

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**CUMMING SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE**

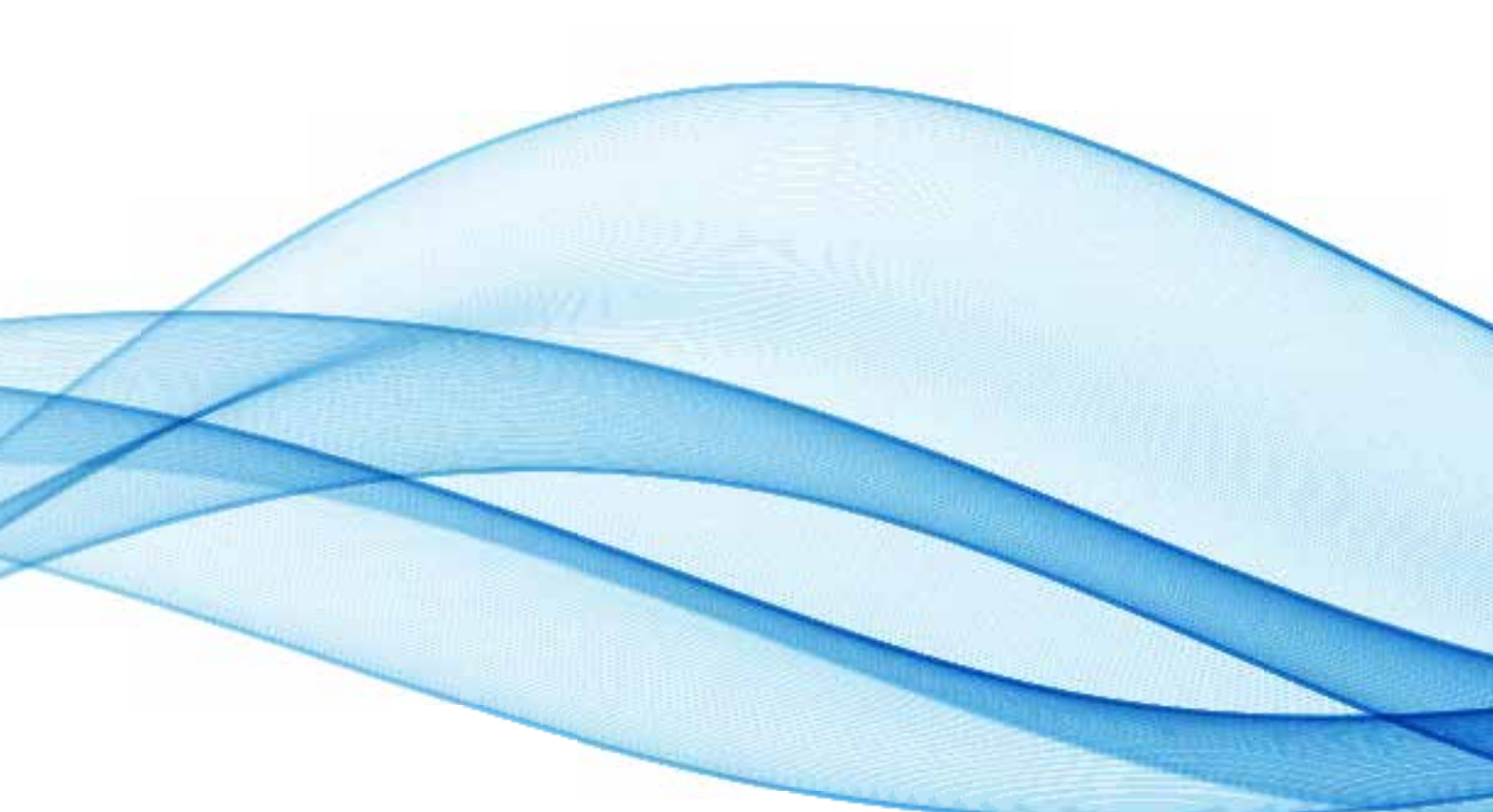
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**



**Alberta Health
Services**



Department of Surgery
2023 Annual Report

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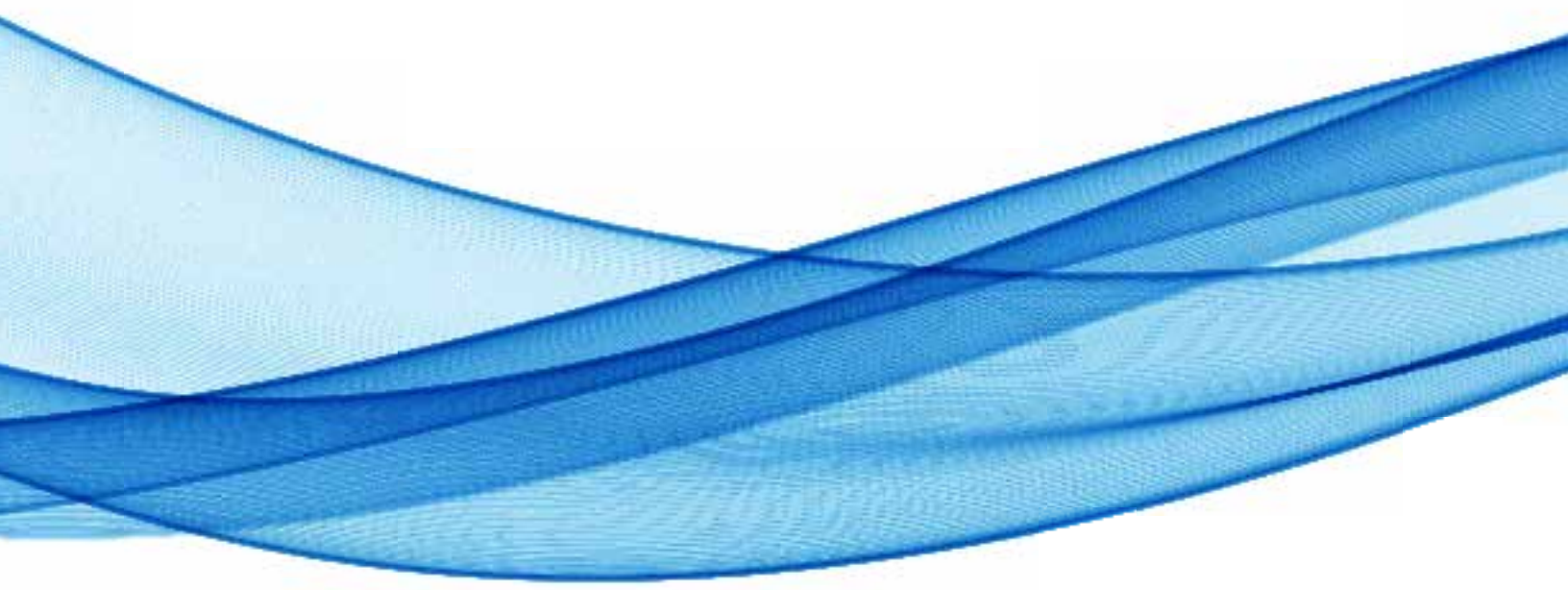
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We wish to thank all surgeons, administrators, and other team members whose efforts made this report possible.

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 (Districts 5 and 6).

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

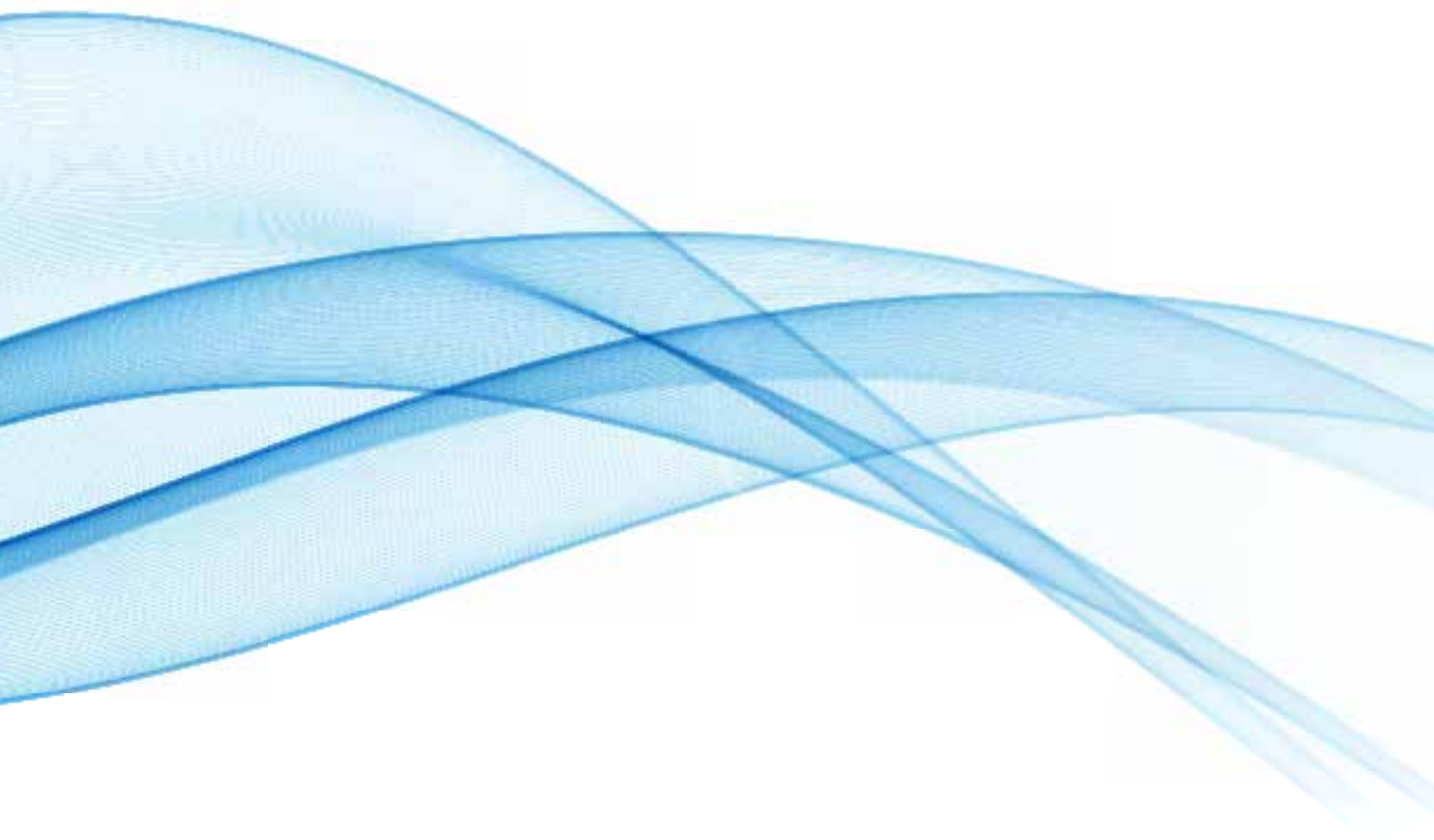


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LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I realize that we experienced many challenges, but there were also many bright spots that gave me hope for the future.

2023 Highlights

After much engagement and input from our members, the department finalised and released its five-year strategic plan. I am excited to report that the plan guides us into new areas, such as the environment and resource management and EDIA (equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility), while still focusing on our core mandates of excellence in clinical care, education, and research. I want to express my gratitude to everyone involved in this effort, as the plan will play an important role in shaping the future of our department.

Work is already ongoing in alignment with the plan. One such project is focused on culturally appropriate operating room (OR) attire, which expanded into culturally inclusive OR spaces. Visitors, learners, staff, and programs expect

perioperative spaces to support and reflect the inclusive practices Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the University of Calgary strive for, and we recognized the need for clarity about what that means in the OR environment. Resources are being developed in collaboration with the undergraduate medical education office, students, and clinical leaders with lived experience. These resources will help inform culturally sensitive practices at all sites, and we expect them to be available in the fall of 2024.

Our department has continued to grow and evolve over the past year, and we were pleased to welcome 18 new faculty members. In addition, with support from the Academic Medical Health Services Plan (AMHSP), we completed a search and selection for six positions in 2023, and we expect these individuals to begin in 2024. We also saw several leadership changes this year. I want to thank our outgoing leaders and welcome our new leaders who bring new perspectives and energy to the department. In particular, I would like to welcome Dr. Wynne Leung as the Rockyview General Hospital Facility Surgery Site Chief. Dr. Leung is with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is our first site chief who is not from the Department of Surgery. I encourage you to read Dr. Fraulin's report for an overview of all leadership changes.

Another bright spot for the department was the 41st Annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium. It was a great day of engaging presentations. Thank you to Dr. Janice Pasieka (University of Calgary) and Dr. Heather Baltzer (University of Alberta), who joined us as our invited lecturers. The department gala followed Surgeons' Day and was a fun western-themed celebration at the Girletz Ranch. This was our second in-person gala since the pandemic, and I appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends.

I would also like to highlight our Deputy Department Head, Dr. Marcia Clark, who was selected as the President-Elect of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for the 2024-2025 term. Congratulations, Dr. Clark. This is an outstanding achievement, and I wish you well in this endeavour.

Unfortunately, I must also acknowledge a significant loss within the department with the sudden passing of Dr. Fabio Ferri de Barros in the summer of 2023. Dr. Ferri

de Barros was a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, and our department has been deeply affected by his loss and absence. Our thoughts and prayers go to Fabio's family, friends, colleagues, and patients. I encourage anyone struggling to please reach out and access support.

This loss has once again highlighted the importance of wellness within our surgical community. In the fall of 2023, the department conducted its first wellness survey, confirming that our members are dealing with burnout and other issues impacting wellness. The survey provided valuable insight and is helping guide our approach to physician wellness. This year, we also conducted our first diversity engagement survey to better understand our progress in creating safe, inclusive, and equitable environments for members. Many other activities are ongoing to support member wellness, and I encourage you to read Dr. Natalie Yanchar's update to learn more.

Surgical Activity

Surgical activity for the year was 98.4% of the provincial target, with 305,000 surgeries completed province-wide. The Calgary Zone's five urban and three rural hospitals performed 78,270 cases, and Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF) performed 29,070 surgeries. Total case volumes in 2023 represent an 8% increase from 2022 surgical volumes, including surgeries performed in public and chartered surgical facilities.

Acute Care Coverage and Diversions

Acute care coverage and hospital diversions within the Calgary Zone continued to apply pressure on our workforce and were the main concerns for leadership in 2023. In response, we established the Acute Care Coverage Taskforce (ACCT) to understand and address these issues. The ACCT has developed a standardized diversion process and is working on a root cause analysis and recommendations. I appreciate the ACCT's hard work and the involvement of stakeholders as we continue this important work.

Decreasing Waitlists

An important focus in 2023 was the reduction of waitlist numbers, specifically decreasing the number of patients waiting 3x out-of-window based on surgical targets. Guided by the AHS surgical waitlist strategy, our teams conducted a thorough review and update of the waitlists, resulting in increased accuracy and a reduction in waitlist numbers. The Calgary Zone led in decreasing waitlists, and we received provincial attention for our success. Our 3x out-of-window lists decreased from approximately 3,500 to 1,500. I want to express my appreciation for the excellent work done by our teams who participated in this effort.

78,270 *surgical procedures at five urban and three rural hospitals*

29,070 *cases at chartered surgical facilities*

8% *increase over the previous year's surgical case volume at Calgary Zone public and chartered surgical facilities*

Connect Care

The five hospital sites in the Calgary Zone have transitioned to Connect Care, with our final launch taking place in 2023. This transition has had its challenges and increased the administrative workload for surgeons. The Connect Care team continues to work on improving workflow efficiency, and I am optimistic about seeing improvements in the next year. Thank you to Dr. Greg Samis for leading the Calgary Zone through this challenging transition. His hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

FAST

The Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program within the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) was established to improve the referral and consultation process from primary care physicians to our specialised surgical services. FAST expanded to vascular surgery in 2023, with urology and orthopedics implementing FAST in 2022. These surgical services are continuing to refine and optimize the process. We anticipate that general surgery will implement FAST in 2024.

I want to thank our surgeons, leaders, administrators, and staff for their continued hard work and dedication to activities that support the Department of Surgery. Looking back at 2023, I am energized by our progress and our member's enthusiasm. Looking forward to 2024, I am excited for our continued growth as a department and a community. Please continue to prioritize wellness and look after yourself 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,

I recently received an unexpected email from a previous patient. This former childhood patient, now 15 years later (yes, I've been practising for a while), was writing to thank me and tell me that they were now a surgical resident and that I was one of the reasons they wanted to become a surgeon. Nothing brightens your day more than receiving that type of thank you. Influencing the future generation of surgeons was one of the main reasons I signed up to help in the Department of Surgery.

This encounter made me reflect on this past year in the department. Yes, there were many challenges and many days when we were unsure if there were solutions. Acute care coverage was always on our minds, and significant time, resources, and workforce energy were spent dealing with this ongoing problem. The past year also saw us lose another colleague and friend with the sudden passing of Dr.

Fabio Ferri de Barros. It again made us stop and reflect on our lives, our families, and our careers. We continue to face many challenges and work daily on many issues vital to the department. But, I am grateful for the many bright, wonderful people I have the opportunity to work with on these issues – not only surgeons but managers, operation leaders, administrative staff, nurses, and so on. These people want to make a difference, and they do, little by little, day by day.

It was a year of consolidating ideas in the department, demonstrated by the finalization of the Department of Surgery's five-year strategic plan. Thank you to the surgeons who contributed to developing this plan. It took us over a year, and we listened to the feedback and modified the plan multiple times. We are incredibly proud that it expands beyond the traditional education and research goals and includes significant elements of faculty development; principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA); the surgical community; and the environment and resources we use. It respects and aligns with the new strategic plan developed by the Cumming School of Medicine. It also aligns with the focus of Alberta Health Services.

Recruitment is at the heart of my position, and this past year, we had several leadership changes, which are always healthy and necessary. Dr. Francis Sutherland stepped down as the Deputy Department Head of Surgical Access and Improvement. Thank you, Dr. Sutherland, for helping bring aspects of the Facilitated Access to Surgical Treatment (FAST) program to the Sections of Orthopedic Surgery and Urology. We have a new Director of Surgical Access and Improvement, Dr. Paul Petrasek. His knowledge at a provincial level is invaluable as he helps other sections adapt FAST to their workflows. We thank Dr. Greg Kozak for completing his term as the Surgery Site Chief at the Rockyview General Hospital, and we welcome Dr. Wynne Leung, an obstetrician-gynecologist, into this position. She is one of the first surgeons outside of the department to hold this position, and it is an excellent example of the breadth and diversity of talent in the Calgary area. We thank Dr. Jason Werle and Dr. Greg Samis for continuing into their second terms as Section Chief of Orthopedic Surgery and Vascular Surgery, respectively. They underwent our leadership 360-degree feedback

review as part of entering their second term. We thank Dr. Francois Harton for completing two terms as the Section Chief of Podiatric Surgery, and we welcome Dr. John Toole into this position. We thank Dr. Anthony Maclean for completing his term as Section Chief of General Surgery. He honourably led one of the largest surgical sections in the department during a difficult time that was significantly affected by the COVID pandemic, the anesthesiologist shortage, and the acute care coverage issues. We welcome Dr. John Heine as interim Section Chief of General Surgery. He will also continue his leadership role as the Surgery Site Chief at the Peter Lougheed Centre.

Hiring new surgeons is one of the most important things we do as department leadership. It ensures the department's future, and it is critical to get the process right. Working with Dr. Natalie Yanchar, Deputy Department Head of Professionalism, EDI, and Physician Wellness, and with our new Department Member Liaison, Dr. Carmen Brauer, we have updated the guidelines for hiring new surgeons. The guidelines are a living document and reflect our values of collaboration, integrity, accountability, inclusivity, and excellence. Coming out of the initial years of the pandemic, 2023 saw an increase in the number of surgeons hired. Nine of 13 sections hired new surgeons in 2023, seeing 18 hired (11 additional hires and seven replacement hires). It was the first year where additional hires (new hires who share the current workload and resources) outpaced replacement hires. This finding aligns with the goals of the Alberta Surgical Initiative, a mandate of Alberta Health, to decrease provincial wait times for surgery by increasing work done (i.e. by hiring more surgeons). As 2023 was coming to an end, we were extremely busy with hiring processes. Currently, 12 of 13 surgical sections are hiring 16 replacements, 17 additional hires, and two job shares (a job share is a new surgeon brought in at less than 1.0 FTE and shares the workload and resources of one or two surgeons in a larger group). I expect 2024 to be very busy. I am thankful for our department manager, Michelle Jeung, our past contracts coordinator, Elaine Barrato, our current contract coordinator, Maggie Leung, and our privileging coordinator, Marie Praestegaard. Without them, these processes would not occur.

Another exciting development this past year was seeing significant steps towards our department's first Academic Medicine Health Services Program (AMHSP). Alberta Health plans to assign funds for an initial six positions in surgery. I am grateful for other AMHSP department leaders who helped us develop an application process for our current members. I am also impressed by the

As I enter the fifth year of my term as a deputy department head, I see a bright future for surgeons who want to work in Calgary.

surgeons who applied for the first round. We have some very bright stars in our department! I am hopeful this is only the start to advancing the academic mission.

We also celebrated as a community of surgeons again this year. The gala was held in conjunction with Surgeons' Day in June. It was a wonderful evening celebrating our Western heritage after a day of fantastic talks by staff, residents, and the two guest judges. The Recognition of Service Event was pushed to early 2024. It provides an opportunity to celebrate surgeons from all 13 sections who have either retired (26 retirees) or have received academic promotions from the University of Calgary (47 surgeons) since 2019. Because of the COVID pandemic, this biannual celebration has not occurred in several years. The 47 promotions will include three GFT promotions, seven promotions to clinical professor, 18 promotions to clinical associate professor, and 19 promotions to clinical assistant professor. Congratulations!

As I enter the fifth year of my term as a deputy department head, I see a bright future for surgeons who want to work in Calgary. There are challenges, of course, and changes will need to happen to address them adequately. We will need to move away from a mindset of control and move toward a goal of collaboration and adaptation. Our department is a place where surgeons should feel included and listened to. We want surgeons to thrive in their professional and personal lives and to want to contribute to the department. I feel we are headed in the right direction and that the best is yet to come.

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,

In 2023, the Department of Surgery continued to evolve and respond to the end of the pandemic and the challenges it brought to our surgical members. Several important activities and achievements occurred, and I would like to highlight the top two areas in my portfolio from the past year.

Acute Care Coverage and Diversions

Acute care tier 1 support deficits and the resulting hospital diversions for certain surgical specialties continued throughout 2023. It was the number one issue for department leadership, and considerable time and effort was spent understanding and addressing these issues.

The department has been hiring and training more clinical surgical assistants to support acute care coverage at each of our hospital sites. Residents and the learning environment have also continued to be a focus. In addition, clinical associates and resident extenders are helping with frontline care, and many surgical sections have explored using physician assistants and nurse practitioners on their teams. There is a deep understanding of the workforce supporting surgeons at each hospital site, and the needs and gaps impacting our surgical teams have been identified.

In May, the Acute Care Coverage Task Force was issued two objectives. The first was to clearly define the diversion process and execute a standardized diversion

memo to the correct leadership teams in AHS. The second objective was to perform a root cause analysis and provide actions to address them. Through the task force, a fulsome evaluation strategy has been developed. The first objective was achieved quickly, and diversion processes and memos were distributed starting in July 2023. The second objective continues to be addressed, with the task force meeting every two weeks with up to 18 people working on solving these issues.

Waitlist Strategy

In the fall of 2023, AHS outlined its surgical waitlist strategy and tasked surgeons with identifying and addressing patients waiting more than two to three times outside their targeted Alberta coding access targets for surgery (ACATS) times. The first step was to refresh the waitlists by updating the ready-to-treat dates for many patients and removing any inaccuracies from the lists to determine accurate waitlist numbers.

Additionally, each surgeon can now access a monthly report to assist with waitlist management. This data-driven approach provides surgeons with an overview of their previous month's treated surgical patients and a list of the top 15 out-of-window patients by priority. The Calgary Zone was able to reduce the out-of-window patients considerably and received provincial attention for its success. I send a heartfelt thank you to the section chiefs, surgeons, and administration teams who participated in refreshing and reducing waitlists.

Acute care tier 1 support deficits and the resulting hospital diversions for certain surgical specialties continued throughout 2023. It was the number one issue for department leadership.

I thank everyone for their support throughout 2023 while we tackled these challenging issues. I look forward to the next year of serving department members as the lead of the clinical operations portfolio.

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,

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” -Albert Einstein

This quote is found in the introduction of the book *Strategies to Reduce Burnout: 12 Actions to Create the Ideal Workplace* (Swensen SJ, Shanafelt, TF; 2020) and cannot better describe where we are in our department’s journey to address physician wellness along with equity, diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility (EDIA). The values of these principles are now more widely spoken of, discussed, and recognized as essential to the well-being of our members, department, and communities we serve.

Although it often feels like nothing is changing and that we continue to spin our wheels, I see that much has happened as I reflect on the past year.

Diversity Engagement Survey

On the EDIA front, we performed our first membership diversity engagement survey in the spring of 2023. We examined members’ perceptions of purpose, feeling appreciated, sense of belonging, trust, access to opportunities, reward and recognition, cultural competence, and respect. Over one-quarter of the membership responded to the survey, with 47% identifying as cisgender women, gender diverse, or BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of colour). The survey indicated that cisgender women, gender diverse, and BIPOC members are less likely than cisgender white male members to agree on the presence of equity and inclusivity within their surgical sections, especially with the perception of discrimination and diversity in management/leadership. Most notably, cisgender women, gender diverse, and BIPOC individuals perceive less compensation than others achieving the same goals. This is the same as most health organizations in North America regarding perceptions of equity and inclusivity. However, we stand out because we are talking about it and working toward cultural change.

EDIA Toolkit and Initiatives

The more tools we have to bring about change, the better. For this reason, we are working with EDIA leaders from AHS and the Cumming School of Medicine to develop a toolkit to help surgeon leaders identify gaps in knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviours related to EDIA. It will also provide resources to strengthen leadership readiness to address EDIA issues. Our section chiefs are the first leaders to test the toolkit as part of their leadership journey. Reassessing member perceptions by repeating the membership engagement survey in the fall of 2024 may provide insight into the efficacy of this initiative. Other EDIA work initiated by our department includes developing province-wide

inclusive OR attire policies, which are morphing into policies for other provincial healthcare settings, such as critical care.

Wellness Speaker Series

We held our first wellness speaker series in the spring of 2023, with guest speakers including Dr. Michael Myers (SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, Brooklyn, New York) speaking on physician suicide, Dr. Robert Pauly (University of Alberta) presenting on the impact electronic medical records have on physician health, and Dr. Bina Nair (University of Alberta) discussing physician substance abuse and addictions. Although a similar series is not planned for 2024, many grand rounds will focus on EDIA and wellness, such as Dr. Mojola Omole speaking during Black History Month on effective communication for surgeons in an era of miscommunication, Dr. Vaughan Bowen relating the value of family and professional fulfillment and wellness while reflecting on his surgery career, and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology presenting on fertility considerations for surgeons.

Alternate Work Models

The workload and pace experienced by many over the past few years is taking its toll. For this reason, we have developed guidelines for surgeons wanting to pursue alternate work models, such as working less than a full FTE or taking a leave of absence. AHS has noticed our initiative and is reviewing it to create guidelines that apply to a broader range of physicians across the province.

Wellness Survey

Holding our first wellness survey in the fall of 2023 highlighted what we already knew. With an impressive 43% response rate, we identified a 56% burnout rate within the department, not far from the 53% burnout rate amongst physicians across Canada, as published by the Canadian Medical Association in 2021. Led by work exhaustion and, to a lesser degree, interpersonal disengagement, major drivers of burnout include work pace, perception of chaos, a lack of control, and a lack of joy in the work environment. Interrelated is the increased stress, frustration, and workload due to electronic medical records (EMR). The degree of psychological safety and perception of community varied considerably across sections, tying into the known variability in membership diversity engagement. We are holding three follow-up retreats to gather member input on specific actions we can take to improve physician wellness. We expect suggestions related to addressing EMR inefficiencies, addressing the lack of first-tier acute care coverage for some surgical sections, and bringing joy back into our work environment.

There is much work ahead, but I have great hope that we will continue advancing as a department. It is a journey I am humbled to share with my colleagues.

CLEAR Score

CLEAR scores submitted by 63% of our members showed that many are involved and productive. Kudos to our thoracic, oral and maxillofacial, otolaryngology, pediatric, and urology sections, which led the way in member participation, with urology, vascular, ophthalmology, and pediatric demonstrating the highest mean overall scores. General surgery, orthopedics, transplant, and podiatry excelled in education, while our dentistry and vascular surgery colleagues showed exemplary citizenship. Surgical sections use scores for various initiatives, from recognition to distribution of resources. Scores are also valuable at the department level in recognizing emerging leaders and contributors.

My 2022 report recognized the deaths of two colleagues, and sadly, I am ending this year's report with a similar acknowledgement. Our orthopedic and Alberta Children's Hospital families experienced a devastating loss when Dr. Fabio Ferri de Barros passed away last summer. This experience again reminds us of the value of life and our need to look out for ourselves and each other. As I close, I am reminded of the work needed to improve EDIA, wellness, and joy within our surgical community. There is much work ahead, but I have great hope that we will continue advancing as a department. It is a journey I am humbled to share with my colleagues.

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



Much has transpired since the Office of Surgical Education (OSE) underwent its external review in 2018. We continue to build an infrastructure that prioritizes surgical education and stimulates academia within a system that otherwise rewards clinical activity. Implementation and measured success of the Department of Surgery (DoS) 2023-2028 strategic plan will rely heavily on a thriving OSE to foster an environment that supports trainee and faculty development, values social justice, and promotes academia.

Undergraduate Surgical Education

In 2023, Dr. Caleb Zavitz (vascular surgery) undertook the Surgical Undergraduate Director position from Dr. Jeremy Lamothe. The Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) underwent a significant shift by transitioning its first-year cohort to the Re-Imaging Medical Education (RIME) curriculum. The medical school continues to grow, expanding from 150 students (class of 2023) to 190 students (class of 2027), and such growth comes with demands to teach and find associated clerkship opportunities. The medical school will undergo accreditation in 2024, with the OSE advocating for

adequate resources and recognition of surgical faculty. We held a successful Surgery Interest Night, hosted by the DoS and surgical program directors, to pique interest in surgical careers. Feedback from students has also led to a new provincial OR attire policy and looking at inclusivity within our clinical environments.

Postgraduate Surgical Education

The DoS is one of the largest providers of surgical training in Canada and North America. We have 10 Royal College Residency Training programs with 84 core residents and nine extended residents. Coming off a Royal College Accreditation, we will have some expected turnover in residency program director positions in 2024. The OSE continues to commit to program director development through 360 reviews and building a community of practice. To that end, we also want to support and recognize the everyday contributions of our teaching faculty. Efforts are underway to provide more effective and timely feedback to preceptors and recognition for excellence.

In the past academic year, we identified a need to reinvigorate the surgical CanMeds curriculum for intrinsic competencies. We conducted a trainee needs assessment and incorporated anticipated themes from the forthcoming Royal College CanMeds 2025 project. A three-year curriculum was developed and financially supported by the department to bring in expert speakers. In this academic year, sessions focused on navigating patient complaints (Ms. Katie Stys, Partner at Gowling WLG), Indigenous Health (Dr. E. Adams), Effective Community Advocacy (Dr. M. Omole), and Investment Planning (Dr. R. Quinn).

The Royal College e-portfolio platform for tracking resident EPAs and milestones will sunset in the upcoming year. The replacement product, MedSIS by LGI Education, was just announced and will require an expedited faculty development process for an anticipated launch in fall 2024. Other ongoing challenges include acute care coverage, scheduling, and workforce planning. PGME is supporting our surgical programs with two new full-time program administrator positions as we continue to advocate for adequate resources.

Office of Surgical Fellowship

Under the leadership of Dr. Amin Kherani, the Office of Surgical Fellowship (OSF) provides infrastructure for our 25 programs and 30 current fellows. It is remarkable that since 2016, the DoS has graduated 268 fellows with subspecialty skillsets. To build a sustainable infrastructure, significant work has gone into developing OSF policies, such as call and supervision policies. Human resource stability has been achieved with two fully engaged program administrators. One anticipated outcome is for programs to access funds more efficiently within university accounts.

The OSF's short- and medium-term goals include simplifying the onboarding process for new and renewing fellows, exploring models for low surgical assist billing programs, and expanding the academic footprint. We continue to explore new opportunities, such as clinical research fellowships that allow for dedicated research time as well as clinical contributions and maintenance of surgical skills. The 2023 Fellowship Research Symposium was highlighted by our guest, Dr. Blayne Welk, speaking on Building a Surgical Research Career.

Continuing Medical Education

The DoS hosted city-wide rounds through a hybrid format with a breadth of topics and surgical interests. In collaboration with Dr. Natalie Yanchar (Deputy Department Head, EDI and Wellness), a wellbeing series included topics such as suicide (Dr. Michael Myers), physician substance abuse (Dr. Bina Nair), and electronic medical record burnout (Dr. Robert Pauly). Local speakers shared expertise in topics such as innovation (Dr. R. Moore), quality improvement (Dr. A. Graham), and medical education (Drs. A. Harvey and S. Weeks). We also hosted Dr. Andrea MacNeill (University of British Columbia), who spoke about planetary health and surgical systems. A significant development this year was the ability to offer section 1 credits for Maintenance of Competence for attending CME rounds. We thank Dr. Derrick Randall, whose term as the CME lead will end in 2024.

Innovation in Surgical Education

We held our first grant competition to support innovation and academia in surgical education. Under the leadership of Dr. Hildebrand, funds were directed from value adds to support this initiative, with more than \$100,000 going towards novel surgical education projects in the department.

93 *surgical residents & extended residents*

30 *surgical fellows*

Award Recipients

- PGME Excellence in Clinical Teaching Awards were received by Drs. Paul McBeth (general surgery/critical care), Michael Dunham (general surgery/critical care), Nicholas Desy (orthopedic surgery), Kevin Hildebrand (orthopedic surgery), Richard Ng (orthopedic surgery), Jeremy LaMothe (orthopedic surgery), Iain Russel (orthopedic surgery), and James Brookes (otolaryngology).
- CSM awards were received by Dr. Natalie Yanchar for Continuing Medical Education and Dr. Marcia Clark for Long-Term Education Contribution.
- UME Clinical Teaching Awards were received by Drs. Don Buie, Nick Romatowski, Lea Austen, Mack Jacobson, John Graham, Paul MacEachern, Annie Ritter, Rubini Pathy, Halli Krzyzaniak (resident), Tito Daodu, Naomi Wedet, Adrian Harvey, Nathan Zondervan, Donald McPhalen, Ian Anderson, Rob Harrop, Michael Deutschmann, and Brij Karmur (resident).
- Dr. Fatemeh Ramazani (otolaryngology) received the 2023 Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Kristin Sivertz Resident Leadership Award, the 2023-2024 PARA Resident Physician Leadership Award, and the University of Calgary HELIOS Award.
- Dr. Michael Krystalskyj (ophthalmology PGY4) received the Martin T. Spoor Memorial Award.
- Drs. Alyssa Federico, Michael Krystalskyj, and Mallika Makkar each received a Canadian Orthopaedic Association's Diversity in Leadership Award.
- Dr. Isha Ober (general surgery) received the Best Waugh Award for Rural Healthcare.

It remains a great privilege to work with our committed department faculty and exceptional learners.

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



The Office of Surgical Research (OSR) exists to help surgeons achieve research excellence. Led by the Vice Chair of Research, the OSR directives are to:

- Organize internal research funding opportunities, including adjudication, accounting, and progress reports.
- Plan and execute the department's annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium.
- Provide statistical support for surgeons' research projects.
- Provide research facilitation services, including identification of the department's research needs and coordination with research administration within the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services (AHS).
- Develop research analytics, quantifying research productivity across the department.

Priorities for the OSR include increasing the department's research productivity, supporting surgical innovation, and increasing external funding successes for

department members. Strategic initiatives include providing multi-year catalyst funding for promising research programs in the department, supporting research within external funding competitions, providing biostatistical support, fostering collaborations with the CSM research institutes, and building a systemic culture of research enthusiasm within the department.

OSR Team

In 2023, Emi Sanders, BSc, CCRP, joined the OSR in a new role as our operations lead. Emi has over ten years of experience coordinating surgical research at the University of Calgary and within AHS facilities. She also has extensive knowledge of research protocols and infrastructure within the university and AHS environments. Her priorities include greater visibility and connectivity of the OSR within the Department of Surgery; providing research support services to researchers, clinicians, and trainees; internal peer review; analytics and reporting; program development; and sustainability and growth of the OSR.

In June 2023, Katelyn Boomer left her role as the OSR program administrative assistant, and in November, we welcomed Lovepreet Bhinder to this role. We thank Katelyn for her hard work and excellent organizational abilities.

Surgeons' Day

The 41st Annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium was held in person on June 9, 2023, at the Clara Christie Theatre. We were honoured to host 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) 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. Daniel You (Section of Orthopaedic Surgery) won the top resident research prize for their presentation, An Early Coagulation Factor Dominant Hypercoagulability is

\$361,517 *funding provided*

500 *hours statistical support provided*

22 *research grants and awards sponsored*

Followed by a Prolonged Platelet-Dominant Hypercoagulability in Patients with Hip Fracture.

- Dr. Kiana Mahboubi (Section of Otolaryngology) won the runner-up resident research prize for their presentation, The Association of Ethnicity and Oncologic Outcomes for Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC).
- Sarthak Sinha (UME Class of 2025) was awarded the Peter Cruse Memorial Award and lecture for their medical student research project, Fibroblast Inflammatory Priming Determines Regenerative Versus Fibrotic Skin Repair.
- Dr. Rob Harrop (Section of Pediatric Plastic Surgery), Dr. Andrew Kirkpatrick (Section of General Surgery), and Dr. Prism Schneider (Section of Orthopaedic Surgery) were each awarded funding for their team research proposals and presentations at the Sharpest Knife Live Grant Competition.

Grants and Awards

The OSR sponsored 22 research grants and awards in 2023 for a total funding envelope of \$361,517 CAD. In 2021, the OSR launched a new funding initiative, the Pathways to Success Award. It is a renewable three-year award (\$50,000/annum) developed to support department researchers and/or research groups striving to obtain 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. Rebecca Hartley (Section of Plastic Surgery) and Dr. Derrick Randall (Section of Otolaryngology) were each awarded a 2023 Pathways to Success Award.
- Dr. Trafford Crump (Section of Ophthalmology) and Dr. Prism Schneider (Section of Orthopaedic Surgery) were each awarded a 2022 Pathways to Success Award.
- Dr. Eric Hyndman (Section of Urology) and Dr. Ganesh Swamy (Section of Orthopaedic Surgery) are completing the final year of their projects funded in the 2021 Pathways to Success Award program.

- Six Calgary Surgical Research and Development Fund (CSRDF) grants were awarded, supporting faculty and resident research across the department.
- Four Open Access Fund 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 residents, fellows, and faculty. In 2023, 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>.

Data Analytics

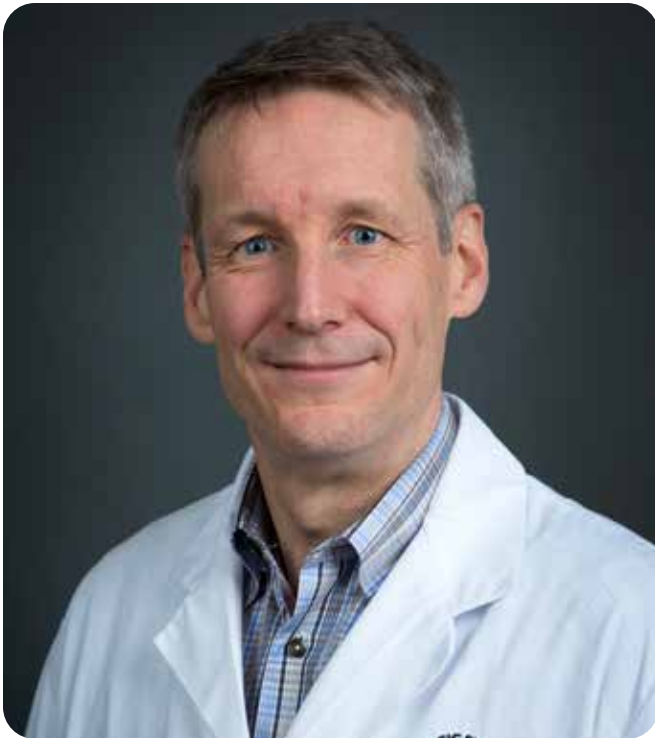
The OSR is partnering with the University of Calgary's Faculty Affairs Analytics team to create research productivity metrics for all department members. These reports will focus on metrics such as publications, citations, presentations, funding, and more. In addition, interim and final reports from investigators are being collected to analyze the impact of the research dollars provided by the OSR on research productivity, research program growth, development, and external grant success.

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



The Office of Surgical Quality (OSQ) is intended to support quality improvement (QI) leads and the Department of Surgery in QI initiatives, facilitate a culture of quality improvement, provide appropriate training to department members, and share QI practices learned.

The OSQ provides the following support: QI training on the methodology for carrying out QI projects, project facilitation and implementation of QI tools, data processing and analysis, administration of a SharePoint website with QI resources, and coordination of the Calgary Zone Surgical Quality Council meetings to share learning.

2023 Highlights SharePoint

Our SharePoint site has undergone several modifications, including the addition of two new pages: the QI Training for Residents page, where you can find information about the training program, and the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) page, where you can find support resources for the PPIP implemented by the College of Physicians and

Surgeons of Alberta. The PPIP page provides information on meeting the practice-driven quality improvement requirement using objective data as well as sample templates of the required action plan to meet the criteria.

In addition to QI Training and PPIP, the site is where members of the Surgical Quality Council can find information related to the OSQ, including surgical procedure data (dashboard, ELOS, LOS, cost of hospital stay), reports (NSQIP, TQIP, ABJHI, VQI) and more.

QI Training for Surgical Residents

The OSQ developed a structured QI training program for surgical residents. The training covers the key elements that must be executed to complete a quality improvement project and is based on the AHS Improvement Way (AIW) methodology. Francisco Aguirre, the Sr. Quality Improvement Consultant, facilitates the program.

This training is given in flexible days, durations, and schedules, depending on the availability of the residency program. Participants learn theory in person in the classroom, with an opportunity to work in groups and participate in activities that put what they have learned into practice. Additionally, if the residency program allows it, a parallel project can be carried out during the training sessions, enabling participants to apply concepts and tools to a real-world project.

To date, the OSQ has taught the QI training program in four surgical sections: orthopedics, ophthalmology, plastic surgery, and podiatric surgery. On average, 97% of participants rated the training as “satisfactory” or “very satisfactory.” The Section of Vascular Surgery and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology have scheduled training for 2024, and planning is underway for two additional surgical sections to complete training.

Surgical Quality Council – Calgary Zone

The OSQ coordinates the Surgical Quality Council sessions, which occur on the second Wednesday of each month. In 2023, an average of 35 participants attended each session. We thank our QI leaders for consistently participating, seeing an average of 75% attendance. The satisfaction survey shared at the end of each session has demonstrated the high level of acceptance and value that these sessions bring to members.

This year has seen many valuable topics, such as From Good to Great: Building a Quality Improvement and Safety Program in the Section of Ophthalmology, Critical Incident Review in Obstetrics and Gynecology, The Vascular Quality Initiative: Implementation and Future Directions, and Evidence into Action: Doing the Right Things, the Right Way for SSI Prevention.

Calgary Zone SSI Reduction Targets

The AHS executive requested that each zone provide Surgical Site Infection (SSI) target reductions for the next three years based on National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) crude infection rates. Meeting this request in a three-year timeframe will be ambitious. Dr Graham, OSQ Director, has met with operational and surgical leadership to develop a family of measures, including the proportion of prophylactic antibiotic delivery within 60 minutes of skin incision, risk-adjusted SSI, and crude SSI rates. The measures will be reported at the Calgary Zone Surgical Operational Committee for each adult site beginning in 2024. Jennifer Bolt, OSQ Analyst, has developed the prophylactic antibiotic reports from data abstracts from Connect Care.

Section QI Projects

The project to reduce the Length of Stay (LOS) after esophagectomy was carried out in collaboration with the Section of Thoracic Surgery. After two plan-do-study-acts (PDSA) and an extension of the last PDSA, this project moved to the last phase at the end of December to determine the sustainability plan and to select monitoring tools. To date, the project has reduced LOS from 14.7 to 10.4 days on average, representing a 29% reduction in the average of all cases.

Other projects being carried out in collaboration with surgical sections include the development of a QI handover tool for orthopedic surgery, opioid prescription optimization after thyroidectomy for otolaryngology, and opioid prescription optimization after osteotomy for oral and maxillofacial surgery.

QI Leads

The current section QI and Safety leads are Dr. Alex Hatchell (plastic surgery), Dr. Darren Desantis (urology), Dr. Miller Smith (oral and maxillofacial surgery), Dr. Karim Manji (podiatric surgery), Dr. Jonathan Yip

29%

reduction in LOS after esophagectomy, produced through a thoracic QI project

97%

of participants surveyed rated the QI training as satisfactory or very satisfactory

(otolaryngology-head and neck surgery), Dr. Emmanuel Illical (orthopedic surgery), Dr. Andrew Graham (thoracic surgery), Dr. Kenton Rommens (vascular surgery), Dr. Alexander Ragan (ophthalmology), and Dr. Tamara Gimón (general surgery). As of the end of 2023, the pediatric surgery QI lead position remains vacant, with Dr. Thomas Cawthorn to start as QI lead of this section in 2024.

In 2024, Dr. Andrew Graham will step down from his position as the Director of the Office of Surgical Quality and begin a new role as the Academic Director of Quality Improvement. We thank Dr. Graham for his time and commitment to the OSQ and his perseverance in achieving its objectives. We look forward to his contributions in this new role.

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, CHIM

**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



VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

The EDSP is at the interface between evidence-based medicine, health economics, organizational impact, values, and decision-making processes.

Vision: To foster clinician engagement, empowerment, and shared decision-making that guides the responsible introduction of health technologies.

Mission: To systematically assess and evaluate new health technologies in surgery in the local Alberta context and provide decision-makers with recommendations based on the best available evidence.

Values: The EDSP values interdisciplinary collaboration and bringing key stakeholders into conversations about safety, effectiveness, resource stewardship, feasibility, quality improvement, innovation, training and credentialing, equity, and fairness.

The EDSP are not decision makers. Leadership is informed by our reports and recommendations, but they are not bound by them.

In 2023, the Surgery Evidence Decision Support Program (EDSP) turned evidence into impact through its operations-

based innovation pathways. With a focus on the review and adoption of technology, enhanced and minimally invasive techniques, drugs, and therapeutics, the EDSP supported the evaluation and implementation of clinical programs and care pathways in Alberta Health Services (AHS), Covenant Health, and Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF). Led by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, researchers, directors, and managers, the EDSP is a conduit for information and understanding across portfolios. Locally and provincially, the EDSP uses a three-phase approach to facilitate perioperative change across sites, zones, and programs, providing a proven pathway for implementing sustainable innovation in Alberta. We help integrate research evidence with local operational information to make evidence-informed recommendations.

The EDSP received a record number of intakes in 2023, with deliverables generated to support decision-making for surgery, cardiac sciences, clinical neurosciences, interventional pulmonary medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesiology and pain medicine, pediatrics, inpatient, critical care emergency, therapeutic endoscopy, diagnostic imaging and radiology, Alberta Precision Laboratories, provincial pharmacy services, Alberta Surgery Initiative, provincial surgery utilization, Government of Alberta (Intergovernmental Affairs; Ministry of Health), and the Rural Surgical and Obstetric Network of Alberta (RSONA).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- The Surgery EDSP undertook more than 100 knowledge translation, educational, and scholarly activities.
- The Surgery EDSP supported a record number of decisions with 85 custom deliverables across all pathways.
- Dr. Tara Klassen, in collaboration with the Surgical Infection Society and the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, co-authored two peer-reviewed publications building on EDSP projects.
- The Surgery EDSP partnered with the Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine Standing Committee (APMSC) and provincial pharmacy services to implement Sugammadex sodium, a drug that reverses neuromuscular paralysis during urgent, difficult-to-manage airway events, creating a safer, difficult airway minimum standard in the emergency

department, operating room, post-anesthesia care units, and intensive care units at more than 50 surgery sites and CSFs province-wide.

- The EDSP completed and implemented novel health technologies and procedures, including endoscopic cryotherapy to freeze precancerous cells of the esophagus at South Health Campus in Calgary; no incision transcatheter edge-to-edge repair (TEER) of leaking mitral valves at the Foothills Medical Centre (FMC); an awake endoscopic spine surgery program in the Calgary Zone; and minimally invasive non-surgical pleuroscopy to help diagnose and treat patients with fluid around the lung at the FMC.
- 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 Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network (ONSQIN), Health Quality Ontario (HQP), Interior Health BC, Public Health Service Agency (PHSA) BC, Coastal Health BC, Island Health BC, Shared Health Manitoba, IWK Health Region Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Regional Health, Canadian Drug Agency (CDA), Emergency Care Research Institute (ECRI), BC Health Technology Assessment Committee (BC HTAC), Institut National d'Excellence en Santé et Services Sociaux (INESS), Choosing Wisely Canada, Alberta Medical Association (AMA), and College of Physicians and Surgeons Alberta (CPSA).

ONGOING AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- In August 2023, the AHS Quality Safety and Outcomes Improvement Committee (QSO) endorsed the Provincial Advisory Council on Device Innovation (PACODI) as the formal decision-making process for ongoing and/or routine off-label use of medical devices. The initiative aimed to empower clinicians, encourage innovation, and guide safe and responsible informed decision-making. During the inaugural year, this included supporting decision-making for the off-label installation of a regulated safety device as a patient self-assist device for positioning on the table in radiation therapy vaults for cancer treatment.
- The EDSP leads and coordinates work to identify and address information gaps in Lippincott Procedures related to surgery in collaboration with Clinical Knowledge and Content Management (CKCM). In

103 *health technology and innovation intakes*

105 *reports and deliverables*

42 *health technology trials with industry*

2024, the Surgery Lippincott Team will have 227 subject matter experts working on standardized provincial evidence-based point-of-care resources to address gaps in post-operative vital signs monitoring, emergency response plans, wounds, drains and chest tubes, tissue removal from the operating room, and malignant hyperthermia.

- In 2024, the EDSP will support multiple provincial initiatives focused on robot and technology-enhanced surgery. This includes equity and expansion of multipurpose (big) robots for laparoscopic robot-assisted surgery, orthopedic robots for knees and hips, spine robots, and brain robots.
- Next year, the EDSP will lead the Alberta Health Services evaluation of ClarityDX Prostate, a non-invasive, easy-to-perform blood test that may improve the discovery of clinically significant prostate cancer better than current screening.

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 & Program Manager – 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 patients through the Foothills Medical Centre Dental Clinic and pediatric patients through the Alberta Children's Hospital Dental Clinic and community private practices. 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 represent some of the most vulnerable health sectors due to their complex medical conditions, unique dental and oral challenges, and social challenges.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Division of Adult Dentistry

- The Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) Dental Clinic is currently staffed with four regular dentists and two residents.
- The FMC team has developed and fully commercialized a novel solution for dry mouth, which has received Health Canada approval.
- Clinic staff look forward to moving to the dental clinic



Dr. Adham Fares
Section Chief of Dentistry and Oral Health

housed in the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre. The section continues to be actively involved in the ongoing planning of this new clinic. Dr. Ruby Bhutani (General Practice Residency 2022/2023) has joined the FMC Dental Clinic as a part-time staff dentist.

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 (CSF).
- Dr. Kari Badwi is the Division Chief of Pediatric Dentistry.
- We thank Dr. Marie-Claude Cholette for her 25 years of service as the Clinic Director.
- We welcomed Dr. Ben Hughes as the new Clinic Director from May to December 2023. Dr. Hughes resigned from his full-time position at the ACH in December when he moved to the USA. We are seeking to fill his clinical position and the clinic director position.
- Dr. Marie Claude Cholette is the interim/acting Clinic Director and the only full-time (0.7 FTE) pediatric dentist at the ACH. She is also an examiner for the Royal College of Dentists of Canada.
- The clinic offers comprehensive dental, orthodontic,

4,553 *procedures in the FMC Dental Clinic*

1,617 *patients seen at the ACH Dental Clinic*

and oral care to pediatric patients with medical complexities. The ACH dental specialists are also consultants for the Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic, the Velopharyngeal Insufficiency Clinic, the Craniofacial Clinic, and the Temporal Mandibular Joint/Rheumatology Clinic.

- The ACH Dental Clinic staff includes one part-time pediatric dentist, Dr. Don He; five casual pediatric dentists, Drs. Abishek Batra, Prabhdeep Chahal, Sarah Hulland, Choo-Kar Kua, and Tim Seto; two orthodontists, Drs. Jen Smith and Catherine Cho; and two oral and maxillofacial surgeons, Drs. Miller Smith and Kevin Robertson. All members are part of the division’s after-hours emergency service.
- We thank all division members for their commitment to our patients and contributions to the division’s and section’s overall strategy and development.

Education

- The one-year postgraduate General Dentistry Hospitalist Resident/Fellowship Program continues with great success at the FMC Dental Clinic. The residents in this program rotate through the ACH dental clinic and occasionally private, community pediatric dental practices for their training in pediatric dentistry.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Long waitlists for pediatric 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 has been ongoing since 2022.



SECTION OF GENERAL SURGERY

The Section of General Surgery comprises 50 surgeons at the four adult hospital sites in the Calgary Zone. We deliver broad-based general surgical care and subspecialty care in endocrine, trauma, colorectal, hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB), upper GI, and surgical oncology. The section also supports the non-clinical domains of education and research. We have Royal College-certified fellowships in colorectal surgery and surgical oncology and non-certified fellowships in endocrine, trauma, HPB, and upper GI. Endocrine and HPB fellowships are certified by North American credentialing bodies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Education

- Dr. Ryan Rochon is completing his five-year term as the residency program director. Thanks to Dr. Rochon for his tireless efforts in guiding trainees through their challenging five-year residency. The 2023/2024 program had 21 residents.
- Our six fellowship programs are led by Drs. Antoine Bouchard-Fortier (surgical oncology), Adrian Harvey (endocrine surgery), Paul

McBeth (trauma), Don Buie (colorectal), Elijah Dixon (HPB), and Neal Church (upper GI).

- Dr. Mike Dunham received the PGME (postgraduate medical education) Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award from the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM).
- Dr. Adrian Harvey received two Clerkship Teaching Awards and the UME (undergraduate medical education) Jersey Award.
- Dr. Grant Moffat received the Graduating Class Award of Merit from the CSM and is a faculty advisor for junior residents.
- Dr. Hyea Min Yoon has done an amazing job developing the curriculum and running the monthly Sim Lab for all levels of trainees.
- Dr. Gwen Hollaar continues her exceptional outreach work in Laos and Tanzania as part of the university's Global Health Office. Dr. Neel Datta also led a week of didactic and Sim Lab teaching in Laos.
- Dr. Renelle Daigle coordinates the academic half-day curriculum for general surgery residents.
- Dr. Caitlin Yeo teaches at the National General Surgery Review Program and is the faculty advisor for four residents.

Research

- Dr May Lynn Quan is the PI or co-PI on two grants, including \$13,850,000 (in progress) and \$1,247,900 (new grant). She was the lead or co-author of ten publications.



Dr. John Heine
Section Chief of General Surgery

- Dr. Andy Kirkpatrick was the lead investigator for the international COOL (Closed or Open after Laparotomy for Source Control) trial. He was the co-author, lead, or first author of 20 publications.
- Dr. Lloyd Mack co-authored two publications.
- Dr. Caitlin Yeo co-authored two publications and was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Canadian Neuroendocrine Tumour Society.
- Dr. Janice Pasioka was the lead or co-author of seven publications.

Medical Leadership and Administration

- Dr. Tony MacLean completed a five-year term as the section chief for the Section of General Surgery. We thank Dr. MacLean for working tirelessly to support our section through challenging times, including the pandemic, the introduction of Connect Care, and ongoing issues with in-house surgical support.
- Dr. Francis Sutherland finished his term as the deputy department head of Surgical Access Improvement.
- Dr. Lloyd Mack was the medical lead for Cancer Surgery Alberta. He was named incoming president of the Alberta Association of General Surgeons, with other members of the executive including Drs. Mark Lipson and Alison Laws. Dr. Mack is the deputy academic head for the Department of Oncology and an Appointments and Promotion Committee member for the PSOC.

50 general surgeons in the Calgary Zone

- Drs. Neel Datta, John Graham, May Lynn Quan, and Paul McBeth are the general surgery site leads at the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC), Rockyview General Hospital (RGH), Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), and South Health Campus (SHC).
- Drs. Don Buie, Mike Dunham and John Heine are the surgery site chiefs at the FMC, SHC, and PLC.
- Dr. Rohan Lall is the medical director of Trauma Services.
- Dr. Grant Moffat is the DoS Quality and Safety Lead and the surgery representative on the PLC Safety and Quality Committee.
- Dr. Artan Reso was named to the board of directors of the Canadian Association of Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons.
- Dr. Janice Pasioka is the president-elect for the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons. She was also named to the Board of the North American Neuroendocrine Tumour Society.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- As one of the largest surgical sections in the Department of Surgery, we are significantly impacted by the acute care coverage deficits and resulting diversions. In addition, anesthesia and nursing shortages have exacerbated our surgical wait times.
- Our section requires additional GFT and AMHSP positions to support our non-clinical work, including research, education, administration, and leadership.
- We hired four surgeons, including Drs. Allison Laws, Tamara Gimon, Mark Lipson, and Siddharth Shinde.
- We are actively recruiting for six positions left vacant by retired faculty.
- Dr. Janice Pasioka retired after a long and internationally recognized career, which was celebrated in Chicago with a Festschrift (a celebration event) to honour her significant contributions to endocrine surgery. She was also the McMurtry Lecturer and guest judge at the Surgeons' Day Research Symposium and was honoured as the keynote speaker at the American Association of Endocrine Surgery.



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, and thyroid disorders.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Jamie Bhamra and Dr. Lisa Lagrou were promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor.
- Dr. Chris Hanson and Dr. Patrick Gooi were promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.
- Dr. Natalie Doughty and Dr. Etienne Benard-Seguine graduated from the residency program.
- We welcomed two new residents, Dr. Jeremy Moreau and Dr. Mary Holdsworth.
- Dr. Michael Kryshchynskyj received many awards, including the Canadian Ophthalmological Society Award for Excellence in Ophthalmic Research (co-author), the Resident Research Humanitarian Award from the Department of Surgery's Office of Surgical Research, and the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal from the Government of Alberta.
- Dr. Stephanie Dotchin was elected the Calgary Zone representative for the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) Representative Forum.



Dr. Andrew Crichton
Section Chief Ophthalmology

45 ophthalmologists in the Calgary Zone

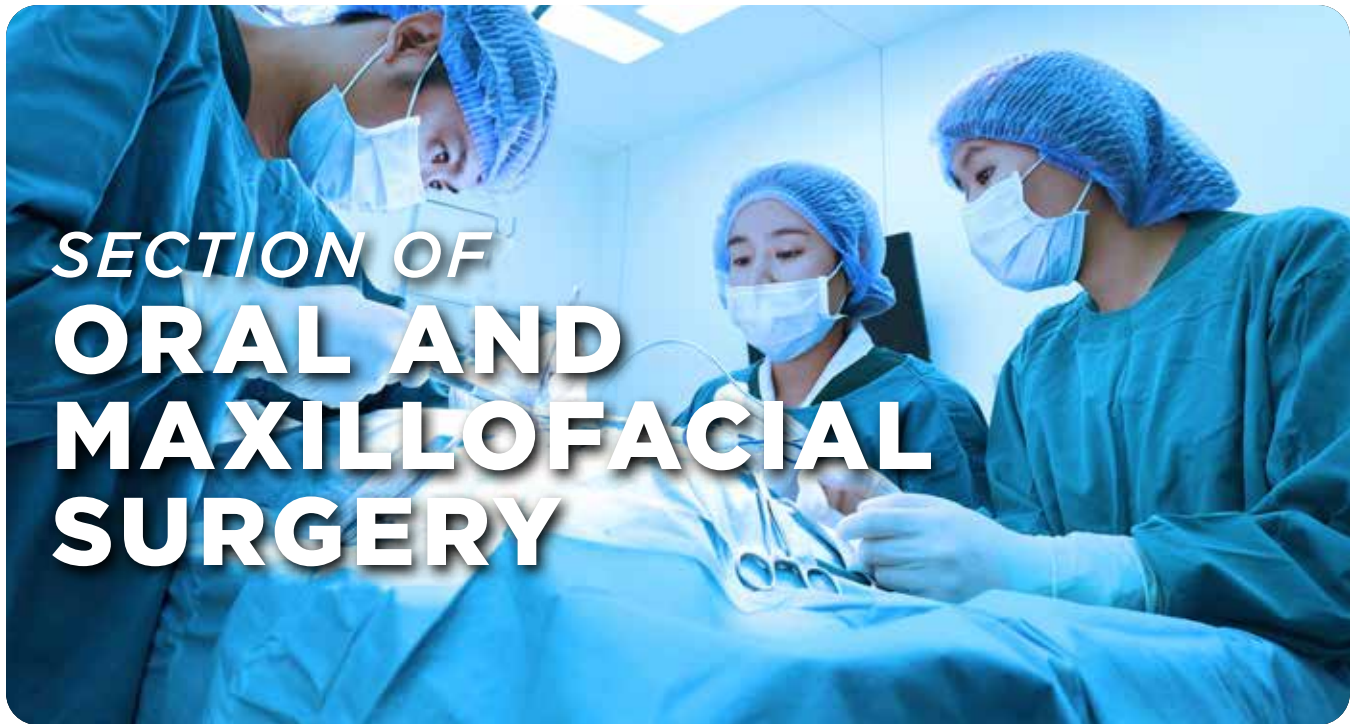
10 ophthalmology residents

Fellowship programs in glaucoma, oculoplastics, retina, oncology, advanced anterior segment, as well as a research fellow.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- One of the biggest challenges for the Section of Ophthalmology was the transition to Connect Care. Apart from the transition, there was a siloing of roles. Nurses could no longer assist with putting in orders, and the use of scribes was discouraged. This was a challenge for the on-call ophthalmologists, who were seeing a large number of consults each day, many of which required surgery. Apart from the challenging clinical situations, the expectation was for data and order input to be done as well. Understandably, the support staff were stretched as implementing Connect Care led to significant inefficiencies.
- We have begun to see improvements with Connect Care in terms of efficiencies and order sets, but allowing other healthcare workers to assist, especially with orders, would have a significant impact on surgeon workload.
- There were challenges for the delivery of surgical services, as there were OR closures due to anesthesiology and nursing staff shortages.
- The transition to the newly contracted Chartered Surgical Facilities was handled relatively well, and with the increase in cataract numbers over the last four to five years, waitlists have decreased.

- Provincial surgical leadership has indicated the importance of decreasing patient wait times. In this regard, a significant effort was made to remove inaccuracies from the waitlists and to determine accurate waitlist numbers.
- The section did not add new faculty in 2023, but we have active recruitment for two positions in retina, one pediatric ophthalmology position, one ocular oncology position, and one neuro-ophthalmology position. These should all come into play for 2024.



SECTION OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

The Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (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 OMFS section is dedicated to providing high-quality, contemporary care to patients with various oral and facial conditions. With a team of highly trained professionals, the OMFS section offers a wide range of surgical and non-surgical procedures, including reconstructive surgery, trauma surgery, tumour surgery, orthognathic surgery, oral rehabilitation implantology, and treatment for obstructive sleep apnea. The section's focus on patient-centered care ensures that each patient receives individualized attention and personalized treatment plans that address unique needs and concerns.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Service

- OMFS provides on-call services and expertise in facial trauma, management of odontogenic infection, and aggressive head and neck fascial space infections.
- Our section provides call coverage for all Calgary Zone hospitals and urgent care centres as well as the RAAPID (Referral, Access, Advice, Placement, Information and Destination) call centre from the southern and central AHS zones. In 2023, OMFS joined the FAST (Fast Access to Specialized Treatment) initiative and began utilizing eReferrals to facilitate the referral process from general practices and other specialties to our service.
- 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.

Education and Research

- The Section of OMFS Surgery has grown its presence in education and research in the Department of Surgery over the last two years.
- The section has been running the Dental General Practice Residency Program (hospitalist dentistry) since 2021.
- We have formally initiated a Surgical Training Fellowship Program in orthognathic, TMJ arthroplasty,



Dr. Graham Cobb
Section Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

and jaw reconstruction. The program has been approved, and our first fellow will join us in 2024. With the inception of the fellowship program, we expect to continue fostering an environment for teaching and excellence in the department.

Medical Leadership and Administration

- Dr. Graham Cobb has been the Section Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery since July 2022. Dr. Cobb is the PLC Site Lead for OMFS. He is also a Provincial Head & Neck Executive Committee member, Clinical Operations Committee Cancer Centre Dental Clinic member, the OMFS Fellowship Director, and a Royal College Examiner.
- Dr. Miller Smith is the ACH Site Lead for OMFS, the OMFS QI and Safety lead, the NSQIP Lead for the PLC, and a Royal College Examiner.
- Dr. Brett Habijanac is a Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF) Committee member and an OMFS representative for the Department of Surgery's Peer Support Program.
- Dr. Shawn Higashi is Chairman of the Controlled Drugs and Substances (CDSA) Act Sedation 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 Dental General Practice Residency Program (hospitalist dentistry) at the FMC. Dr. Fisher is also

the Cancer Care Alberta Dental Program Lead.

- The Head and Neck Tumour Clinic members include Dr. Graham Cobb and Dr. Brad Fisher.
- The ACH Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic members include Dr. Miller Smith and Dr. Kevin Robertson.
- The FMC Minor Oral Surgery and General Practice Residency Clinic members include Dr. Graham Cobb, Dr. Simon Touchan, Dr. Shawn Higashi, Dr. Todd Fairbanks, Dr. Sandeep Dhesi, Dr. Brad Fisher, and Dr. Kevin Robertson.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- With significant growth in the service, OMFS has expanded to 12 members in 2023 and will increase to 13 members in 2024. We expect the increase in members to facilitate the management of the increased demand and service volume in the Calgary Zone.
- In the coming year, we expect an increase in the number of cases performed for mouth and jaw pathology, orthognathic surgery, maxillomandibular advancement (MMA) surgery for obstructive sleep apnea, and TMJ arthroplasty.
- This expanded OMFS service will be supported by the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) program.
- One challenge will be the stress on current budgets due to the increased use of custom patient implants.

12 surgeons in the Calgary Zone

503 surgical cases completed at the Peter Lougheed Centre

2,210 surgical cases completed in Chartered Surgical Facilities



SECTION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

The Section of Orthopaedic Surgery has 72 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). We also 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 treatment of fractures.

The Orthopaedic Residency Program has 26 residents, and all sites are engaged in educating trainees, including medical students, residents, and fellows.

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.

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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- There are 72 active orthopaedic surgeons in the Calgary Zone across five acute care sites.
- There are 26 residents in the University of Calgary's Orthopaedic Residency Training Program.
- Dr. Brian Burkart retired from orthopaedic practice at the PLC. Thank you, Brian, for your years of service.
- The Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) has progressed with the addition of publicly funded contracted orthopaedic procedures at Clearpoint Health, a Chartered Surgical Facility.
- The Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program within ASI was established for referrals from primary care physicians to orthopaedic surgeons and continues to be refined.
- A Rapid Access Clinic (RAC) pilot project is being established to provide surgical consult screening to patients awaiting orthopaedic surgical opinions on conditions such as spine, shoulder, soft tissue knee, and hip and knee osteoarthritis.
- Dr. Prism Schneider is the Research Portfolio Director. She has led a renewal of the Research Portfolio membership and introduced new initiatives to foster research among all section members.
- The 2nd Annual Frank Talks event, named in honour of Dr. Cy Frank, was held in March 2023. This faculty research symposium highlights the incredible research of our faculty members.
- Dr. Nick Desy (Program Director) and Dr. Peter Lewkonja (Assistant Program Director) lead the University of Calgary Orthopaedic Surgery Residency program.
- The surgical broadcast program, Direct from the Operating Room, entered its tenth year. Sponsored by Telus Spark Science Centre and Alberta Health Services, the program provides a monthly live surgical broadcast to high school students, allowing them to ask questions of the surgical



Dr. Jason Werle
Section Chief of Orthopedic Surgery

72 orthopaedic surgeons in the Calgary Zone

26 residents in the Orthopaedic Residency Training Program

OVER 15,000 orthopaedic surgical cases performed at all five hospitals

OVER 800 AHS-funded orthopaedic surgical procedures completed at CSFs

team in real-time. Thank you to the RGH OR and residents for supporting this educational activity.

- Calgary hosted a very successful 78th Annual Canadian Orthopaedic Association (COA) Meeting on June 21-24, 2023. The meeting was last held in Calgary in 2004. Congratulations to all participants, Dr. Laurie Hiemstra (COA President), and Dr. Marcia Clark (Program Chair), for an excellent meeting.
- The section celebrated the 50th anniversary of the University of Calgary Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program on Saturday, June 24, 2023, after the COA. The event was well attended by alums, faculty, and program residents. Thank you to Judy Crawford for her outstanding work in organizing this memorable event.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Lack of acute care call coverage at all sites remains an ongoing challenge to delivering safe and efficient orthopaedic patient care. This has led to many surgical diversions. Ongoing clinical surgical assistant (CSA) recruitment challenges remain. A recently announced Physician Assistant training program at the University of Calgary will hopefully assist with closing these gaps.
- Waitlists remain extremely long for all orthopaedic care in the zone, including consultation and surgery.

- Nursing and anesthesia staff shortages have led to postponed operating room slates. This health human resource challenge will persist for the foreseeable future.
- Maintaining surgeon wellness continues to challenge us, given these ongoing challenges to surgical care provision.
- Dr. Lee Fruson was recruited into the Arthroplasty and Trauma Divisions at the PLC in September 2023.
- Dr. Joe Kendal was recruited into the Orthopaedic Oncology Division at the FMC in October 2023.
- Dr. Herman Johal was recruited into the Trauma Division at the FMC in October 2023.
- Dr. James Ardell was recruited into the Arthroplasty and Trauma Divisions at the RGH in November 2023.
- Recruitment in 2024 is proceeding for the following: foot and ankle surgeon at the PLC, hand and wrist surgeon at the SHC, hip arthroscopy surgeon at the SHC, and arthroplasty/trauma surgeon at the SHC.

In Memory of Dr. Fabio Ferri de Barros

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the sudden passing of Dr. Ferri de Barros in 2023. Fabio was a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon, and the loss has been devastating for our orthopaedic family. Fabio is deeply missed, and our thoughts are with his family, friends, and colleagues.



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. James Brookes is the Competence by Design (CBD) Director for the Department of Surgery (DoS).
- Dr. Rob Hart is the Co-Director of the Evidence Decision Support Program for the DoS.
- Dr. Derrick Randall is the Director of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for the DoS and sits on the Office of Surgical Research Council.
- Dr. Monica Hoy is the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) / Wellness Liaison and the section CBD Director.
- Dr. Derrick Randall is the Residency Program Director (PD), and Dr. Justin Lui is the Assistant PD.
- Dr. Jon Yip is the QI/Safety Lead and a member of the Quality Improvement (QI) Council.

- Dr. Michael Deutschmann is the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education (UME).
- Dr. Anita Hui is the Director of Workforce Planning.
- Dr. Jason Chau is the section CME Director.
- Dr. Wayne Matthews is the Director of the Ohlson Research Initiative, Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute.
- Dr. Euna Hwang is the section Research Director.
- The hospital site leads include Drs. Brookes (ACH), Chau (SHC), Bosch (PLC), Mechor (RGH), and Chandarana (FMC).
- Thanks to Dr. Park for his many years as the Site Lead at the SHC.
- Drs. Deutchman, Lui, and Livingstone 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 eight residents. The program also has a fellowship in advanced head and neck surgical oncology.
- Dr. James Brookes was awarded the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Clinical Teaching Award.
- Dr. Rob Hart directs the National Review Course in Calgary for final-year residents preparing for their ENT board exams.
- Dr. Jon Yip launched the Western Canadian Sinus Course, drawing experts and learners from across the country to Calgary.
- Drs. Fatemeh Ramazani and Katie de Champlain successfully completed their Royal College Certification in Otolaryngology in June 2023. Dr. de Champlain will pursue an otology/neurotology fellowship in Perth, Australia, while Dr. Ramazani will pursue a laryngology fellowship at the University of Michigan.
- Dr. Fatemeh Ramazani was awarded the 2023 Kristin Sivertz Resident Leadership Award from



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

the Royal College and the Resident Physician Leadership Award from the Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA).

- Dr. Shamir Chandarana was welcomed as a new member of the Royal College Exam Committee.
- Dr. Justin Chau continues as the Co-Chair of the Royal College Exam Committee.

Research

- Our research program is well developed, with several faculty garnering peer-reviewed funding and providing mentorship to surgical residents and Master’s students. Several projects have received accolades at an international level.
- Dr. Khara Sauro and Dr. Shamir Chandarana are co-investigators for a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (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.
- The Ohlson Research Initiative continues to grow its multidisciplinary team, publish at a high level, and garner significant funding. Drs. Sauro, Matthews, Hart, Chandarana, Hinthner, and Lui continue their involvement with this important research program.
- Dr. Justin Lui, Surgical Simulation Director, is gaining international recognition for the use of a virtual reality platform.

2,895 *adult surgical cases in the Calgary Zone*

2,368 *pediatric surgical cases in the Calgary Zone*

45 *peer-reviewed publications*

\$2,748,275 *in grant funding*

- Dr. Kiana Mahboubi, supervised by Dr. Chandarana, has won multiple regional and national research awards for her research on ethnic differences in head and neck cancer outcomes.

Challenges and Workforce Planning

- Our section’s main challenge is meeting the demand for office consultations and providing surgical intervention within a targeted timeframe. Our section is pursuing new means of handling the demand, including collaboration with Specialist Link and Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) central access and developing established and standardized referral pathways.
- We have begun to utilize the Holy Cross Chartered Surgical Facility for low-risk procedures through the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI).
- Dr. Jessica Clarke was recruited as a general otolaryngologist with additional sinus and skull base surgery expertise and will practice at the PLC.
- Dr. Gabrielle French was recruited as a full-time pediatric otolaryngologist at the ACH and will improve our ability to handle the clinical volume at this site.
- Dr. Khara Sauro, a PhD in the Cumming School of Medicine’s Department of Community Health Sciences, was cross-appointed to the Section of Otolaryngology and has made significant contributions to our research portfolio.
- We are actively recruiting a general otolaryngologist to the SHC to meet clinical demand.
- There continues to be difficulty in recruiting another full-time pediatric otolaryngologist to fill the gap left by the loss of Dr. Warren Yunker in 2022.



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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Service

- Pediatric surgical cases continued to increase post-pandemic, with our surgical section seeing 9,092 cases in 2023.
- The Division of Pediatric Plastic Surgery is developing a new burn program with the Calgary Fire Fighters Burn Treatment Society.
- Dr. Gabrielle French has formed a multidisciplinary committee for Ex Utero Intrapartum Treatment (EXIT) procedures coordinated between otolaryngology, neonatology, anesthesia, and obstetrics.

Education

- Dr. Tito Daodu received the Pre-clerkship Teaching Award from the Medical Students Association and the Course 6 Behind the Scenes Award.
- Dr. Frankie Fraulin is a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Examiner for Plastic Surgery. He received the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) Class of 2023 Clerkship Gold Star Teaching Award.
- Dr. Natalie Yanchar received the 2023 CSM Award for Continuing Medical Education for Trauma Resuscitation in Kids.

- Dr. Rob Harrop is a Re-Imagining Medical Education (RIME) undergraduate medical education small group anatomy instructor. He is also a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada's plastic surgery written and oral examination development committees. Dr. Harrop received the Class of 2023 Clerkship Faculty Gold Star Teaching Award.
- Drs. Tom Cawthorn and Becky Hartley are Co-Directors of Resident Research for the Plastic Surgery Residency Program.

Research

- Dr. Mary Brindle published 30 papers and received over \$8 million in grant funding to support two projects focused on health technology.
- Dr. Tito Daodu published four papers and received almost \$50 thousand in grant funding to support projects focused on anti-racist medical education and Indigenous health.
- Dr. Rebecca Hartley, along with Drs. Fraulin and Harrop, received \$150 thousand in grant funding to support a pilot care pathway for pediatric hand fractures, hire a research coordinator, and develop a pediatric plastic surgery research group.
- Dr. Rob Harrop published five papers and was awarded \$10 thousand in grant funding to investigate pediatric burn wounds.
- The Division of Pediatric Urology published one paper and is participating in a clinical trial evaluating pain outcomes using Ketorolac.

Medical Leadership and Administration

- The site section leads include Drs. Frank (pediatric plastic surgery), Brookes (pediatric otolaryngology), Crichton (pediatric ophthalmology), Weber (pediatric urology), Lopushinsky (pediatric general surgery), Badwi (pediatric dentistry), Smith (pediatric oral maxillofacial surgery), Hader (pediatric neurosurgery),



Dr. Paul Beaudry
Section Chief of Pediatric Surgery

and Brain (pediatric and adolescent gynecology).

- Dr. Lisa Phillips is the new site section lead for pediatric orthopedics, taking over from Dr. Dave Parsons. We thank Dr. Parsons for his many years of service.
- 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 Director of the EQUIS Research Platform. Dr. Brindle is also the Director of the W21C and Secretary for the International Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Society.
- Dr. Andrea Lo is the Program Director of the Pediatric General Surgery Residency Program and the Surgical Foundations Boot Camp Director.
- Dr. Steven Lopushinsky is the Vice-Chair of Education for the Department of Surgery.
- Dr. Miller Smith is the Quality Improvement and Safety Lead for the Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program Lead for the Peter Lougheed Centre.
- Dr. Frankie Fraulin is the Deputy Department Head of Governance and Physician Services for the Department of Surgery. He also holds national leadership positions as the Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President-Elect of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons. He is a member of the CSPS Ethics Committee, Director of the Canadian Society

9,092 total cases

7,172 elective surgeries

1,920 emergency/urgent surgeries

of Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation, and the Authorized Representative for the Calgary Pediatric Plastic Surgery Clinical ARP.

- Dr. Fraulin is a Director of the Project Outreach International Child Health Society. In 2023, on a Project Outreach mission, Drs. Fraulin and Harrop went to Vietnam to treat children with secondary burn scar deformities.
- Dr. Natalie Yanchar is the Deputy Department Head of Professionalism, Physician Wellness, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and the ACH Inpatient Director of Trauma.
- Dr. Tito Daodu is Portfolio Lead in Health Equity and Structural Competency for RIME and Chair of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons Advocacy Committee.
- Dr. James Brookes is the department's Competency by Design Lead.
- Dr. Stephanie Dotchin was elected the Calgary Zone representative for the Alberta Medical Association Representative Forum.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Dr. Gabrielle French (pediatric otolaryngologist) joined the section.
- Pediatric orthopedics initiated a search and selection for a pediatric spine/orthopedic surgeon.
- Pediatric otolaryngology will resume recruiting for a full-time pediatric position. This role is supported through hybrid locum personnel.

In Memory of Dr. Fabio Ferri de Barros

We suffered an immense loss in 2023 with the sudden passing of Dr. Ferri de Barros. Fabio was an orthopedic pediatric surgeon, and his passing has left us saddened and grieving our colleague and friend. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, colleagues, and patients.



SECTION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

The Section of Plastic Surgery consists of 28 active plastic surgeons who provide care in the AHS system 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. Earl Campbell began his position as the Section Chief of Plastic Surgery.
- Dr. Frankie Fraulin continues as the Deputy Department Head of Governance and Physician Services for the Department of Surgery.
- Dr. Alexandra Hatchell continues as the section's Quality Improvement and Safety Lead.

Clinical service

- After years of planning, the Resident Cosmetic Clinic at the University of Calgary was established in 2023. Spearheaded by Dr. Aaron Knox, the clinic was founded to enable final-year residents to become the primary surgeon to patients seeking procedures not routinely covered under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan while still benefitting from the watchful eye of staff surgeons. The clinic has been an overwhelming success, and several patients have already been treated.
- The Peripheral Nerve Working Group, a multidisciplinary group of doctors, including plastic surgeons, was founded in November to further advance the care of patients who require reconstructive neural procedures.
- Plastic surgeons participated in developing referral pathways for the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program.
- A Gender Affirmation Working Group was created, with participation by plastic surgeons, to improve the access to care for gender dysphoric patients.

Education

- The Plastic Surgery Residency Program has 11 residents for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Three new residents joined the training program, including Dr. Cynthia Kahl and Dr. Alexander Platt at the R1 level and Dr. Olivia Genereux, who transferred into the program at the R2 level. Dr. Mieke Heynes



Dr. Earl Campbell
Section Chief of Plastic Surgery

completed her residency and accepted a temporary locum position in Lethbridge, Alberta, anticipating the commencement of her fellowship training.

- Dr. David McKenzie will be completing his second term as the Plastic Surgery Residency Program Director after this year. Dr. Christiaan Schrag has been the Assistant Program Director.
- The section has three fellowship programs, with one fellow in each. Our fellowship programs and fellowship program directors are Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle (oncology), Dr. Jennifer Matthews (microsurgery), and Dr. Justin Yeung (hand, wrist and peripheral nerve).
- The D.C. Birdsell Plastic Surgery Resident Research Day and Visiting Professorship was held in conjunction with the Alberta Society of Plastic Surgeons' Annual Meeting in October 2023. Dr. Joel Fish, the Burn Unit Director of The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario, was the visiting professor and guest judge.
- We welcomed Jessica McIntosh back as the Program Administrator for the Plastic Surgery Residency Program.

Research

- Dr. Clarie Temple-Oberle published six papers and received over \$160 thousand in grant funding. Dr. Temple-Oberle also received a grant from the Office of Surgical Education to teach

surgeons (general and plastic surgery) how to do immediate lymphatic reconstruction.

- Dr. Rebecca Hartley received the Pathways to Success award from the Office of Surgical Research. This grant funding of \$150 thousand over three years will support the Calgary Kids' Hand Rule: Implementation and Evaluation of a Pilot Care Pathway for Pediatric Hand Fracture. The grant has also helped hire a research coordinator and develop a pediatric plastic surgery research group.
- Dr. Ann-Sophie Lafreniere published four papers and presented at two conferences in 2023. Dr. Lafreniere also received the F.M. Woolhouse Award from the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.
- Dr. Brett Ponich published three papers and presented at three conferences in 2023. Dr. Ponich is also a University of Calgary surgical liaison delegate for the 2023-2024 PARA (Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta) Assembly.
- Dr. Tom Cawthorn and Dr. Rebecca Hartley are the resident research program directors.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Our section explored using chartered surgical facilities to move cases from hospitals to outpatient surgical clinics. Unfortunately, this effort was restricted due to inadequate staffing.
- We welcomed Dr. Daniel Demsey to the Foothills Medical Centre as a full-time plastic surgeon.
- A concerted effort was made to recruit another plastic surgeon to take on the Burn Director position at the Foothills Medical Centre, and we hope to see this effort come to fruition in 2024.
- The other Calgary hospital sites maintained their members, and no new hires were required. However, in 2024, the Peter Lougheed Centre and Rockyview General Hospital will see new hires.

28 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 sports 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. The clinic had over 10,000 patient visits in 2023. In addition, over 2,900 procedures were performed in the Minor Surgery Clinic at the Peter Lougheed Centre. Section members also provided call coverage for the five acute care



Dr. John Toole
Section Chief of Podiatric Surgery

11 surgeons in the Calgary Zone

OVER 10,000 visits to the Zivot Limb Preservation Clinic

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

- Dr. Francois Harton completed his two terms as Section Chief of Podiatric Surgery. We thank Dr. Harton for his many years of service and for advancing the section and care of podiatric patients through the hospital system during his time. We welcomed Dr. John Toole as the new Section Chief. He is very interested in expanding podiatric surgery’s educational mandate, and we look forward to his contributions to the section.
- The educational program through the Section of Podiatric Surgery did expand in 2023. Dr. Karim Manji presented at the Department of Surgery’s Annual Surgeons’ Research Day on the 45% decrease in amputation rates when podiatric surgery is incorporated into the multidisciplinary team treating the diabetic foot. 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 medical students can now spend a clerkship rotation

in the Zivot Limb Preservation Clinic as one of their options. This year, we had multiple students from the Podiatry School at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières spend a month at our clinic and at the Peter Lougheed Hospital with our surgeons.

- Our section had a major achievement in 2023. We established the first fellowship in podiatric surgery in the country, specializing in diabetic limb preservation and foot reconstruction. Our fellow has been gaining valuable experience, and we have just accepted a new fellow for the 2024-2025 year.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- We are in the process of recruiting 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 are developing a research program around diabetic foot ulcers and the challenges facing our patients.



SECTION OF THORACIC SURGERY

The Section of Thoracic Surgery is located at the Foothills Medical Centre and provides high-quality surgical care to the patients of Southern Alberta. Our surgeons provide all aspects of tertiary thoracic surgery care for a wide range of benign and malignant conditions. We collaborate with respirology, gastroenterology, radiology, pathology, otolaryngology, and oncology, and we provide multidisciplinary care for many of our patients.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Service & Quality Improvement

- The section functions as a pooled group practice with central triage, equal distribution of resources, and internal monitoring of a range of performance metrics.
- The section continued its quality improvement (QI) efforts at optimizing opioid prescribing after thoracic surgery, with ongoing analyses demonstrating an effective reduction of opioid prescribing that continues to meet national standards without reducing patient satisfaction.
- The section focused on three new quality improvement projects this year:
 - Evaluation of closing and anchoring chest tube sites with absorbable barbed subcuticular closure (Stratafix) instead of horizontal silk mattress sutures. The new technique simplified tube removal

and incision closure, was less painful, and eliminated outpatient delayed suture removal.

- Examination of a digital drainage system to replace the Pleur-Evac system demonstrated enhanced patient mobility, more accurate air leak assessment following lung surgery, and early signs of reduced length of stay (LOS).
- Development of a simplified post-esophagectomy care pathway, involving a multistakeholder team, decreased the median LOS from 15 to just over 10 days while better-supporting patients nutritionally post-discharge.
- The section is grateful for the ongoing efforts of Ms. Jennifer Bolt, Mr. Francisco Aguirre, and the two nurse practitioners, Ms. Dina Sotiropoulos and Mr. Anthony Falvi, for their commitment to critical data capture and quality monitoring. We also thank Unit 61 leadership, nursing staff, and Dr. Schieman for their dedication and hard work on this year's QI initiatives.

Education

- We have a newly renovated thoracic surgery teaching space with videoconferencing in Unit 61, which creates a more accessible multidisciplinary teaching environment for students and faculty.
- Congratulations to Dr. Barber, who completed training in 2022. He is now established in practice in Saskatoon.
- Dr. Shawn Brophy is the current thoracic surgery resident, graduating in June 2024.
- Dr. Gelfand continues his many years of service on the Undergraduate Surgery Clerkship Committee. Dr. Gelfand will serve as the Competency Committee Lead once Competence by Design (CBD) commences in thoracic surgery.
- The section is grateful to Drs. Dan Holloway, Paul Belletrutti, and Chris Hergott, who serve on the Residency Training Committee.



Dr. Colin Schieman
Section Chief of Thoracic Surgery

Research

- Dr. Colin Schieman's involvement as a co-investigator for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (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 has ended as the trial has completed accrual. Conen D, et al. Ongoing Accrual to COP-AF trial. Multicenter Randomized Control Trial.

Medical Leadership and Administration

- Dr. Colin Schieman became the new Section Chief following Dr. Sean McFadden's successful completion of two terms. Thank you, Dr. McFadden, for your dedication and hard work in safely guiding the section through many challenges.
- Dr. Sean McFadden has taken over as the Thoracic Surgery Residency Program Director after Dr. Schieman completed his first term and a half. Thank you, Dr Schieman, for your hard work in successfully guiding the program through two program reviews.
- Dr. Colin Schieman stepped down as Lead of the CLEAR Score Process, which tabulates clinical, leadership, education, administration, and research activities. Under his guidance, an effective tool for the Department of Surgery was developed to quantify and manage its academic and clinical outputs.

4,624 total outpatient encounters

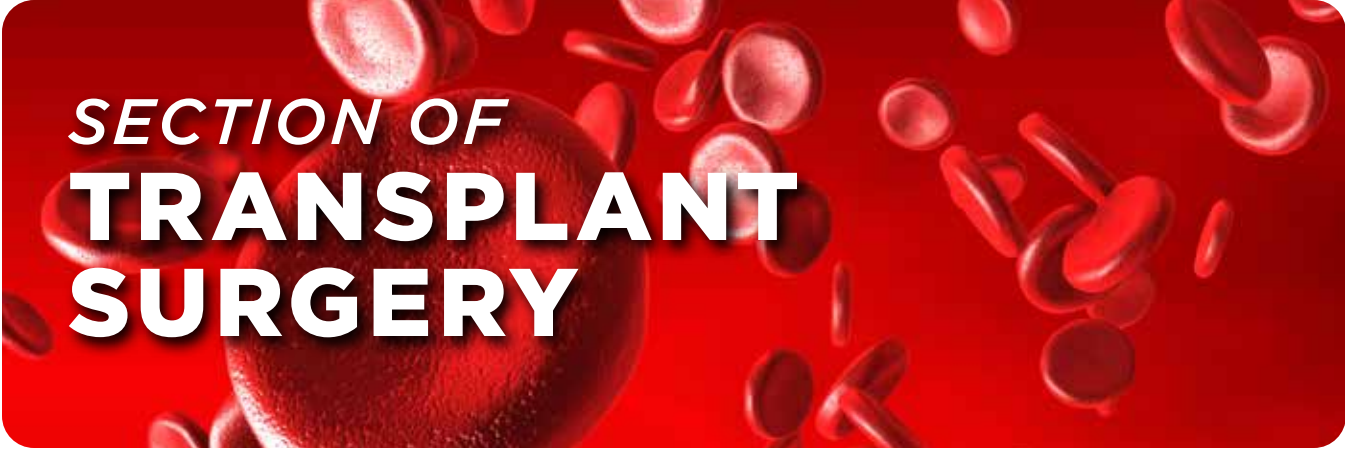
2 DAYS median length of stay for VATS lobectomies reduced to 2 days

11 DAYS median length of stay for esophagectomy reduced to 11 days

- Dr. Janet Edwards is on several national and international committees, including the General Thoracic Workforce with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), 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). She is also the Undergraduate Medical Education Lead for the section. She also participates in the new Career Coaching Program with medical students and is the section's wellness lead. Dr Edwards has also joined the Royal College Educational Committee as a member at large.
- In 2024, Dr. Andrew Graham will step down from his position as the Office of Surgical Quality Director and begin a new role as the department's Academic Director of Quality Improvement. He will remain the Section of Thoracic Surgery's Quality Improvement and Safety Lead. We thank Dr. Graham for diligently keeping quality at the forefront of our section's activities.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- The group is excited to have Dr Shawn Brophy, our current resident, join the section as the newest faculty member in 2024. We welcome Dr. Brophy and his new family to Calgary.
- The section is actively recruiting an additional surgeon to meet the ongoing workforce challenges and growing clinical demands.



SECTION OF TRANSPLANT SURGERY

The Section of Transplant Surgery delivers surgery at all five hospitals in the Calgary area. Our surgeons provide all aspects of care in kidney and pancreas transplantation, in addition to all surgeries for dialysis access (peritoneal and hemodialysis). The section provides care for the pediatric and adult populations within Southern Alberta.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Services

- Transplant activity and patient acuity have continued to increase over the last year, with a record number of transplants performed and patients managed in the inpatient and outpatient settings. We expect transplant activity to increase even further with the recent passage of Bill 205, Human Tissue and Organ Donation Mandatory Referral Amendment, and because of the fentanyl crisis.
- Renal transplants are performed with organs either from living donation or from deceased donors. We perform all multi-organ abdominal organ procurement in cadaveric donors in Southern Alberta. This includes donation after cardiac death and donation after neurologic death. We routinely procure the liver, kidneys, and pancreas from deceased donors. We do not perform liver transplants in Southern Alberta, so we routinely collaborate with other transplant centers in Canada to ensure maximal organ utility while minimizing transportation costs.
- Living donor renal transplants are performed

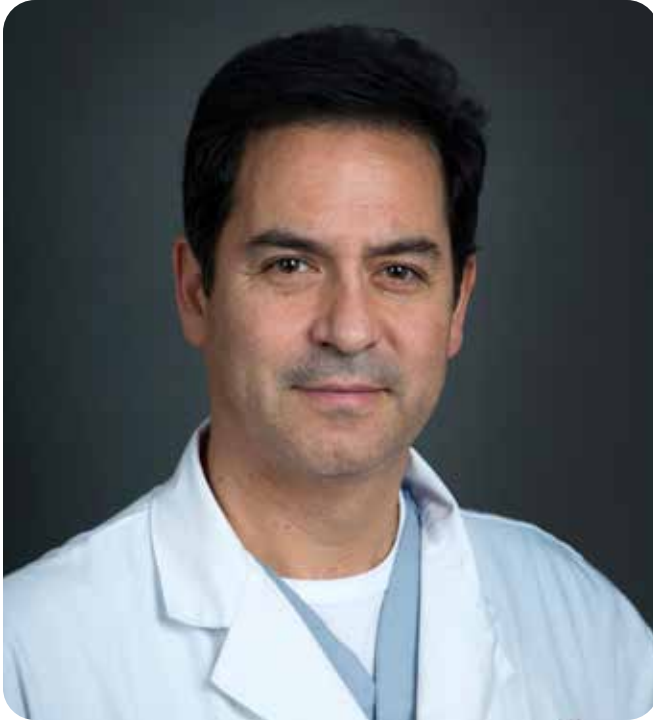
as part of our local program and within Canada in collaboration with Canadian Blood Services and the National Kidney Paired Donation program. Living donors are evaluated and operated on within our program, which helps to expand the number of organs for transplantation and reduce overall wait times. Members of our section continue to be part of the transplant surgery clinical alternative relationship plan (cARP) since its inception in November 2021.

Education

- Our members continue to support and actively contribute to medical education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Our section provides training and education for nephrology fellows, general surgery, vascular surgery, and internal medicine residents in areas related to transplantation and dialysis access. Education also includes clinical rounds and journal clubs.
- Our fellowship program accepts one fellow every two years. Dr. Samir Damji, a graduate of the Imperial College London, England, started his fellowship program in August 2023.
- Dr. Neal Austin is the Transplant Fellowship Program Director. Dr. Austin is working with the Section of Nephrology (Transplant) to finalize and implement a Royal College Area of Focused Competence (AFC) fellowship in solid organ transplantation. He also leads the evaluation process for the General Surgery Residents completing their core Acute Care and Emergency Surgery Service (ACCESS) rotations at the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC).

Research

- In conjunction with the Division of Medical Transplantation, our newly formed research committee is working to engage clinical and basic science research within the diverse specialty areas of transplantation. The committee intends to enhance the dissemination of work within the section, optimize



Dr. Mauricio Monroy-Cuadros
Section Chief of Transplant Surgery

opportunities for collaborative research, facilitate the development of research questions, and mentor colleagues. In collaboration with the Alberta Transplant Institute, we are in the process of identifying key research priorities in donation and transplantation and procuring resources to deliver on these priority areas.

- 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. Serdar Yilmaz is an active member of the Canadian Blood Services Living Donor Advisory Committee and is heavily involved in developing national guidelines for organ donation.
- Dr. Mauricio Monroy-Cuadros continues to represent the division at the Canadian Blood Services Kidney Transplant Advisory Committee and Kidney Pair Donation Program (KPD). He also continues his work

126 kidney and pancreas transplants

735 vascular access surgeries

2,105 transplant and vascular access clinic visits

with the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada on the National Assessment Collaboration’s Objective Structured Clinical Examinations Committee for the Alberta International Medical Graduates Program.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- The complexities of increased patient volumes and the implementation of Connect Care presented many challenges, and our members worked diligently to maintain the high standard of care we expect for our patients. We have been and will continue to work with operations and our multidisciplinary partners to improve efficiencies and advocate for improved resources.
- Recruitment and retention of transplant specialty physicians and our multidisciplinary colleagues remain critical components of our ability to ensure the future of state-of-the-art solid organ transplant management. Expanding our pool of surgeons is essential to ensure a sustainable call coverage model and prevent burnout.
- Two new members who joined the service as locums in 2023. Dr. Evan Nelson is a hepatobiliary and transplant surgeon who completed his general surgery residency at the University of Calgary and his fellowship at Dalhousie University. Dr. Fatma Al Hinai completed her general surgery residency and transplant surgery fellowship at the University of Calgary.
- The program is looking to further 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 15 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. Greg Kozak completed his term as the Site Chief of Surgery for the Rockyview General Hospital.
- Dr. Kevin Carlson was promoted to Clinical Professor and Dr. Bimal Bhindi was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor by the University of Calgary.
- Dr. Kam Kaler presented his abstract, Quality Improvement on Post Ureterscopy Opioid Prescribing Practices, at the American Urological Association's 2023 annual meeting.
- Thanks to the work of Dr. Mark Assmus, the holmium laser enucleation of the prostate (HoLEP) laser procedures, a size-independent treatment option for the management of benign prostatic hypertrophy, were first performed in Alberta at the Rockyview General Hospital.
- Dr. Joshua White was recruited to the section and took over the role of urology education lead from Dr. Charles Metcalfe, who finished his term.
- Drs. Baverstock and Carlson were awarded the Medical Post 2023 Interprofessional Team Award for Canada.



Dr. Eric. Hyndman
Section Chief of Urology

6,734 urology cases

1,449 urology cancer cases

42 peer-reviewed publications

- Section members were part of a provincial urology working group that developed an asymptomatic, routine, prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing pathway.
- The section secured acute care coverage from the Department of Family Medicine for 24 hours per week.
- The section continues to work on the Alberta Surgical Initiative to achieve the goals set out by Alberta Health.
- Development of the Rance and 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 and Marilyn Fisher Family Charitable Foundation, John DeSanti, Clayton and Linda Waitas, AGAT Laboratories, and the Women for Men’s Health initiative. Remington Construction has done an outstanding job on this building project. Construction has been on time and on budget.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Urology postponed surgeries due to physician, staff, and bed shortages in 2023.

- The section encountered significant challenges with the Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) intake program. We continue to develop the flow and triage of patients to urologists.
- Urology offices transitioned to a new electronic medical record (EMR) program, as Telus Wolf was discontinued in 2023. Offices were closed for up to one week to facilitate installation and training.
- Urologists and their clinic staff were under considerable pressure during the learning phase and launch of Connect Care. During the spring and summer of 2023, the transition to Connect Care caused a slowdown in operating rooms, compounding already extended surgical wait times. Urologists are now required to work on two EMRs.
- The need for additional clinical, non-physician support is ongoing. Plans are underway to hire a second urology-dedicated physician assistant. This process has been delayed for several months due to staff shortages in the Department of Surgery. With limited staff and resources, it will be challenging to maintain excellent clinical care.
- Dr. Joshua White joined our section in July. His subspecialty is infertility urology. He has proved to be an excellent addition to our team.
- Dr. John Dushinski is retiring in June 2024. He has worked as a urologist in Calgary for 27 years. We, and the innumerable patients he has cared for, wish to thank Dr. Dushinski for his service to the urology section over many decades. He has been a remarkably efficient clinician. Dr. Dushinski has also been an active leader within the Prostate Cancer Centre and helped the section transition its care to the SAIU over a decade ago. His expertise and efficiency will be missed, and we wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.
- The section is recruiting an endoscopic urologist to back-fill Dr. Dushinski’s position.

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

- Clinical volumes have recovered post-pandemic and returned to normal levels.
- 14,000 patients were seen in the Vascular Surgery Ambulatory Clinic, including 10,000 in person and 4,000 virtual.
- 710 major procedures were performed, including aortic and carotid surgery and lower extremity limb salvage bypasses.
- 380 minor vascular procedures were performed, including hemodialysis access (AV fistulae) and varicose vein surgery.
- 38 combined procedures for complex oncologic resections were performed, with surgical oncology, urology, head and neck oncology, and spine surgery being the most frequent.
- 190 emergency vascular procedures were performed.
- 25 vascular trauma patients were treated.
- 25 cases treated for iatrogenic injuries to vascular structures in support of other surgical sub-specialties.
- The multi-disciplinary Complex Aortic Clinic under the Calgary Aortic Program sees approximately

200 patients annually. In the past year, 133 patients received treatment using new technology, and several cases involved technology used for the first time in Canada or North America. We continue to be an international leader in novel treatment for complex aortic arch and thoracoabdominal aorta problems.

- We continue to be the strongest centre for patient enrollment in the VQI (Vascular Quality Initiative) database. However, we have identified a need for additional support as we are the last in Canada in long-term follow-up of these patients.

Education

- Dr. Rommens and Dr. Scott McClure (cardiac surgery) are co-directors of the Advanced Aortic Surgery Fellowship Program. The program will graduate its first fellow in 2024.
- Dr. Rommens continues as the residency program director.
- Dr. Zavitz is the surgical clerkship director. He is also the assistant program director and competence committee chair for Surgical Foundations.
- Dr. Jeff Grab, our chief resident, successfully completed his exams and will begin practice in 2024 in Kamloops, British Columbia.
- Dr. Randy Moore was promoted to Professor.

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. Moore, Director of Research.
- Ongoing participation in FDA-sponsored clinical device trials includes Drs. Moore, Petrasek, Nutley, Cantle, Clark, Rommens, and Samis.
- Dr. Cantle is an editor for the Journal of Endovascular Trauma Therapy.
- Partnerships with Interventional Radiology exploring novel technologies continue to be productive.



Dr. Gregory Samis
Section Chief of Vascular Surgery

14,000 *patients seen by the Vascular Surgery Ambulatory Clinic*

710 *major procedures*

380 *minor vascular procedures*

- Dr. Moore continues to publish in peer-reviewed journals, and his entrepreneurial endeavours and partnerships with the Haskayne School of Business and the Schulich School of Engineering continue to attract investor capital.
- Our group's data is being gathered in national and international registries for complex diseases of the aorta.

Medical Leadership and Administration

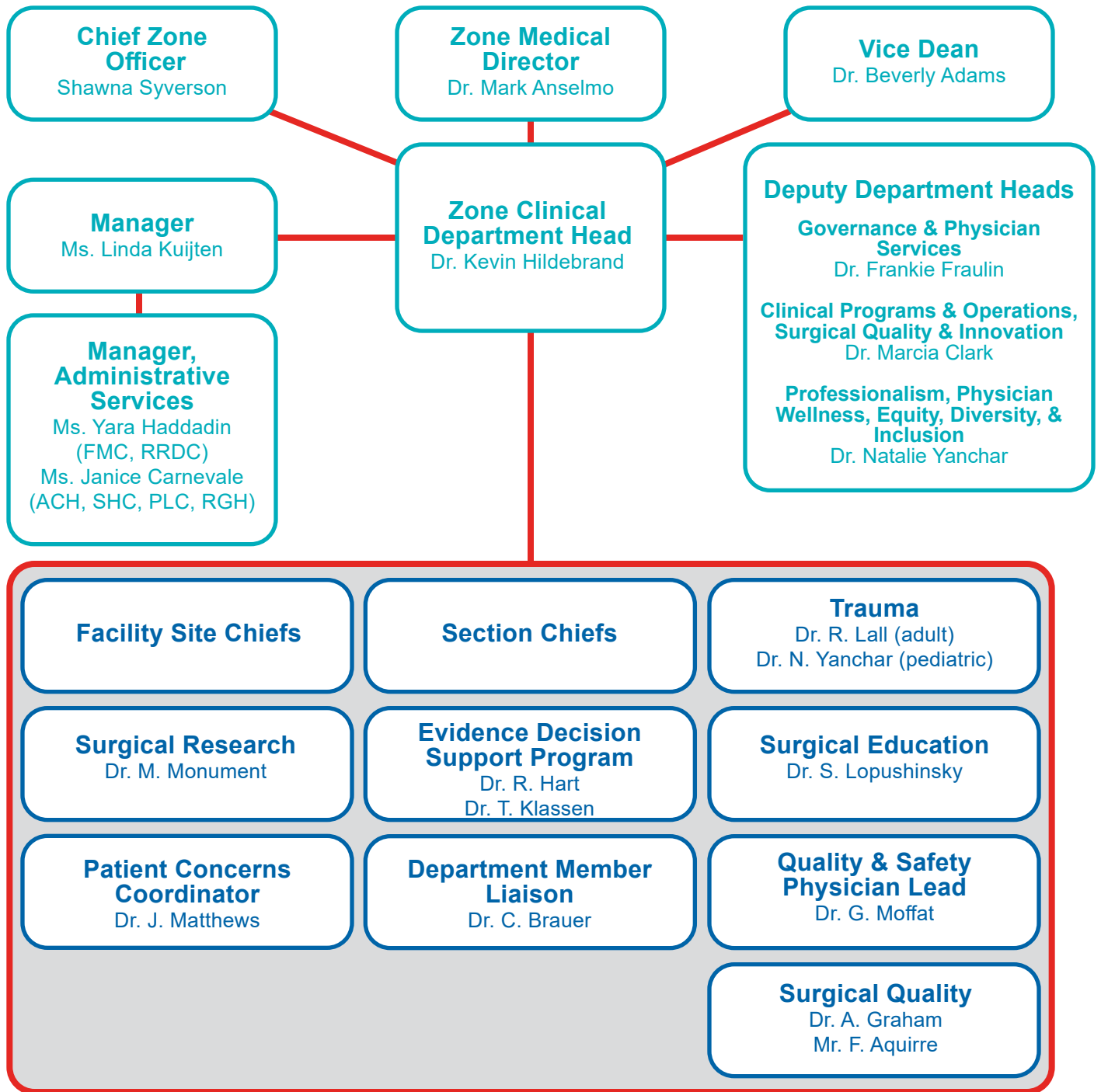
- Dr. Petrasek has a large role in the Surgical Strategic Clinical Network (SSCN) and currently leads the Central Access and Triage project. He has also taken on the Director of Surgical Access Improvement role with the Department of Surgery and is actively organizing the sections as they move to Facilitated Access to Specialty Treatment (FAST). Dr. Petrasek is also on the Royal College Vascular Surgery Executive Committee and the examination committee.
- Dr. Rommens is the QI lead and representative to the Office of Surgical Quality. He sits on the Canadian Vascular Quality Initiative Executive Board, Society for Vascular Surgery Postgraduate Education Committee, and Document Oversight Committee.
- Drs. Rommens and Zavitz are the MIL (Medical Informatics Lead) for Connect Care and have expanded the role provincially. Thank you to Dr. Samis for his work in this role.

- Dr. Cantle represents our section on the Transfusion Committee and 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.
- 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.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

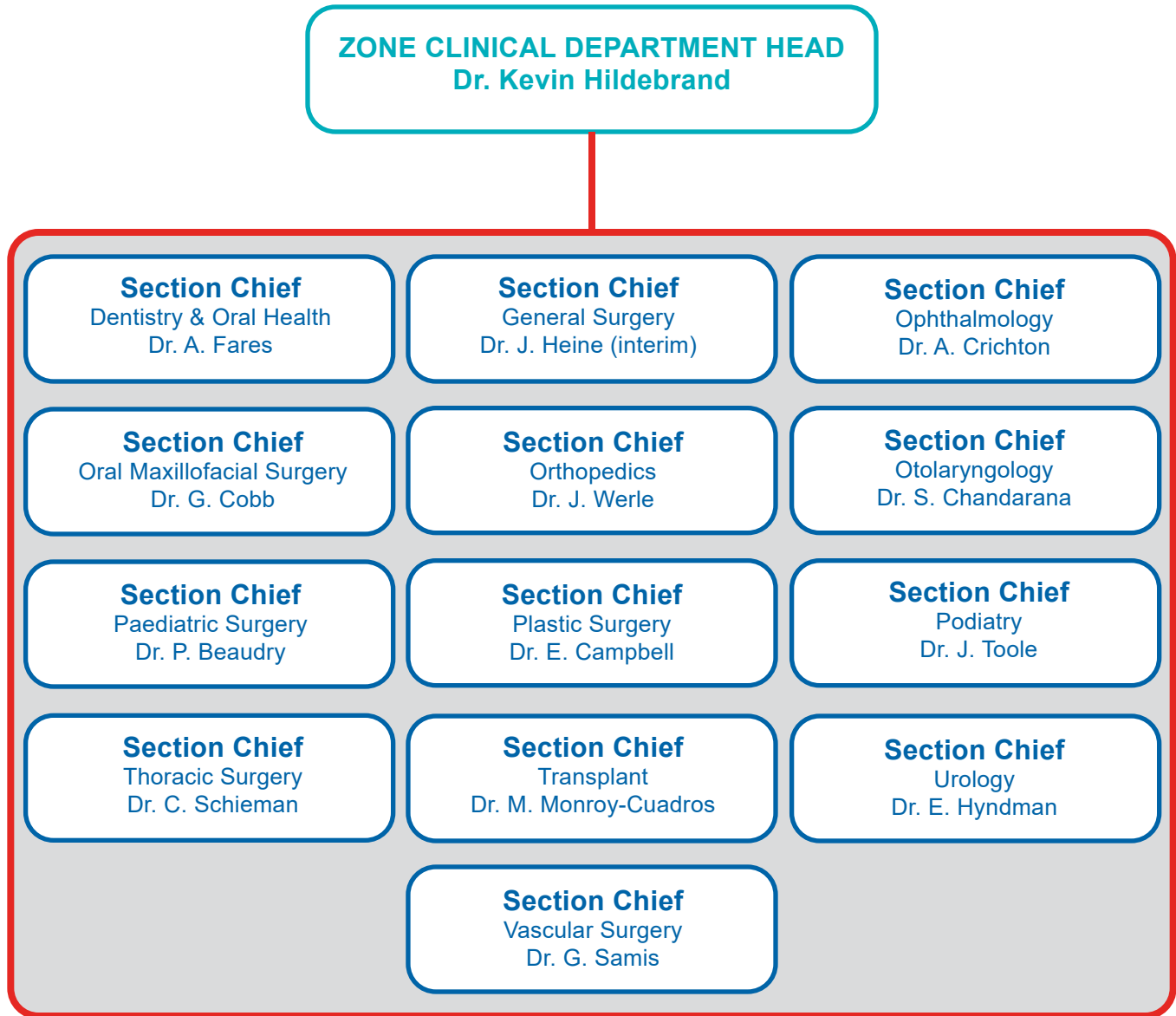
- Challenges for vascular surgery continue to centre around capacity related to inpatient bed competition with the busy internal medicine and hospitalist services.
- The anesthesiologist shortage has particularly impacted urgent vascular surgery patients.
- Acute care coverage shortages do not affect vascular surgery to the same degree as other services, but it is extremely challenging when we do need extenders. Several times per year, we are faced with a vascular surgeon taking call with no house staff, no support, and no option for diversion.
- We have identified the need for an additional vascular surgeon and have assurances that our new cARP will receive an additional FTE to support this recruitment. Over the next five years, primarily through attrition, we expect to hire two additional full-time surgeons.

LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Updated May 23, 2024

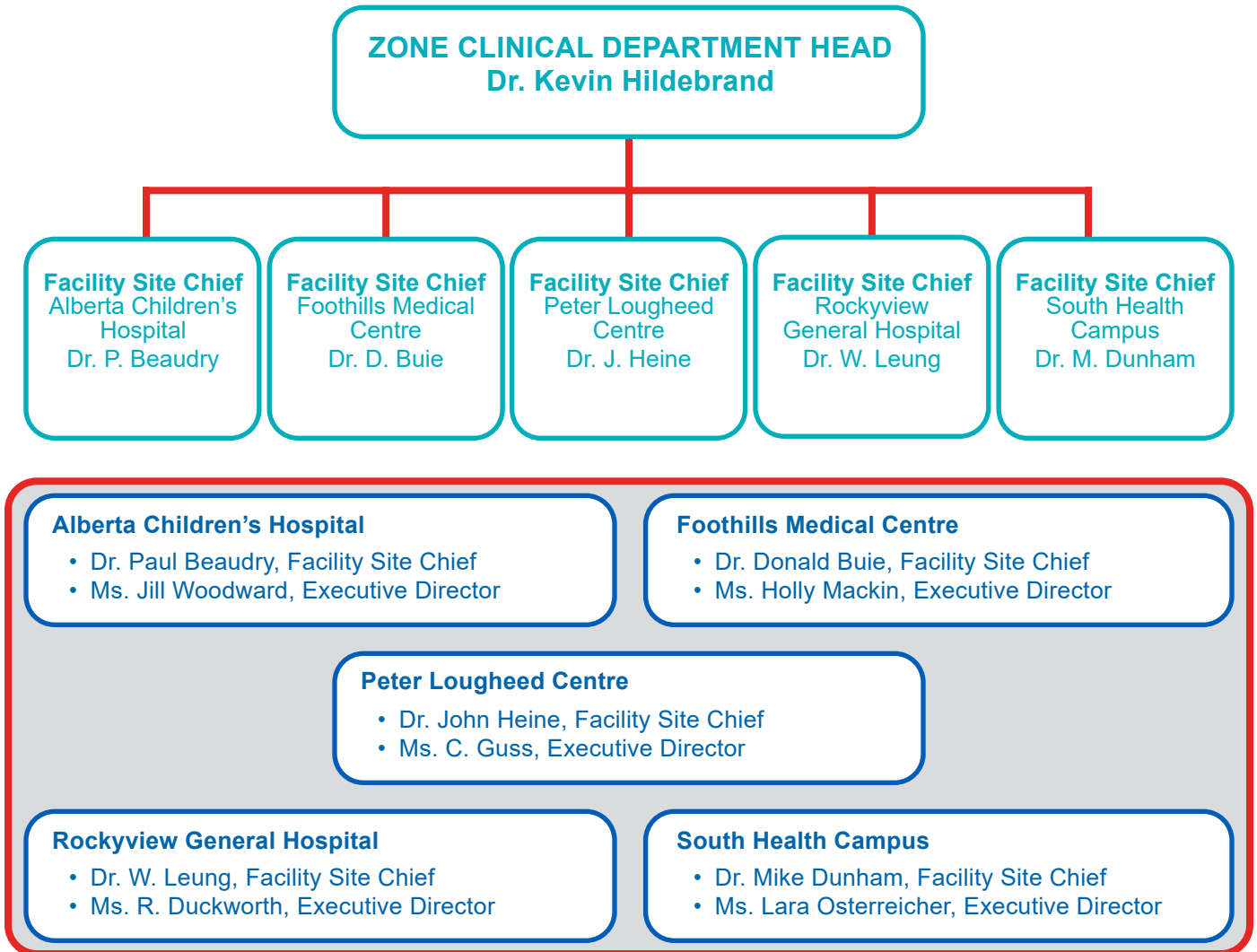
SECTION CHIEFS DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Updated May 23, 2024

SITE LEADERSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



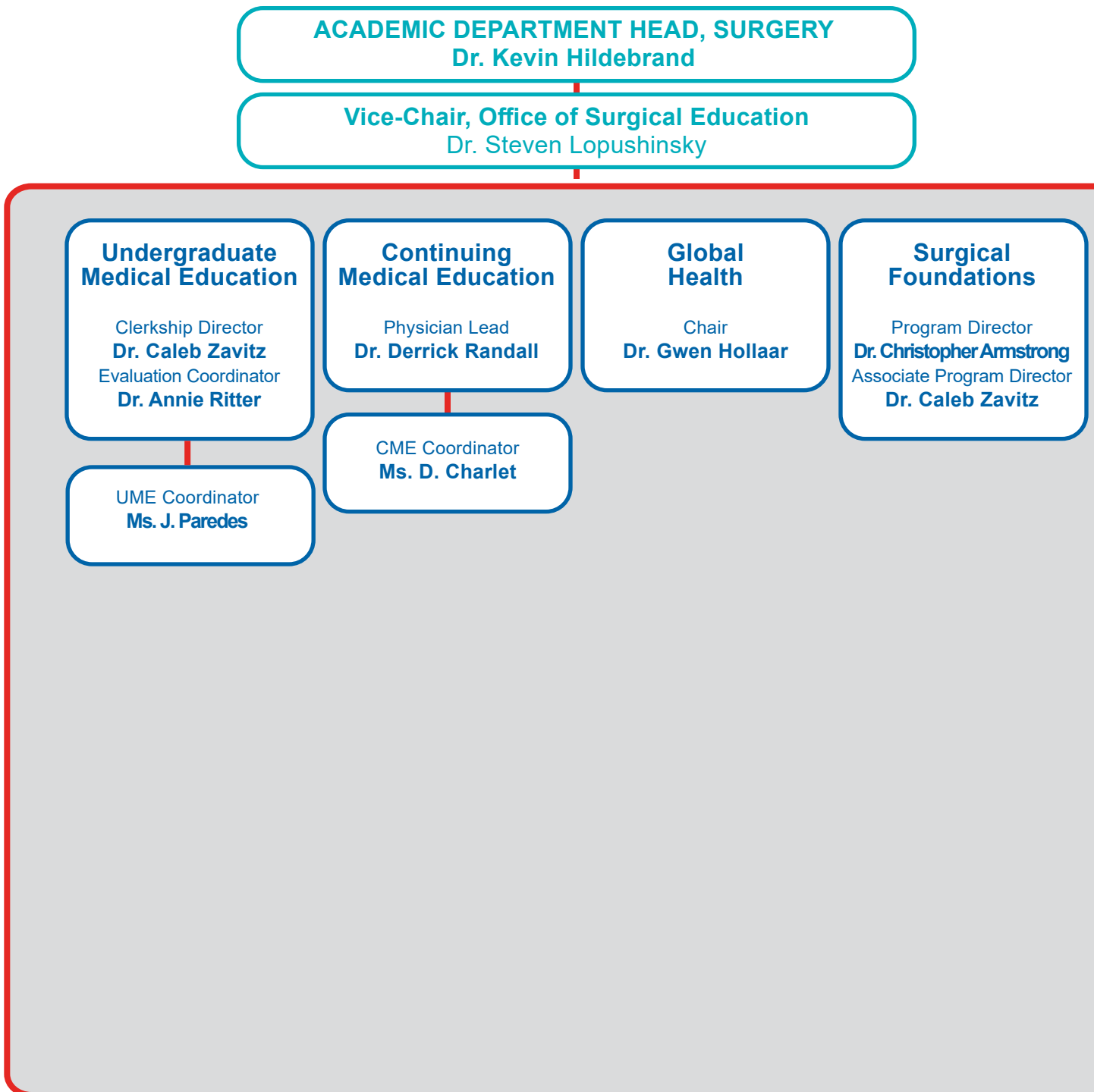
Updated May 23, 2024

SURGICAL RESEARCH *DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY*



Updated May 23, 2024

SURGICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Updated May 23, 2024

Post Graduate Surgical Training Committee
 Vice-Chair
Dr. Steven Lopushinsky

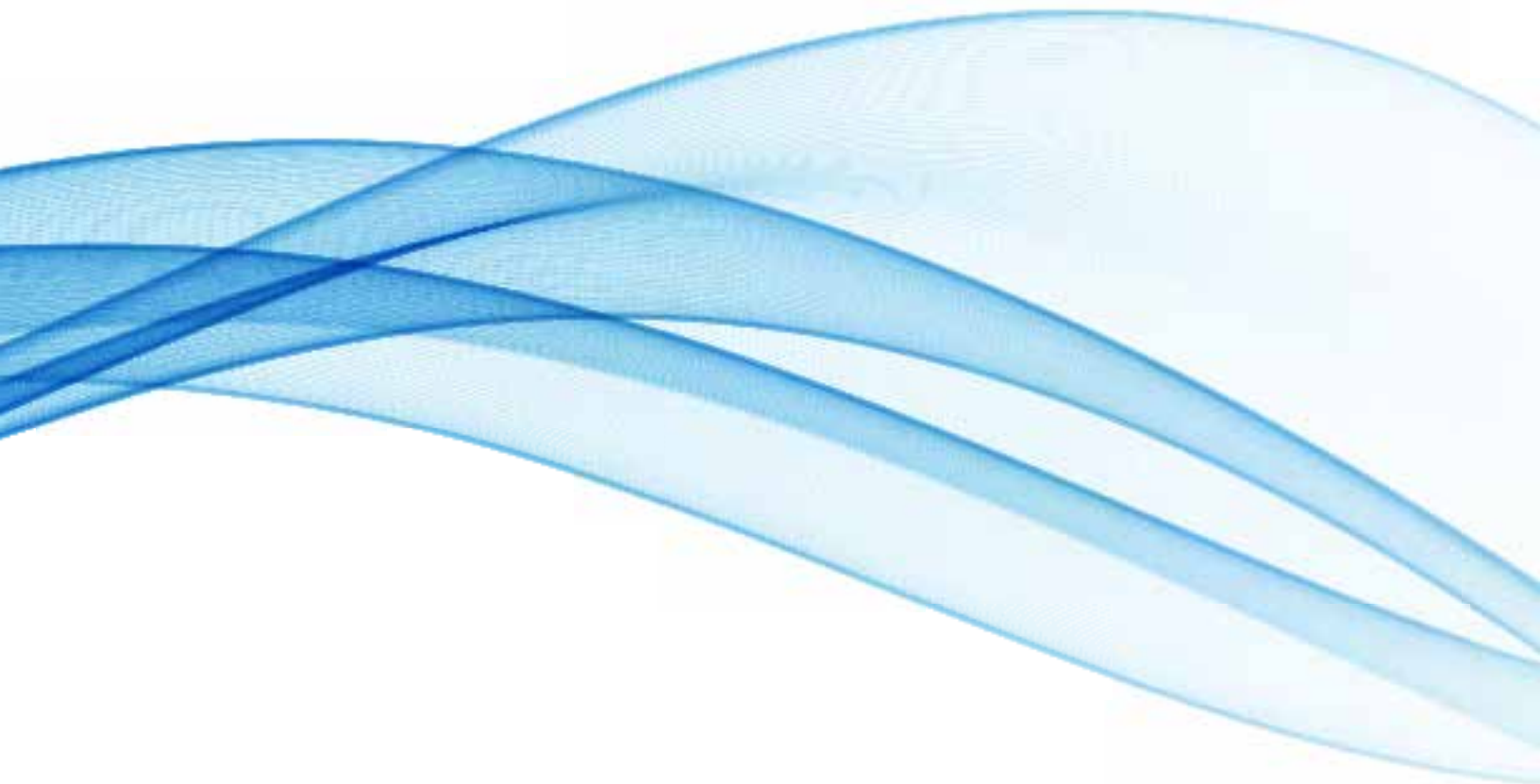
Office of Surgical Fellowship
 Director
Dr. Amin Kherani

Residency Program	Program Director
Colorectal Surgery	Dr. W. Donald Buie
General Dentistry	Dr. Bradley Fisher
General Surgery	Dr. Ryan Rochon
Ophthalmology	Dr. Helen Chung
Orthopaedic Surgery	Dr. Nicholas Desy
Otolaryngology	Dr. Derrick Randall
Paediatric General Surgery	Dr. Andrea Lo
Plastic Surgery	Dr. Aaron Knox
General Surgical Oncology	Dr. Antoine Bouchard-Fortier
Thoracic Surgery	Dr. Sean McFadden
Vascular Surgery	Dr. Kenton Rommens

Fellowship Program	Program Director
Gen. Surgery – Endocrine	Dr. Adrian Harvey
Gen. Surgery – HPB	Dr. Elijah Dixon
Gen. Surgery – Surgical Oncology	Dr. Antoine Bouchard-Fortier
Gen. Surgery – Trauma	Dr. Paul McBeth
Gen Surgery-Upper GI & Laparoscopic	Dr. Neal Church
Ophthalmology – Orbit, Oculoplastic & Ocular Oncology	Dr. Ezekiel Weis
Ophthalmology – Glaucoma	Dr. Patrick Gooi
Ophthalmology – Orbit, Oculofacial Plastic & Reconstructive	Dr. Karim Punja
Ophthalmology – Retina	Dr. Amin Kherani
Ophthalmology – Retina	Dr. Geoff Williams
Orthopaedic – Joint Reconstruction	Dr. James Powell
Orthopaedic – Upper Extremity	Dr. Ian Lo

Fellowship Program	Program Director
Orthopaedic – Foot & Ankle	Dr. Jeremy LaMothe
Orthopaedic – Hand & Wrist	Dr. Gurpreet Dhaliwal
Orthopaedic – MSK Oncology & Limb Reconstruction	Dr. Shannon Puloski
Orthopaedic – Paediatric Spine	Dr. David Parsons
Orthopaedic – Trauma	Dr. Robert Korley
Otolaryngology – Advanced Head & Neck Surgical Oncology	Dr. Robert Hart
Plastic Surgery – Hand, Wrist & Peripheral Nerve	Dr. Justin Yeung
Plastic Surgery – Microsurgery	Dr. Jennifer Matthews
Plastic Surgery – Oncology	Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle
Transplant	Dr. Neal Austin
Urology – Oncology	Dr. Geoffrey Gotto
Urology – Paediatrics	Dr. Bryce Weber
Urology – Reconstructive & Functional	Dr. Richard Baverstock

Updated May 23, 2024



PROMOTIONS

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

Dr. Randy Moore, Professor

Dr. Laurie Hiemstra, Clinical Professor

Dr. Ian Lo, Clinical Professor

Dr. Andrea Lo, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Patrick Gooi, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Christopher Hanson, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Ian Le, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Fred Nicholls, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Caitlin Yeo, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Jamie Bhamra, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Lisa Lagrou, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Lisa Phillips, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Michael Deutschmann, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Devon Livingstone, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Justin Lui, Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Kate Elzinga, Clinical Assistant Professor

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