



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

**CUMMING SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE**

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Department of Surgery
2022 Annual Report

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We wish to thank all surgeons, administrators, and other team members whose efforts made this report possible.

www.cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/surgery

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

The Department of Surgery and the University of Calgary are committed to meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and communities.

i' taa'poh'to'p, the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy, is a commitment to deep evolutionary transformation by reimagining ways of knowing, doing, connecting, and being. Walking parallel paths together, 'in a good way,' UCalgary is moving toward genuine reconciliation and Indigenization.



*We would like to dedicate this year's annual report to
Dr. Sean Grondin and Dr. Warren Yunker.*

*Our colleagues tragically passed away at the end of 2022,
and their absence has been felt deeply throughout the department.*

*They were each brilliant surgeons, impactful leaders,
and valued colleagues, and we continue to cherish our memories of them.*

Sean and Warren are greatly missed.

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Reflecting on 2022, I would like to recognize the challenges we experienced and acknowledge our department's resilience in adapting to these challenges. I appreciate all of our surgeons and staff for their continued dedication and hard work, and I continue looking forward with hope for the future.

The year saw Covid become less prevalent in our lives as we began learning to live with the virus. The arrival of the Omicron variant early in the year saw another covid surge, but as this receded, most public health restrictions were removed. There were few operating closures due to Covid, and I'm happy to report that surgical activity is at 90% of our 2018/2019 volumes. Though we experienced some challenges managing our waitlists, these are also close to pre-pandemic numbers. Our department continued to experience stress from anesthesia and nursing shortages, acute care coverage shortages, and diversions within the Calgary and Central Zones. We also saw several Connect Care launches within the

Calgary Zone, including the Alberta Children's Hospital, Peter Lougheed Centre, and Foothills Medical Centre.

One of the most significant challenges we faced was the loss of two surgeons to suicide in November. The passing of Dr. Sean Grondin and Dr. Warren Yunker was a shock to the department and caused us all to pause and reflect on how we take care of each other and ourselves. Many within the department are still dealing with this loss, and we encourage anyone struggling to please reach out and access support. Sean and Warren will be deeply missed, and our thoughts are with their family, friends, colleagues, and patients.

These challenges have reminded us of the importance of physician wellness and refocused our efforts in this area. We held a virtual wellness retreat in February, exploring various wellness topics and identifying themes causing stress for our physicians. These themes helped inform the department's strategic retreat, which was held in October and spawned the department's strategic plan. The plan is in development, with completion expected by fall 2023.

Surgeons' Research Day was held in person for the first time since 2019. It was a great success, with nearly 100 attendees and 20 presenters. The department gala was also in person after a two-year hiatus. It was a celebratory evening with food, music, and the Department of Surgery awards. I believe going back to in person events has been beneficial and helped us reconnect, and I look forward to another in person Surgeons' Day and gala held together in June 2023.

Dr. Natalie Yanchar joined the leadership team as the Deputy Department Head of Professionalism, Physician Wellness, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Dr. Yanchar is leading several initiatives to improve physician wellness and create opportunities for cultural change, including a wellness series planned for 2023, addressing surgeon suicide and other wellness concerns. Dr. Marcia Clark joined the leadership team as the Deputy Department Head of Clinical Programs and Operations, Surgical Quality and Innovation. In this role, Dr. Clark will address several stress points for our members, including the challenges with acute care coverage and waitlists.

In 2022, we welcomed 17 new surgeons and saw 12 surgeons retire. This included the retirement of Dr.

John Kortbeek, our Department Head from 2006 to 2016. Dr. Kortbeek expertly steered our department for a decade, and we wish him well with his retirement.

Surgical Activity

There were very few operating room closures due to COVID-19 in 2022. The five Calgary Zone and three rural hospitals performed 76,707 cases, and Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF) performed 22,454 cases. Case volumes in 2022 represent a 7% increase from the 2021 surgical volumes at the five urban and three rural hospitals.

Alberta Surgical Initiative and Recovery

The Alberta Surgical Initiative continues to move forward, focusing on improved access to specialist treatment and reduced surgery wait times through surgical waitlist management and improved referral and surgery processes. The Facilitated Access to Specialist Treatment (FAST) was rolled out in the Calgary Zone in October for the Sections of Urology and Orthopaedic Surgery. Activity in Contracted Surgical Facilities (CSF) continued to grow, with a request for proposal process for Orthopaedic Surgery expected to be completed in the New Year.

Acute Care Coverage

We continued to focus on Acute Care Coverage and diversions throughout the year, working on a collaboration with Family Practice and a clinical ARP with Family Medicine. Diversions occurred within the Calgary and Central Zones, diverting general surgery cases to Calgary spring of 2022. The priority for 2023 is building an expanded acute care coverage program with centralized scheduling that relies less on trainees.

Office of Surgical Research

The Office of Surgical Research (OSR) sponsored 17 research grants and awards totalling \$245,750. They also launched a new funding initiative providing a renewable three-year award of \$50,000/year to support department researchers and/or research groups with multi-year projects. The OSR continues to provide statistical support, with the statistician supporting 22 research projects throughout 2022. The OSR also held Surgeons' Research Day in person for the first time in two years.

Office of Surgical Education

Office of Surgical Education (OSE) saw all training programs fully accredited by the Royal College in 2022. This is a huge accomplishment, and we commend everyone involved in achieving this goal. Continuing to grow surgical education is a department priority, and \$300,000 has been secured for educational activities, helping the OSE overcome some of the challenges education faces in today's climate.

76,707 *surgical procedures at five urban and three rural hospitals*

22,454 *cases at Chartered Surgical Facilities*

7% *increase over the previous year's surgical case volume at five urban and three rural hospitals*

Office of Surgical Quality

The Office of Surgical Quality (OSQ) saw their previous year's work on opioid optimization come to fruition in 2022. In collaboration with the Sections of Thoracic Surgery and Urology, the OSQ completed two opioid prescribing at discharge projects, with the work recognized nationally and internationally through presentations at major conferences. The OSQ and Section of Thoracic Surgery also collaborated on a project to reduce the length of stay (LOS) after an esophagectomy, seeing a significant reduction in LOS.

Evidence Decision Support Program

The Evidence Decision Support Program (EDSP) has been extremely productive, with 88 health technology and innovation intakes and 40 reports, doubling their productivity from the previous year. The EDSP plans to hire a second research scientist as they continue to expand support across the entire surgical community. The program continues to grow in reputation as they support and consult with other provincial and national organizations.

I want to thank our faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment to the Department of Surgery. We faced many challenges over the past few years but have adapted and continued to push forward. As I look to 2023, I hope we continue forging strong connections with our colleagues across the department and excelling in clinical care, research, and education. Stay well and continue looking after yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

***Dr. Kevin A. Hildebrand, MD,
FRCSC, FACS, CCPE (he/his/him)***

**Academic Head and Professor, Department of Surgery
Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary
Zone Clinical Department Head, Department of Surgery
Alberta Health Services – Calgary Zone**

LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEAD – GOVERNANCE AND PHYSICIAN SERVICES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The year 2022 will be remembered in the Department of Surgery as a year of adapting. It began with adapting to the ongoing COVID pandemic and the omicron variant. Many in the general population were fed up with the restrictions, as evidenced by the protests locally and nationally. Shortages in nursing and anesthesia became more evident as the year progressed and contributed to the stress that each site was experiencing as they continuously worked to avoid postponing operations. Autumn brought a surge in RSV and influenza infections, rechallenge hospital capacity. It was also a year of adapting to a new clinical information system as Connect Care came to Calgary. In addition, the department has had to adapt to the significant stress of acute care coverage issues for our busiest sections. We also found ourselves adapting to the loss of two important colleagues to suicide, Dr. Sean Grondin and Dr. Warren Yunker, and realizing that prioritizing physician wellness is essential.

With that background in mind, part of my role involves supporting the hiring processes for leadership and clinical positions. We had a busy year in surgical leadership. We identified a new Deputy Department Head of Clinical Programs and Operations, Surgical Quality and Innovation (Dr. Marcia Clark). We thank Dr. Elijah Dixon for his work in this position and time as Interim Department Head. We also added a new position, Deputy Department Head of Professionalism, Physician Wellness, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Dr. Natalie Yanchar). We welcome Drs. Clark and Yanchar as they bring a fresh, inquisitive, and diverse perspective to our executive surgical leadership team.

The search and selection processes have been standardized for our leadership hires and are constantly being revisited with an EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) lens. I am grateful for those participating on our selection committees and for the surgeons putting themselves forward for these positions. The time commitment is significant, and the work can be difficult. More than 20 leadership positions were turned over in 2022. We welcome the new leaders, and we thank their predecessors. Highlights include the following: Section Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dr. Graham Cobb replacing Dr. Rick Edwards; Section Chief of Otolaryngology, Dr. Shamir Chandarana replacing Dr. Doug Bosch; Section Chief of Dentistry and Oral Health, Dr. Adham Fares replacing Dr. Graham Cobb, and a thank you to Dr. Miller Smith who served as interim Section Chief for six months; Section Chief of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Earl Campbell replacing Dr. Rob Harrop; and Section Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Colin Schieman replacing Dr. Sean McFadden. One Facility Site Surgery Chief position changed, with Dr. Michael Dunham replacing Dr. Marcia Clark at the South Health Campus. Dr. Elaine Joughin completed her second term as Ombudsperson. The role was redeveloped and renamed the Department Member Liaison, and we welcome Dr. Carmen Brauer into this new position.

The clinical hiring of new surgeons is so important for our future, and we welcomed 14 new surgeons in 2022 as well as three surgeons in new positions sharing resources. Please join us in welcoming: Dr. Thomas Cawthorn and Dr. Rebecca Hartley, Sections of Pediatric Surgery and Plastic Surgery; Dr. Meaghan Marien and Dr. Rubini Pathy, Sections of Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedic

Surgery; Dr. Alex Meldrum, Section of Orthopedics; Dr. Zaima Abushawashi, Dr. Adam Siray, Dr. Rena Sihra and Dr. Catherine Cho, Section of Dentistry and Oral Health; Dr. Paul Huang and Dr. Alex Ragan, Section of Ophthalmology; Dr. Jonathan Yip and Dr. Ashley Hinthner, Section of Otolaryngology; Dr. Mark Assmus, Section of Urology; Dr. Neal Austin, Sections of Transplant Surgery and General surgery; Dr. Brad Fisher, Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; and Dr. Caleb Zavitz, Section of Vascular Surgery. Our job share working group is also reviewing different hiring models with support from Medical Affairs. We are receiving proposals for a less than 1.0 FTE surgeon. We look forward to working with surgeons interested in pursuing different options.

My position also helps review physician stipends, physician overhead contracts, and alternative funding arrangements – clinical ARPs. The stipend issue was once again a roller-coaster, with groups never knowing exactly when they would end. At the end of 2021, three surgical groups were on clinical ARPs (Pediatric General Surgery, Pediatric Plastic Surgery, and Thoracic Surgery). At the beginning of 2022, two more groups were added (Transplant Surgery and Vascular Surgery). As Alberta Health developed a new agreement with physicians through the Alberta Medical Association, one of the parameters was that any group with a stipend would not lose it until further review, allowing several groups to continue with their current stipends. Further review will not likely occur until 2025. The provincial ambulatory overhead project was in full swing at the beginning of the year, and it looked like AHS was on the precipice of implementation. Then the project was put on hold in the summer, and we are still waiting to hear how AHS will proceed.

My role also had me helping to coordinate the department wellness retreat, held virtually in February 2022. It was a day-long retreat led by Dr. Mamta Gautam, a psychiatrist from Ottawa and a physician leader well known for her work on physician health and well-being. With over 70 attendees, the full-day event explored a variety of topics. Members highlighted several areas of difficulty, such as how COVID affected them, system-level issues contributing to stress, and the culture of surgery and where it needs to improve. Lots of food for thought. The department gala in November was another wellness event. It was wonderful to be back in person after a two-year hiatus. We celebrated the evening with great food and awards for our surgeons in the categories of leadership, education, and research. We also acknowledged the Distinguished Service Award winners from each site: Dr. Janice Pasioka,

We realize that prioritizing physician wellness is essential for everyone.

Foothills Medical Centre; Dr. Bruce Rothwell, Peter Lougheed Centre; Dr. Michael Ashenhurst, Rockyview General Hospital; Dr. Robert Mulloy, South Health Campus; and Dr. Warren Yunker, Alberta Children's Hospital.

I have been the physician coordinator for the department's Peer Support team. Over three six-month cycles, the number of encounters with peer support members has increased, though there is still concern that the peer support team is not visible enough. Communications are sent in the twice-monthly newsletter. With our new Deputy Department Head, Dr. Natalie Yanchar, and her portfolio overseeing this area of physician wellness, I'm sure there will be increased uptake in the coming year.

Ending on a positive note, the executive leadership has been working to update the department's vision, mission, values, and strategic goals. It began with a day-long retreat in October at the Telus Sparks Centre with over 20 surgeon leaders and a facilitator from the Haskayne School of Business, Dr. Peter Sherer. The executive leadership team continues to work on the document and will review it with the leaders and general membership in the new year. Feedback will be incorporated, and a final document should be ready by the summer of 2023. I can't give away the goods, but I can tell you that it will be a change – we will be more focused on our community of surgeons, EDI, and our environmental impact while helping surgeons to reach their clinical, education, and research potential. We have a great group of surgeons. We want to help them find a place in our department where they can thrive.

Sincerely,
Frankie O.G. Fraulin MD FRCSC
Clinical Professor, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary
Deputy Department Head, Governance and Physician Services
Calgary Zone, Alberta Health Services

LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEAD – CLINICAL PROGRAMS, OPERATIONS, SURGICAL QUALITY, AND INNOVATION



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Since starting in my Deputy Head role in July 2022, it has been filled with much learning and listening. The surgical environment and teams are quickly adapting to post-COVID volumes, and tackling the consequences of COVID-19 are the main features of the day-to-day work in this role.

Highlights include Acute Care Coverage, surgical allocation at new surgical sites, CLEAR Score enhancements, and building a strategic department plan.

Acute Care Coverage

The gaps in Acute Care Coverage (ACC) are province-wide, and the Department of Surgery (DoS) is investing significant resources (time, people, and funds) to identify gaps and support teams. This includes the creation of an Acute Care Office and hiring administrative support. We are now beginning to understand the current and future workforce needs and are working closely with leads to manage shortfalls. We have also outlined the short, medium and long-term goals, including scheduling software, remuneration adjustments, continuous hiring, advocating for ARP support, understanding licensing requirements, and advocating for other workforce streams. ACC is a priority item in the DOS.

New Resources

Our current waitlist challenges are unprecedented. New surgical resources have been provided through the Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF), with long-term contractual support from Alberta Health Services (AHS). The Calgary Zone is leading the way with procedures allocated to CSFs yearly. Sections benefiting from the expanded CSF roles include Dentistry, Podiatry, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck, Ophthalmology, and Orthopedic Surgery. As new resources are rolling out, many tasks must be addressed. These include transparent OR allocation to surgeons, quality and patient safety reporting structures, advocating for learners in CSFs, and outlining metrics of success. As we navigate this opportunity, address barriers, and move forward, keeping the end goal in mind is important. Patients will have better access to surgical care and receive care from exceptional surgeons and teams.

We are currently engaged in a new strategic plan, with rich engagement from our DoS members. It has been rewarding to think about who we are, our values, and develop a way forward.

CLEAR Score

The CLEAR (Citizenship, Leader, Education and Research) Score has been executed for its fourth year. Dr. Colin Schieman led the way to build, enhance, and report how each section in the DoS contributes to the department's priorities outside of clinical service delivery over the past three years. We are thankful for his contributions, and the DoS has taken the year-by-year feedback to enhance this year's iteration.

The score has been used for OR allocation in some sections, awards and promotions applications, performance review conversation tool, and as a talisman of contribution to other AHS and Cumming School of Medicine groups. It assists the Department of Surgery in many ways, and the section leads leverage the information widely. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has adopted this score for its members.

This year was the first year that ceiling scores were lifted within each section so we could understand more deeply the efforts that members were contributing. The total score still had a ceiling of 100 points, but eliminating the point cap on each of the four sections allowed unconstrained documentation of effort by individual surgeons. The richness of data in this step provides a glimpse into the metrics of work by our members.

Strategic Planning Process

A strong strategic plan provides department members with guidance and focuses the direction of our group and its decisions. It allows leaders to ensure the department is moving forward, especially around key decisions

and resource allocation. We are currently engaged in a new strategic plan, with rich engagement from our DoS members. It has been rewarding to think about who we are, our values, and develop a way forward. A new plan will give voice to the department's needs and aspirations. I look forward to the final product.

Although the past three years have been challenging for everyone, our teams and members are focused, ready to contribute and grow. Flourishing is a new word I have discovered that captures how the pandemic has impacted me, what I have learned from it, and how I can contribute to our members and patients throughout 2023. I look forward to growing with you and caring for ourselves and our patients in everything we do.

Sincerely,

Marcia Clark, MD, MSc., Dip. Sport Med., FRCS(C), ICD.D

**Clinical Associate Professor, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary
Deputy Department Head, Clinical Operations, Quality, Patient Safety, and Innovation
Calgary Zone, Alberta Health Services**

LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEAD — PROFESSIONALISM, PHYSICIAN WELLNESS, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Eat well, respect others, exercise, rest, be inclusive, practice mindfulness, keep up your Continuing Medical Education (CME), attend wellness seminars, value teamwork, strive for improvement, reach out when struggling, remember you are not alone, consider meditating, be aware of peer-support, keep stress levels low, try yoga, and call your mom. You also need to learn Connect Care, attend all your meetings, get to your kids' recitals, record section three CME credits, and fill out those Doodle polls. And above all else, keep up excellence in patient care, education, and research. Are you exhausted yet?

It is not a surprise that we are seeing record levels of physician burnout and disengagement at a time when doctors are expected to be leaders in the community, drive forward and lead cultural and societal shifts, and weather the technical, administrative, and political storms that characterize the healthcare “systems” we see today.

I am honoured for the opportunity to work with a fantastic leadership team and a department of amazing surgeons, colleagues, and friends to drive initiatives that can help us ride these waves of cultural change. We have many opportunities to develop wellness programs and incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI) into much of our work. We also have opportunities to grow as respected professionals in our communities, whether it be a community of colleagues, a community of trainees, or a community of patients and families. It is hard to think of these as priorities when fighting battles with acute care coverage, learning Connect Care, and experiencing cognitive dissonance with government goals. However, we are now talking about the importance of these things and how they are interrelated. It is a start.

So, what is happening now and in the future?

To begin with, we cannot talk about wellness without recognizing the huge impact the suicides of our two dear colleagues, Dr. Warren Yunker and Dr. Sean Grondin, had on all of us in the fall. It was a shock to many of us, a trigger to some, and a reminder to everyone of the importance of caring for ourselves, our colleagues and friends, and our families. Warren and Sean are deeply missed, and we encourage anyone struggling with their loss to reach out.

Use of our Peer Support program has gradually increased over the past two years under the excellent guidance of Dr. Frankie Fraulin, and many thanks to him as the leadership

I am honoured for the opportunity to work with a fantastic leadership team and a department of amazing surgeons, colleagues, and friends to drive initiatives that can help us ride these waves of cultural change.

of this program transitions to me moving forward. Our first Wellness Speaker Series runs in 2023, beginning with a grand round on physician suicide by Dr. Michael Myers from SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University in Brooklyn, NY. This is followed by rounds focusing on the impact of electronic medical records by Dr. Robert Pauly (University of Alberta) and physician substance abuse and addictions by Dr. Bina Nair (University of Alberta). We encourage our members to attend these important rounds in person or via Zoom. We also encourage our surgical sections to make wellness part of their section's culture. Resources for wellness, including access to Peer Support and other programs, are posted on the department's SharePoint site and in the bimonthly newsletter. Please contact Tammie Roy if you do not have access to SharePoint.

We recognize the need for ongoing work to address stressors such as acute care coverage and workforce imbalances to improve wellness. They remain a priority for the department, and work is ongoing to tackle these challenges. This fall, our first wellness survey will be delivered in partnership with WellDoc Alberta to examine burnout and other stressors members may be experiencing. This will provide valuable baseline data to track progress and hold us accountable for bringing about change.

Undoubtedly, having a culture of inclusivity and recognizing the immense value of equity and diversity also leads to wellness. We are excited to be working with other colleagues within the University of Calgary in developing a toolkit that leaders of medical organizations can use to promote readiness to address culture shifts in EDI. We cannot thank our department members and leaders enough for their participation in providing survey input and data to test and validate this toolkit over the next year. We also plan to roll out Cultural Complications Rounds into various post-graduate trainee and section rounds over the upcoming year. Please stay tuned for more information.

Finally, we know the value of giving surgeons the tools to help them succeed professionally. For this, we will ensure our members know how to access leadership courses and will deliver at least one group leadership course per year. We are also developing a leadership handbook to ensure everyone knows what opportunities are available as they advance in their career and provide resources for those already on this trajectory.

Please stay well and be kind to each other.

Sincerely,

Natalie Yanchar MD MSc, FRCSC
Clinical Professor, Cumming School of
Medicine, University of Calgary
Deputy Department Head, Professionalism, Physician
Wellness, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Calgary Zone, Alberta Health Services

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF SURGICAL EDUCATION



Supporting surgery training from medical school to retirement is a core mandate of the Department of Surgery (DoS). As members of an academic university-based department, we all play a role in training the next generation of surgeons, colleagues in non-surgical specialties, and allied healthcare professions. The Office of Surgical Education (OSE) aims to facilitate these efforts while advocating for appropriate recognition. In the past year, we have developed a DoS education steering committee to set priorities, grow educational opportunities, and advocate for financial support. We hope to build infrastructure that helps members participate in teaching or other scholarly activity related to medical/surgical education.

Our department is one of North America's largest providers of surgical training and is recognized for its vast clinical exposure. We proudly report that all our Royal College surgical training programs were fully accredited in 2022. This success is due to the dedication and hard work of our program directors, program administrators, and all teaching faculty. It also depends on our trainees, whose

passion and pride in their programs contribute to their ongoing evolution. We are keen to respond to specific areas of improvement identified by the accreditors with themes including adequate program support and demonstrating continuous quality improvement. Because most of our programs had to demonstrate proficiency for CBD and non-CBD trainees, our full accreditation is a massive accomplishment. Congratulations!

As we embark on the next training cycle, each program participating in the R1 CARMS process was fully matched, so we welcomed 16 new residents into core surgical programs on July 1, 2023.

A major shift in the undergraduate curriculum is underway at the Cumming School of Medicine. Re-imagining Medical Education (RIME) represents an overhauled curriculum for implementation in July 2023. RIME aims to deliver patient-centred content that focuses on generalism while being socially accountable. At the clerkship level, we aim to maximize the medical student experience on surgical rotations to encourage, motivate, and recruit the next generation of surgeons. As we anticipate an on-site 2024 school accreditation, we are committed to ongoing quality improvement. The surgery rotation is valued by students, as evidenced by excellent feedback ratings, with many gold star staff and resident educators. We continue to work on two issues identified in the last accreditation cycle, including student work-hour restrictions and mid-rotation feedback. Thank you to the surgeons active in RIME development and the many clinical teachers in clerkship. After a five-year term, Dr. Jeremy LaMothe is stepping down from his role as the Surgery Clerkship Director, and we thank him for his hard work and dedication.

Faculty development and the opportunity to build our surgical community post-pandemic are taking shape. We re-introduced in-person attendance to citywide rounds, including a CBD update by local leaders, content changes to the undergraduate medical curriculum, planetary health considerations in surgery, and a wellness series. We encourage in-person attendance but recognize the need for a hybrid format to engage higher viewership, so we continue to offer rounds in person and via Zoom.

The Office of Surgical Fellowship (OSF) continues to support surgical trainees seeking additional experience and skillsets. We have had excellent feedback regarding the third-party company providing billing support and have renewed its contract for two years. The Annual Extended Resident and Fellowship Research Day was a great success and included keynote speaker Dr. Prasad Jetty from the University of Ottawa. The efforts of Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle resulted in a fantastic principles of research program made available to all fellows in the department. The OSF is also happy to see new fellowships coming to fruition, including podiatry and oral and maxillofacial surgery. There are also opportunities to develop clinical research fellowships, such as the one recently approved for ophthalmology (Leadership, Advanced Anterior Segment Surgery, Translational Research). We want to acknowledge the efforts of several fellowship directors completing their terms: Dr. Francis Sutherland (Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary), Dr. Christiaan Schrag (Plastic Microsurgery), and Dr. Mauricio Monroy-Cuadros (Transplant). We expect to have 27 fellowship programs with 37 participating fellows for 2023.

A significant highlight of the 2022-2023 academic year was the DoS gala, where we announced our major faculty education awards. A new award was created for an individual excelling in CME and Faculty Development. Congratulations to the following recipients:

- Excellence in Teaching Award for New Faculty: Dr. Hyea Min Yoon
- Excellence in Teaching Award for Senior Faculty: Dr. Lloyd Mack
- McPhedran Award for Innovation in Surgical Teaching: Dr. Prism Schneider
- Excellence in Teaching Award for CME and Faculty Development: Dr. Marcia Clark
- Educator of the Year: Dr. Peter Lewkonja

The 2022 Dr. Martin T. Spoor Award recipient was Dr. Jeff Grab (PGY4 Vascular Surgery). Given annually to a PGY3 or PGY4 surgical resident, it recognizes their leadership, scholarly activity, and clinical proficiency.

With the Royal College Accreditation and several turbulent pandemic years behind us, it is time to reinvigorate and push the department's educational activities forward. We face significant challenges in the current environment, including acute care coverage gaps, teacher burnout and reduced engagement, inadequate funding, and recognition for educational scholarly activity. Fortunately, Dr. Hildebrand and department leadership have indicated that growing surgical education across the department is

100 *surgical residents & extended residents*

31 *surgical fellows*

a priority. A minimum of \$300,000 value-add dollars has been secured and directed to the department's educational activities. In the next academic year, we look forward to advertising a competitive funding process rewarding innovative and novel ideas in surgical education.

Additional upcoming OSE priorities include:

- Develop an effective feedback process for our teachers that is safe and effective for learners and educators.
- Increase faculty development and educational career/leadership opportunities.
- Sunset current CBD platform, e-portfolio, and onboard its selected replacement.
- Carve out educational priorities within the department's strategic plan.
- Reinvigorate the OSF through consistent administrative support and chart future goals and strategies.
- Increase the capacity of the DoS to support CME activities.
- Incorporate trainees (residents and fellows) into the Chartered Surgical Facilities.
- Reinvigorate the CanMeds resident series to be effective, engaging, and reflective of evolving community needs.

Thank you to department members for contributing their time and expertise to the OSE. I look forward to the coming year. Please reach out to share your ideas and challenges.

Dr. Steven Lopushinsky
Vice-chair of Education
Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine,
University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH



Vision

The Office of Surgical Research exists to help surgeons achieve research excellence.

Mission

By fostering and facilitating programs aligned with the four research pillars within the Department of Surgery, the Office of Surgical Research will educate, promote, and invest in surgeons working in teams on innovative and impactful research.

The Office of Surgical Research (OSR) exists within the Department of Surgery (DoS) to:

- Offer direction and support to researchers.
- Foster collaborations between thematically aligned institutes within the University of Calgary.
- Enhance internal grant review processes to increase the success of external funding competitions.
- Offer assistance in formulating research policy, direction, and goals within the DoS.

The Director of the OSR reports to the Head of the Department of Surgery. The OSR membership meets every fourth month to develop and monitor the OSR directives. The directives include:

- Organizing internal research funding opportunities, including adjudication, accounting, and progress reports.
- Planning and executing the DoS annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium.
- Providing statistical support for surgeons' research projects.
- Providing research facilitation services, including internal peer review, identification of DoS research needs, and coordination with research administration within the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services.

OSR Director

Dr. Michael Monument was appointed Director of the OSR in February 2020. Dr. Monument is an orthopaedic surgeon-scientist who runs a pre-clinical sarcoma immunotherapy research lab at the Cumming School of Medicine. His priorities for the OSR are to increase DoS research productivity, support surgical innovation, and increase external funding successes for department members. Strategic initiatives include providing multi-year catalyst funding for promising research programs in the DoS, supporting research competitive within external funding competitions, providing biostatistical support, fostering collaborations with the CSM research institutes, and building a systemic culture of research enthusiasm within the DoS.

Surgeon's Day

The 39th Annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium was held as an in-person event on June 24, 2022, at the Libin Theatre. We were honoured to have Dr. Ezekiel Weis MD, MPH, FRCSC (Section of Ophthalmology, University of Calgary and University of Alberta) and Dr. Alan Dardik MD, PhD, FACS, DFSVS, FAHA (Section of Vascular Surgery, Yale School of Medicine) join our program as the invited McMurtry and McPhedran Lecturers. Our scientific program consisted of faculty research presentations, a resident research showcase, the Peter Cruse award, and the 'Sharpest Knife' live grant competition.

- Dr. Evan Compton (Section of Otolaryngology) won the top resident research prize for

The OSR Director's priorities are to increase DoS research productivity, support surgical innovation, and increase external funding successes for the department members.

his presentation "Predicting vocal cord pathology using artificial intelligence."

- Dr. Jeffrey Grab (Section of Vascular Surgery) won the runner-up resident research prize for his presentation, "Efficacy of Cold Renal Perfusion Protection for Open Complex Aortic Aneurysm Repair: A Meta-Analysis."
- Dr. Brett Ponich (Section of Plastic Surgery) was awarded the Peter Cruse award and lecture for his medical student research project, "The Temporal Artery Biopsy Debate."
- Dr. Patrick Gooi (Section of Ophthalmology) won the Sharpest Knife live grant competition for his proposal, "UV-Riboflavin Collagen Crosslinking and Inflammatory Cytokine Sequestration Optimizing Wound Healing in Glaucoma Surgery and Beyond."

The 40th Annual Surgeons' Day will be held as an in-person event at the Health Sciences Centre, Clara Christie Theatre, on June 9, 2023. We are thrilled to have Dr. Janice Pasiaka, MD, FRCSC, FRCS (Section of General Surgery, University of Calgary) and Dr. Heather Baltzer, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS (Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, University of Toronto) join our program as the invited McMurtry and McPhedran lecturers.

Grants & Awards

The OSR sponsored 17 research grants and awards in 2022 for a total funding envelop of \$245,750. In 2021, the OSR launched a new funding initiative, the Pathways to Success Award, a renewable three-year award (\$50,000/annum) developed to support DoS researchers and/or research groups that are striving towards obtaining stable, external funding to support their multi-year research initiatives. This funding opportunity will also encourage applicants to align with a CSM research institute and engage in formal internal peer review. The

OSR continues to see value in this program and will continue to endorse this opportunity on a yearly basis.

- Dr. Trafford Crump (Section of Ophthalmology) and Dr. Prism Schneider (Section of Orthopaedic Surgery) were both awarded the 2022 Pathways to Success Award.
- Dr. Eric Hyndman (Section of Urology) and Dr. Ganesh Swamy (Section of Orthopaedic Surgery) were successfully renewed for their ongoing projects funded in the 2021 Pathways to Success Award program.
- A total of five Calgary Surgical Research and Development Fund (CSRDF) grants were awarded, supporting faculty and resident research across the department.
- Four open access awards were provided to department members to help offset the costs associated with open-access publication fees.

Statistical Support

The OSR continues to provide statistical support for Department of Surgery residents, fellows, and faculty. Our OSR statistician provided over 500 hours of statistical support for 22 different research projects. These requests involved a variety of clinical and translational projects led by graduate students, residents, fellows, and faculty.

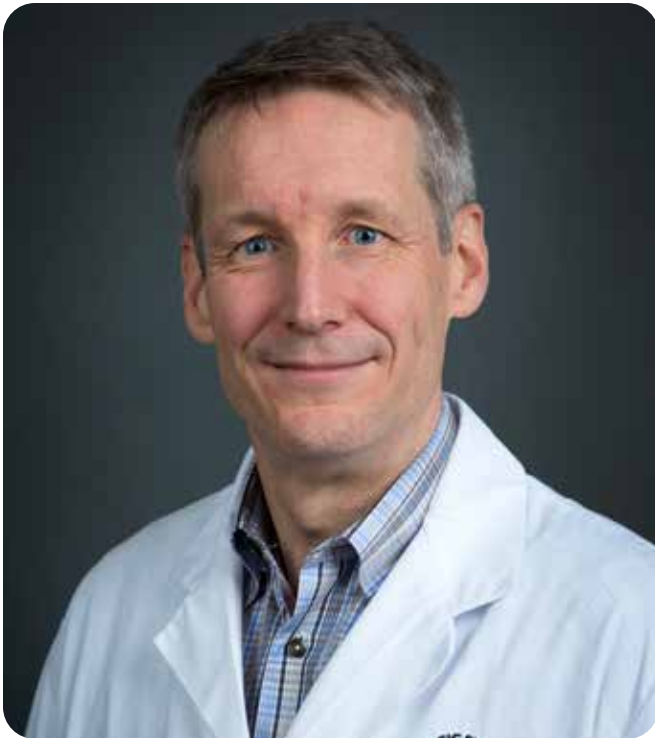
Consultation and support can be obtained for all aspects of project design, analysis, and publication. To obtain statistical support, please visit the OSR website at <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/surgery/research/statistical-support>.

Dr. Michael J. Monument MD MSc FRCS(C)

Vice-chair of Research

Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF SURGICAL QUALITY



2022 Highlights

Two projects based on optimizing opioid prescribing at discharge were completed in 2022, and the quality of the work was recognized at national and international surgical meetings. In September, the project Optimization of Opioid Prescribing Practices After Minimally Invasive Lung Resections Through a Quality Improvement Process was presented at the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons meeting held in Toronto. In October, the project abstract Quality Improvement in Post-Ureteroscopy Opioid Prescribing Practices, led by Dr. Kam Kaler, was accepted for a podium session presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association to be held in Chicago, Illinois, in April 2023.

The success of and learning from these projects allowed the OSQ to create a project model with standard steps to simplify the process of carrying out opioid prescription optimization projects. Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery has begun optimizing opioid prescribing following thyroidectomy under the leadership of the Quality Improvement (QI) Section Leads, Drs. Jonathan Yip and Robert Hart.

Vision

A culture of continuous quality improvement within the Department of Surgery (DoS) - Calgary Zone, resulting in an improved patient experience, enhanced clinical outcomes, optimized health care costs, and a positive caregiver experience.

Mission

The Office of Surgical Quality (OSQ) has used the three pillars of quality - effectiveness, efficiency, and safety - to develop a framework based on shared learnings, data integration, and identified core clinical metrics. The framework is used to generate quality improvement projects, guide resource allocation, and establish a reporting map for surgical quality improvement initiatives in the Calgary Zone.

Values

An environment that promotes respect, transparency, collaboration, complete data sharing, and accountability. This caring culture of performance stresses improvement, not sanction.

In December 2022, the project to reduce the Length of Stay (LOS) after an Esophagectomy was prepared for a second Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) to implement the Home Enteral Nutrition (EN) process. This project was a collaboration of the OSQ, Section of Thoracic Surgery (Drs. Graham and Schieman; NPs D. Sotiropoulos and A. Falvi), FMC Unit 61 (S. Arnott and C. Horbay), and the Home Enteral Therapy program (O. Muir). This PDSA will include new Connect Care processes and the learnings from the first PDSA. By the end of 2022, the median LOS had experienced a 6-day reduction from 17 to 11 days, representing a 35% reduction. We hope to improve results as we further refine how Home EN is implemented. The PDSA's were developed in response to a greater length of stay than expected based on the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) Acute Length of Stay (ALOS)/Expected Length of Stay (ELOS) metric.

A new project is underway to provide QI training for orthopedic residents to perform QI projects while addressing an opportunity to improve call handover

for Orthopedic Trauma at the Foothills Medical Centre. This is a combined initiative between the OSQ and the Section of Orthopedic Surgery under the leadership of Dr. P. Lewkonja. 60% of the content has been delivered and is expected to be finished in 2023. This initiative will allow the OSQ to create a standard QI educational model for interested surgical sections. We believe that teaching QI to future surgeons will be critical to the future of continuous quality improvement within the department.

Nine projects are currently being executed in different phases of completion. Four projects are in the final phase, with completion expected in 2023.

Calgary Zone Surgical Quality Council

The monthly quality council sessions have received 32 participants on average, with approximately 35% of participants being surgeons. 45% of participants answer the end-of-session satisfaction surveys, with 93% responding as very likely to attend future events. Evidence tells us that these sessions add value to our members, motivating us to continuously improve each month. Session topics include Choosing the Right Solution for the Right Problem; Innovation Applied to Quality Improvement in Minimally Invasive Urology Lessons; ERAS Alberta: Innovation, Implementation and Beyond; Podiatry-Led Multidisciplinary Teams: Lowering Hospitalizations and Length of Stay; and Critical Incident Review in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

DoS Section QI Leads

Four new QI leads joined the department's QI lead team, including Dr. Alexander Ragan (Ophthalmology), Dr. Alex Hatchell (Plastic), Dr. Darren Desantis (Urology), and Dr. Jonathan Yip (ENT). Other QI leads include Dr. Miller Smith (oral and maxillofacial surgery), Dr. Karim Manji (podiatry), Dr. Emmanuel Illicial (orthopedic surgery), Dr. Andrew Graham (thoracic surgery), and Dr. Kenton Rommens (vascular surgery). At the end of 2022, the general surgery and pediatric surgery QI Lead positions remained vacant.

OSQ SharePoint Website

One of the top priorities for 2022 was to migrate the OSQ SharePoint dashboard from ORIS to EPIC procedure codes. Outcome and process metrics are vital to our QI projects. Five surgical procedures have been updated

OSQ-initiated projects led to 15 fewer opioid tablets per prescription after minimally invasive lung resection and a 50% reduction in the average opioid dose per prescription after ureteroscopy.

with the new EPIC codes and successfully tested. We are ready to migrate the remaining procedures as needed.

Jennifer Bolt joined the OSQ as a data analyst and has facilitated data acquisition and processing. One of her recent contributions is developing a document outlining how to build a control chart in steps. The document can be found in SharePoint under QI tools. This work has been shared with the PLC Vascular Team, FMC Thoracic Section, and FMC NSQIP Team.

The OSQ is committed to granting Department of Surgery-Calgary Zone members access to its SharePoint, including the dashboard. We encourage everyone to visit the site and review reports such as NSQIP, TQIP, and the Opioid Prescribing dashboard. Please contact francisco.aguirre@albertahealthservices.ca if you do not have access.

Dr. Andrew Graham

**Director of the Office of Surgical Quality,
Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine
University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services**

Jennifer Bolt

**Analyst, Department of Surgery Quality and Safety
Department of Surgery, Calgary Zone
Alberta Health Services**

Francisco Aguirre , P.Eng.

**Senior Quality Improvement Consultant
Department of Surgery, Calgary Zone
Alberta Health Services**

UPDATE FROM THE EVIDENCE DECISION SUPPORT PROGRAM



In 2022, the Surgery Evidence Decision Support Program (EDSP) fully embraced its role as the only operations-based innovation program in Alberta Health Services (AHS). Led by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, researchers, directors, and managers, the EDSP is uniquely positioned to act as a conduit of information and understanding across portfolios, which turns evidence into impact. Using a three-phase approach to facilitate the operationalization of perioperative change at the sites, zones, programs, and province level, the EDSP is the proven pathway to implementing sustainable innovation in Alberta.

This year, the EDSP became a member of the Covenant Health Operations Procurement and Evaluation Committees (OPEC) with Shauna Gulka (OR Supply Chain Coordinator, Surgery Program, Grey Nuns Community Hospital) and Stephen Ewing (Supply Chain Coordinator, Surgery Program, Misericordia Community Hospital) reciprocating by sitting on the EDSP Committee. Shauna and Stephen join new members Suzanne Higgins (Senior Advisor and Optimization Lead, ASI), Laura Davey (SSCN Senior

Advisor and Anesthesiology Lead), and Katty Oishi (Senior Patient Safety Advisor) and will assist in integrating research evidence with local operational management information to make evidence-informed recommendations.

The year saw us expand support across the entire surgical clinical community, including the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Department of Cardiac Sciences, and the Alberta Surgery Initiative (ASI) as well as supporting projects undertaken by the Digestive Health SCN and Critical Care SCNs.

Accomplishments & Highlights

- Dr. Tara Klassen was recognized by the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) and awarded the Service to People Partners Award to recognize outstanding personal contributions to the CSM by individuals employed by organizations such as AHS and their subsidiaries or partners.
- The publicly available project list and status table on the EDSP webpage were updated quarterly to provide easy access for surgical stakeholders and knowledge users. The page houses ongoing and completed EDSP reports and recommendations. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scn-surg-edsp-projects.pdf>
- Generated the AHS evidence-based recommendations for timing of surgery following recovery from COVID-19 for the province of Alberta in the customized EDSP Guidance for Surgery After Covid-19 Infection: Timing of Surgery Following Recovery from COVID-19 to Reduce Risk of Postoperative Mortality (CIP2201SSCN). <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-guidance-surgery-after-covid-19.pdf>
- AHS approval and operational funding for an Urgent Use Sugammadex Program for Safer Airways in Alberta (HTR211). Sugammadex sodium can reverse neuromuscular paralysis during an urgent, difficult-to-manage airways event, allowing rapid return to spontaneous breathing. Implementation will be a phased approach at 106 AHS and Covenant Sites over two years, beginning in March 2023 with the Red Deer Regional Hospital Center. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scn-scnergy-winter-2023-shorttakes.pdf>

- Completed the Health Technology Evaluation Trial for Surgical Innovation for Early Stage Breast Cancer (HTR202). This trial was a two-stage process evaluating magnetic surgical markers to remove the discrete breast lump and detect potential spread in lymph nodes—all with one device. Stage 1 examined clinical feasibility at two high-volume surgical centres in Edmonton and Calgary. Stage 2 evaluated provincial scalability at the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scn-scnery-breast-cancer-surgery.pdf>
- Beginning in August 2022, the EDSP, Quality Health Improvement (QHI), and Provincial Patient Safety initiated the one-year funded Provincial Advisory Council on Device Innovation (PACODI) pilot. Building on the process the EDSP already uses for medical devices in surgery, PACODI provides expert feedback and support for innovative modifications and adaptations to improve patient care. <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/ps/Page27665.aspx>
- The EDSP acted as a scientific, technical, and/or health systems impact consultant at the provincial and national level for several agencies, including the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), Health Quality Ontario (HQO), Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OTAC), BC Health Technology Assessment Committee (HTAC), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), and CHU de Québec-Université Laval Innovation en Sante.

Goals & Future Directions

- In 2023, the EDSP is supporting multiple provincial Initiatives through Phase 3: Implementation and Funding and Procurement of the EDSP Health Technology Review Pathway to Implementation. These include the Provincial Strategy for Continuity of Robotic Surgery (HTR2301), Non-wire Localization for Early Stage Breast Cancer (HTR202), and Full Endoscopic Awake Spine Surgery (HTR2114).
- Lead the Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization (OBIO) funded provincial multisite health technology trial for AbClo Noninvasive Closure Device for Open Abdomens (HTR2210). <https://eahn.obio.ca/new/revolutionary-surgery-closure-device-evaluated-at-alberta-health-services/>

88 *health technology and innovation intakes*

40 *reports*

14 *health technology evaluation trials*

16 *provincial initiatives*

- Support and promote clinician-led research in new health innovations and technologies in surgery, including the implementation, management, and impact on patients, practitioners, and programs.

For more information, visit the AHS website (albertahealthservices.ca/scns/edsp.aspx) or the University of Calgary website (cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/surgery/programs/evidence-decision-support-program). To customize your health technology request, please contact EDSP@ahs.ca or the EDSP Research Scientist at tara.klassen@ahs.ca.

Dr. Robert Hart MD Msc. FRCSC
Co-Chair and Clinical Lead Calgary, Central, South Zones – Evidence Decision Support Program
Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Tara Leah Klassen, PhD
Scientific Lead – Evidence Decision Support Program
Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services



SECTION OF DENTISTRY AND ORAL HEALTH

The Section of Dentistry and Oral Health consists of two divisions: the Division of Adult Dentistry and the Division of Pediatric Dentistry.

Our section provides comprehensive oral health services to adult and pediatric patients through hospital dental clinics. The service also provides ambulatory care services in partnership with the Riverview Surgical Centre through its Chartered Surgical Facilities contract.

The Section of Dentistry and Oral Health is striving to be a valuable service to:

1. The hospital, cancer centre, emergency rooms, and multidisciplinary teams of the Calgary zone.
2. Our patients, some of whom represent the most vulnerable health sectors due to their complex medical conditions, unique dental and oral challenges, and social challenges. The section continues to be actively involved in the ongoing planning of the new Calgary Cancer Centre Dental Clinic. We look forward to moving into this new facility in the next 18 months.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Division of Adult Dentistry

- Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) Dental Clinic participated in the Connect Care launch and is now fully operational, receiving consults and referrals from all sites connected to Connect Care.
- The FMC Dental Clinic is currently staffed with four regular dentists and two residents.

- Dr. Graham Cobb has accepted the role of Section Chief, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. His vision and leadership were instrumental in leading the Section of Dentistry and Oral Health throughout the pandemic, and he remains actively involved with the clinic's move to the new Calgary Cancer Centre.
- Dr. Miller Smith filled in as Interim Section Chief for six months while the search and selection process proceeded. Thank you, Dr. Smith, for your leadership during this time.
- Dr. Adham Fares has accepted the role of Section Chief, Dentistry and Oral Health and is looking forward to fulfilling his vision for the section.
- Dr. Brad Fisher, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, has accepted the role of General Practice Residency Director.
- The FMC team has developed and fully commercialized a novel solution for dry mouth, currently application-pending for Health Canada approval.
- Crystal Ormond is the Patient Care Manager, and Gordon Jones is the Unit Manager of the FMC Dental Clinic.
- Dr. Zaima Abushawashi, graduating resident 2021/2022, is the newest addition to the FMC Dental Clinic. Dr. Abushawashi's residency contributed to her acceptance into the prestigious Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics program at the University of Toronto with a July 2023 starting date.
- Clinic staff look forward to moving to the new Calgary Cancer Centre Dental Clinic and digitizing their workflows.
- The FMC Dental Clinic continues to be a busy service. The total procedures performed increased by 500 procedures in the last year.



Dr. Adham Fares
Section Chief of Dentistry and Oral Health

Division of Pediatric Dentistry

- The division is composed of 20 pediatric dentists. They have AHS clinical privileges at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH) and all Chartered Surgical Facilities.
- Dr. Marie Claude Cholette is the ACH Dental Clinic Director and remains an examiner for the Royal College of Dentists of Canada.
- Dr. Ben Hughes is a full-time pediatric dentist with the ACH Dental Clinic.
- Dr. Kari Badwi is the Division Chief of Pediatric Dentistry.
- The ACH Dental Clinic staff includes three part-time and five casual pediatric dentists, one orthodontist, and two oral and maxillofacial surgeons. All members are part of the division's after-hour emergency service.
- We thank all the division members for their commitment to their patients and contribution to the overall strategy and development of the division and the overall section.
- The clinic offers comprehensive dental, orthodontic, and oral care to pediatric patients with medical complexities. Modalities include communicative behaviour guidance/nonpharmacological behaviour modification, nitrous oxide inhalation sedation, minimal/moderate oral sedation, and general anesthesia in the operating room. ACH dental specialists are also consultants for the Cleft Lip

4,232 procedures in the
FMC Dental Clinic

2,600 patients seen at the
ACH Dental Clinic

and Palate Clinic, the Velopharyngeal Insufficiency Clinic, the Craniofacial Clinic, and the Temporal Mandibular Joint/Rheumatology Clinic.

Education

- The one-year postgraduate General Dentistry Hospitalist Resident/Fellowship Program continues at the FMC Dental Clinic with great success. This program involves hospital dental training for general dentists with rotations throughout all specialties, including anesthesiology, pediatrics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, otolaryngology, and many more. The program will graduate two residents this year and has accepted two for the 2023/2024 academic year.
- The planned 2023/2024 move to the Calgary Cancer Centre's new state-of-the-art dental clinic will provide the residents with access to digital dentistry workflows, helping bolster their dental education.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Long waitlists for adult dentistry procedural sedation and general anesthesia continue to be challenging. The waitlist is comprised predominantly of patients with special needs and those whose medical complexity precludes them from receiving dental care in the community. Access to more OR time remains a top priority.
- The ACH Dental Clinic continues to look for resource support to grow and attract adequate professional and support staff to meet patient demand.
- A compensation review for all pediatric dentists at the ACH Dental Clinic is ongoing.
- The ACH Dental Clinic continues to look for areas where specialized pediatric dentistry services can expand. Future areas of interest include:
 - Maxillofacial Prosthodontic Clinic.
 - Saliva Control Clinic (multi-disciplinary).
- The FMC Dental clinic's future areas of interest and expansion include:
 - Digital dentistry and the role of dentistry in sleep medicine and sleep medicine research.
 - Xerostomia research and xerostomia solutions.



SECTION OF GENERAL SURGERY

The Section of General Surgery has 45 members and performs surgery at the four adult Calgary hospitals, including the Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC), Rockyview General Hospital (RGH), and South Health Campus (SHC). Our surgeons provide care for a wide variety of benign and malignant diseases, including diseases of the head and neck, endocrine, breast, upper gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, colorectal, abdominal wall, and surgical oncology, as well as acute care general surgery and trauma.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Education

- Our General Surgery Residency Training Program has 21 residents and is led by Dr. Ryan Rochon, Program Director (PD), and Dr. Mike Kwan, Assistant PD.
- We have Fellowship Training Programs in Colorectal Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Endocrine Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery, Upper GI Surgery, and Trauma Surgery.
- Dr. Hyea Min Yoon won the General Surgery Residency Teacher of the Year award for an unprecedented second consecutive year – well done Dr. Yoon!! She also won the Department of Surgery

Excellence in Teaching Award for Junior Faculty.

- Dr. Wayne Rosen received the Undergraduate Medical Education Achievement Award from the Cumming School of Medicine.
- Dr. Lloyd Mack won the Department of Surgery Excellence in Teaching Award for Senior Faculty.
- Drs. Neel Datta, Mike Dunham, John Graham, Adrian Harvey, Artan Reso, and Hyea Min Yoon received Gold Star Teaching Awards.
- Drs. Don Buie, Estifanos Debru, Lloyd Mack, Paul McBeth, and Ryan Rochon received Honour Roll awards, as did several of our residents.

Research

- The section demonstrated outstanding research productivity despite the pandemic, having over \$7 million in active grants in 2022.
- Members contributed over 100 peer-reviewed publications in 2022.
- Dr. Chad Ball led the section with 52 peer-reviewed publications. He also had \$64,000 in new research grants and won best research presentation at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) and Western Trauma Association (WTA) meetings.
- Dr. Andy Kirkpatrick had 23 publications and won the SIFPAC Prize 2022 – Scientific Recognition by the Italian Society of Surgical Pathophysiology. He continues to work on the COOL (Closed or Open after Laparotomy) trial, the largest randomized trial on open vs closed abdomen in severe intra-abdominal sepsis.
- Dr. Janice Pasieka had 15 publications and



Dr. Tony MacLean
Section Chief of General Surgery

4 book chapters. She was the Associate Editor of the international guidelines on hyper/hypoparathyroidism, President-Elect of the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons, and recently finished an eight-year term as Associate Editor of the World Journal of Surgery

- Dr. Oliver Bathe was selected as the Wayne Foo Professor for Surgical Oncology.
- Dr. Antoine Bouchard-Fortier and Dr. Lloyd Mack won the Jennifer Gardiner Award for their work in Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) in cytoreduction/HIPEC patients.
- Dr. May Lynn Quan had nine publications, is the PI for two large ongoing grants, and won the Department of Surgery Award for Outstanding Contributions in Clinical Research.

Medical Leadership and Administration

- Dr. Francis Sutherland is the Deputy Department Head – Surgical Access Improvement.
- Dr. Lloyd Mack is the Academic Deputy Head of the Department of Oncology and Medical Lead for Cancer Surgery Alberta.
- Drs. Don Buie, John Heine, and Mike Dunham are the Surgery Site Chiefs for the FMC, PLC, and SHC, respectively.
- Drs. Estifanos Debru, Lea Austin, May Lynn Quan, and Paul McBeth are the General Surgery Site Leads at the PLC, RGH, FMC, and SHC, respectively, with

ALMOST 3,000 cancer cases, close to 40% of cancer surgery volume for the zone

OVER \$7M in active grants

14,000 cases, almost 40% being emergent cases

- Dr. Debru having completed his term this year.
- Dr. Neel Datta accepted the General Surgery Site Lead position at PLC starting January 1, 2023.
- Dr. Rohan Lall continues as the Medical Director, Trauma Services.
- Dr. Adrian Harvey is the Director of Faculty, Program, and Student Evaluation.
- Dr. Moffatt is the Quality and Safety Physician Lead for the DoS, Calgary Zone.
- Dr. Caitlin Yeo is the FMC Medical Staff Association Vice President.
- Dr. Bruce Rothwell (PLC), Dr. Rob Mulloy (SHC) and Dr. Janice Pasioka (FMC) all won Distinguished Service Awards from the Department of Surgery for their years of exceptional service at their sites.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- We are faced with an ongoing house staff workforce shortage and are having difficulties with acute care coverage. Frequent diversions have led to frustration among our faculty and significant challenges trying to avoid negative consequences for our patients.
- Surgical wait times, exacerbated by the pandemic, have been a challenge. This has also been exacerbated by anesthesia and nursing shortages.
- With the growing and aging population, we expect increased cancer volumes.
- Our workforce is also aging, and six members retired in 2022 – Drs. John Kortbeek, Rob Mulloy, Bruce Rothwell, Doug Johnson, Jeff Way, and Neil Hagerman. Their shoes will be hard to fill. We expect several more retirements in the next few years. We are proactively discussing retirement plans with our most senior surgeons and are actively recruiting new surgeons to our faculty.
- Fostering research despite a lack of GFT positions and protected time is also a challenge.



SECTION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The Section of Ophthalmology provides clinical services through Alberta Health Services facilities, chartered surgical facilities, private offices, and outpatient clinics at the Rockyview General Hospital and the Alberta Children's Hospital. The section has subspecialists in all areas related to the eye, including retina, cornea, glaucoma, ocular oncology, urgent eye care, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatrics, comprehensive ophthalmology, adult strabismus, thyroid disorders, and low vision.

2022 was a challenging year for all services, including ophthalmology. Although hospital and chartered surgical facility OR cancellations were fewer, they still did occur due to Covid, affecting physicians and support staff. Apart from COVID, as the year wound down, there were significant closures and cancellations due to anesthesiology and nursing staff shortages. The waitlist for ophthalmologists requiring hospital operating time rose due to OR cancellations and prioritizing services with the greatest number of patients out of window.

In April, there was a significant shift in surgical delivery as Alberta Health decreased the number of independent surgical facilities that would have a contract for medically provided services from four to two. This change resulted in many surgeons needing to change location, presenting several challenges to the surgical facilities to meet the equipment and staffing needs. The chartered facilities should be commended for rising to the challenge, but there is no question that the transition time was difficult. Despite the challenges, there was continued movement to lower the waitlist for cataract surgery, though unfortunately, waiting lists for other procedures have risen. All surgical services are clamouring for more operating time. Fortunately for Ophthalmology, there is the potential to use chartered surgical facilities.



Dr. Andrew Crichton
Section Chief Ophthalmology

44 ophthalmologists in
the Calgary Zone

10 ophthalmology
residents

*Fellowship programs in Glaucoma, Oculoplastics,
Retina, Oncology, Advanced Anterior
Segment, and a Research Fellow.*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

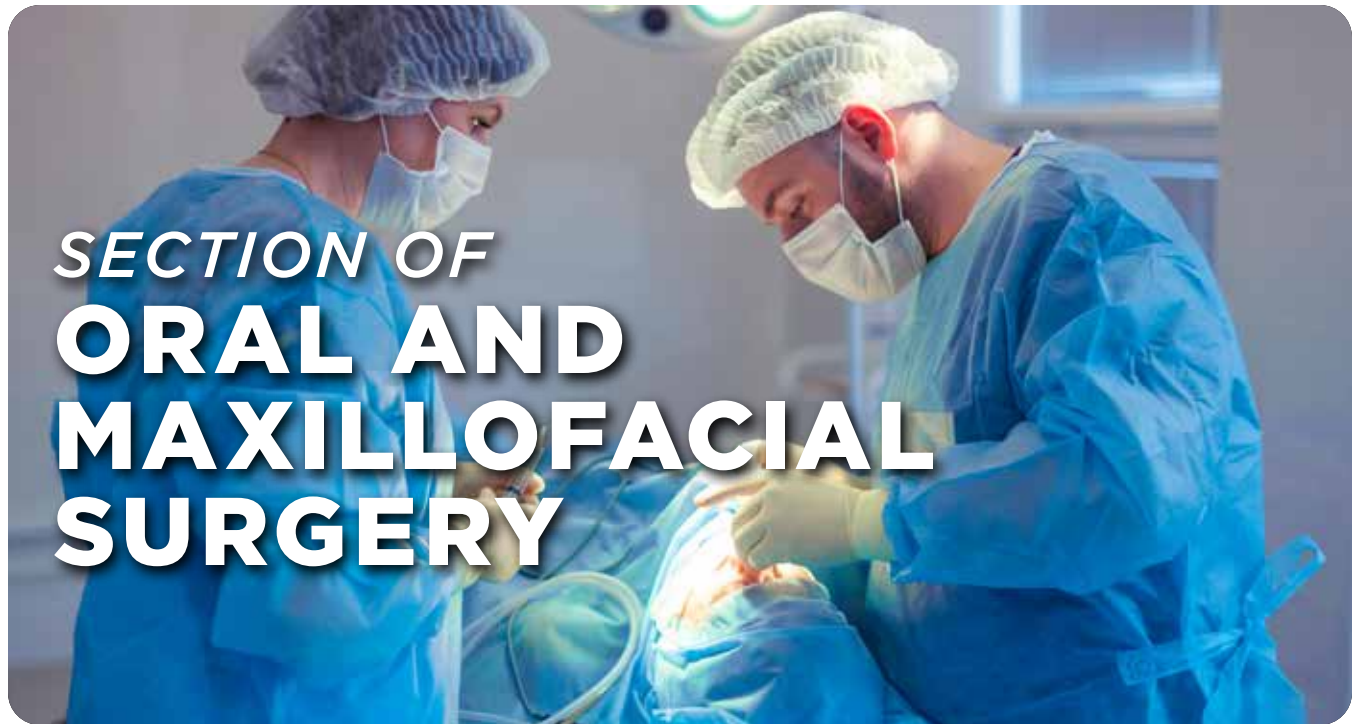
- The section accepted two new residents in 2022, Dr. Abdullah Al-Ani and Dr. Athithan Ambikkumar.
- Two residents graduated, Dr. Michael Mak and Dr. Daniel Moroz.
- Dr. Alex Ragan was recruited as the Quality Improvement Lead.
- Dr. Ezekiel Weis was promoted to Clinical Professor.
- Dr. Michael Kryshchuk received the 2022 Secretariat Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the 2023 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for his work with Eyes on Ukraine.
- Dr. Abdullah Al-Ani and Dr. Patrick Gooi were awarded the \$10K Spirit Award at the 2022 Eye on the Cure Competition.
- Dr. Patrick Gooi and team were also successful in winning the Sharpest Knife Grant Competition from the Office of Surgical Research during Surgeons' Day.
- Dr. Anna Ellis was awarded the \$30K People's Choice Award at the 2022 Eye on the Cure Competition.
- Dr. Collier Jiang was awarded \$12.5K for third place at the Lion's Lair competition at the Canadian Ophthalmology Society (COS) 2022 Annual Meeting.
- Dr. Michael Mak received the 2022 Canadian Association of Medical Education (CAME) Rising Star Certificate of Excellence Award for demonstrating a

commitment and passion for medical education.

- Dr. Amin Kherani received the 2022 Rockyview General Hospital Outstanding Mentor Award.
- Dr. Michael Ashenurst received the Distinguished Service Award for Rockyview General Hospital in 2022.
- The Ophthalmology Residency Program was re-accredited.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

Over the last few years, we have filled three key positions: Residency Training Director, CBD Lead, and QI Lead. Next year, we should see significant further recruitment. We will need to replace Dr. Astle at the Alberta Children's Hospital, and there are many specialties in need of recruitment. We have a rebranded Human Resources Committee, which will help with identifying and clarifying the needs. We look forward to further consolidations next year.



SECTION OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

The section of OMFS has 12 active members and provides surgical services at the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC), Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH), and Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF). The section specializes in the treatment of disease, injuries, and defects in the head, neck, face, jaw, and the hard and soft tissues of the oral (mouth), maxillofacial (jaw), and face region.

The Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) provides high-quality, contemporary care to patients with various oral and facial conditions. This care includes reconstructive surgery, trauma surgery, tumour surgery, orthognathic surgery, oral rehabilitation implantology, and treatment for obstructive sleep apnea.

Section members provide services at the Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic, Craniofacial Clinic, Dental Clinic, and Temporal Mandibular Joint/Rheumatology Clinic at the ACH. Members also provide services at the Dental Clinic and Head and Neck Tumour Clinic at the FMC. In addition, our section provides call coverage for all Calgary Zone hospitals and urgent care centres as well as facilities in southern Alberta. The section is committed to advancing the specialty of OMFS and providing excellent patient care.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS Medical Leadership and Administration

- Dr. Rick Edwards completed his second term as the Section Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in July 2022. We thank him for his service and commitment to our section.
- Dr. Graham Cobb accepted the Section Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery position and looks forward to carrying out his vision for the section.



Dr. Graham Cobb
Section Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Dr. Cobb is also the PLC Site Lead for the OMFS. He is also a member of the Head and Neck Tumour Team at the FMC and a Royal College Examiner.

- Dr. Rick Edwards received the Outstanding Contribution in Leadership award from the Department of Surgery.
- Dr. Miller Smith is the ACH Site Lead for OMFS, an ACH Cleft Lip and Palate Team member, OMFS QI and Safety lead, the NSQIP representative for the PLC, the OMFS representative for the Office of Surgical Research, and a Royal College Examiner.
- Dr. Brett Habijanac sits on the Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF) Committee and is the OMFS representative for the Department of Surgery's Peer Support Program.
- Dr. Shawn Higashi is a member of the College Sedation and Anesthesia Committee.
- Dr. Simon Touchan is President of the Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of Alberta (AOMSA).
- Dr. Brad Fisher is the Program Director of the Hospital-based General Practice Dentistry Residency Program at the FMC.
- Dr. Todd Fairbanks sits on the Safe Surgical Checklist Committee for the PLC.
- Dr. Kevin Robertson is an ACH Cleft Lip and Palate team member.

12 surgeons in the Calgary Zone

214 surgical cases completed at the Peter Lougheed Centre

1,814 surgical cases completed in Chartered Surgical Facilities

Education

The section of OMFS Surgery is excited to grow its presence in education and research in the Department of Surgery. The section has formally completed its proposal for a fellowship in orthognathic, TMJ arthroplasty, and jaw reconstruction. The program hopes its first fellow will start in the summer or fall of 2023. The inception of the fellowship program will continue to foster an environment for teaching and excellence within the section.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Dr. Brad Fisher is the newest hire in the section.
- Expanding the OMFS service with the support of the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) program.
- Increasing the volume of cases and access for OMFS patients in the treatment of mouth and jaw pathology, orthognathic surgery, MMA sleep apnea surgery, and TMJ Arthroplasty.
- Expanding budgets with the costs associated with custom patient-specific implants.



SECTION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

The Section of Orthopaedic Surgery has 68 active members who deliver surgery at the Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC), Rockyview General Hospital (RGH), and the South Health Campus (SHC). In addition, we deliver specialized pediatric orthopaedic care at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH). Orthopaedic surgeons perform surgeries related to the musculoskeletal system, including joint replacement, spine surgery, and reconstruction.

Section members provide key leadership roles for Alberta Health Services, the University of Calgary, the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network, and regional, provincial, national, and international orthopaedic associations and professional societies. These leadership roles translate into significant impacts for improving patient care by our members.

Most of our faculty members and trainees are involved in orthopaedic research, an important pillar of our academic mission. These research activities include laboratory/basic science, clinical, and health service delivery/policy. Our research partners include the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute, the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, and the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network.

There are 25 residents in the Orthopaedic Residency Training Program, and all sites are engaged in the education of trainees, including medical students, residents, and fellows.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- 68 active orthopaedic surgeons in the Calgary Zone across five acute care sites.
- 25 residents in the University of Calgary's Orthopaedic Residency Training Program.
- Dr. Jim Harder retired from Pediatric Orthopaedic practice. Thank you, Jim, for your years of service.
- Dr. Kelley DeSouza retired from orthopaedic practice and completed his terms as the Facility Medical Director at Rockyview General Hospital. Thank you, Kelley, for your years of service.
- The addition of publicly funded contracted orthopaedic procedures at Clearpoint Health, a Chartered Surgical Facility, has resulted in additional OR resources for patients waiting for hip or knee arthroplasty, spine, shoulder, soft tissue knee, foot and ankle, and hand and wrist surgeries.
- The Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program within the Alberta Surgical Initiative was established for referrals from primary care physicians to orthopaedic surgeons within the Calgary Zone in 2022.
- A Research Impact Analysis was conducted to review the return on investment for the Value-Add funds that support section research. Over the past five years, \$1.663M of Value-Add funding was allocated to 97 research projects, which resulted in 83 manuscripts, 77 abstracts, and 97 presentations at regional, national, and international meetings. Most remarkably, these funds were used to leverage an additional \$4.1M from external sources, meaning for every \$1.00 invested, a return of an additional \$2.46 from external sources was realized. Thank you to Judy Crawford and Dr. Paul Salo for preparing the report, and congratulations to all members of our section and research portfolio for this success.
- Dr. Prism Schneider was named the Research



Dr. Jason Werle
Section Chief of Orthopedic Surgery

Portfolio Director, effective January 1, 2023. Thank you to Dr. Paul Salo for his leadership in this role over the past eight years.

- Dr. Nick Desy (Program Director) and Dr. Peter Lewkonja (Assistant Program Director) led a successful Royal College accreditation of the University of Calgary Orthopaedic Surgery Residency program in September 2022.
- The surgical broadcast program, Direct from the Operating Room, entered its tenth year. This program, sponsored by Telus Spark Science Centre and Alberta Health Services, provides a monthly live surgical broadcast to high school students allowing them to ask questions of the surgical team in real-time. Thank you to the RGH OR and residents for supporting this educational activity.
- Calgary will host the 78th Annual Canadian Orthopaedic Association Meeting on June 21-24, 2023. The meeting was last held in Calgary in 2004. The section will be taking the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University of Calgary Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program on Saturday, June 24, 2023, after the COA.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Waitlist increases due to COVID-19 for

68 surgeons in the Calgary Zone

25 residents in the Orthopaedic Residency Training Program

OVER 15,000 surgical cases performed at all five hospitals

all orthopaedic care in the zone, including consultation and surgery. The Alberta Surgery Initiative (ASI) and pandemic recovery/mitigation efforts will be key to improving access.

- Lack of acute care call coverage at all sites remains an ongoing challenge to delivering safe and efficient orthopaedic patient care. Ongoing CSA recruitment challenges remain. Developing a Clinical ARP for Clinical Associates and establishing an Acute Care Coverage office within the Department of Surgery should assist with these challenges.
- Nursing and anesthesia staff shortages have led to cancelled operating room slates. This health-human resource challenge will persist for the foreseeable future.
- Sustaining leadership positions within the section without adequate financial resources.
- Recognizing academic contributions with limited Cumming School of Medicine resources to support this work.
- Maintaining surgeon wellness given the above ongoing challenges to surgical care provision.
- Dr. Meghan Marien was recruited into the Pediatric Division at ACH in February 2022.
- Dr. Rubini Pathy was recruited into the Pediatric Division at ACH in November 2022.
- Dr. Alex Meldrum was recruited into the Arthroplasty and Trauma Divisions at RGH in October 2022.
- Recruitment in 2023 is proceeding for the following:
 - Trauma surgeon at FMC
 - Oncology surgeon at FMC
 - Arthroplasty/trauma surgeon at PLC
 - Arthroplasty/trauma surgeon at RGH
 - Foot & ankle surgeon at PLC (shared practice)
- The population demand for MSK surgical care is not currently being met, so future recruitment and OR resources will be required. It is hoped that the ASI will assist with this in a sustainable fashion.

SECTION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGERY



The section of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery delivers surgical care to all five Calgary hospitals. Our surgeons specialize in providing comprehensive care across the spectrum of otolaryngologic disorders. There are 24 surgeons, providing specialty coverage for pediatric ENT, head and neck oncology and reconstructive surgery, rhinology, skull-base surgery, otology, neurotology, facial plastic and skin cancer surgery, laryngology, sleep surgery, and general otolaryngology.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Leadership and Administrative

- Dr. Doug Bosch completed his five-year term as Section Chief. Thanks, Doug, for your hard work and dedication!
- Dr. Shamir Chandarana became the new Section Chief.
- Dr. James Brookes was the Interim Residency Program Director. Thanks, James, for stepping in during a tough transition.
- Dr. Derrick Randall is now the Residency Program Director, with Dr.

Justin Lui as Assistant Program Director.

- Dr. Rob Hart continues as Co-Director of the Evidence Decision Support Program for the Department of Surgery (DoS).
- Dr. Derrick Randall continues as Director of CME for the DoS.
- Dr. Jon Yip has become the QI/Safety lead for Otolaryngology and sits on the QI Council.
- Dr. Monica Hoy continues as the CBD Director and UME Director for Otolaryngology.
- Dr. Wayne Matthews continues as the Acting Director of the Ohlson Research Initiative, Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute.
- Dr. Euna Hwang continues as Research Director for the Residency Program.
- Drs. Brookes, Park, Bosch, Mechor, and Chandarana continue as ENT Site Leads.
- Drs. Euna Hwang, Monica Hoy, and Justin Chau were promoted to Clinical Assistant Professors.

Education

- Our section has a successful otolaryngology residency training program and accepts one to two residents each year. The program currently has ten residents. The program also has a fellowship in advanced head and neck surgical oncology.
- Drs. Gabrielle French and Khaloud Al-Bahri successfully completed their Royal College Certification in Otolaryngology in June 2022. They are both completing pediatric ENT fellowships in Boston and Toronto, respectively.



Dr. Shamir Chandarana
Section Chief of Otolaryngology
Head and Neck Surgery

Research

- Our research program is well developed, with several faculty garnering peer-reviewed funding and providing mentorship to surgical residents and Master students. Several projects have received accolades at an international level.
- Dr. Shamir Chandarana is Co-Investigator for CIHR funded project to investigate Transitions in Care for head and neck cancer patients.
- Dr. Justin Lui has received significant funding to explore Eustachian tube dysfunction.
- Dr. Devon Livingstone was awarded the top prize for the AI Category by Technation for work on machine learning and ENT pathologies.
- The Ohlson Research Initiative, which includes Drs. Matthews, Hart, Chandarana, and Lui, continues to grow its multidisciplinary team, publish at a high level, and garner significant funding.
- Dr. Justin Lui, Surgical Simulation Director, is gaining international recognition for the use of a virtual reality platform.
- Dr. Rob Hart directs the National Review Course in Calgary for final-year residents preparing for their ENT board exams.
- Dr. Compton (supervised by Dr. Livingstone) received first place for best research at the DoS annual Surgeon's Day. This work is being recognized through collaborations in the US and National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding.

3,763 adult surgical cases
in the Calgary Zone

1,484 pediatric surgical cases
in the Calgary Zone

28 peer-reviewed
publications

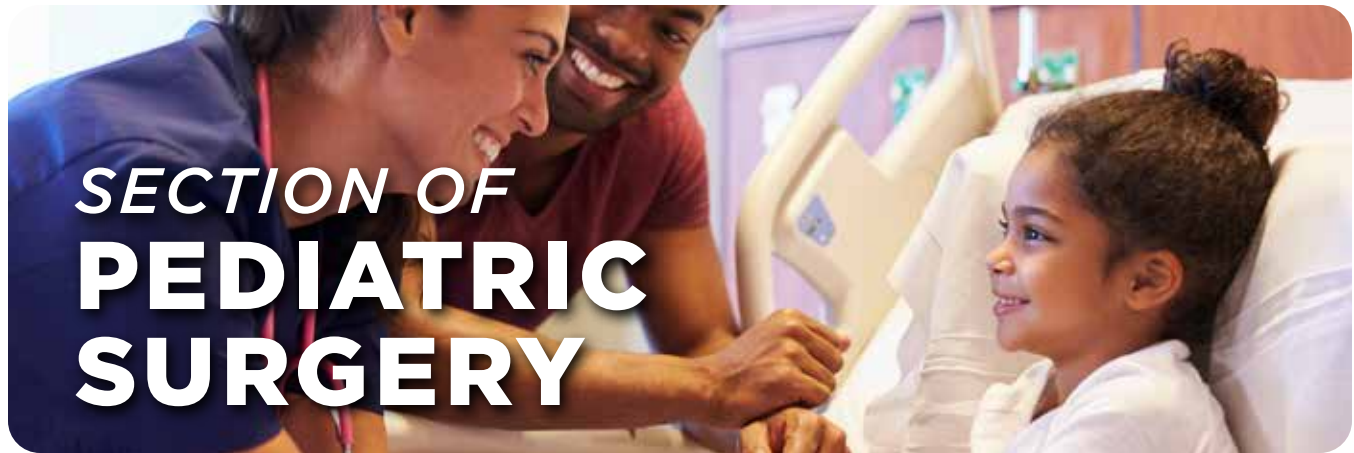
- Dr. Katie de Champlain (supervised by Dr. Lui) garnered over \$60,000 in peer-reviewed funding to study hearing-related conditions.
- Dr. Fatemeh Ramazani (supervised by Dr. Randall) was awarded OSR research grants to investigate reflux disease. Dr. Fatemeh also successfully completed her Master of Medical Education degree.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Our section's main challenge is meeting the demand for office consultations and providing surgical intervention within a targeted timeframe. We are not yet fully recovered from the pandemic-related slowdowns. Our section is pursuing new means of handling the demand, including collaboration with Specialist Link and FAST central triage access.
- We have begun to utilize the Holy Cross Contracted Surgical Facility for low-risk procedures through the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI).
- We have recruited Dr. Ashley Hinthner, a new head and neck cancer surgeon who will be practicing at the Foothills Medical Centre, replacing Dr. Joe Dort.
- Dr. Jon Yip began his rhinology/general ENT practice at the Rockyview General Hospital.
- We are actively recruiting two new full-time pediatric ENTs to the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH).
- Drs. Warshawski, Howshowky, and Gillis have retired from AHS-related activities. Thanks for your years of service and commitment to the program, and all the best in your future endeavours.

In Memory of Dr. Warren Yunker

We suffered a major loss in 2022 with the passing of Dr. Warren Yunker. Warren was an active member of our section who practiced at the ACH and held the position of Residency Program Director. His contributions to our program were immense, and his loss reverberated across the country. Our thoughts and prayers are with his surviving family. Our section is actively looking for ways to commemorate Warren.



SECTION OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY

The Section of Pediatric Surgery delivers comprehensive surgical care to the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH). Members are from pediatric general surgery, pediatric orthopedics, pediatric plastic surgery, pediatric otolaryngology, pediatric urology, and pediatric ophthalmology. The ACH's surgical services are complete with surgeons from the Department of Surgery's Section of Dentistry and Section of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, the Department of Neurosciences, and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Service

- The ACH saw a challenging but successful launch of Connect Care clinical information system.
- Pediatric Adolescent Gynecology completed a formal AHS-sponsored QI QA process mapping of referrals in October 2022.
- Dr. Warren Yunker, pediatric otolaryngologist, was honoured with the 2022 Department of Surgery Distinguished service award for his work at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

Education

- Dr. Philippa Brain received a Postgraduate Certificate in Patient Safety from Oxford University, UK (Sabbatical, July 2021-July 2022), Completed with Distinction.
- Dr. Kayla Nelson received a Master's in Health Professions Education. Her thesis "Residents as supervisors: How senior residents make ad hoc entrustment decisions" has been accepted for publication.

- Dr. Jaelene Mannerfeldt completed the Strategic Leadership Development Program through the Haskayne School of Business (December 2021 to July 2022).

Research

- Dr. Mary Brindle published 20 papers in 2022 and presented as a visiting professor and invited speaker at Massachusetts General Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, Harvard School of Public Health, and the Hong Kong Surgical Forum, among other national and international venues.
- Publication highlights for this last year include a publication in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) on antiracist practice for pediatric surgeons, led by Dr. Tito Daodu along with Dr. Brindle, which has scored in the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric.
- Dr. Brindle and ACH graduated fellow Dr. Mercedes Pilkington led the development of the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) Surgical Safety Checklist, which was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open in February 2023.

Medical Leadership and Administration

- The site section leads include Dr. Dave Parsons for Pediatric Orthopedics, Dr. Ryan Frank for Pediatric Plastic Surgery, Dr. James Brookes for Pediatric Otolaryngology, Dr. Andy Crichton for Pediatric Ophthalmology, Dr. Bryce Weber for Pediatric Urology, Dr. Steve Lopushinsky for Pediatric General Surgery, Dr. Kari Badwi for Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Miller Smith for Pediatric Oral maxillofacial surgery, Dr. Walter Hader for Pediatric Neurosurgery and Dr. Philippa Brain for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology.
- Dr. Mary Brindle is the Director of the Safe Surgery/ Safe Systems Program at Ariadne Labs, Scientific Director of the Surgery Strategic Care Network, and



Dr. Paul Beaudry
Section Chief of Pediatric Surgery

Director of the EQUIS Research Platform. In 2022, Dr. Brindle also took on the role of Director of the W21C and the role of Secretary for the International Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) Society.

- Dr. Andrea Lo is the Program Director of the Pediatric General Surgery and the Director of the Surgical Foundations Boot Camp.
- Dr. Steven Lopushinsky is the Director of the Office of Surgical Education for the Department of Surgery.
- Dr. Miller Smith is the QI and Safety Lead for the Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) Lead for the Peter Lougheed Centre.
- Dr. Frankie Fraulin is the Deputy Department Head, Governance and Physician Services. He also holds the positions of Secretary-Treasurer and Educational Foundation Director for the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.
- Dr. Rob Harrop completed two terms as the Section Chief of Plastic Surgery, and we thank him for his dedication and service to our surgical section. Dr. Harrop is a member of the Advisory Council for Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery for the American College of Surgeons.
- Dr. Natalie Yanchar became the Deputy Department Head, Professionalism, Physician Wellness, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and

8,340 total cases

6,435 elective surgeries

1,905 emergency/urgent surgeries

is the ACH Inpatient Director of Trauma.

- Dr. Ugo Dodd facilitated the Connect Care launch as a Connect Care Physician Builder.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Two new pediatric orthopedic surgeons, Dr. Meaghan Marien and Dr. Rubini Pathy, joined the section in 2022.
- Two new pediatric plastic surgeons, Dr. Thomas Cawthorn and Dr. Rebecca Hartley, also joined the section in 2022. They will split their time between the adult site, Rockyview General Hospital, and ACH.
- Recruitment to fill the vacancies of two pediatric otolaryngologists is ongoing.
- Transition to Connect Care has required surgeons to transform their workflow in all clinical settings in exchange for enhanced access to patient information.
- Full surgical capacity has been limited by this transition, in addition to the reduced availability of pediatric anesthesia. Recruiting in this area is ongoing and is expected to lead to three new anesthesiologists joining the ACH in the next two years.

In Memory of Dr. Warren Yunker

We suffered a significant loss in 2022 with the passing of Dr. Warren Yunker, a pediatric otolaryngologist practicing at the ACH. Unfortunately, the development of a progressive motor neuron disease caused him to stop his career at a young age. Warren had a strong support system, but the burden the disease put on his physical and mental health overcame him, and he took his own life. His wife has asked us to speak openly about Warren's struggles, reminding us to continue raising awareness about mental health, having open conversations, and supporting each other. His loss has impacted our section immensely, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and colleagues.



SECTION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

The Section of Plastic Surgery consists of 32 active plastic surgeons who provide care at the four adult acute care sites and the Alberta Children's Hospital. Our section focuses on the care and surgical restoration of structures of the body that are affected, aesthetically or functionally, by congenital disorders, tumours, injuries, diseases, or the aging process. We operate on many anatomic regions of the body and collaborate with other specialties to solve a large variety of surgical problems.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Medical Leadership and Administration

- Dr. Rob Harrop completed his second term as the Section Chief of Plastic Surgery. We thank him for his dedication and commitment to our section over the last ten years.
- Dr. Earl Campbell accepted the Section Chief of Plastic Surgery position and looks forward to carrying out his vision for the section.
- Dr. Frankie Fraulin continues as the Deputy Department Head – Governance and Physician Services for the Department of Surgery.

- Dr. Kate Elzinga completed her term as interim Physician lead Quality Assurance and Improvement for the department as well as the Quality Improvement and Safety lead for the section. She was awarded the department's Dedication to Surgical Quality Award at the gala in November.
- Dr. Alexandra Hatchell is our new QI and Safety Lead for the section.

Clinical Service

- Dr. Maleka Ramji developed a multimedia virtual pathway for a multidisciplinary hand clinic.
- Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day was held in October to raise awareness of breast cancer reconstruction. The day offers patients and family members the opportunity to hear formal presentations on breast reconstruction in addition to meeting with women who have been through breast reconstruction, partners of reconstruction patients, and surgeons performing reconstruction.

Education

- The Plastic Surgery Residency Program has nine residents spanning all five years of the program.
- The section has three fellowship programs, with one fellow in each position: oncology, microsurgery, and hand, wrist and peripheral nerve surgery.



Dr. Earl Campbell
Section Chief of Plastic Surgery

- A successful external review of the training program was completed in 2022 by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
- Dr. David McKenzie assumed the interim role of Program Director of the Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program in July 2022. We thank Dr. Duncan Nickerson for his time as program director.
- Dr. Christian Schrag is currently the assistant program director.
- Dr. Aaron Knox continues as the Competency by Design (CBD) program lead. He furthered CBD with a developmental workshop at the Annual Meeting of the Alberta Society of Plastic Surgeons. He also established the Resident Cosmetic Clinic.
- Dr. Donald Graham is the Coordinator of the CanMEDS series for the residency program.
- Dr. Brett Byers is the Journal Club Coordinator.
- The D.C Birdsell Plastic Surgery Resident Research Day and Visiting Professorship was held in December 2022, with Dr. Jennifer Guiffre from the University of Manitoba as the visiting professor.
- Drs. Fraulin and Harrop continue as Royal College Examiners in Plastic Surgery. They were both Clerkship Gold Star Award recipients.
- Dr. Donald McPhalen was a recipient of the Pre-Clerkship Gold Star Teaching Award for Professionalism and Physician Health.

Research

- Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle is the Section Research Lead and has many projects with the residents.
- Dr. Temple-Oberle completed a successful sabbatical, publishing over ten articles and submitting another ten, with one special article making it to the cover story of Current Oncology. Congratulations to all of the authors, including Drs. Deban, Vallance, Jost, McKinnon, and Temple-Oberle: Targeting Lymphedema in Melanoma-Immediate Lymphatic Reconstruction; Current Oncology August (volume 29, issue 8) 2022.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Challenges affecting the section include the problems with postponements of cases related to COVID as well as anesthesia and nursing shortages.
- Our section successfully recruited two new plastic surgeons in 2022, Dr. Thomas Cawthorn and Dr. Rebecca Hartley, who are working at the Alberta Children's Hospital and the Rockyview General Hospital, replacing Drs. McPhalen and Haugrud, who retired in June 2022.
- Another retiree this past year was Dr. Robert Lindsay, who previously served as Section Chief for ten years. Thank you to all the retirees for your dedication and years of service.
- Dr. Duncan Nickerson, Director of the FMC Firefighter's Burn Treatment unit, moved to the USA in the summer of 2022. There is currently an active recruitment process to fill this position.
- Plastic surgery in the province will be introduced to central triage and the Facilitated Access to Surgical Treatment (FAST) program in 2023.

32 active
plastic surgeons

SECTION OF PODIATRIC SURGERY



The Section of Podiatric Surgery includes 11 surgeons who deliver surgery to all five hospitals in the Calgary Zone, with section members treating disorders of the foot and ankle.

The Section of Podiatric Surgery specializes in limb preservation surgery ranging from draining a foot abscess to major debridement of nonviable tissue to performing amputations. It also specializes in sport medicine issues involving but not limited to arthritis, overuse injury, benign masses, and general foot pain, which limit people from maintaining a physically active lifestyle.

Due to the complexity and multifactorial health conditions of diabetic foot ulcerations, we work closely with the Section of Vascular Surgery to ensure optimized blood flow and enhanced healing. We also consult with other specialties as required, including infectious disease, general internal medicine, hospitalists, endocrinology, orthopedic surgery, and plastic surgery.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Zivot Limb Preservation Clinic at the Peter Lougheed Centre continues to focus on bringing the diabetic foot and its complications to the forefront of healthcare in Alberta and Canada. With the assistance of a very generous donation, we have purchased new equipment that will help keep our institute as a centre of excellence in Western Canada. The clinic had over 7,500 patient visits in 2022. Section members also provided call coverage for the five acute



Dr. Francois Harton
Section Chief of Podiatric Surgery

care facilities in Calgary, urgent care facilities, RAAPID, E-referrals, and Specialist Link for the Calgary Zone.

Last year, we transitioned the outpatient Limb Preservation Clinic from paper chart to Connect Care without compromising patient care.

All educational activities continued throughout 2022. Each year, our section presents to the family medicine residents on pathologies involving the foot and pathways for referrals. We also present to the vascular surgery residents on diabetic limb-related complications and surgical reconstruction options. The vascular surgery residents also spend two blocks with our section. Third-year students can now spend a one-week clerkship rotation in the Zivot Limb Preservation Clinic as one of their options. One of the new initiatives we accomplished this year is a cooperation with the Podiatry school at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières to have podiatry fourth-year students spend a month at our clinic. To date, this partnership has been very successful.

For this upcoming year, we have accepted the vascular surgery fellow from the University of Toronto and the University of Ottawa for a rotation

11 surgeons in the
Calgary Zone

7,500 visits to the Zivot Limb
Preservation Clinic

to learn surgical techniques in limb preservation.

An important announcement from our section is that we will have the first fellowship in limb preservation in Canada. This is a significant advancement for our program, helping prepare the future generation of surgeons and involving them in research.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

We hope to recruit an additional physician to help with the increased number of patients and deal with the challenges that come with an increase in population in the Calgary Zone. In the next two to three years, we would also like to develop a research program around diabetic foot ulcers and challenges.



SECTION OF THORACIC SURGERY

The Section of Thoracic Surgery delivers surgery at the Foothills Medical Centre and serves Southern Alberta. Our surgeons provide all aspects of thoracic surgery care except lung transplantation. We are affiliated with the Tom Baker Cancer Centre and provide multidisciplinary care for lung and esophageal malignancies. Our section provides high-quality surgical care to the patients of Southern Alberta.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Service

- The section continued work on optimizing opioid prescribing after thoracic surgery. With the assistance of the Physician Learning Project, this collaborative work achieved a standard approach to opioid management. Analyses of the program are ongoing, but the

results suggest we are effectively meeting national standards without loss of patient satisfaction.

- The group worked collaboratively to introduce a new post-lung resection management protocol, with the goal of consistent clinical care and reduced length of stay. We have since taken on the more daunting project of esophageal resections. Collaborative work with many stakeholders is underway to enhance postoperative care for these challenging surgeries.
- The group is working hard with allied health teams to implement a set of protocols and strategies to decrease the length of stay for esophagectomy patients. Bold moves with the enteral nutrition program and care pathways for tubes and drains have been implemented. A study is ongoing to ensure they are effective in reducing the length of stay and maintaining patient safety.

Education

- It was a successful year on the educational front despite the many challenges posed by COVID-19. The section continued all formal instruction, rounds, and seminars via videoconference.
- Dr. Evan Barber completed his training and successfully passed the final training exam. Congratulations to Evan, and best of luck in Saskatoon.
- Dr. Shawn Brophy has joined our team as the Thoracic Surgery Resident, graduating in 2024. Welcome to Shawn and your new family.



Dr. Sean McFadden
Section Chief of Thoracic Surgery

- Dr. Colin Schieman successfully guided the program to another complementary external review assessment. Congratulations to Colin on your hard work and successful completion of the process.
- Dr. Janet Edwards is the Undergraduate Medical Education Lead for the section. In this role, she sits on the Surgery Undergraduate Education Committee. She also participates in the new Career Coaching Program with medical students.
- Dr. Gelfand serves on the Undergraduate Surgery Clerkship Committee.

Research

- Dr. Colin Schieman remains a co-investigator for the CIHR-funded Randomized Controlled Trial to determine whether the administration of colchicine compared with placebo reduces the incidence of perioperative atrial fibrillation within 14 days after major thoracic surgery. Conen D, et al. Ongoing Accrual to COP-AF trial. Multicenter Randomized Control Trial.

Medical Leadership and Administration

- Dr. Colin Schieman resigned as Lead of the CLEAR Score Process, which tabulates clinical, leadership, education, administration, and research activities.

508 *inpatient procedures*

150 *outpatient procedures*

5 *surgeons in the Calgary Zone*

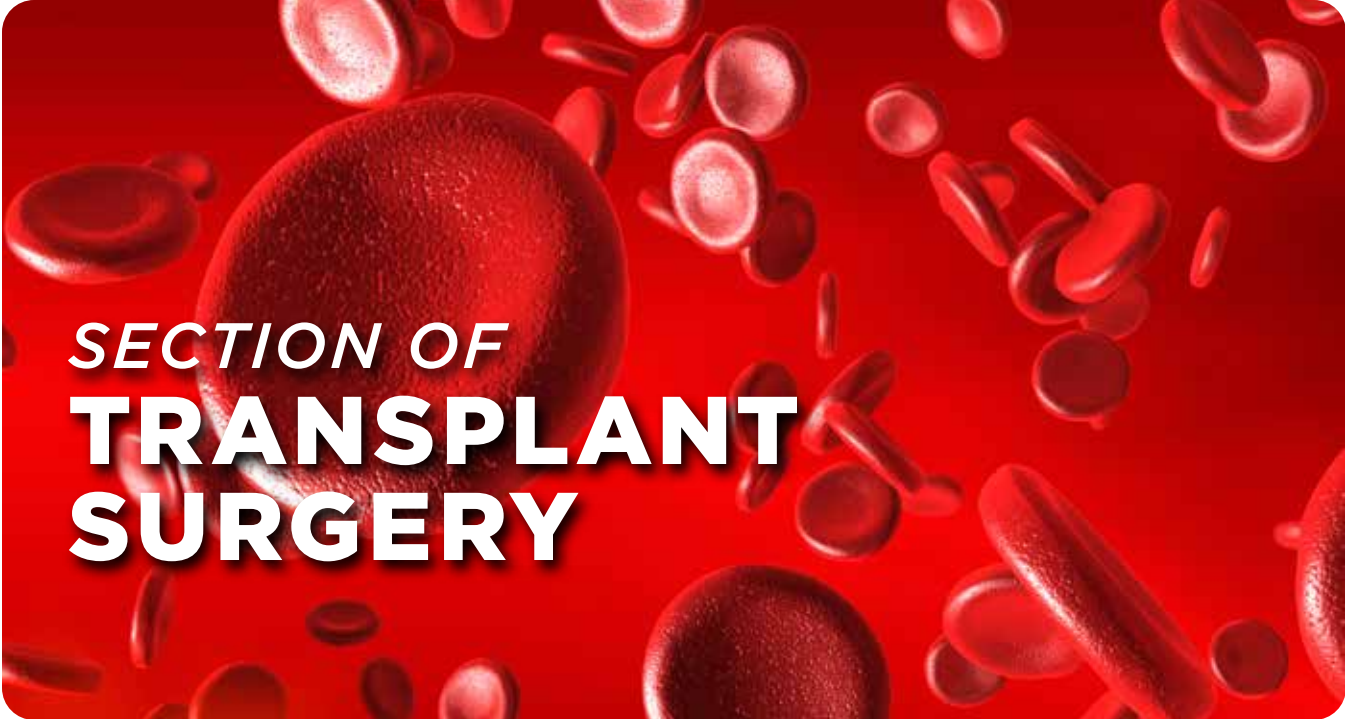
Under his guidance, an effective tool for the Department of Surgery was developed to quantitate and manage its academic and clinical outputs. Thank you to Colin for your dedicated leadership.

- Dr. Edwards is on several national and international committees, including the General Thoracic Workforce with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association (WTSA), Early Lung Cancer Committee for the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), and the Research Committee for the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons (CATS).
- Dr. Sean Grondin successfully completed his presidency of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. His strong leadership brought the organization through a tumultuous year of COVID-19 waves and restrictions and steadied the waters for a large, diverse group of surgeons. Under his presidential leadership, the 2022 Society of Thoracic Surgeons Annual Meeting was held virtually and was a great success, with over 3500 participants worldwide.
- Dr. Andy Graham continues as the Director of the Office of Surgical Quality. Since returning from his sabbatical, he has continued to work diligently to keep quality at the forefront of the department's agenda.

CHALLENGES AND LOSS

In Memory of Dr. Sean Grondin

The greatest challenge for the Thoracic Surgery Section was the sudden loss of Dr. Grondin in November. His tragic passing leaves us all with deep sadness as we mourn our colleague and friend. The sense of loss is immense to his family, patients, and all of his colleagues.



SECTION OF TRANSPLANT SURGERY

The Section of Transplant Surgery consists of three active multi-organ transplant surgeons who provide medical and surgical care for pediatric and adult patients in the Southern Alberta Renal Program. The program provides service to five hospitals in the Calgary area, including the Alberta Children's Hospital, Foothills Medical Centre, Peter Lougheed Centre, Rockyview General Hospital, and South Health Campus. Our three surgeons provide all aspects of kidney and pancreas transplantation as well as vascular access procedures for dialysis.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS Clinical Service

The Section of Transplant Surgery performed a record number of organ transplants in 2022 in Southern Alberta. We transplanted 120 organs (118 kidney and 2 pancreas) from 46 deceased donors and 29 living donors, exceeding the previous record of 101 set in 2017. The consolidation of donation after cardiac death (DCD) program, the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), and the increased number of overdose deaths from the opioid crisis led

to a significant rise in the number of organs available for our end-stage kidney disease (ESRD) patients.

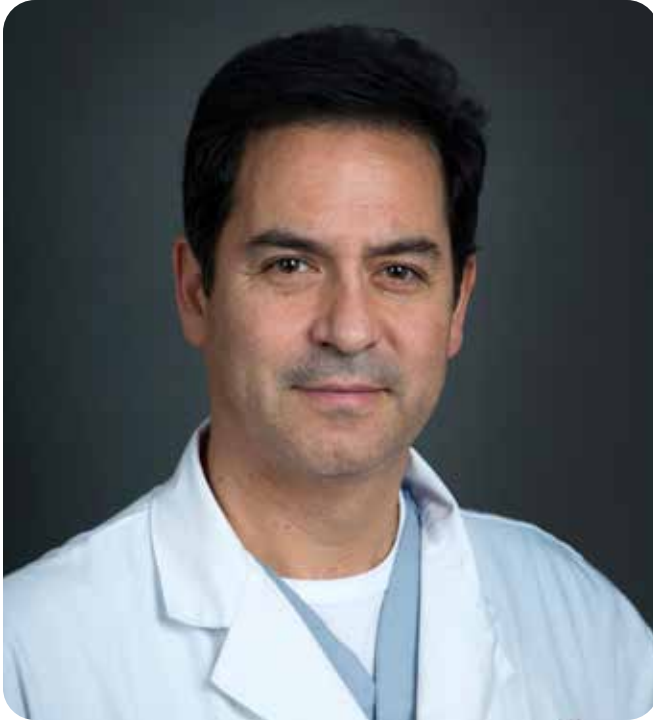
Our section, in collaboration with Canadian Blood Services and the National Kidney Paired Donation Program, performed 500 kidney paired donation cases in our centre, including a daughter who donated to her mother. Given the challenges and countless pivots over the last few years related to COVID, this is considered phenomenal. It's also worth mentioning that despite these challenges, the transplant activity continued to be provided at a safe level.

COVID-19 has impacted donation and transplantation across Canada, and measures were taken to minimize exposure and transmission to protect our donors and transplant recipients. Due to the restrictions in scheduling these elective surgeries, the living donor program consolidated the process of organ shipping, which is a very complex medical and logistical process, to ensure successful transplantation. Currently, organs from living donors are shipped and received from various centres in Canada.

Members of the Section of Transplant Surgery have been on a clinical alternative relationship plan (ARP) since January 1, 2022.

Education

Under the direction of Dr. Neal Austin (Program Director) and the University of Calgary, the Multi-organ Transplant Surgery Fellowship Program accepts one



Dr. Mauricio Monroy-Cuadros
Section Chief of Transplant Surgery

fellow every two years. Dr. Fatma Al Hinai, a graduate of the University of Calgary's General Surgery Program, will complete her fellowship in the summer of 2023.

The program also provides training and education for nephrology fellows, general surgery, vascular surgery, and internal medicine residents in the areas related to transplant and vascular access. Education also includes clinical rounds and journal clubs.

Research

Dr. Serdar Yilmaz remains a co-investigator for a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) randomized control trial comparing catheters vs fistulae in elderly patients starting dialysis and in the transition to kidney allograft failure. They are characterizing the risk and identifying opportunities for intervention.

Dr. Monroy-Cuadros remains a co-investigator for a CIHR multinational and multicentre clinical trial funded to study the long-term effects of becoming a living kidney donor. He is also involved in multiple living donation studies with the Donor Nephrectomy Outcomes Research Network.

Medical Leadership

Dr. Anastasio Salazar retired in March 2022. We thank Dr. Salazar for his collaborative efforts, hard work, and leadership to improve the program during his 20-year career.

120 kidney and pancreas transplants

480 vascular access surgeries

1,120 transplant and vascular access clinic visits

Dr. Neal Austin, a new section member, holds a joint appointment with the Section of General Surgery and Transplant Surgery. Dr. Austin completed his surgery residency and fellowship at the University of Calgary. In addition to his clinical practice in our section, he is the Program Director of the Fellowship Program.

Dr. Serdar Yilmaz is on a national committee with the Canadian Blood Services Living Donor Advisory Committee and has an active role in the living donation group across the country. He is also the Acting Medical Director for the Southern Alberta Living Donor Program.

Dr. Mauricio Monroy-Cuadros is on several provincial and national committees, including the Canadian Blood Services Kidney Transplant Advisory Committee and Kidney Pair Donation Program (KPD). He also continues his work with the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada on the National Assessment Collaboration – Objective Structured Clinical Examinations Committee for the Alberta International Medical Graduates Program.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

Our goal is to increase transplant activity in Southern Alberta while maintaining the highest quality and safety standards for our patients. To accomplish this goal, additional resources are needed to balance the increasing needs within our section, particularly with human resources. We are also restructuring the section to increase efficiency, ensure resources are efficiently used, increase accountability for section members, and increase safety standards for our patients. The current staff shortage will constrain our ability to safely meet the needs of the population this program is mandated to serve. Expanding our pool of surgeons is important to ensure a sustainable call-coverage model and prevent burnout. The program is looking to increase the pool of surgeons soon.



SECTION OF UROLOGY

The Section of Urology is based at the Rockyview General Hospital at the Southern Alberta Institute of Urology (SAIU). The team of 14 adult urologists and 3 pediatric urologists serves patients at all acute-care sites in Calgary, providing care to individuals with a variety of urological conditions.

The section offers specialized programs, including prostate cancer rapid-access clinics, vesia [Alberta Bladder Centre], and the Men's Health Program.

Our team values contributions to teaching and research, and our members provide clerkship teaching and supervision. The section runs three fellowship programs: pediatric urology, reconstructive and functional urology, and urologic oncology.

Members are involved in a variety of clinical trials, basic science research, and quality improvement projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Kam Kaler and other section members supported the second Department of Surgery Quality Improvement (QI) opioid project. The abstract, Quality Improvement on Post Ureteroscopy Opioid Prescribing Practices, has been submitted for presentation at the American Urological Association's 2023 Annual Meeting.
- Members contributed to the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) Working Group for Urology. Drs. Kevin Carlson, Eric Hyndman, and Martin Duffy represented Calgary urology on the Provincial Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) Urology Working Group. The group successfully developed the urology provincial referral pathway and referral form. They continue to work on clinical pathways.
- Urology Central Intake merged into the Alberta Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) Program.
- Dr. Lin Yang and Dr. Eric Hyndman obtained an accelerator grant from the Canadian Cancer Society to design a multi-stakeholder informed



Dr. Eric Hyndman
Section Chief of Urology

comprehensive cancer pre-habilitation program (the PEAK program). Dr. Yang also received a Pathway to Success funding award to study therapeutic outcomes in patients who engage in a pre-habilitation program prior to cystectomy surgery.

- Development of the Rance & Marilyn Fisher Family Foundation Expansion of the Prostate Cancer Centre continues. It will include pre-habilitation and rehabilitation, mental health services, and an artificial intelligence/machine learning surgical hub. This expansion is made possible thanks to the support of the Rance & Marilyn Fisher Family Charitable Foundation, John DeSanti, Clayton and Linda Woitas, AGAT Laboratories, and the Women for Men's Health initiative.
- Clerkship teaching awards went to Drs. Kaler (Gold star), Fermin Risso (Gold star), Gotto (Honor roll), Lee (Honor roll), and Weber (Honor roll).

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Like all surgical sections, we were required to postpone surgeries due to physician, staffing, and bed shortages.
- In February, the Urodynamics (UDS) unit at South Health Campus (SHC) was moved to the Rockyview

4,336 urology cases completed
(56% in window)

1,459 urology cancer cases
completed (47% in window)

34 peer-reviewed
publications

General Hospital (RGH) due to COVID-related staffing shortages. The Urodynamics program does not have a centralized booking and tracking system. Without a centralized system, some patients would have had to wait much longer for care than others. As a temporary measure, Dr. Baverstock's private clinic is providing UDS booking for the Calgary zone.

- Drs. Kevin Carlson and Martin Duffy have worked countless hours on the merger of Urology Central Intake into the FAST program. We continue to iron out issues.
- Urology clinics will transition to a new EMR program as Telus Wolf will be discontinued in 2023.
- Increased effort and engagement are required to prepare for Connect Care, which will launch at RGH in May 2023.
- The need for additional clinical, non-physician support is ongoing. One of our nurse practitioners has been away on maternity leave, and a suitable candidate to fill the temporary position has not been identified. With limited staff and resources, it will be challenging to maintain excellent clinical care.

WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Dr. Mark Assmus joined our section in September. His subspecialty is endo-urology, and he brings experience in HoLEP laser surgery. He has proved to be an excellent addition to our team.
- Shaine Jivan was hired in January to fill the vacant urology physician assistant position. He has been an asset to our team.
- Our members will continue to work on provincial and Calgary Zone initiatives related to ASI.
- In 2023, the section will recruit a new infertility urologist.

SECTION OF VASCULAR SURGERY

The Section of Vascular Surgery has nine active members delivering vascular surgery care based at the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC). The section also provides emergency and urgent vascular surgery services at the Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), South Health Campus (SHC), Rockyview General Hospital (RGH), and Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH). Ambulatory venous surgery is performed at the Canmore General Hospital.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS Clinical Services

- Our section is excited to welcome Dr. Cale Zavitz as our newest member. He completed his vascular surgery training at the University of Toronto and has a PhD in Immunology from McMaster University.
- Clinical volumes have recovered post-pandemic and returned to normal levels.
 - 8,800 patients were seen in the Vascular Surgery Ambulatory Clinic.
 - 330 minor vascular procedures were performed, including hemodialysis access (AV fistulae) and varicose vein surgery.
 - 550 major procedures were performed, including aortic and carotid surgery as well as lower extremity limb salvage bypasses.
 - 30 combined procedures for complex oncologic resections were performed, with surgical oncology, urology, head and neck oncology, and spine surgery being the most frequent.
 - 200 emergency vascular procedures were performed.
 - 30 vascular trauma patients were treated.

- 20 cases treated for iatrogenic injuries to vascular structures in support of other surgical sub-specialties.
- Vascular Surgery continues to participate in the Specialist Link Program, consulting on > 400 patients annually.
- Our section was one of seven Canadian Vascular Quality Initiative sites and contributed the most cases to the database last year (n = 553).
- The multi-disciplinary Complex Aortic Clinic under the Calgary Aortic Program has successfully seen approximately 200 patients annually at the SHC clinic. Over 75 patients have been treated, some with the first implants of endovascular aortic arch devices and hybrid thoracoabdominal aneurysm grafts in Canada and North America.
- The Section of Vascular Surgery recorded the highest average CLEAR score in the Department of Surgery (DoS), with 84 points.

Education

- The Vascular Surgery Residency Training Program continues to thrive. The program received 23 applications from around the country for our single residency spot.
- The Advanced Vascular and Endovascular Fellowship Program graduated Dr. Mark Rockley, who is returning to an academic vascular surgery position at the University of Ottawa.
- In 2023, the fellowship program will transition to an Advanced Aortic Fellowship under the Calgary Aortic Program with support from the Department of Cardiac Sciences, Section of Cardiac Surgery, the Libin Cardiovascular Institute, and the Department of Surgery. The new fellow starts July 1, 2023.
- Vascular Surgery continues to train off-service residents from General Surgery and Cardiac Surgery.
- The section trains 30-40 clerks per year and continues to receive requests for visiting clerkships, observerships, and MED 440 students.
- The clerks continue to receive didactic lectures



Dr. Gregory Samis
Section Chief of Vascular Surgery

as part of their clerkship curriculum.

- Dr. Kenton Rommens is the Program Director for the Residency Training Program.
- Dr. Rommens and Dr. Scott McClure from Cardiac Surgery are Co-Directors of the Advanced Aortic Surgery Fellowship Program.
- Dr. Zavitz is the Assistant Program Director and Competence Committee Chair for the Surgical Foundations Program.
- Dr. Jeff Clark is the Lead for Vascular Surgery Clerkship.
- Numerous teaching awards were bestowed on section members this year.

Research

- The section continues to be very active in clinical research, with 18 active trials (4 industry-sponsored and 14 investigator-initiated trials, most of which have resident participation). The success is largely attributed to Dr. RD Moore, Director of Research.
- Ongoing participation in FDA-sponsored clinical device trials includes Drs. Moore, Petrasek, Nutley, Cantele, Clark, Rommens, and Samis.
- Dr. Cantele is an editor for the Journal of Endovascular Trauma Therapy.
- Partnerships with Interventional Radiology exploring novel technologies continue to be productive.
- Dr. Moore has published eleven articles in peer-reviewed journals, including our section's Twenty-Year Experience with Endovascular Stenting for

8,000 patients seen by the Vascular Surgery Ambulatory Clinic

330 minor vascular procedures

550 major surgeries

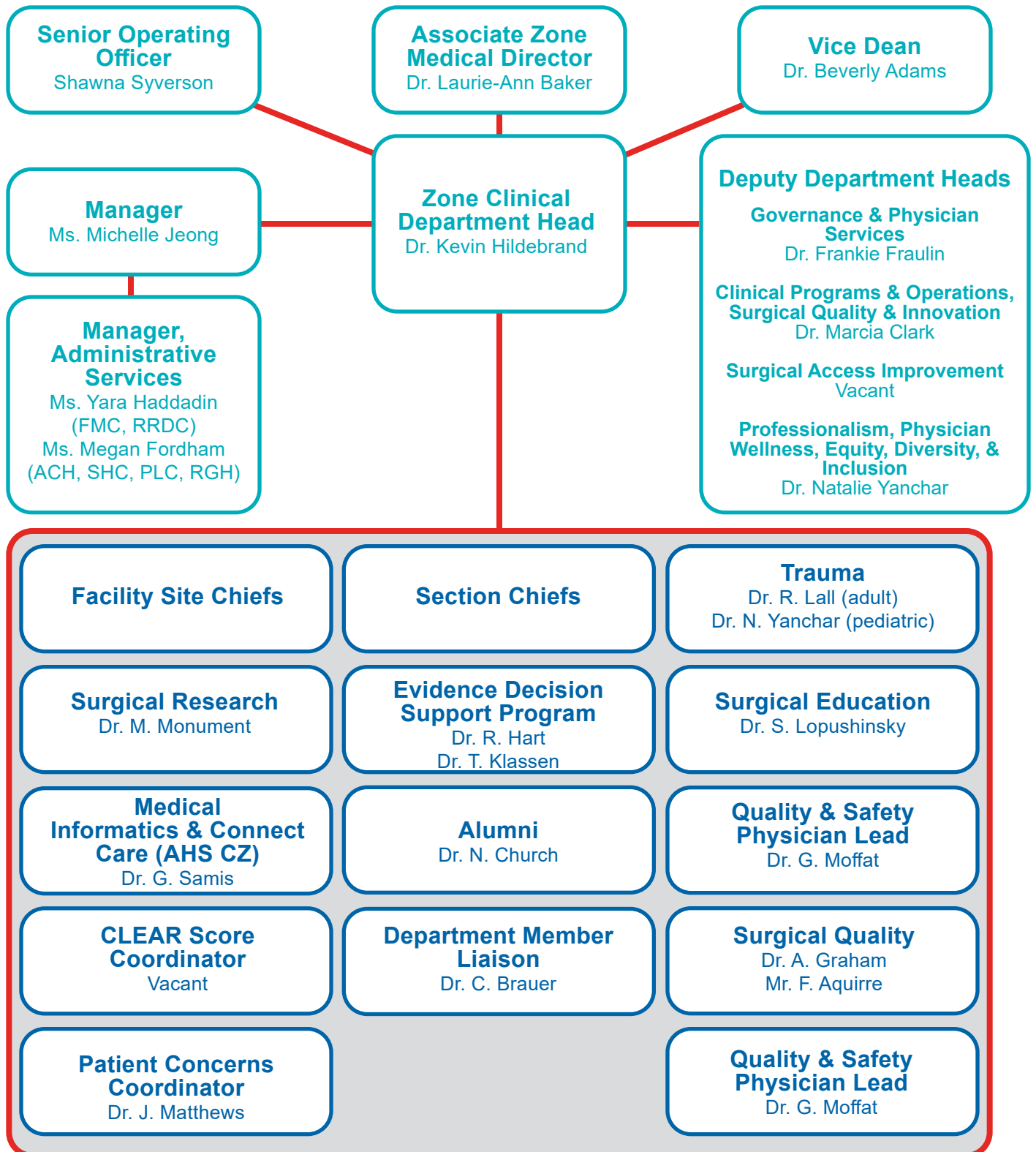
Ruptured AAAs in the Journal of Vascular Surgery. It was selected for discussion at the North American Society for Vascular Surgery Journal Club.

- Dr. Moore's entrepreneurial endeavours and partnerships with the Haskayne School of Business and Schulich School of Engineering continue to attract investor capital.
- Data is being gathered in national and international registries for complex diseases of the aorta.

Medical Leadership and Administration

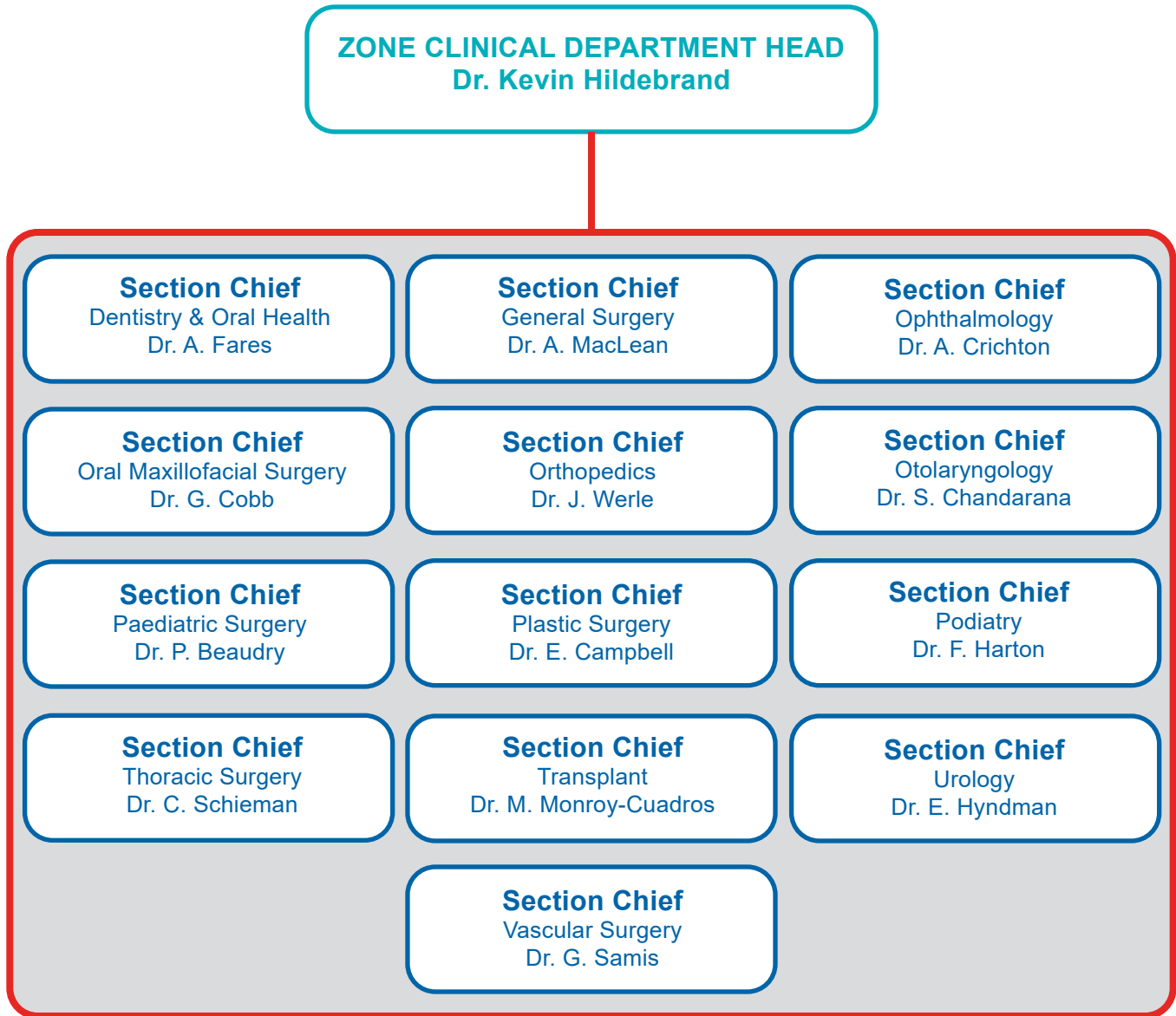
- Section members are active on committees throughout the DoS.
- Dr. Paul Petrasek has a large role in the Surgical Strategic Clinical Networks (SSCN) and currently leads the Central Access and Triage project.
- Dr. Rommens is the QI lead and representative to the Office of Surgical Quality.
- With Connect Care, Dr. Samis continues as the Medical Informatics Lead for Surgery in the Calgary Zone, and Dr. Rommens is one of four area trainers in surgery.
- Drs. Guimond and Nutley continue their work with the Canadian Red Cross. They are ready to deploy with the CRC Emergency Response Unit as surgeon delegates supporting the CRC Mobile Response Unit Hospital.
- Dr. Paul Cantele represents the Section of Vascular Surgery on the Transfusion Committee. He also continues as Trauma Education Director, including ATLS. He coordinates the ASSET (Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma) course offered to all University of Calgary PGY-5 graduating surgical residents and fellows.
- Dr. Petrasek is on the Royal College Vascular Surgery Executive Committee.
- Dr. Rommens sits on the Society for Vascular Surgery Postgraduate Education Committee and Document Oversight Committee.

LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Updated May 15, 2023

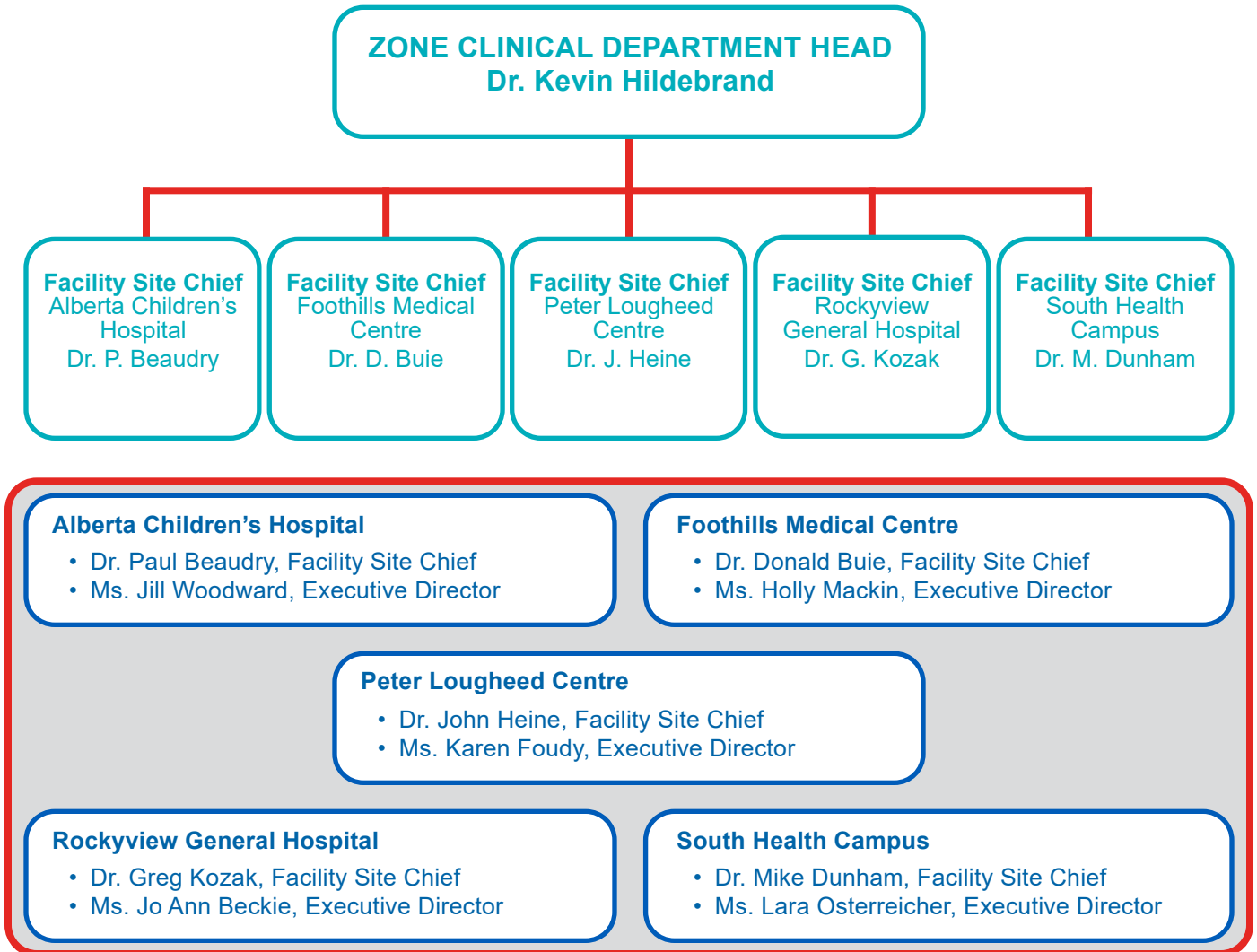
SECTION CHIEFS DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Updated May 15, 2023

SITE LEADERSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Updated May 15, 2023

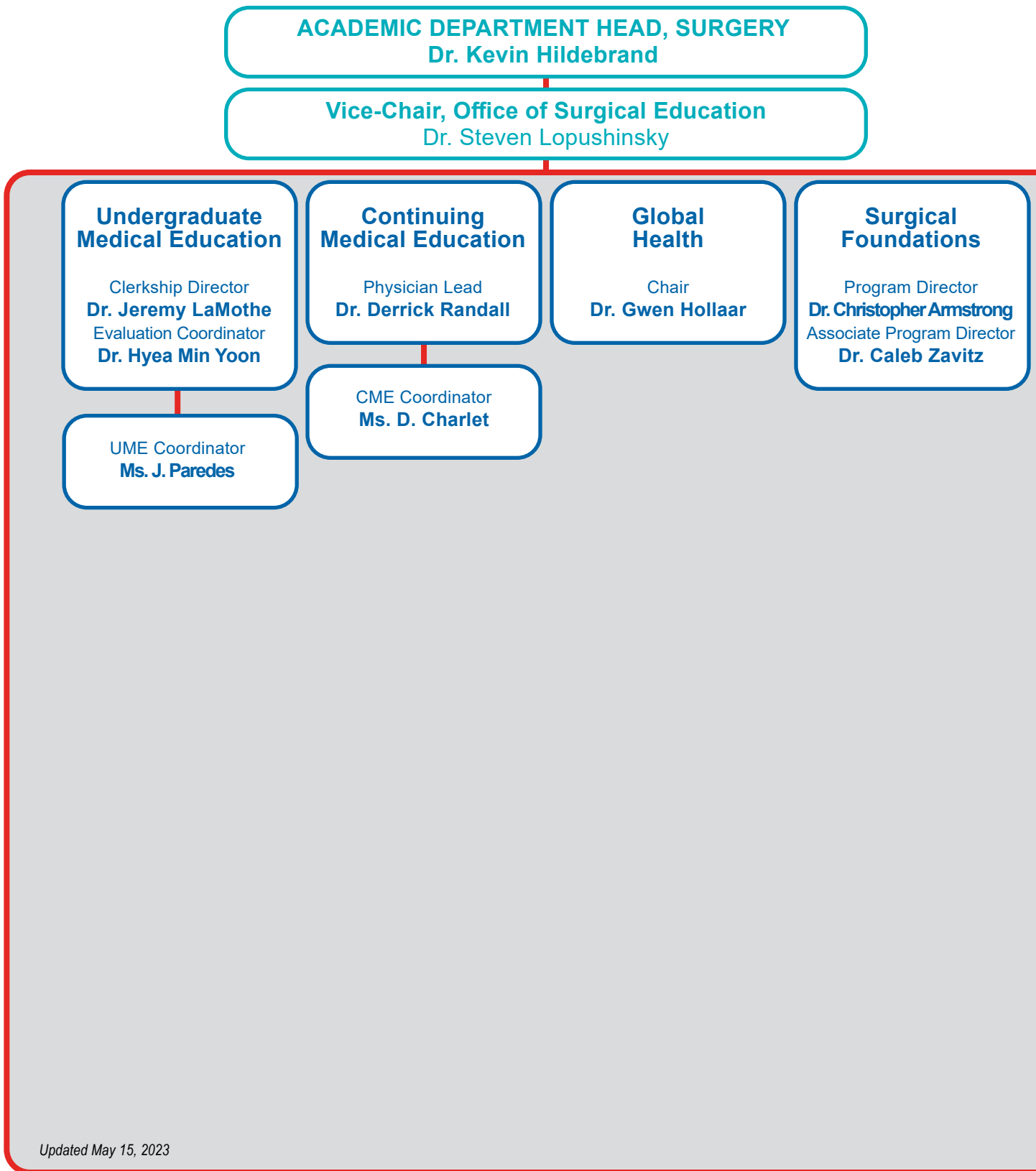
SURGICAL RESEARCH

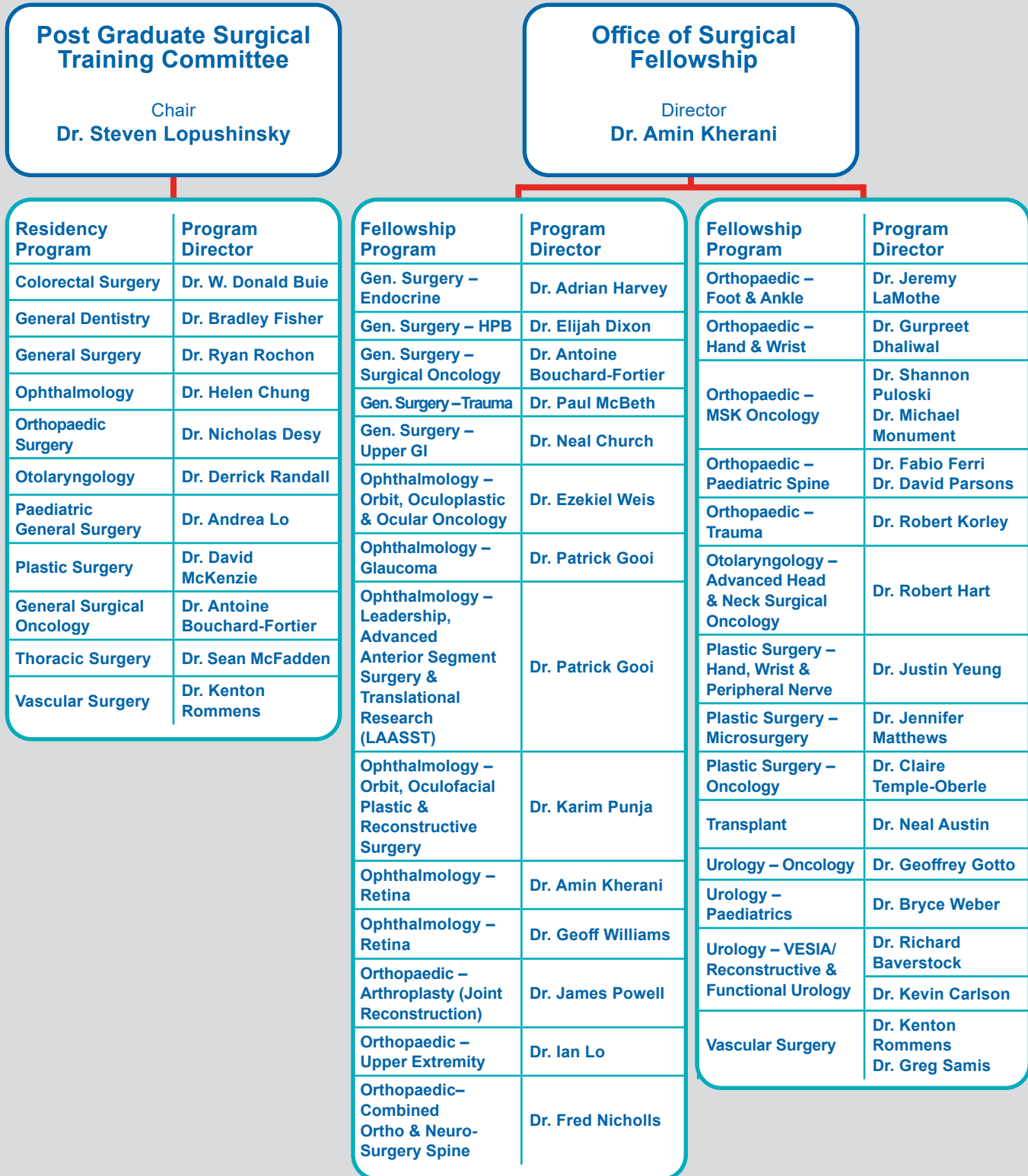
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Updated May 15, 2023

SURGICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY





PROMOTIONS

The Department of Surgery is pleased to report the following clinical promotions for 2022. Please join us in congratulating our members as we recognize their hard work and achievements.

Dr. Ezekiel Weis, Clinical Professor

Dr. Fabio Ferri, Clinical Professor

Dr. Kevin Carlson, Clinical Professor

Dr. Aaron Bois, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Neil White, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Ganesh Swamy, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Marlis Sabo, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Bimal Bhindi, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Justin Chau, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Estifanos Debru, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Monica Hoy, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Euna Hwang, Clinical Assistant Professor

