



## Words of Wisdom by Werle!

Dear Orthopaedic Surgeons, Residents, and Staff,

I hope this newsletter finds you rested and recharged from the holiday season. Our life in Orthopaedics can be incredibly busy and taking time for celebration and relaxation with friends and family is so important.

Upon review of 2023, there were significant milestones for the U of C Section of Orthopaedics. For the first time since 2004, Calgary hosted the Canadian Orthopaedic Association Meeting. It was an exceptional meeting that showcased our Section and all the high-quality research, clinical activity, and quality improvement work underway within our city, province, and country. Thank you to all local participants for welcoming our colleagues from across the country. I have received a great deal of positive feedback.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U of C Orthopaedic Residency Program was also held in June. It was a wonderful opportunity to reminisce with our alumni, current faculty, and residents. Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to Judy Crawford for all her work organizing this special event including the memory book.

The Section welcomed four new recruits: Dr. Lee Fruson (PLC), Dr. James Ardell (RGH), Dr. Herman Johal (FMC), and Dr. Joe Kendal (FMC). We welcome all our new orthopaedic colleagues to Calgary! Congratulations to Dr. Brian Burkart who retired from his Arthroplasty practice at PLC this fall (the photo below is from Dr. Burkart's last day in clinic – thanks to Dr. Clark for this photo).



The Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) continues with the ongoing adoption of the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) centralized referral system and the implementation of Rapid Access Clinics (RACs). Despite the recently announced “re-focusing” of the healthcare system in our province, surgical wait times are still a major priority for AHS and the Ministry of Health. Orthopaedic surgeons and team members are uniquely positioned to inform and lead changes in the system that can benefit all Albertans. I encourage all of you to actively participate and ensure your voice is heard.

In closing, thank you for all you do day in and day out to help patients with musculoskeletal injury and illness. I look forward to this new year with hope and optimism and, on behalf of the Section of Orthopaedics, I wish each of you a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2024!

Jason Werle, Section Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery

## Education – Making the Grade!

Congratulations to Taryn Ludwig, Anna-Lee Policicchio, Mallika Makkar and Chris Hewison for receiving the COA's Diversity in Leadership Scholarship. Well done!

The annual Resident Holiday Party took place on Thursday December 21, 2023.

The Residency CaRMS interview date will be on Wednesday January 31, 2024.

The Royal College Orthopaedic Surgery exam dates are: Written – March 5-6, 2024; Applied (oral) – May 22, 2024.

The Geoff Cragg Ski Day will be on Thursday January 25, 2024, at Lake Louise Ski Resort.

The annual Resident Retreat is scheduled for April 11-12, 2024, in Canmore.

## Research – Skeletal Mentions!

Congratulations to the following individuals who received Department of Surgery CSRDF Awards: (1) Aaron Bois, Richard Walker, Chris Hewison and Jacky Chow; (2) Gareth Ryan and Prism Schneider; (3) Brodie Ritchie, Sarah Manske and Neil White; and (4) Meredith Stadnyk, Helena Greene, Hébert-Seropian, Ryan Martin and Prism Schneider.

Thanks to all who participated in the review process of the 2023 COREF competition - kudos especially to Paul Salo who chaired the review process. Congratulations are extended to the following residents who were successful in their applications: (1) Manjot Birk; (2) Stephanie Gibbon; (3) Tim Lasswell; (4) Kaja Matovinovic; (5) Laura Morrison; (6) Brodie Ritchie; and (7) Gareth Ryan.

New Internal Funding Opportunity: Faculty Catalyst Grant LOI Applications due January 5<sup>th</sup>, notifications will be distributed the week of January 8<sup>th</sup> and for those invited to submit a full application, these will be due by February 12<sup>th</sup>.

New Research Portfolio Initiative - Blue Sky Session will take place in early 2024.

The Third Annual “The Frank Talks” will be taking place on March 21<sup>st</sup> – this is by invitation only and is a faculty/invited guests only event.

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day will be taking place on Thursday, May 9, 2024 in the Cumming School of Medicine.

## News from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health

Congratulations to Steve Boyd for being the recipient of a Killam Graduate Supervision and Mentorship Award for his unparalleled mentorship of graduate students.

Announcement: Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, Cheryl Barnabe is the new Director of the McCaig Institute and Roman Krawetz will be the Deputy Director - Congratulations are extended both individuals.

We also take this opportunity to thank Steve Boyd for his leadership as the former Director of the Institute who was in that role since 2016.

### Course Organization/Participation:

Brent Edwards was a presenter at the McCaig Institute's 2023 Wood Forum on Build Better Bones on November 4<sup>th</sup>, his presentation was on "Optimizing bone in adulthood: Don't 'stress'".

### Awards/Honours:

Kurt Hildebrand (trainee with Mike Monument) is the recipient of the 2023 Linda Marchuk Award.

Chris Hewison, Mallika Makkar, Taryn Ludwig and Anna-Lee Policicchio each received one of the COA's Diversity in Leadership Scholarships, which are designed to support individuals from underrepresented groups within Orthopaedics who aspire to assume leadership roles within their field.

### Grants:

Mike Monument is a recipient of the Canada Foundation for Innovation John Evans Leadership Fund (CFI-JELF) grant for this project "Therapeutic synergy of surgery radiation and STING immunotherapy in pre-clinical models of sarcoma"

Steve Boyd, Ganesh Swamy, Fred Nicholls, Peter Salat, and Michael Monument are the recipients of an Alberta Spine Foundation grant for their project "Developing a machine learning model of the spine for clinical applications from computer tomography".

### Presentations:

Annalise Abbott, "Evaluating venous thromboembolism in patients with metastatic bone disease: Are we treating patients with appropriate prophylaxis?", 2023 Musculoskeletal Tumor Society Annual Meeting, October 4-6, 2023, Banff, Alberta.

Joe Kendal, "An analysis of CT-guided percutaneous core needle biopsy of tibial lesions: How successful are we?", 2023 Musculoskeletal Tumor Society Annual Meeting, October 4-6, 2023, Banff, Alberta.

Karys Hildebrand (trainee with Mike Monument), "The translational STING agonist; E7766, induces immunogenic tumor clearance in the KP model of undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma", 2023 Musculoskeletal Tumor Society Annual Meeting, October 4-6, 2023, Banff, Alberta.

Kurt Hildebrand (trainee with Mike Monument), "Investigating tumor associated macrophages; recruitment and immunogenic modulation in a murine model of soft tissue sarcoma", 2023 Musculoskeletal Tumor Society Annual Meeting, October 4-6, 2023, Banff, Alberta.

Neil White "Fall Prevention Research", TalkHealth: Fall Prevention Symposium sponsored by the Calgary Health Foundation, October 18, 2023.

Jessica May Corpuz and Emilie Gysel (trainees with Roman Krawetz), presented their work "Intervertebral disc degeneration and the trans-differentiation of native cells" and "The controlled and rapid expansion of equine bone-marrow derived mesenchymal stromal cells in stirred suspension bioreactors" at the McCaig Weekly Seminar on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Karys Hildebrand (trainee with Mike Monument) presented at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> McCaig Seminar Series, "Activating the Stimulator of Interferon Genes Pathway (STING) as an immunogenic therapy for soft tissue sarcoma".

Kurt Hildebrand (trainee with Mike Monument) presented at the November 23<sup>rd</sup> McCaig Seminar Series, "Investigating how macrophages shape immune biology and response to immunotherapy in soft tissue sarcoma"

### Other:

Taylor Bader, trainee with Ganesh Swamy and David Hart, successfully completed his MSc "Do mechanical and structural characteristics of degenerated intervertebral discs contribute to development of degenerative scoliosis and spondylolisthesis?"

Jason Werle has been named as President of the Canadian Arthroplasty Society.

### Some recent publications:

Kania-Richmond A, Jones CA, Martyn J, Hastings S, Ellis K, Jessiman-Perreault G, Hart DA, Robert J, Slomp M, Beaupre LA: (2023).

Implementing a guideline-based education and exercise program for people with knee and hip osteoarthritis-Practical experiences of providers and clinic leaders: A qualitative study. Musculoskeletal care, 10.1002/msc.1801. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/msc.1801>

Bourget-Murray J, Piroozfar S, Smith C, Ellison J, Bansal R, Sharma R, Evaniew N, Johnson A, Powell JN: (2023). Annual incidence and assessment of risk factors for early-onset deep surgical site infection following primary total knee arthroplasty in osteoarthritis. The Bone & Joint Journal, 105-B(9), 971-976. <https://doi.org/10.1302/0301-620X.105B9.BJJ-2022-1293.R1>

Osinchuk SC, Grahn BH, Wilson TD, Thompson BN, Hart DA, Harrison KD, Cooper DM, Panahifar A, Rosenberg AM: (2023). Evaluation of Uveitis induced in rats by a type I collagen peptide as a model for childhood arthritis-associated Uveitis. Comparative Medicine, 10.30802/AALAS-CM-22-000129. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.30802/AALAS-CM-22-000129>

Phelps J, Hart DA, Mitha AP, Duncan NA, Sen A: (2023). Physiological oxygen conditions enhance the angiogenic properties of extracellular vesicles from human mesenchymal stem cells. Stem cell research & therapy, 14(1), 218. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13287-023-03439-9>

Jones CA, Jessiman-Perreault G, Kania-Richmond AA, Metcalfe A, Hart DA, Beaupre LA, Bone and Joint Health SCN: (2023). The effect of geographic location and payor type on provincial-wide delivery of the GLA:D program for hip and knee osteoarthritis in Alberta, Canada. Osteoarthritis and cartilage open, 5(4), 100398. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocarto.2023.100398>

Chen J, Wang J, Hart DA, Zhou Z, Ackermann PW, Ahmed AS: (2023). Complement factor D regulates collagen type I expression and fibroblast migration to enhance human tendon repair and healing outcomes. Frontiers in immunology, 14, 1225957. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2023.1225957>

In the Fall 2023 Issue of the University of Calgary Spine Program Research Newsletter they listed the following: (a) Orthopaedic Faculty had nine abstracts from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the Canadian Spine Society were published in the August edition of the Canadian Journal of Surgery; (b) they receive PubMed notifications and they listed Orthopaedic Faculty on 24 recent papers published (for full details on the publications and abstracts contact Tara Whittaker at [sri@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sri@ucalgary.ca); or the link to the newsletter is <https://calgaryspine.ca/about/documents>).

### **2024 Important Dates – Mark Your Calendar**

◆ January 25 Annual Geoff Cragg Ski Day ◆ January 31 CaRMS Interviews ◆ March 21 The Frank Talks (faculty only event) ◆ April 18 Annual Spencer McLean Resident vs Faculty Hockey Game ◆ May 9 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day ◆ June 4-8 (exact dates to be confirmed) Hosting ABC Travelling Fellows ◆ June 27 Year-end Barbecue and Sports Day ◆ August 1 Orthopaedic Residents Golf Yearly Tournament ◆ November 24 Orthopaedic Family Holiday Brunch

### **Orthopaedic Family Holiday Brunch November 26, 2023 – Pinebrook Golf and Country Club**

