



Words of Wisdom by Werle!

Dear Orthopaedic Surgeons, Residents, and Staff,

As summer draws to a close, I hope you all found time to relax and recharge with family and friends. It is critically important for the well-being of our orthopaedic team to make this a priority not just in summer but at points throughout the year.

The re-organization of Alberta Health Services into 4 new organizations: Acute Care, Continuing Care, Primary Care, and Addictions/Mental Health is continuing. One of the significant changes for MSK care/Orthopaedics in the province is the dissolution of the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network. I had the pleasure of serving as the Medical Director for the SCN over the past 6 years. Thank you to all members of the Orthopaedic team in Calgary and throughout Alberta who have contributed to the advancement of orthopaedic care and to the many provincial quality improvement efforts sponsored by the SCN. In many areas, Alberta is leading the country. This wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of many of you. My hope is that quality improvement in musculoskeletal care returns as a priority for AHS and the provincial government in the years ahead. Our patients deserve nothing less.

The priorities of the Section for the 2024/25 academic year continue to be Acute Care Coverage at all sites, ongoing support for research and education, as well as surgeon recruitments. We have recruited 13 surgeons in the last 2 years and more colleagues will be joining us at PLC, SHC, and FMC during the year.

Congratulations to Dr. Aaron Bois who was appointed Program Director of the Orthopaedic Surgery Residency effective July 1, 2024! Thank you to Dr. Nick Desy for his 4 years of work in this role including the successful Royal College accreditation in 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff within our Orthopaedic Office. Tom Chan (Business and Research Manager), Judy Crawford (Education and Research Administrator), and my Administrative Assistant, Francesca Turner, assist our Section in its mission on a daily basis.

On behalf of the Section of Orthopaedics, thank you for all you do!

Until next time, best wishes and take care.

Jason Werle

Head, Section of Orthopaedic Surgery

Education – Making the Grade!

Thank you to all those who participated in the Orthopaedic Residents Annual Golf Tournament and to those who sponsored a resident. We had beautiful weather and the event was a great success.

Congratulations to Christopher Hewison, Christopher Flanagan, Annalise Abbott, Taryn Ludwig and Bryan Heard for successfully passing the Royal College exam! Job well done!

Welcome to the new group of first year residents who started on July 1, 2024: Jenny Jing, Brett Lavender, Jared Topham, Kaela Schill and Gurprit Girm. The 2024-2025 Chief Residents are Laura Morrison (R5) and Anna-Lee Policicchio (R4).

During his R4 year, Julian Rizos was chosen as the recipient of the 2023-2024 Dr. Spencer McLean Memorial Award, which was announced at the June 2024 year-end celebration. Congratulations!

Welcome Dr. Aaron Bois who is the New Program Director for the residency program. Thank you, Dr. Nick Desy, for your tremendous work as the Program Director. Your work has been greatly appreciated!

Research – Skeletal Mentions!

11th Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day (RRD) took place on Thursday, May 9, 2024 with Adjudicators Andrew Duckworth from University of Edinburgh, and locally Claire Temple-Oberle and Nathan Evaniew. All residents are to be commended for their excellent research work and congratulations go to – *Full Podium* L. Morrison 1st Place/People's Choice and S. Gibbon 2nd Place; *Abbreviated Podium* G. Ryan 1st Place/People's Choice and B. Ritchie 2nd Place; *3MT Presentations* R. Qiu 1st Place and M. Makkar 2nd Place/People's Choice.

Call for 2024 COREF Applications were distributed at the end of July with a deadline date of September 25, 2024.

Upcoming Internal Funding opportunities are the Catalyst Grant and Fraternal Order of Eagles competitions. Each will require an LOI prior to the ask for a Full Application. Emails to be distributed soon!

Blue Sky Session Invitees have been identified and Sessions will be taking place in Fall 2024

New initiative for faculty regarding Peer Review Opportunity (see email of June 19 for full details).

We are in the planning stages for a special The Frank Talks session in Winter/Spring 2025, which will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the passing of Dr. Cy Frank. Faculty invitations will be distributed in the December/January timeframe.

RRD 2025 will be taking place in late March or early April.

News from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health

Events: (a) McCaig Summer Student Symposium took place on August 14; (b) Cy Frank Legacy Lecture is at 4:00 pm on Tuesday September 17, 2024 in Theatre 4 HSC with guest lecturer Dr. Robyn Tamblyn from McGill University and her presentation is on "Innovations in Clinical Care"; (c) Wood Forum is on November 2. For further details contact mccaig@ucalgary.ca.

There were 9 teams awarded 2024 SPARC Grants; (a) May Choi & Mina Aminghafari "Decoding "healthy" from "pathogenic" antinuclear antibody patterns using artificial intelligence"; and (b) Roman Krawetz & Holly Sparks "Investigation of proteoglycan 4 to mitigate the negative side effects of steroid treatment on equine joint derived cells" -the other seven are listed in the Grants information listed below.

Congratulations to Cheryl Barnabe on having her Tier II Canada Research Chair in Rheumatoid Arthritis and Autoimmune Diseases renewed.

Awards/Honours:

Laura Morrison (R5) is the recipient of the COF 2024 Bone and Phones Legacy Scholarship for her project “RUMORS: Recruitment and Retainment of Underrepresented Minorities in Orthopaedic Surgery”

Prism Schneider has been named as a COA representative for the 2025 ABC Travelling Fellows – the Fellows will explore leading orthopaedic sites across the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand in the Spring of 2025.

Karys Hildebrand (trainee with Mike Monument) was the winner of Dr. Marv Fritzler Nidus ward for her podium presentation at the 9th Annual McCaig Institute Research Day which took place on May 15

Awards received during Surgeons’ Day 2024: Laura Morrison 2nd Place in the Resident Research Showcase; Prism Schneider Outstanding Contribution in Basic Science Research; Kelly Johnston Excellence in Surgical Care for Underserved Populations in Canada and Abroad; Raj Sharma Excellence in Teaching for Senior Faculty; and Distinguished Services Awards were given to Simon Goldstein for ACH and Iain Russel for PLC

The following individuals received academic promotions: Marcel Abouassaly, Marcia Clark, Nick Desy, Gurpreet Dhaliwal, Christina Hiscox, Carol Hutchison, Mike Monument, and Prism Schneider

Grants:

Michael Yang, Ken Thomas and team have been awarded \$8.2M from the Calgary Health Foundation to launch the Calgary Endoscopic Spine Surgery, Research and Advancement (CESSRA) program, which have five main priorities: Endoscopic Spine Surgery, Awake Spine Surgery, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS), Clinical Research, and Education.

The following individuals received 2024 McCaig Institute SPARC grants: (a) Matt Jordan & Prism Schneider “Building Blocks for Pediatric Knee Health: A Catalyst for Specialized Care”; (b) Emily Rogers, Joe Kendal & Koren Roach “Biomechanical impact of an actuated knee orthosis on patients undergoing proximal tibial reconstruction”; (c) Koren Roach & Neil White “Identifying optimal treatment strategies for distal biceps brachii tendon ruptures: Surgical or Conservative Treatment?” (d) Joe Kendal & John Holash “ACTIVATION: Activity Capture To Investigate Voluntary AcTivity in Oncology and Normal populations”; (e) Fred Nicholls & Dave Hart: Effects of Childbearing On Spinopelvic Alignment (EChOS); (f) Sarah Manske & Alex Meldrum “Uncovering the origins of bone marrow lesions in knee osteoarthritis using spatial transcriptomics”; and (g) Prism Schneider & Matt Jordan “Evaluation of postoperative hypercoagulability and increased blood clotting risk in patients with surgically repaired knee injuries”

Paul Salo, Ganesh Swamy and three others are co-investigators on a successful CIHR Grant submitted by Koren Roach and Janet Ronsky “Revolutionizing musculoskeletal care interdisciplinary advance for dual fluoroscopy technology for precision diagnosis and targeted intervention in osteoarthritis

Presentations:

McCaig Weekly Seminar presentations: Max Labrecque (trainee with Mike Monument) “The interplay of genomic variations and immune organization in murine models of undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma” April 4th; Gareth Ryan (trainee with Prism Schneider and R3 Resident) “Prospective evaluation of the effects of traumatic brain injury on long bone fracture healing and coagulopathy” April 18th; Emily Bangsoll (trainee with Janet Ronsky and Ganesh Swamy) “Quantifying in-vivo cervical spine kinematics: A disc arthroplasty case study” May 2nd; Donald Golden (trainee with Ranita Manocha and David Hart) “How does the menstrual cycle affect knee structure and function in women with hypermobility?” and Elizabeth Buie (trainee with Prism Schneider) “Postoperative hypercoagulability and increased blood clotting risk in patients with surgically repaired knee injuries” both on May 2nd.

Other:

Karys Hildebrand (trainee with Mike Monument) successfully defended her PhD Project “Investigating the stimulator of interferon genes pathway as a translational immunogenic therapy for soft tissue sarcoma”

Marcia Clark, Chris Hewison and others crafted Recommendation 16 “Don’t dispose of non-contaminated wrapping materials in contaminated waste bins”, for the Choosing Wisely Canada – Canada’s Climate-Conscious Recommendations.

Jason Werle has been named as a member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Orthopaedic Association (he is the representative for all Canadian Orthopaedic Chairs)

Erin Davison and Ethan Sanders are resident peer supporters through the Office of Surgical Wellness in the Department of Surgery.

Recent publications: Due to space limitations – this item will appear in the next newsletter

Orthopaedic Residents Annual Golf Tournament

R5 Austin Powers; R4 Harry Potter; R3 Wizard of Oz; R2 Minions; R1 Pokemon

This event took place on August 1st at Mt. Lorette Golf Course in Kananaski.

All attendees said they had a great time and encourage others to attend future events.

The Residents want to acknowledge all faculty and industry who provided sponsorship – THANK YOU!!!. They also want to thank everyone who came out to golf!

The First Place Winning team was Brett Hogan, Brett Lavender, Brodie Ritchie and Ethan Sanders.

The theme this year was “Lights, Camera, Action”; and the costumes were outstanding! Welcome done Residents!!! Each of the Resident Years choose a movie and wore costumes to depict the movie.



2024 Important Dates – Mark Your Calendar

◆ *November 24* Orthopaedic Family Holiday Brunch

Contact Judy at acortho@ucalgary.ca if you wish to receive more information about any of these events.