difference in women's lives. Heather is the current Reproductive Health Team Leader for the AMPATH Consortium in Western Kenya, a position that includes cross-appointments with the Moi University School of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine and the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In addition to this busy and exciting work, Heather is enjoying the opportunity to make new friends and see the beautiful country of Kenya. Along with previous visits to Kenya as a resident, she has gone on safari a number of times, has hiked in the Rift Valley, watched the sun set on the shores of Lake Victoria, eaten delicious Indian food in Eldoret, and relaxed near a campfire overlooking the Menengai Crater.

Life has been pretty good!

Awards

Aparna Sarangapani (PGY4) won Best Oral Presentation at the Association of Academic Professionals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (APOG) conference for her presentation “Teaching patient and instrument selection for operative vaginal deliveries: assessment of trainee confidence, comfort, and knowledge after a video-based masterclass in second stage labour assessments.” Other investigators include Andrea Simpson, John Snelgrove, Mary Higgins, Rory Windrim and Abeha Satkunaratnam

Hadar Rosen (MFM Fellow) won Best Oral Presentation at the APOG conference for her presentation entitled “Simulator Based Obstetric Ultrasound Training: A Prospective Randomized Single-Blinded Study.” The team includes Stefania Ronzoni, Y ee Man Lee, Lara Gotha, Sef Perelman, and Rory Windrim.

Congratulations to Aparna and Hadar! They both did a great job of representing our department at the APOG conference.

The small (and big) things in life

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

Dr. Millar in her role as Health Team Leader

AMPATH, the Academic Model for Providing Access to Healthcare, is a consortium of North American universities working in partnership with the Moi University School of Medicine and the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH). AMPATH has successfully implemented HIV testing and treatment across western Kenya and has expanded its three pillars—care, education and research—to enact positive change across medical disciplines, primary care, microfinance, and community development programming. The University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has been a partner in this consortium since 2007.

Heather’s position includes clinical care as a staff Obstetrician/Gynaecologist in the Department of Reproductive Health at MTRH, supervision and teaching of North American and Kenyan medical students and residents and research and project management. She is co-supervising a Kenyan research team who are working on projects and programs focused on pre-eclampsia, cardiac disease in pregnancy, group B streptococcus, gestational diabetes, contraception, adolescent pregnancy, neonatal intensive care unit outcomes, quality improvement in obstetrics/gynaecology, community-based antenatal care and early childhood parenting programming. With a group of Kenyan, Canadian and American collaborators in obs/gyn, paediatrics, and social sciences, she is also helping to develop an adolescent sexual and reproductive health service.

We are settling into long nights and feeding frenzy full days with our new son, Peder Murray Christoffersen-Dick. He was born November 23rd, weighing in at 3330g. We got to the hospital at 16.30 and he emerged at 18.04. Suffice it to say, we are enchanted and enjoying this moment of honeymoon with him.
Undergraduate Update

In October, 2015, the ObGyn ‘HUB’ was launched. This online teaching module for students contains information on topics that they are expected to encounter during their six-week clerkship rotation. The topics include cases, videos, images, articles, and guidelines. Many thanks to Dr. Rajiv Shah (Course Director), and students Michaela Mayer, Kaitlyn Carson, and Noelle Ma for assisting in the creation of this resource. We encourage all staff, residents, and students to check out the HUB at thehub.utoronto.ca/obgyn.

The Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LInC) program has expanded and is now being offered at all academies - FitzGerald, Peters-Boyd, and Wightman-Berris. Thanks to all those who were involved in this tremendous endeavour as it required a lot of work and dedication. Students are enjoying the longitudinal learning opportunity that they are experiencing. As of December 15th, 2015, the Ultrasound rotation has become involved in CMBE since November, 2015.

Fellowship Update

Important information for anyone wanting to apply for a fellowship! As of August, 2015 our department implemented PGME’s Online Appointment Tracking System (OATS) to process fellowship applications online. OATS is designed to centralize the management and approval of appointment documents for accepted Clinical/Research Fellowship (non-RCPCSC) trainees only. The process begins after a trainee has accepted an offer from a fellowship program and ends when the PGME Office approves the appointment package (the appointment is then processed in POWER).

If you have any issues relating to OATS or would like to schedule training sessions, please contact Nathan Harrison (nathan.harrison@utoronto.ca), Systems Coordinator at PGME.

New Initiatives in OBGYN QIPS

By Helen Robson

The GTA-_OBS Network continues its work, publishing guidelines on screening in diabetes and planning a Delphi consensus meeting on the management of invasive placentaion and a consensus meeting to standardize management of patients with a short cervix in pregnancy.

The QIPS Committee has communicated with Sahas and MORE OB to join forces in pushing for the widespread adoption of this CME program in all hospitals in Ontario providing obstetric care.

The QIPS program continues to build capacity as physicians from affiliated university hospitals complete the University of Toronto C-QIPS certificate program and others complete the Masters degree in QIPS either at Queen’s University or the University of Toronto.

Merit Award

The Merit Award Program is a new bi-annual initiative designed to provide clinical faculty, who have passed their 3-year review, with an opportunity to build upon their research expertise and achievements to date. Successful award winners will thereby be financially supported in order to prepare them for the important medium-term goal of successfully obtaining external peer-reviewed grant funding to pursue their research agenda on a long-term basis. The award is only open to Clinically-appointed faculty members holding primary appointments in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Below is the timeline for the application process:

Application opening date – January 1, 2016
Application closing date – March 31st, 2016
Evaluation and Adjudication – April, 2016
Decision and notification – May, 2016

The GTA-OBS network established itself in the minds of all Obstetric leaders in the GTA as the means for collaborative quality of care. The last 6 months has seen the growth of our network beyond that of a data platform, although this is still a valued and often requested metric, to at least two major quality intervention projects, research papers at international conferences, the subject of at least two major CIHR grant submissions and a Provincial Collaboration.

The new provincial collaboration is between the GTA-OBS Network, the Born Ontario, and PCMCH, which has resulted in the GTA-OBS Network linking with two other provincial networks: the Champlain Maternal Newborn Child Health (CMNCH) and the Southwestern Ontario Maternal, Newborn, Child and Youth Network. Both networks share many of our interests and welcome the clinical research and physician input into many of our shared agendas. We are thankful to both Anne Sprague at the BORN and James Melloche at PCMCH for welcoming us and facilitating our integration into the provincial landscape.
The theme of our next Faculty Professional Development Day 2016 is faculty mentorship and wellness. The Faculty Professional Development committee is currently planning an exciting agenda. If you have any ideas for that day that you would like to share with us, please contact me at filomena.meffe@utoronto.ca.

The inaugural Junior Merit Award Dinner was held at Massey College on November 30th, 2015 to celebrate the achievements of six clinician-investigators, practicing across the full spectrum of our Department. Congratulations to Drs. Marcus Bernardini, Anne Berndl, Crystal Chan, Rohan D’Souza, Taayma May, and Colleen McDermott!

Each year, two new junior faculty, or recently-appointed faculty, are given joint salary support awards for a 3-year duration, supported by the University Department and the faculty member’s Hospital practice plan.

Grad 2016

The Graduation Ceremony is one of our most significant and best-attended events! In 2015, we gathered at the University of Toronto’s Hart House to celebrate the successes of our newly-minted specialists in Obstetrics & Gynaecology together with their colleagues completing clinical fellowships in our subspecialties. This year’s grad ceremony will again be held at Hart House on June 23rd, 2016. Save the date!

Check here for updates about Grad!

ObGyn Winter Newsletter ~ Issue 22

ObGyn Winter Newsletter ~ Issue 22

Senior Merit Award Dinner

The theme of our next Faculty Professional Development Day, Enhancing Skills and Achieving Success, was held on November 11th at Vaughan Estates, and was attended by up to 100 faculty members. The day was aimed at optimizing our faculty members’ knowledge and skills in their chosen areas of academic focus and included presentations and workshops on a broad range of topics. Dr. Joshua Tepper gave the opening lecture on quality improvement, entitled “Driving the Flywheel of Quality.” A series of workshops followed: Simulation Scenario Writing (Drs. Bruce Ballon and Tatiana Freire-Lizama), Benefits and Challenges of Competency-Based Medical Education (Drs. Nicolette Caccia and Filomena Meffe), the Resident in Difficulty (Dr. Heather Shaprio), Publish or Perish (Drs. Ted Brown and Kellie Murphy), and Preparing for Successful Promotion (Dr. Avrum Gottlieb). The keynote lecture was given by Dr. David McKnight on faculty professionalism entitled “Professional Behaviour and the Learning Environment.”

Senior Merit Award Dinner

In addition to a fantastic lunch at the beginning of the event, three 15-minute networking breaks with refreshments were added throughout the afternoon to give faculty members the opportunity to catch up on both their professional and personal lives in between workshops. The event wrapped up with a reception and awards ceremony led by our Chair, Dr. John Kingdom, during which faculty members had another chance to connect while enjoying some tasty treats and a glass of wine. Faculty members who submitted an evaluation form at the end of the day were entered in the gift card raffle and the winner was Dr. Adrian Brown. Thanks to all of you who participated in evaluating the event!

InSpeculum Art Night

The residents of the University of Toronto, led by Mathew Leonard, held an innovative cervical cancer awareness event directed at Toronto’s diverse refugee population. The initiative was called InSpeculum: An Art Exhibit for Cervical Cancer Awareness. During Cervical Cancer Awareness week, an “art meets education” event was held at the Christie Refugee Welcome Centre where women were given an interactive talk on cervical cancer and an opportunity to handle and decorate speculums.

The residents brought ample art supplies and guided the women in painting speculums with cytobrushes and decorating them with crafty items such as stickers, pompoms, feathers, and glitter. Fifteen women participated in this event. At its conclusion, the women and their families were invited to present their work at an Art Exhibit that was planned to further promote cervical cancer awareness. This was held at a venue in downtown Toronto and over 50 attendees joined us to celebrate the speculum art created by the refugee women.

The event was a huge success for both the residents and the women from the refugee centre, and we are so excited to be a part of this advocacy program!

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Penang is an island on the west coast of Malaysia just short of the border with Thailand. It has come a long way since Francis Light developed a duty free port there in 1785 on behalf of the British East India Company. It grew rapidly because of its location on the monsoon trade routes from India to China and every-thing from spices to opium passed through. The island attracted a large population of Chinese from Southeast China to work the tin mines on the mainland - later they began to own them! Also many Tamils came from India to help administer the area while the local Malays (former chair, OBGYN) are Muslim (converted by the Arab traders in early days) and despite being governed since independence by the same party, it is surprisingly modern, progressive, tolerant and safe - so far. Travelling in SE Asia is also very safe (the locals are very friendly and polite) and there is much to see. Five star hotels are reasonably priced and the service is superb. So far, we have managed to get to Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong and China - and of course nearby Thailand. The area is a long way from Canada but well worth the ef-fort because of its history and diverse cultures - and very hard to leave.

Women's College Hospital
Second Phase
By Lisa Allen
With the opening of the second phase of Women's College Hospital on September 28, 2015, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology moved into the new building. The move provided dedicated and expanded clinic space and coincided with the introduction of a new electronic medical record, EPIC. Tremendous amount of change in a small amount of time. •

Resident Testimonials
By Michael Sектer and John Snelgrove
For six weeks in the Summer of 2015, we (John Snelgrove and Michael Sектer) participated in the AMPATH exchange in Eldoret, Kenya. The exchange was a superb experience in international collaboration, education and research. Our experience working within a different health system was enlightening. As residents approaching the end of our training, we felt that the exposure to conditions and procedures that are less common in Toronto was extremely valuable. We were grateful for the experience and knowledge of the local midwives, nurses and physicians who taught us about the management of acute events in a setting very different from our own.

ObGyn Winter Newsletter ~ Issue 22

A Former Chair in Penang
By Knox Ritchie (former chair, OB/GYN)
I write this piece as I enter my fifth and, I have decided, final year in Penang. As many of you know, in 2011, I took up an appointment as head of OB/Gyn at Penang Medical College which is the top private medical school in Malaysia. It is jointly owned by the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and University College Dublin. There are now 150 medical undergraduates a year and over 1,000 doctors have graduated since the College was established 20 years ago.

Malaysia, with the same population as Canada, has been a very successful country since it got independ-ence from Britain in 1965, who at the time threw in the Protectorates along the northern third of Borneo where most of the oil is. The majority of the population is Muslim (converted by the Arab traders in early days) and despite being governed since independence by the same party, it is surprisingly modern, progressive, tolerant and safe - so far.

ObGyn Winter Newsletter ~ Issue 22

AMPATH Exchange in Kenya
By Nan Okun
After 2 successful cycles of gynaecological oncology fellowship completions, we continue to develop and refine a curriculum for Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship training. This past year has seen the enthusiastic engagement of academic faculty at Moi University and we are actively engaging UofT faculty to participate in this partnered program to train skilled subspecialists in further improving pregnancy outcomes for high-risk pregnant women in Western Kenya. The goal is to recruit the first fellow in September, 2016. We need interested faculty in MFM, Obstetric Medicine, Anesthesia, neonatology, genetics, lab pathology, diagnostic imaging. Please contact Nan Okun (nokun@mts.mcmaster.ca) if you are interested.
New Appointments and Recruits

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.

Dr. Alice Pham has joined our Department as an Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2015. She will be practicing at St. Joseph’s Health Centre, specializing in Minimally Invasive Surgery.

Dr. Elad Mei-Dan was appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. He recently completed a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine within our department, and will be joining the team at North York and Sunnybrook.

Dr. May ElHajj has been appointed as Lecturer effective August 1, 2015.

Dr. Heather Millar has been appointed as Adjunct Lecturer in our department as of October 1, 2015. She is a recent graduate of our residency program, and receives this appointment as part of her position as AMPATH Team Leader. You can read more about her on page 8.

Dr. Anne Walsh has been appointed as Lecturer effective July 1, 2015.

Dr. Jing Qin has been appointed to Adjunct Lecturer. She specializes in Minimally Invasive Surgery, and is based out of the Birchmount campus of The Scarborough Hospital.

Dr. Eliane Shore has joined our Faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Minimally Invasive Gynaecology at St. Michael’s Hospital. She did her residency in our department, followed by a fellowship in MIS and a MSc from the Institute of Medical Sciences.

Dr. Salahk Iqbal joins the Faculty as an Adjunct Lecturer effective August 1, 2015. A former resident, she practices at The Scarborough Hospital.

Dr. Matthew Laskin has joined our department at the rank of Lecturer, effective August 1, 2015. He practices Obstetrics at the Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket.

Dr. Scot Hamilton has been appointed to the department as Lecturer.

Dr. Sarah Sinacac is now appointed as a Lecturer in our department, effective as of October 1, 2015.

Dr. Ambika Aneja joins the faculty as a Part Time Lecturer. Ambika recently finished a fellowship at McMaster University, and will be practicing at The Scarborough Hospital.

New Cross-Appointments

Welcome to Faculty of Medicine members who have joined our Department as cross-appointed members.

Dr. Adalstein Brown is the director of the University of Toronto Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, the Dalla Lana Chair in Public Health Policy, and the Head of the division of Public Health Policy at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. His research interests include Public Health Policy and Outcomes and Evaluations of the health system.

Dr. Elena Kolomietz is a geneticist at Mount Sinai Hospital, where she is the Co-Head of the Division of Diagnostic Medical Genetics in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and is appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on using genomic technologies to study the causes of reproductive failure.

Dr. John Sled is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics and a researcher at the Mouse Imaging Centre of SickKids. His research interests include placental circulation and disorders, and how imaging can be used to study them.

Other News

UofT Ob/Gyn faculty and residents led the CME Forceps Training Curriculum at the recent SOGC Ontario CME Event held in Toronto December 3-5, 2015. Presenting the workshop were Drs. Abeha Sathunaratnam, Rory Windrim, Andrea Lausman, Sari Kives, Jon Barrett, Aparna Sarangapani and Andrea Simpson.

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Changes to the Admin Team

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

Irisz joins our administrative staff as the Department Executive Assistant. She has already made significant contributions to our department, coordinating our Inter-hospital Rounds and organizing many events and meetings for our department among other things. Her energy and positivity foster a great atmosphere at 123 Edward.

Joe George has become our Fellowship Programs Coordinator and Assistant Residency Program Coordinator. Joe had previously been the Departmental Assistant, and he continues to be our unofficial department photographer. All our residents and fellows are familiar with Joe and the good work he as done for our department. Keep it up Joe!

Kristen Gane has taken on the role of Academic Appointments and Promotions Administrator. She joined us right during the busiest time of year for promotions, and was put right to the test. She showed her organization and adapt-ability, learning the systems quickly and conducting the promotions process efficiently. We are very fortunate that she has joined our team at 123 Edward.

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