Words of Wisdom by Werle!

I hope you all had a safe and relaxing holiday season. Although I’m sure it was quieter than usual for most of us, I hope you took the opportunity to enjoy the season and recharge in anticipation of the new year upon us. With vaccinations underway in the province, there is hope on the horizon. I would like to congratulate Dr. Nick Desy, who has assumed the role of Program Director for the Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program. The residents, staff, and faculty look forward to working with Nick in this new role.

I would also like to congratulate, Drs. Prism Schneider and Ryan Martin, who will co-lead our Continuing Medical Education program within the Section of Orthopaedic Surgery. The monthly City-wide Orthopaedic Rounds are a key component of our Section’s CME activities and there are several interesting topics and speakers coming up in the next few months. They will continue via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Thank you to Dr. Christina Hiscox for her work as CME lead for the past 6 years.

While the second wave of the pandemic continues, I know that many of our Section members have been impacted by surgery postponements. Thank you for your patience as we continue to follow public health, zone, and site-specific guidelines over the next few months. Please also track surgical cases that have been postponed so that we have good data to support resource allocation in the future once we are through the pandemic. The vast majority of surgeons and OR staff as well as Ortho residents should receive vaccinations during Phase 1B of the vaccination roll-out. AHS and the province are currently proceeding with Phase 1A which targets ICU staff and residents/staff in Long Term Care facilities. My understanding is that you will be contacted directly by AHS for your vaccination scheduling. Please ensure you are checking your AHS emails regularly.

Finally, on behalf of the Section of Orthopaedic Surgery, I hope you and your families have a happy and healthy 2021! It will be better.

Best regards,
Jason

Education – Making the Grade!

Thank you again to all residents, fellows, faculty and staff for all your continued hard work and adaptability with the ongoing COVID pandemic.

We are pleased to announce that our 2019-2020 R5s have successfully passed their Royal College Exams and are graduates of the orthopaedic surgery residency program: Dr. Jonathan Bourget-Murray, MD, FRSC; Dr. Eva Gusnowski, MD, FRSC; Dr. Kate Thomas, MD, FRSC.

Dr. Dan You is the 2020-2021 AAOS Resident Assembly Delegate for our program.

Dr. Murray Wong successfully defended his master’s thesis in Biomedical Engineering for his thesis work entitled: Four-Dimensional Computed Tomography to Determine Normal Syndesmotic Motion and to Compare Motion after Rigid and Flexible Fixation of Syndesmotic Injuries.

Congratulations to: Jarrett Moore and Julia for the birth of their first child named Nora; and to Michael James and Serena for the birth of their first child named Sawyer.

The Calgary Orthopaedic Group cycling club (COGcc) was recently started and consists of several orthopaedic staff and trainees who enjoy all things cycling-related. Any members of the orthopaedic community are welcome to join for virtual rides on Zwift or various outdoor rides in the summer.

Research – Skeletal Mentions!

Congratulations to the twelve 2020 COREF Awardees: CORRG (P. Schneider); Annalise Abbott (M. Monument/S. Puloski); Christopher Hewison (D. Longino); Joe Kendall (M. Monument); Taryn Ludwig (C. Hiscox); Laura Morrison (P. Schneider); Jennifer Purnell (A. Dodd/P. Schneider); Murray Wong (P. Schneider); Daniel You (P. Schneider); Tiffany Coromina (N. White), Joe Kitten (P. Schneider); and Seth Tarrant/Daniel You (P. Schneider/J. Werle).

Thanks to all who submitted applications for the Fraternal Order of Eagles Award – the review process has started and announcements should take place by March.

Thanks to all who have provided us with Interim and Final Progress Reports for your previous COREF and Research Assistant Matching Salary Awards.

McCaig Institute Clinician/Scientist Seed Grant competition and Speed Dating event remains on hold due to the pandemic restrictions.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, The Frank Talks for 2021 has been cancelled – this will reconvene in 2022.

With the freeze on Value-Add Funds, the Research Portfolio will be working with a decreased/limited budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 - we are planning to continue funding the same number of COREF awards as our top priority.

News from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health

The Institute’s 2019-20 Annual report is available on line at: https://files.constantcontact.com/13e9dd3f201/e3cfac2b-c430-4587-bef6-1fffce7e82df.pdf

Sophia Shah from Roman Krawetz’ lab has been awarded the McCaig Institute’s annual Linda Marchuk Memorial Award.

The 2020 Wood Forum took place on November 7th. This meeting was a huge success thanks to Kirstyn MacGillivary who did an amazing job organizing this event where over 250 individuals participated on-line. The presenters were Steven Boyd, Emma Billington, Liam Martin, Raj Sharma and Shannon Falsetti with the special guest moderator Jon Cornish. The topics presented were: Hip replacement techniques; Osteoporosis and hip fractures; Cannabidiol (cannabis) utility in osteoarthritis; Fragility and Stability Program (Offered through the BJSCN and AHS). Individual presentations are available on the McCaig Institute’s YouTube Channel.

In the McCaig Institute’s Winter 2020 Newsletter, within the ABJHI Report, Drs. Jim MacKenzie and Jason Werle are mentioned as leads of the project – “Taking the Long View- Safety and Outcomes for Hip Resurfacing”.

Congratulations to: Jarrett Moore and Julia for the birth of their first child named Sawyer. The Calgary Orthopaedic Group cycling club (COGcc) was recently started and consists of several orthopaedic staff and trainees who enjoy all things cycling-related. Any members of the orthopaedic community are welcome to join for virtual rides on Zwift or various outdoor rides in the summer.
Course Organization/Participation:
Raj Sharma, along with four other individuals were presenters at the virtual Wood Forum 2020 on November 7, 2020 (see McCaig News for full details)

Nick Desy and Richard Ng were both speakers during the 9th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Arthroplasty Society which took place as four virtual sessions on November 18 & 25 and December 2 & 9

Awards/Honours:
On December 9th the 2020 Department of Surgery Awards were announced/acknowledged at a virtual awardee celebration and congratulations go to the following orthopaedic surgeons: Nick Desy (Excellence in Teaching – New Faculty); Jim Powell (Underserved Populations in Canada and Abroad); and James Stewart (Excellence in Teaching – Senior Faculty)

Grants:
Sarah Manske and Roman Krawetz are recipients of a Canadian Foundation for Innovations (CFI) John R Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) grant for their work on “Understanding Arthritis: Structure-function tissue interactions in arthritis”

Presentations:
Richard Ng presented “Tranexamic Acid in Hip Fracture Surgery: How can we use it more?”, at the September 18th, Section of Orthopaedics monthly City-wide Rounds
Karys Hildebrand (Mike Monument’s graduate student) presented “Optimizing STING Therapy for Soft Tissue Sarcoma” at the October 14th McCaig Institute’s Weekly Seminar Series
Emmanuel Illical presented “Optimal Treatment of Distal Extra-articular Humeral Shaft Fractures: An algorithmic approach and review of the literature”, at the October 16th, Section of Orthopaedics monthly City-wide Rounds
Richard Buckley presented “The Retirement Conundrum” at the November 6th City-wide Rounds for the Department of Surgery
Jason Werle presented “Scalpel, Suction, Suture: YYC Surgery 2025” at the December 3rd City-wide Grand Rounds for the Department of Surgery
Kevin Hildebrand presented “Certainty, Uncertainty, and Opportunities: 2020 and Beyond” at the December 17th City-wide Grand Rounds for the Department of Surgery

Some recent publications:

The Section of Orthopaedic Surgery has a new website and the link is:
https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/surgery/sections/orthopaedic-surgery

Judy Crawford will be the website administrator – please contact her directly at acortho@ucalgary.ca if you have any questions about the site.

For our faculty and past and current residents, the celebration of 50 Years of Calgary Orthopaedic Surgery will take place on July 9-10, 2021!! On-line registration will be available in Spring 2021 – watch for future emails. The general schedule is: Friday July 9 a Welcome Reception in the evening at the Cumming School of Medicine; Saturday July 10 will be our Symposium in the morning at the Cumming School of Medicine, and then a dinner at Hotel Arts in the later afternoon and the evening! We hope that all of you will be able to attend.

Also a reminder for those that were former residents in the program or are current residents, please submit your memory page to Judy Crawford at acortho@ucalgary.ca as soon as possible.

For more details, or if you have any questions, contact Judy Crawford at acortho@ucalgary.ca.

Please contact Judy Crawford at acortho@ucalgary.ca if you have submissions or ideas for contents for future newsletters!