

# Office of Surgical Research

Department of Surgery

## Meet Dr. Chad Ball!

Dr. Ball is an associate professor of surgery, and has been practicing in Calgary as a Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic, Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon. Dr. Ball attended Medical School at the University of Toronto and completed his General Surgery residency at the University of Calgary. He followed up with a Trauma and Critical Care fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta, and a HepatoPancreatoBiliary Fellowship at Indiana University in Indianapolis.

Dr. Ball returned to Calgary with the idea to pursue 2 research themes. The first was research surrounding clinically relevant questions within trauma and critical care that improves the care of severely injured patients (this includes cardiac, thoracic and vascular injuries, as well as damage control surgery). The second area of focus was prospective randomization trials in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery that decrease morbidity and mortality in patients with liver and pancreatic cancer. To aide in the persuit of this second stream of research,

Dr. Ball joined forces with Dr. Oliver Bathe, Dr. Elijah Dixon, and Dr. Francis Sutherland to create CHAPPS. This organization was developed to fund research and improve outcomes for current and future cancer patients.

Dr. Ball identifies some great mentors throughout his career thus far.

*"Dr. Fred Brenneman was my initial mentor in medical school at the University of Toronto. He is a trauma surgeon with infectious energy. And from a research perspective, Dr. Gordon Bell, Dr. Angelo Belcastro, and Dr. John McFarlane were major influences. I was lucky enough to work in a lab (Belcastro) where we invented/developed tropinin markers (blood test for confirming/diagnosing heart attacks). All 3 doctors were enthusiastic about their programs, and really impressed upon me the importance of research as a fundamentally crucial component in not only good clinical care, but also in sustaining focus, enjoyment and engagement within an urban/academic career."*

Desire to improve the care of the most critically ill patients drew Dr. Ball to this area. Caring for patients with liver, pancreas and severe injury remains amongst the most challenging areas within surgery.

Dr. Ball's love of a challenge drove him to co-lead a team for NASA and the Canadian Space Agency on surgical techniques in zero gravity environments. Back here on earth, his advances include: propogating the efficacy of damage control vascular techniques such as TIVS (temporary intravascular shunts) and balloon tamponade for ongoing junctional bleeding; development and evaluation of hybrid operating suites (RAPTOR - Resuscitation with Angiography, Percutaneous Techniques and Operative Repair); and lowering morbidity and mortality within pancreas and liver surgery.

In his limited free time, Dr. Ball has recently taken up wake surfing on Ghost Lake. We cannot wait to see what he does next!



**Dr. Ball has established a reputation for excellence in caring for critically ill and injured surgical patients. His research productivity has been incredible with over 200 peer reviewed publications. He has become a sought after lecturer who represents our Department and Faculty across North America and around the world. Dr. Ball has been successful in building research collaboratives, locally and internationally, demonstrating the power of working in teams.**

**-Dr. John Kortbeek  
Professor and Head, Department of Surgery**

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### Check Out

Cumming School of Medicine March 2015 Endowment Fund (Attached)

Surgeons' Day 2015 Call for abstracts (Attached)

### Upcoming Deadlines:

DOM-DOS Fund DOS	March 30 <sup>th</sup>
Research & Education Program Grant	April 30 <sup>th</sup>
Surgeons' Day	June 12 <sup>th</sup>
SSP	November 30 <sup>th</sup>
CSRD Fund	January 30 <sup>th</sup>

## Ethics and You: What to Know?



**Tip 2: Money Talks!** It will help streamline the review process of your research application if you provide a detailed budget for the project. Funding must be confirmed or the principal investigator must attest that the study will be undertaken regardless of the grant outcome.