DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

surgery newsletter

FOR ALUMNI, FACULTY, RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FALL 2003

chair's column



Richard Reznick

We have an amazing faculty. It's hard to believe that it is quickly coming up to the end of my first year as Chair of this Department. The most important lesson I have learned so far is the extraordinary depth and talent of our faculty. As many of you know, I have spent a fair bit of time my first year meeting with faculty members individually. I have done this for several reasons: to personally meet and get to know many who I knew only by name; to get a general consensus on areas of strength and weakness in our department; to garner an environmental scan on political and economic issues important to surgeons such as AFPs, access to hospital resources, relationships with hospital and university leadership; to discuss academic issues of promotion, scholarly productivity, and the relationship of the individual surgeon to the university; and significantly, to learn about our surgeons' strategies to a balanced life, including the importance of family and

friends, time for non-work activities, and the importance for many of the ineffable concepts of spirituality, love and happiness.

What I have learned from these moments I have shared with our faculty is profound and magnifies my awe for this position, intensifies my belief in our academic mission, and strengthens my resolve to work hard to keep our department strong and vibrant. Since space will not permit me to recount the hundreds of examples that reinforce my premise of just how good our faculty is, I will give you a few examples of what I mean.

As I write this column, I have just received a touching letter from Robin Humphreys, who has retired from active clinical practice and taken on the role of Professor Emeritus. Robin's letter was an emotional thank you for events in and around his retirement. He referred to Martin Friedland's text The University of Toronto: A History, which David Naylor has sent out as an appreciative gesture to faculty. Robin writes, "...then as if by design, the book in my hands fell open to page 555 (mysteriously, the University Avenue address of the Hospital for Sick Children). A picture at the top taken in 1972, shows the members of the university's governing council. The person second from the right is Keith Hendrick, the younger brother of Bruce Hendrick, who was my mentor and largely responsible for my own success as a paediatric

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neurosurgeon". Robin found the book to be an "enviable finis to my experiences at the University of Toronto, whose medical school accepted me in 1956, before my first choice, petroleum engineering at the University of Alberta". Robin's accomplishments serve for many as the consummate example of just how magnificent a university career can be.

A few weeks ago, I met with Taufik Valiente, who is returning from a clinical fellowship in Seattle to take on a faculty position as a neurosurgeon at University Health Network. When I reviewed his CV, and the clinical training that he received in neurosurgery coupled with scientific training to the level of a doctorate in science, I was reminded as to just how spectacular our training program is to afford this opportunity, and just how fortunate our faculty is to have a large group of trainees who have accessed its treasures. What made my meeting with Taufik so special, however, was the look of excitement he had in his eyes as he prepared to put into motion the beginnings of a career that holds great promise.

Just yesterday, I received a small thank-you gift from Robin McLeod, a good friend for almost two decades, for speaking at the Central Surgical Society, which was held in Toronto this spring and for which Robin was the Program Director. The gift, a beautiful glass Canadian paperweight, was typical Robin! Everything she has done, and continues to do for this Department, is done with intelligence, thoughtfulness, and a touch of class. In addition to her scientific achievements and her clinical expertise – she is known throughout the world as one of the preeminent colorectal surgeons – Robin represents our department and indeed the country, as a Regent of The American College of Surgeons, that body's highest honour.

One of the first surgeons I met formally after taking the job as Chair, was Darius Bagli, a paediatric urologist. Darius is extraordinarily well trained. He graduated from medical school and trained as a urologist at Harvard, he completed a fellowship training at the University of Washington and research training at NIH. We talked about so many things during that hour, but I remember two in particular. The first was Darius' passion for the piano and his dedication to music. It prompted me to ask him to play at last year's Gallie Day, and what a treat that was. His virtuosity was simply amazing. The second was Darius' passion for his family and his dedication to their well-being. I remember that meeting well.

Most of you do not know Cindi Morshead. Cindi is an anatomist who has just joined our faculty as a tenured professor in Mike Wiley's division. Cindi's work focuses on stem cell biology. Since joining our staff, she has received a CIHR grant, three project grants from the National Centres of Excellence-Stem Cell Network, and the Connaught Award. Cindi, I and others from the Division of Anatomy "closed the joint" at last year's Christmas party. There I learned of Cindi's excitement for her new position and of how limitless her potential is to ride the wave of a fantastic academic start to future superstardom.

The only Sender Herschorn I really knew well, before last October, was a lawyer who coached my son Gabe in soccer. It turns out his cousin, also Sender Herschorn, is our Chair of Urology. Indeed one of the pleasures of this past year has been getting to know the "real Sender". My meetings with his faculty have been most revealing. To a man and woman, all think Sender is a terrific leader. He is supportive, encouraging, collegial and a true academic. The most important lesson I have learned from Sender is that he is always positive about his faculty, and he is constantly focused on optimizing their strengths and supporting their aspirations.

I have known Stan Hamstra for about six years now, since I was involved in hiring him to a joint position at the Centre for Research in Education and our Department of Surgery. This surely has been the most difficult year in Stan's life, with the tragic loss of his wife, Nancy, to a brain aneurysm. Stan's ability cope with this tragedy, and more than that, to help others in celebrating Nancy's memory and career as a clinical psychologist, and to bring peace and comfort to all around him, has overwhelmed many of us in this Department. He is truly one of my heroes.

Two years ago, I had the privilege of being a James IV Traveler. My first stop was the Royal College of Surgeons at Lincoln's Inn Field, London. As I sat down for breakfast I received a tap on the back from one of our surgeons who was at the College to teach a course. The surgeon was Dr. Robert Salter, University Professor in our Department. Dr. Salter spent the next half hour giving me some of the highlights of his many visiting professorships over almost half a century. He gave me his pointer to use during my six-week fellowship. I used that pointer often, taking pride each time that it was lent to me by one of Canada's most famous surgeons.

I could go on. But as you can see, it's not without justification that we can all say we are part of a truly great faculty. Each and every division, in each and every one of our teaching hospitals, is represented by a gifted group of surgeons, research scientists, educators and leaders. We are privileged to be part of a teaching enterprise that educates and excites two hundred medical students each year, that trains aspiring surgeons in one of eight specialties, that renders high level graduate education through our Surgeon Scientist Program, and that has over 200 fellows engaged in highly specialized surgical training. From a research perspective, we are the most productive surgical department in Canada. And most important, as I have found out in the last 10 months, we are blessed with a faculty who care deeply about their colleagues, who give tirelessly of themselves to deliver the best surgical care for their patients, and who understand the primacy of family and friends and our need for meaning in our lives.

Richard K. Reznick R.S. McLaughlin Professor and Chair This edition of the newsletter introduces some innovations in format and content. We think the newsletter could also use a new name, perhaps one that reflects its goal to bring the community of our department closer together. We will announce the winner of the "name the newsletter" contest in the next edition. (see box)



Martin McKneally

This edition also brings news

of spectacular new funding for surgical research in tissue engineering and cancer genomics. John Semple and Steve Gallinger have built strong teams of scientists who think in transdisciplinary terms about the largest problems we face as surgeons.

The Surgeon Scientist Program has expanded to include research opportunities in International Surgery, personified in the interesting story of Alex Mihailovic going to Africa. This research based pathway through the Department of Health Policy, Management and Education enables surgeons to develop their skills in making and testing policies to improve surgical care. Another new pathway for surgeon scientists offers research-based training in Bioethics. Interested residents can participate in the Genomics and Biotechnology research, or Priority Setting research at the Joint Centre for Bioethics. Like the Surgical Educator Program, these pathways expand the scope of the Surgeon Scientist Program to meet evolving needs in the surgical community.

Rebecca Davies' appointment to the Department will strengthen our communication with surgical alumni. With her help we will consolidate the alumni news into the departmental newsletter. Starting with this issue, the newsletter will be published four times per year and all alumni will receive it regularly. (The blue "Surgery Bulletin Board" announcing various rounds and conferences will continue to be mailed out locally to residents and staff six times per year.) Rebecca, a classically trained musician with a broad range of tastes, attended the Rolling Stones SARS benefit concert. She is currently working on the campaign to establish the Bernard Langer Chair in General Surgery, a fitting tribute to our former chairman, who established the Surgical Scientist Program, recognized during the past year by its selection for the Northrop Frye Award.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions about the newsletter and to hearing about stories and events you feel will be interesting to our community.

Martin McKneally

NAME **THE NEWSLETTER** CONTEST

We invite readers to submit their suggestions for naming the surgery newsletter. For example, McGill's newsletter is "The Square Knot"; Minnesota's is "The Cutting Edge". The winner will receive two tickets to the Gallie Day dinner and a copy of Atul Gwande's Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science, written while he was a surgical resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Here is an example of his writing:

The successful M & M presentation inevitably involves a certain elision of detail and a lot of passive verbs. No one screws up a cricothyroidotomy. Instead, "a cricothyroidotomy was attempted without success". The message, however, was not lost on anyone ... To the family's great relief, and mine, she had woken up in the morning a bit woozy but hungry, alert, and mentally intact ... But not before someone was called to account. A front-row voice immediately thundered, "What do you mean, 'a cricothyroidotomy was attempted without success'?" I sank into my seat, my face hot ... At no point during the M & M did anyone question why I had not called for help sooner or why I had not had the skill and knowledge that [the patient] needed. This is not to say that my actions were seen as acceptable. Rather, in the hierarchy, addressing my errors was [the attending surgeon's] role. The day after the disaster, [he] had caught me in the hall and taken me aside. His voice was more wounded than angry as he went through my specific failures. First, he explained ...

Atul Gawande

Submit your suggestions to: jean.defazio@utoronto.ca by November 15, 2003

Regenerative Tissue Engineering: Eliminating The Donor Site Problem

Repair and reconstruction, the most satisfying aspects of surgical treatment, will become more readily available and practical when we can take the donor tissue off the shelf, rather than harvesting it from the patient. Covering burns and filling defects created by traumatic injuries and extirpative cancer surgery, are limited by the donor site problem, despite current imaginative and time



John Semple

consuming innovations in grafting techniques.

The Advanced Regenerative Tissue Engineering Centre (ARTEC) at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre and the University of Toronto will build on the drive of surgeons and the biomaterials science expertise of engineers. ARTEC Director John Semple, Chief of Plastic Surgery, and Associate ARTEC Director Kim Woodhouse of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry have been notified that they and their colleagues have been awarded \$12 million over the next five years to craft and grow these tissues. The other team members include engineers Michael Sefton, Director of the Institute of Biomaterials and Bioengineering, and Molly Schoichet who is well known for her spinal chord regeneration work. Dan Dumont is a basic scientist at Sunnybrook and Women's and is an expert in angiogenesis. Surgeons Raj Midha, Neurosurgery, and Joel Fish, Director of the Ross Tilley Burn Centre, are Principal Investigators on the team who will provide clinical and research expertise. One of the important aspects of this award is the provision for hiring two new scientists who will concentrate on wound healing and regenerative projects within ARTEC.

The program is an exciting interdisciplinary enterprise with engineers observing in the operating room and clinic, intensely motivated by their continuous exposure to clinical problems. (Their office is in the middle of the plastic surgery clinic.) Surgeons are stimulated and strengthened by the knowledge and skills of their engineering colleagues. John says that the

most fun part of this project has been building the team, and participating in the development of ideas, as the team members interact using concept-generating techniques more typical of the business world. The funding for the program comes through the Ontario Research Development Challenge Fund, an industry initiative that requires matching investment from the institution, the government and the private sector. The government contribution comes from the Ministry of Technology, Industry and Innovation. Institutional funding is from the University and the Health Sciences Centre, and the private sector funding comes from Apotex Research Inc., Elastin Specialties, matRegen and Rimon Therapeutics. These funds will support the hiring of new scientists in engineering and immunology, build new space for scientific research, establish a clinical trials program, attract a prestigious research advisory committee and provide the facilities for training surgeons and engineers in advanced biotechnology. The main focus of the program will be on skin substitutes, materials to promote angiogenesis, build soft tissue scaffolds, and enhance nerve regeneration.

John started out in the Medical Illustrating Program (Art as Applied to Medicine) here at the University of Toronto. One day, while working with sports injury specialist David McIntosh to illustrate a novel cruciate ligament repair, he was called into service to hold retractors because the team was short a resident. The future suddenly became clear; he entered McMaster Medical School, then studied plastic surgery at the University of Toronto under Dr. W.K. Lindsay. During his resident training he completed a MSc in the Department of Experimental Pathology where his research focused on microcirculation in the skin.

The ARTEC Program is an exciting synthesis of a talented group of clinicians and researchers and a credit to John's leadership and vision.



KERESTECI Tribute

Former residents and colleagues of Dr. Ara Keresteci gathered recently for dinner at the Rosedale Golf Club to recognize his more than thirty years of postgraduate teaching and other contributions to the Department of Surgery, Division of Urology.

Known to his students as Dr. K, Ara graduated from Istanbul University Medical School forty-nine years ago. The son of a urologist, after internship in New York City he became one of Bill Kerr's Research Fellows in a forerunner of what we now know as the Surgeon Scientist Program. Following Urology residency at the University of Toronto, he became a Fellow of the Royal College in 1962. After a McLaughlin Traveling Fellowship, he joined the staff at the Wellesley Hospital as the first head of Urology in 1964 and built an outstanding division. Many of his residents and fellows sent letters of tribute that were presented to him at the dinner, along with a silver tray, engraved with the names of all of his residents and presented by his first residents Fred Meade and John Hambly, both recently retired from practice in Peterborough and Angelo Ioacca, one of his last residents, now practicing in Barrie. The highlight of the evening were the many happy memories recalled in tributes and vignettes shared by the men and women who clearly regarded him as their principal mentor. Practice patterns were deeply influenced by the habits and values of their warm, interested counselor and role model. His eldest son Garo's reminiscences about life as the son of a surgeon touched cords with the surgeon parents in attendance.

Michael Jewett Division of Urology



Michael Jewett, Ara Keresteci & John Rankin (left to right)



Ara Keresteci, Fred Meade, Angelo locca & John Hambly (left to right)

Working Towards a **New Training Model** A Think Tank on Residency Education June 12-13, 2003

When Richard Reznick assumed the Chair of Surgery he proposed a retreat for faculty members, university staff and residents to consider new ways of delivering postgraduate surgical education, for Toronto and surgical programs everywhere. That retreat took place at the Old Mill on June 12 and 13, 2003. About 80 people attended including division chairs and heads, program directors, education researchers and a cohort of residents from each division and year, selected by program directors for their creative ideas and willingness to speak in public. Guests included Assoc. Dean Urowitz; program directors from Anesthesia, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Radiation Oncology; Nadia Mikhael, Director, Royal College of Physicians and

Surgeons of Canada; and Gary Dunnington, Chair of Surgery, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

The objectives of the retreat were to analyze impediments to effective residency education, reach consensus about current resident activities, and initiate a framework for arriving at a new model for training in Surgery. The stage was set with a general discussion among the entire audience on educational challenges for residency training. Stan Hamstra presented the views residents expressed in their written evaluations of staff and rotations, and David Backstein enlightened us with how residencies function elsewhere in the world. Nadia Mikhael presented the Royal College's view on what residency training should accomplish. It appeared that the College was open to some experimentation if we choose that route.

In the next session, moderated by Doug Hedden, residents Sarah Woodrow, Tony Finelli, Sanj Dutta and Ravi Sidhu held the audience in rapt attention with their views on what works and what doesn't in surgical training. This was followed by Gary Dunnington's vision for residency training - "how they do it" and how it should be done. Dr. Dunnington's contributions related closely to issues brought up at other stages of the retreat. Many described his talk as brilliant and transforming.

Next came the obverse of the residents' panel, in which Bryce Taylor moderated a panel of diverse and excellent surgical educators: Mark Bernstein, William Cole, Joel Fish, Gail Darling and Jim Waddell, who gave their views on how surgeons should train. This was followed by Richard Reznick's discussion of where we are and where we might go with surgical training if we dare - a challenge to consider new models and throw away old ideas. We then heard our guest program directors' opinions on the proceedings: Susan Tallet (Paeds), David Mcknight (Anesthesia) and Allan Kaplan (Psychiatry).

After an overnight break, participants broke into subgroups

- to discuss five topics which group leaders Ron Levine, Tom Lindsay, David Backstein, Bob Mustard and Helen MacRae presented to the entire gathering:
- 1) Cast of 100s or select few who should teach Surgery trainees?
- 2) When should trainees learn to operate - 3rd year undergrad or 7th year residency?
 - 3) A scutless work week?
- 4) Clinical teaching units or learning
- 5) Surgical education: broad based or tightly focused?

Richard Reznick then wrapped up the

Key themes emerged. The status quo must change, but good elements should be retained. We can do better with the model

we have by eliminating educational "dead space." Educational experiences are inhibited by service work and teaching that is not consistently high in quality. We should consider new models of education delivery and not be bound to the clinical teaching unit with its service needs, unpredictable clinical material and disadvantaging of junior residents' clinical educations. Expansion of the role of the Surgical Skills Centre, apprenticeships and targeted learning modules could be incorporated into training. Learning to operate must not be deferred to senior residency; juniors must get into the operating rooms sooner, more often, and more effectively from an educational perspective. Resource limitations, legal and ethical constraints must be factored into any change we propose.

The retreat met its objectives and was tremendous fun. Every participant put suggestions forward, and most took home new ideas and consumed good food. The proceedings were taped and transcribed. Richard Reznick and I will put our heads together to develop a green paper for broad dissemination and discussion before taking the next step towards innovation.

John M.A. Bohnen Director, Postgraduate Education



John Bohnen

Into Africa



Alexandra Mihailovic and Kadeem (GenSurg Resident)

Alex Mihailovic began her Surgeon Scientist Program this summer with a trip to Africa to develop her thesis plan for a Masters degree in Health Policy Management and Evaluation. Alex will study the social and economic benefits, and the cost of effective and timely surgical treatment of traumatic injuries in children. Her advisors are HSC paediatric orthopaedic surgeon Andrew Howard and Massey Beveridge, Director of the University of Toronto's International Surgery Program.

During her summer rotation in Africa, Alex will also facilitate the two-year-old Ptolemy Project to increase electronic access of east African surgeons to the University of Toronto's library. Her longer term plan is to specialize in paediatric surgery and to become proficient and effective in teaching and managing programs of treatment of traumatic injuries by African surgeons in underserved areas, enabling them to deal with common neglected problems like post-partum vesicovaginal fistulas and other obstetrical trauma that is endemic. Trauma is an expensive and under treated epidemic that receives far less public recognition than epidemics like AIDS and malaria. Alex says: "AIDS and malaria are brilliant diseases, but we can outsmart femoral fractures."

Her research will emphasize sustainability of health care by training local surgeons. Alex visited surgeons in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda this summer, and she attended the Association of East African Surgeons meeting in mid-August in order to develop her network of contacts for the initial clinical epidemiological phase of her research.

Alex grew up in North Bay, where her father is a forester and her mother a midwife. Her interest in surgery began when she worked in Honduras with a plastic surgeon repairing birth defects. She then went on to attend medical school at McMaster. She has traveled to India, Nepal and worked in South Africa, where her interest in international surgery was strengthened. She ran a kayaking company in Honduras and worked for Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity in earlier versions of her life. Her musical interests include piano, guitar and singing. Lucille Teasdale, the great Canadian surgeon from Montreal is one of her role models and heroes. Teasdale founded a hospital in Uganda where she dedicated her life to treating people with diseases like AIDS and malaria and eventually contracted AIDS herself during an operation. She was recognized with many awards, including the Saskawa Prize, the WHO's most prestigious distinction. Alex illustrates the larger scope of the Surgeon Scientist Program discussed elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. She will keep readers informed about her progress from Africa.

Correspondence

"While I have always enjoyed reading the Surgery Newsletter, I am tremendously impressed now by the fullness of content. I actually look forward to receiving it even more now than earlier. Congratulations. This certainly is an important communication vehicle within the Department."

Bernard Goldman

Letters to the editor are welcome to keep the community informed of opinions, events and the activities of our surgeons, friends and alumni.

Campaign For Bernard and Ryna Langer Chair in General Surgery

The Department of Surgery and the Division of General Surgery propose the creation of a chair to honour the contributions of Bernard Langer, former Chairman of the Division of General Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery. One of North America's leading academic surgeons, Bernie Langer's superb surgical skills have saved and improved the lives of thousands of patients. He trained a generation of excellent surgeons who have gone on to successful careers.

As an inspiring role model for academic surgeons, the Division of General Surgery has chosen to honour him through the creation of the Dr. Bernard and Ryna Langer Chair in General Surgery. The Chair's name also honours Dr. Langer's wife Ryna for her quiet, unwavering support of his career and the Division.

Our goal is to raise at least \$2 million this academic year for The Dr. Bernard and Ryna Langer Chair in General Surgery.

The Chair will be held by the Chairperson of the Division of General Surgery, and the annual income will be distributed at his or her discretion to support the Division's mission in care, research and education.

Permanently endowed with \$2 million and held at the University, the Chair will produce a reliable annual income that can be used to: recruit and retain outstanding faculty members, fund the Surgeon Scientist Program founded by Dr. Langer, provide funding for post-doctoral fellows or mid-career scientists, and protect the time of busy clinicians, so that they can pursue research.

The first chair holder will be Zane Cohen, Chair, of the Division of General Surgery. Zane completed his MD at the University of Toronto in 1969, his residency training in Toronto, and research training in Edinburgh, Scotland, and London, England. Since 1990, he has been Surgeon-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital. A prolific researcher, Zane has published nearly 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals.



Bernard and Ryna Langer

"Bernie Langer taught me surgical skills, but he also taught me how to think," says Dr. Cohen. "He was a wonderful model and mentor for a young physician - an exceptionally gifted surgeon, a committed researcher and an administrator of energy and vision. I owe him a great deal: we all do."

Please join us in paying tribute to an exceptional surgeon

Leadership is critical to the development of the Division of General Surgery at University of Toronto. As Dr. Langer proved, a leader with vision and commitment can provide the impetus for major advances in research and education. That translates into improved patient care — in Toronto teaching hospitals, and around the world. The Langer Chair will ensure that general surgery in Toronto can attract and retain outstanding leaders.

Dr. Langer's colleagues in the Division of General Surgery at the University of Toronto and the Langer family have already donated generously to the fund. Surgical alumni and colleagues from around the world are invited to honour Dr. Langer by making a meaningful gift to the Langer Chair in General Surgery. All donations will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Please make your donation by sending back the enclosed pledge form. Call 416-946-0019 or e-mail rebecca.davies@utoronto.ca for more information.

ROBIN HUMPHREYS Leaves HSC after 33 Years of Service to Neurosurgery

Robin Humphreys



Dr. Robin Humphreys is retiring after thirty-three years of devoted service to the Pediatric Neurosurgery Program at the Hospital for Sick Children. Robin began his internship at St. Michael's Hospital in orthopaedics, but was captivated by a rotation in neurosurgery. After much soul searching he made the decision to switch programs. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Neurosurgery in 1970, and a staff surgeon at The Hospital for Sick Children on the recommendation of the Neurosurgeon-in-Chief, Bruce Hendrick.

In the years that followed, Robin's addition to the neurosurgical staff, the case volume accelerated exponentially until there were more than 100 patients on the neurosurgical service. He initiated the Craniofacial Program at HSC along with Ian Monroe, and became an expert in the care of children with spina bifida and vascular malformations. He established a structured teaching program to help residents and fellows learn the nuances of pediatric neurosurgery. Robin has held leadership positions in the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons, and served as an editor for Pediatric Neurosurgery, and Neurosurgery. He was awarded the Donald Matson Lectureship by the AANS/CNS Section on Pediatrics in 2003, and The Hospital for Sick Children

Foundation Claus Wirsig Humanitarian Award 2003. He was the Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at The Hospital for Sick Children from 1996 to 2003, and the inaugural appointee to the Shoppers Drug Mart/Harold Hoffman Chair in pediatric neurosurgery.

Most notable among Dr. Humphreys' special attributes is his devotion to The Hospital for Sick Children, for which he has been a prominent statesmen and diplomat. His retirement ends a chapter that began with The Three H's: E. Bruce Hendrick, Harold J. Hoffman and Robin Humphreys, an outstanding era in the history of pediatric neurosurgery at The Hospital for Sick Children. By virtue of his constant support of his junior colleagues, James Drake, James Rutka and Peter Dirks, it is clear that Dr. Humphreys has co-authored the history of the next chapter. We wish our colleague, teacher and friend a happy and healthy retirement.

James Rutka Division Chair, Neurosurgery

New Staff

The Department of Surgery warmly welcomes the following individuals who have joined our Department.



Rebecca Davies

Rebecca Davies, a U of T alumna, joined the department this summer bringing excellent credentials and expertise in fundraising from her prior appointment at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music and the Women's College Hospital Foundation. She will help the department campaign to

strengthen funding of the Surgeon Scientist Program and develop endowed chairs and other top priorities in all clinical divisions. Active in the community, Rebecca is a director on several arts boards where her portfolios include fundraising, publicity and finance, and she also volunteers at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre. In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys performing with orchestras and chamber groups, golfing, and hiking and canoeing in the Canadian wilderness.

Martin McKneally



Alexandra Easson

The Division of General Surgery and the Department of Surgery welcome Alexandra Easson. Alexandra obtained her MD at Queen's University and completed General Surgery residency at the University of Ottawa. From 1996-1998 she was a Research Fellow in

General Surgical Oncology at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She went on to do a Clinical Fellowship at the University of Toronto under the direction of Carol Swallow. Alexandra has also completed the diploma program in Clinical Epidemiology in the Department of Health Policy Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto and is presently enrolled in the Masters Program in Clinical Epidemiology.

Alexandra has a keen interest in Surgical Oncology and Palliative Care related to End of Life Programs. She has written several book chapters on topics such as Selection and Preparation of Candidates for Surgical Palliation, Understanding and Managing Cancer Cachexia, and Surgery and Palliative Care: A New Prespective and Ethical Considerations and Barriers to Research and Surgical Palliative Care. She has become well-known for this work in the U.S and has presented it throughout the world. This particular domain of Surgical Oncology is an important one to be highlighted both in the clinical and in the research arenas.

Zane Cohen Division Chair, General Surgery



Linda Dvali

Linda Dvali has been appointed to the University of Toronto Hand Program at the Toronto Western Hospital in the Division of Plastic Surgery.

Dr. Dvali completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario and also contin-

ued her medical school training there. She entered the Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program at the University of Toronto in 1996 and graduated in 2001. Following this, she spent a one-year clinical fellowship under the supervision of Dr. Susan Mackinnon at Washington University in St. Louis and subsequently completed an MSc in clinical epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

Linda's area of clinical practice will be in hand surgery and specifically in the field of peripheral nerve surgery. Her research interests will focus on outcome studies in hand trauma. We are very excited to have Linda back on staff in the Division of Plastic Surgery.

Peter Neligan Division Chair, Plastic Surgery



Abhaya Kulkarni

Abhaya Kulkarni completed his residency in the Neurosurgery Training Program at the University of Toronto in 2002, and has just returned from his fellowship at L'hopital Enfants Malades in pediatric neurosurgery. There, he completed a project on the conservative management of children

with lipomyelomeningocele, and learned the nuances of pediatric neurosurgical procedures on the clinical service. Abhaya will be bringing his expertise on evidence based medicine and clinical epidemiology to the neurosurgical staff at the Hospital for Sick Children. He has successfully completed his graduate studies and has received his PhD in Clinical Epidemiology from McMaster University. At Sick Kids, he will be continuing his role in organizing and conducting clinical trials in neurosurgery.

Division Chair, Neurosurgery

James Rutka



Wey Liang Leong

The Division of General Surgery and the Department of Surgery welcome Wey Liang Leong. Wey obtained his BSc and MD from Dalhousie University, where he also completed his general surgical residency training, and the Clinician-Investigator Program,

receiving an MSc in Pathology. From 2000-2001, he completed a Breast Surgical Fellowship and also carried out multidisciplinary approaches to breast cancer and melanoma patients. This was followed by a Surgical-Assistantship at the Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Science Centre, and an Associate Staff position at Princess Margaret Hospital/Mount Sinai Hospital.

Wey's academic role at the University of Toronto will be that of a Surgeon-Investigator. His special expertise and interest in breast surgical oncology will be part of his clinical program; his major academic focus will involve translational breast cancer research and he will work closely with Dr. Jim Woodgett of the OCI/PMH Research Institute. Wey will be developing a breast cancer surgical database in collaboration with the tumour bank at the Princess Margaret Hospital. He will function in a multi-disciplinary program involving the breast units at both the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Zane Cohen Division Chair, General Surgery

Ian McGilvray

The Division of General Surgery and the Department of Surgery welcome Surgeon-Scientist Ian McGilvray. Ian received his MD from McGill University and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. In 2001-02, he was a Surgical Transplant Fellow at the University Health Network; he began his appointment at UHN and Mount Sinai hospital July 1, 2003.

Ian has won numerous awards including the Gallie-Bateman Award in 1999, and Medical Research Council of Canada Research Fellowships in 1997–8. He has already received peer-reviewed research funding from the Physician Services Incorporated to study molecular mechanisms of organ injury after liver transplantation-potential strategies for prevention. Ian's clinical practice will employ his special interest and expertise in transplantation, with a lesser emphasis on benign and malignant diseases within the hepatobiliary system. His research will be in the area of pathogenesis of liver injury following transplantation, to which he has already made substantial contributions.

Zane Cohen Division Chair, General Surgery

Joao Pippi Salle

Joao Pippi Salle joined the staff in pediatric urology at the Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Pippi Salle is originally from Brazil where he became a pediatric urologist and worked in Sao Paulo. He continued his pediatric urology training with a fellowship at HSC and then had a locum staff position for a few years. He moved to Montreal where he was appointed Chief of Urology at the Montreal Children's Hospital for a number of years.

Dr. Pippi Salle is well known as a surgical innovator in reconstructive urology. The "Pippi Salle' procedure which involves reconstruction of the incompetent bladder neck is named after him. He will be conducting clinical research and has a special interest in resident education.

Sender Herschorn Division Chair, Urology



Michael Reedijk

The Division of General Surgery and the Department of Surgery welcome Surgeon- Scientist Michael Reedijk. Michael obtained his BSc and MSc from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at McGill University, and his Ph.D. from the Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics at the

University of Toronto under the supervision of Tony Pawson. He also completed his MD, residencies in both General Pediatrics and General Surgery, and a General Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the University of Toronto.

Michael joined the active staff at the Princess Margaret Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital as of July 2003. His clinical work will focus on breast and gastrointestinal surgery. Michael's major academic focus will involve the molecular genetics and self-signaling pathways related to the pathogenesis of breast cancer. In addition, a specific task of his will be the development of the Breast Cancer Tumour Bank at Princess Margaret Hospital. Zane Cohen

Division Chair, General Surgery



Taufik Valiante

Taufik Valiante completed his residency in the Neurosurgery Training Program at the University of Toronto in 2002, and has just finished an epilepsy neurosurgery fellowship at the University of Washington, Seattle, under the mentorship of Dr George Ojemann. There, he learned Dr Ojemann's

technique of language mapping for patient's undergoing epilepsy surgery. Taufik is the recipient of a CIHR Clinician-Scientist Award which will provide funds for his research in the field of electrophysiology. His neurosurgical staff appointment is at the Toronto Western Hospital where he will be building his practice in adult epilepsy surgery.

James Rutka Division Chair, Neurosurgery

[Continued on next page]



Vasundara Venkateswaran

The Department of Surgery welcomes Vasundara Venkateswaran. Vasundara obtained her PhD from the Cancer Institute at the University of Madras, India, was a post-doctoral fellow at Washington State University and a Research Associate at the University of Kansas Medical Centre. She

returned to Madras for 4 years, where she was Head of the Dept. of Biochemistry, before immigrating to Canada in 1999. She was recruited to run the Prostate Cancer Research Laboratory under the supervision of Neil Fleshner and myself, where she has been a huge success. She has established a major initiative in the study of the cellular effects of micronutrients in prostate cancer prevention, which has resulted in a burgeoning research program.

Vasundara has established productive collaborations with investigators in Toronto and throughout North America. The current focus of her work is based on a transgenic model of prostate cancer prevention. In particular, she is analysing the molecular and genetic events which are induced by micronutrients in this model.

Laurence Klotz Division of Urology

THE POWER OF DATA



Ontario Pancreas Cancer Study Team

Steve Gallinger's research group at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute has recently received a \$8 million award and a \$0.5 million award from the United States' National Institutes of Health to continue their productive research on colorectal and pancreatic cancer. Steve relates this remarkable success to "the power of data" and particularly to the Canadian approach to data and the Ontario Cancer Registry.

Facilitated by a single payer system and the cooperative culture of Canadian medicine, the pancreas study will track pancreatic cancer patients using e-path, an electronic reporting system developed by Artificial Intelligence in Medicine which enables ultra-rapid transmission of pathology reports to the Ontario Cancer Registry. This will facilitate earlier identification and contact with pancreatic cancer patients. Research questions will include an inquiry into why so few enter pancreatic cancer chemotherapy trials, despite recent advances in treating the disease with gemcitabine.

Data powered the recent successes of Steve's research group in the molecular genetic characterization of colon cancers and the clinical implications of genotyping them in his laboratory. Last year, lead author Rob Gryfe published a convincing demonstration in the New England Journal of Medicine that one readily identifiable genotype of colon cancer has a distinctly better prognosis. Rob is now a member of the general surgery staff at Mt. Sinai Hospital. This summer Steve's group published an important follow-up in the same journal showing that the same subtype of colon cancer derives no benefit from adjuvant treatment with 5- FU based chemotherapy that is well proven to be helpful in the majority of colon cancer patients. This finding will spare an identifiable subgroup of patients from potentially harmful side effects of chemotherapy.

In addition to the power of data, the success and international recognition of this unit also demonstrates the power of a well-developed, patiently constructed infrastructure of laboratory science and personnel linked to clinical practice through informed and committed clinician-scientists.

Martin McKneally



Honours/Awards/ Accomplishments

Ben Alman (OrthSurg) is one of the recipients of the Premiers Research Excellence Award (PREA), awarded to some of the best and brightest researchers in Ontario.

Mark Bernstein (NeurSurg) won the Anderson Award for long standing contributions to teaching (UHN).

Leslie Carr (UrolSurg) organized the first meeting of Canadian Women in Urology at the Canadian Urologic Association Annual Meeting in June.

Dr. Carr has been elected first President of the new Society for Canadian Pelvic Health Care Professionals.

Walid Farhat (UrolSurg) has been awarded a Canadian Urological Association Scholarship in recognition of the research performance and in support of academic work in the coming year. Dr. Farhat will continue his work in tissue engineering and repopulation of acellular matrices for the purpose of bladder reconstruction.

Michael Fehlings (NeurSurg) won the Anderson Post-graduate Award (UHN).

Geoffrey Fernie (Research) has been appointed to the position of Vice-President of Research at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.

Fred Gentili (NeurSurg) has won the J.F. Ross Fleming Award at the University Health Network.

Robert Ginsberg (ThorSurg) who demonstrated remarkable skill and dedication to teaching despite his declining health in the past year has been awarded posthumously The Robert J. Ginsberg Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching.

Paul Greig (GenSurg) has been awarded the Frank Mills Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Faculty Member, and is well known for his remarkable patience and teaching skills.

Sender Herschorn (UrolSurg) became the first holder of the Martin Barkin Chair in Urological Research. This was created to fund research and education in urology at the University of Toronto and its affiliated teaching hospitals. The Chair was established in conjunction with the Faculty of Medicine

Development Department. It was named in honour of Martin Barkin, a former member of the Division of Urology and retiring Board Chair at Sunnybrook and Women's in honour of his life long contribution to health care. The Sunnybrook and Women's Foundation has also committed to raising funds for the Chair.

Dr. Herschorn was appointed Chair of the Guidelines Committee of the Canadian Urological Association at the Annual Meeting in Montreal, June 2003.

Dr. Herschorn was elected National Canadian Delegate to the Societe Internaional d'Urologie at the Canadian Section Meeting during the CUA.

Robin Humphreys (NeurSurg) received this year's 2003 Donald D. Matson Award given by the Pediatric Section on the occasion of the 2003 annual meeting of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons in San Diego.

Michael Jewett (UrolSurg) was elected Vice-President of the Canadian Urological Association at the Annual Meeting in Montreal in June, 2003.

Andras Kapus (Research) is one of the recipients of the Premiers Research Excellence Award (PREA), awarded to some of the best and brightest researchers in Ontario.

Ron Kodama (UrolSurg) won the A.W. Bruce Faculty Undergraduate Teaching Award for 2002-2003 for outstanding teaching to medical students.

Jacob Langer (GenSurg) has been awarded the 2002-2003 Award for the best Principles of Surgery Lecturer from the Department of Surgery.

Calvin Law (GenSurg) has been awarded the 2003 Peters-Boyd Academy Teaching Award for Clinical Teaching, Undergraduate Education.

Andres Lozano (NeurSurg) has been awarded this year's Penfield Lectureship Award by the Canadian Neurosurgical Society at the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences meeting in Quebec City.

Robert Nam (UrolSurg) has been awarded the Division of Urology Postgraduate Teaching Award for Surgical Teaching 2002-2003.

Dr. Nam has been awarded a Canadian Urological Association Scholarship in recognition of research performance and in support of academic work. Dr. Nam will continue his research into the genetics of prostate cancer.

Kenneth Pace (UrolSurg) has been awarded a Canadian Urological Association Scholarship in recognition of research performance and in support of academic work. Dr. Pace will continue his research in minimally invasive surgical procedures, epidemiology and treatment of stone diseases.

Eric Poulin (GenSurg) has accepted the position as Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Ottawa, Chief of Surgery and Head of Surgical Services at the Ottawa Hospital in Ottawa, Ontario. With Dr. Poulin's departure, Jim Mahoney (PlasSurg) will serve as interim Chief of Surgery.

Vivek Rao (CardSurg) has been awarded the New Investigator Award from the CIHR Research Personnel Award Competition for his project: "Transplant Vasculopathy: The Role of the Endothelium".

Andrew Smith (GenSurg) has been awarded the 2003 Peters-Boyd Academy Teaching Award for Excellence in Innovation in Continuing Education.

Robert Stewart (UrolSurg) won the Division of Urology Postgraduate Teaching Award for Clinical Teaching 2002-2003.

Charles Tator (NeurSurg) was awarded a lifetime achievement award at this year's Canadian Spine Society Meeting held in March, 2003 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

John Trachtenberg (UrolSurg) was recognized for his clinical and research expertise at a Gala Dinner on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute and the Princess Margaret Hospital teamed up to honour Dr. Trachtenberg, Director of the Prostate Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Tom Waddell (ThorSurg) has been awarded the New Investigator Award from the CIHR Research Personnel Award Competition for his project: "L-selectin Modulation of Chemokine Receptor Expression and Function: Mechanisms and Significance".

Christopher Wallace (NeurSurg) won the Anderson Undergraduate Teaching Award (UHN).

Yaron Shargall (Clinical Fellow, T/S, Supervisors: G. Darling/S. Keshavjee) is this year's recipient of the F. Griffith Pearson Award for Best Resident/Fellow Teacher. Dr. Shargall has been a Fellow at Toronto General Hospital since July 2001 and has shown outstanding leadership and enthusiasm in teaching our junior residents and medical students.

Mark Walsh (Clinical Fellow, HPB, Supervisor: P. Greig) has been awarded the Paddy Lewis Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Clinical Fellow. Mark continues to be commended for the consistently excellent teaching experience he provides to his colleagues and to the junior members of his surgical team.

Brett Beber (PlasSurg Resident) has been awarded the Sopman Humanitarian Award, presented at the home of Michael and Judy Sopman on Thursday, June 19, 2003.

Aaron Blumenfeld (UrolSurg Resident) has been awarded the Harrison Award for Clinical Clerk Teaching ate Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre and the Division of Urology Best Resident Teacher Award.

Sevan Hopyan (OrthSurg Resident, Supervisors: J. Wunder/B. Alman) is the recipient of this year's Royal College Resident Research Award.

Kouros Latifpour Moozar (GenSurg Resident, Supervisor: S. Gallinger) has been awarded the Joseph M. Family West Memorial Fund by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee.

Todd Mainprize (NeurSurg Resident, Supervisor: J. Rutka) has won the 2003 Warren Ho Humanitarian Scholarship Award.

Karim Mukhida (NeurSurg Resident) is the winner of the Sopman Humanitarian Award at the University Health Network. This award recognizes the human side of practice endeavours.

Mark Peterson (CardSurg Resident, Supervisors: T. Waddell/S. Keshavjee) has been awarded the Joseph M. Family West Memorial Fund and the Edie Steinberg Scholarship Fund by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee.

Sheila Singh (NeurSurg Resident, Supervisor: P. Dirks) is the recipient of the Josie Walthers Memorial Award for laboratory research, at the Hospital for Sick Children, Surgical Services Research Competition in May, 2003.

Peter Stotland (GenSurg Resident) has won the Paddy Lewis Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Junior General Surgery Resident. Peter is known by faculty, residents and students for this outstanding dedication to patient care and teaching.

Eve Tsai (NeurSurg Resident) has been awarded the K.G. McKenzie Award for Basic Science Research at the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences Meeting, June 20, 2003 for

her project titled: "Novel Synthetic Grafts Promote Axonal Regeneration and Functional Recovery After Spinal Cord Transaction".

Sudobh Verma (CardSurg Resident) has been awarded the 2003 Bigelow Research Award at the Annual Terrence Donnely Cardiac Surgery Resident Competition held on May 30, 2003.

Gelareh Zadeh (NeuSurg Resident) has been awarded the K.G. McKenzie Award for Basic Science Research at the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences Meeting, June 20, 2003 for her presentation: "Role of Angiopoietins in Astrocytoma Angiogenesis".

Dr. Zadeh has also been awarded the Henry A. Beatty Scholarship and is the highest ranked Postgraduate Medical Education Awardee this year.



Michael Fehlings (NeurSurg) has been awarded a three-year CIHR Operating Grant for his project titled: "Investigation and Treatment of Traumatic Axonal Dysfunction after Spinal Cord Injury".

Geoffrey Fernie (Research) has been awarded a three-year CIHR Operating Grant for his project titled: "Design and Efficacy of Novel Interface Sling Systems for Lifting Patients".

Neil Fleshner (UrolSurg) has been awarded a Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Initiative (CPCRI) Idea Grant for his project: "Incidence and Characteristics of Prostate Cancers Detected in Men with Prostate Specific Antigen Values <2.5ng/ml".

Shaf Keshavjee (ThorSurg) has been awarded a five-year CIHR Operating Grant for his project titled: "Gene Therapeutic Strategies for Transplant Related Lung Injury".

Calvin Law (GenSurg) has been awarded a two-year Canadian Cancer Society Research Grant for his project: "A Population Based Study of the Outcomes of Transanal Resection for Rectal Cancer".

Gary Levy (GenSurg) with Myron Cybulsku, Grey Downey, Reginald Gorczynski, Andras Kapus, David Kelvin, Philip Marsden, Ori Rotstein, Li Zhang have been awarded a CIHR Grant (group grant) for their project: "Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Organ Injury".

Mingyao Liu (Research) has been awarded a five-year CIHR Operating Grant for his project titled: "Signaling Cross-talk in Acute Lung Injury".

James Rutka (NeurSurg) received a three-year grant from the Ontario Cancer Research Network (OCRN) for his proposal entitled Gli2 as a target for the treatment of Medulloblastoma.

Andrew Smith (GenSurg) and his team have been awarded a two-year grant in the amount of \$250,000 by the Ontario Cancer Research Network (OCRN) in support of their project "Improving Colon Cancer Staging Through a Multimodal Knowledge Translation Program Aimed at Surgeons and Pathologists".

John Trachtenberg (UrolSurg) has been awarded a Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Initiative (CPCRI) Idea Grant for his project: "Fluorescence-guided Radical Prostatectomy".

Dr. Trachtenberg, with Brian Wilson and Michael Sherar received a grant for \$1,000,000 from Ontario Consortium for Image Guided Surgery and Therapy to Develop Novel Means of Image Guided Surgery in GU Tumors.

Dr. Trachtenberg received a \$50,000 grant from National Cancer Institute of Canada to study Fluorescent Guided Prostate Surgery.

Nancy L. Young et al John Wedge (OrthSurg) have been awarded a three-year CIHR Operating Grant for project titled: "What is the Health and Quality of Life for 'Graduates' from Children's Rehabilitation Centres? Are There Characteristic Patterns or Predictors?".

Cari Whyne (Research) has been awarded a three-year Canadian Breast Cancer Research Initiative (CBCRI) Research Grant for her project: "A Prospective Study of Biomechanically-based Guidelines in Metastatic Burst Fracture Risk Prediction".

Shafie Fazel (CardSurg Resident, Supervisors: R. Li/R. Weisel) has been awarded a 2003 CIHR Operating Grant for project titled: "Gene-enhanced Cell Transplantation to Reverse Remodel the Failing Heart".

Anand Ghanekar (GenSurg Resident, Supervisors: G. Levy/D. Grant) has been awarded the Chisholm Memorial Fellowship and the William Cron and Jean Harris Memorial Fellowship by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee.

[Continued on back page]

Cory Goldberg (PlasSurg Resident) has been awarded the 2002 Fresh Start Fellowship Award by the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation for his project titled: "Strain Pattern Directed Engineered Bone for Craniofacial Reconstruction".

Rachel Khadaroo (GenSurg Resident, Supervisor: O. Rotstein) has been awarded the Chisholm Memorial Fellowship, Edward Christie Stevens Fellowship and the Timeposters Award by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee.

Dr. Khadaroo has been successful in obtaining a 2003 CIHR Operating Grant for her project titled: "The Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms Regulating Stress-induced Priming of the Macrophage".

Kinga Powers (GenSurg Resident, Supervisor: O. Rotstein) has been awarded the William S. Fenwick Fellowship by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee.

Gelareh Zadeh (NeurSurg Resident) has been awarded the Edward Christie Stevens Fellowship by the Postgraduate Medicine Awards Committee.

Dr. Zadeh is recipient of one of the two NCIC Fellowship awards awarded this year.

The deadline for the Winter 2003 Surgery Newsletter is November 15, 2003. All members of the Department are invited to submit news items, articles, pictures, ideas or announcements.

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voice mail: 416-978-8177, fax: 416-978-3928 or

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Please provide your name and telephone number so that we may contact you if we have any questions.

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CELEBRATING

A GREAT

SURGEON

The Dr. Bernard and Ryna Langer Chair in General Surgery



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