It was a warm summer evening in September 2004. The sun was setting over Squam Lake in New Hampshire. The first day of Trafford's tenure as a Ph.D. student at the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at Dartmouth Medical School was coming to a close. He had spent the day attending a research meeting and now found himself enjoying a beer with the likes of Drs. John Wennberg, Elliott Fisher, and Jon Skinner. They had recently published their seminal paper characterizing the types of variations in health care utilization and were ruminating how these could be studied further.

Trafford’s Ph.D. supervisor, Dr. Hilary Llewellyn-Thomas, leaned over and said, “It's a bit taking a drink from a fire hydrant, isn’t it?” Trafford would come to find these kinds of casual intellectual interactions the most rewarding part of being a health services researcher.

After publishing his thesis on how patients’ treatment preferences could be measured and used to evaluate the observed geographic differences in healthcare utilization, Trafford started the most challenging part of his career—trying to get a job back home in Calgary. He undertook a post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia’s Centre for Health Services and Policy Research. There, he combined his interests in patient-provided data with those of his mentor, Dr. Jason Sutherland, in healthcare funding models. It was a highly productive relationship that continues to this day.

The final leg of Trafford’s path home came in 2017 when he was appointed as an Assistant Professor to the Department of Surgery at the Cumming School of Medicine. Here, Trafford collaborates closely with the Section of Urology, Community Health Sciences, and the Schulich School of Engineering. His goal is to build a rigorous program of research around how patients and clinicians can use technology to collect, analyze, and use patient-provided data for more effective and efficient clinical encounters. Trafford’s future plans are pretty straightforward: do good work and let the rest take care of itself. There’ll probably be a few more beers and fireside chats in there too.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRANT & AWARD WINNERS!

• Dr. Marcia Clark (University of Calgary Teaching and Learning Grant) - Comparing Simulation Debrief Quality of a Near-Peer Medical Student Based Versus Faculty-Led Simulation Debriefs.

• Dr. Trafford Crump & Kevin Carlson (SUFU Foundation Study of Chemodenervation) - The Use of Chemodenervation to Treat Overactive Bladder in Elderly Patients.

• Dr. Tito Dadou (Department of Surgery, Surgeon Scientist Program) - Deriving Benchmarks for Surgical Complications

• Dr. Prism Schneider (Avenue Magazine) - Top 40 Under 40 2018

If you have recently received a grant or award and would like to be featured in the next newsletter, please contact Maria Fernando at Maria.Fernando2@ahs.ca.

IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming Internal Grant Competitions

• Calgary Surgical Research Development Fund – Deadline: February 28, 2019

• Surgeons’ Day Sharpest Knife Competition – Deadline: March 29, 2019

• Department of Surgery Open Access Publication Fund – Deadline: June 30, 2019

All applications must be submitted to osr@ucalgary.ca by the specified deadline. For additional information on these competitions, please visit the OSR Grants & Awards website.

Upcoming External Grant Competitions

• CIHR Planning & Dissemination Grants – Deadline: March 1, 2019

• CIHR Spring 2019 Project Grant – Deadline: March 4, 2019

• Workers’ Compensation Board Research Program – Deadline: March 27, 2019

Please note that these competitions have internal University of Calgary deadlines and requirements. For assistance navigating the requirements, please contact Maria Fernando at Maria.Fernando2@ahs.ca or the Office of Research Services at rsogrants@ucalgary.ca.
General Surgery
- Kloos N, Keren D, Gregg S, Maclean AR, Dixon E, Mohamed R, Rochon R, Ball CG. Can we improve the efficiency of care by patients in the emergency department with colorectal cancer from the time of their initial referral for colonoscopy to surgical resection? 2019. PMID: 30694032.

Ophthalmology

Orthopedic Surgery

Otolaryngology
If you have recently published a paper and would like to have it featured in the next newsletter, please contact Maria Fernando at Maria.Fernando2@ahs.ca. Department of Surgery members are underlined.