CUMMING SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Annual Report 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Alberta Health Services

Department of Surgery
2024 Annual Report

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or introduced into a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or therwise) without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.

Copyright © 2025
Department of Surgery, University of Calgary
All rights reserved

CONTACT
Department of Surgery
Cumming School of Medicine
University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services – Calgary Zone
Foothills Medical Centre
North Tower, 10th Floor
1403 – 29 Street NW,
Calgary, AB T2N 2T9

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

www.cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/surgery

TERRITORIAL LAND 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.

ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Update from The Head of The Department Of Surgery 6

Strategic Plan Update 8

Update from The Deputy Department Head
Professionalism, Physician Wellness, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion 10

Offices & Programs

- Update from The Office of Surgical Education 14
- Update from The Office of Surgical Research 16
- Reseach Funding & Scholarly Output 18
- Award Recipients 19
- Update from The Office of Surgical Quality 20
- Update from The Evidence Decision Support Program 22

Section Highlights

- Section of Dentistry and Oral Health 26
- Section of General Surgery 28
- Section of Ophthalmology 30
- Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 32
- Section of Orthopedic Surgery 34
- Section of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery 36
- Section of Pediatric Surgery 38
- Section of Plastic Surgery 40
- Section of Podiatric Surgery 42
- Section of Thoracic Surgery 44
- Section of Transplant Surgery 46
- Section of Urology 48
- Section of Vascular Surgery 50

Award Recipients 52

Promotions 53

Organizational Charts 54

UPDATE FROM

The Head Of The Department Of Surgery

29,483
cases at chartered surgical facilities

81,863
surgical procedures at five urban and three rural hospitals

3.73%
increase over the previous year's surgical case volume at Calgary Zone public and private facilities

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This year marked a new chapter for our department as we implemented our five-year strategic plan. Building on work that began in 2022, the plan was finalized in late 2023, and 2024 focused on advancing the plan's priorities. The strategic plan includes six core goals to guide our efforts: improving the patient journey, developing our faculty, supporting surgical education, advancing research and innovation, promoting quality improvement, and managing resources effectively. I'm pleased to share highlights from 2024 that demonstrate our strategic plan in action.

IMPROVING THE PATIENT JOURNEY

Improving the patient journey means enhancing access and introducing innovations that improve patient outcomes and experience. Much of our work in surgical activity, acute care coverage, and referral processes supports this goal.

Surgical activity continued to rise in the Calgary Zone, with our department reporting a 3.73% increase in surgical volume over the previous year. We also made significant progress reducing waitlists, specifically our 3x out-of-window, which dropped from approximately 3,500 to 1,500. This success drew provincial attention, and I congratulate our teams on their excellent work.

Acute care coverage and diversions remained a priority, and we took several steps to improve call coverage, including advocating for additional resources. In 2025, we will reconvene the acute care coverage task force to address newly identified issues and ongoing needs.

The Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment (FAST) program continued its rollout, though uptake has been impacted by implementation challenges. Surgeons support centralized referrals but want greater involvement in managing distribution. The dissolution of the Surgical Clinical Network and FAST's transfer to Primary Care have added delays and complexity, but our teams continue refining the referral process.

Several new tools and techniques were also advanced to improve the patient journey. We formalized our approach to robot- and technology-enhanced surgery and entered the next stage of implementation. At Rockyview General Hospital, the HoLEP program was launched, reducing complications, shortening hospital stays, and expanding treatment options for complex prostate cases. The Sentimag pilot introduced Magseed technology, a less invasive, non-radioactive approach to breast cancer surgery that improves comfort, efficiency, and accessibility. These are just a few of the department's exciting clinical innovations focused on improving the patient experience.

DEVELOPING OUR MEMBERS

Developing our members is about ensuring we have the right people, roles, and systems to support our work. Recruitment, leadership changes, wellness, and EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) all contributed to this core goal.

In 2024, we welcomed 27 faculty members (11 women and 16 men) and saw 12 members retire. We thank our retirees for their years of service and dedication and look forward to the contributions our new members will bring. We also completed recruitment for the six academic medical health services plan (AMHSP) positions awarded for 2023-24 and began the selection process for the next six positions for 2024-25.

We saw several leadership transitions in 2024. Dr. Marcia Clark and Dr. Frankie Fraulin completed their service as deputy department heads; we thank them for their leadership and wish them continued success. We welcomed new deputy department heads, Dr. Artan Reso (governance and physician services) and Dr. Greg Samis (clinical programs and operations, surgical quality and innovation), who bring valuable experience to the leadership team.

Career adaptation guidelines were developed to provide physicians with greater flexibility, along with resources for leaves of absence and return-to-work planning. An EDI toolkit was also created to support surgeon leaders. The department's wellness strategy was developed throughout 2024 and will guide wellness and EDI efforts in the coming year.

SUPPORTING SURGICAL EDUCATION

We launched several education initiatives in 2024. The Innovation in Surgical Education Grant funded seven projects to support innovation and academia in surgical education. We also transitioned surgical fellowship billing to the University of Calgary Medical Group, creating a more consistent and sustainable model for fellowship programs.

A significant initiative this year was the operating room (OR) inclusivity project. Prompted by student questions about OR attire aligned with cultural beliefs, the project expanded to foster culturally inclusive OR spaces. Originally developed within the department, it has since evolved into a province-wide initiative to support new learners and visitors in the OR.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

We continued to invest in research infrastructure and opportunities for department members. We established a research unit to support and grow research productivity through centralized resources and infrastructure. This project is in its early stages and will continue to develop. A new analytics dashboard is also being developed to track research output and publication metrics. The Pathways to Success funding award continued to support department researchers in maintaining stable, external funding for their multi-year projects, with two new award recipients in 2024.

PROMOTING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Quality improvement (QI) remains an important priority for the department. A resident training program in QI was developed and delivered to more than half of our surgical sections. Across the department, many excellent QI projects are underway, including work to optimize opioid prescribing practices and reduce surgical site infections. A new dashboard is also being developed to track antibiotic prophylaxis for targeted procedures, along with a project focused on risk-adjusted length of stay as an alternative to the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) data.

MANAGING RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY

This year, initiatives were advanced to reduce waste and improve efficiency. A collaboration between our Evidence Decision Support Program and Provincial Surgery Utilization oversaw the CASCADES perioperative scorecard rollout, helping us better understand our environmental footprint and identify improvement strategies. Clinical coordination also supported resource stewardship. The multidisciplinary anaplastic thyroid cancer rapid response team (ARRT) became a national model for how coordinated, multidisciplinary care can streamline treatment, improve outcomes, and optimize healthcare resources in complex cancer cases.

While the past year brought many positive developments, challenges remain. The loss of aCATS leads is concerning, given their key role in reducing the 3x out-of-window waitlist. The loss of NSQIP and vascular surgery QI leads could impact surgical quality, including work on surgical site infections initiated through the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network. Acute care coverage remains a concern, though we expect our ongoing efforts and the new physician assistant program to help relieve pressure and grow the workforce.

I am grateful for everything our members have done in 2024 to support patients, learners, and each other. Your work truly makes a difference. As we look to 2025, I am excited by the momentum we've built and the possibilities ahead. Please continue to look after yourselves and one another. Thank you again for everything you do for the department.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin A. Hildebrand
MD, FRCSC, FACS, CCPE

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

OUR SHARED DIRECTION

Developed throughout 2022-2023 and launched in 2024, our five-year strategic plan defines a clear direction for the future of our department. At its foundation are our shared vision, mission, and values, which guide all aspects of our work.

VISION

A thriving surgical community that excels in the care of our patients and their families.

MISSION

To champion the patient journey while developing the next generation of surgeons through compassion and excellence.

VALUES

We value collaboration, integrity, accountability, inclusivity, and excellence in everything we do.

2024 - 2029

OUR GOALS

The strategic plan outlines six key goals that are shaping our priorities and direction over the five years. Each goal is supported by sub-goals —actions to help drive progress —and we've been actively implementing and tracking these efforts across the department.

IMPROVING THE PATIENT JOURNEY

DEVELOPING OUR FACULTY

SUPPORTING SURGICAL EDUCATION

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

PROMOTING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

MANAGING RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS (2024)

OUR PROGRESS

In 2024, we began putting our strategic plan into action. From education and research to patient care and resource management, teams across the department made meaningful progress toward our five-year objectives. The highlights to the right provide a snapshot of our first year of implementation.

IMPROVING THE PATIENT JOURNEY

Calgary pilot introduces Magseed technology, replacing wire localization with a less invasive method in breast cancer surgery.

Robot-assisted surgery approach formalized, with committees established and expansion planning underway across the zone.

DEVELOPING OUR FACULTY

Wellness strategy developed to support department members' health and wellbeing.

Career adaptation guidelines developed to support work-life demands, recognized by AHS for potential province-wide adoption.

SUPPORTING SURGICAL EDUCATION

Department's operating room inclusivity for learners initiative expands province-wide.

Innovation in Surgical Education Grant supports seven projects advancing medical education.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research unit established to boost faculty research productivity and enhance department's research impact.

Analytics dashboard in development to provide research productivity metrics.

PROMOTING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Quality improvement training provided to residents, fellows, and faculty across multiple surgical sections.

Opioid prescription optimization continued with ongoing data-driven projects.

MANAGING RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY

CASCADES perioperative scorecard advanced understanding of environmental impacts and identified improvement opportunities.

Anaplastic thyroid cancer rapid response team became a national model for coordinated, efficient cancer care.

UPDATE FROM

THE DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEAD

Professionalism, Physician Wellness, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We are talking more about wellness and inclusivity and recognizing their value and necessity in our professional and personal lives.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's been two years since I wrote my first annual report contribution. At the time, I had just started in the deputy head role and was taking stock of where we stood. We were still emerging from COVID-19, dealing with the Connect Care rollout across the zone, and mourning the sudden loss of several colleagues. It was a difficult time. Two years on, the stressors of the pandemic and the electronic medical record seem to have eased somewhat, but perhaps only to make room for new challenges, such as increasing concerns over acute care coverage and the uncertainties from the restructuring of our healthcare system.

Despite these challenges, I also see growth in our community when it comes to wellness and inclusivity. We are talking more about these concepts and recognizing their value and necessity in our professional and personal lives. We should take that as a win.

WELLNESS STRATEGY

Rolling out the wellness survey in 2023, in partnership with Well Doc Alberta, was an eye-opening experience. Fifty-six percent of our members reported true measures of burnout, driven mostly (but not exclusively) by work chaos, work exhaustion, poor experiences with Connect Care, and increasing demands from a growing patient population, all of which undoubtedly contributed to the state of member wellness.

From this and many other sources of input, 2024 was spent developing a wellness strategy aimed at growing esprit de corps—a shared spirit of camaraderie, engagement, and mutual support†—in our workplace by fostering agency, camaraderie, and community through a series of action sets. There is much to do, but we cannot "boil the ocean." We will start with actions that are within our control and

have meaning. These actions include developing our leaders and increasing their accountability to the membership; increasing transparency and membership literacy of communication channels across the hierarchies we work within; further developing career adaptation guidelines relative to life stages and life events; and developing leave of absence guidelines related to parental and wellness needs.

Our second wellness survey will roll out in January 2026 and will serve as an indicator of the direction we are heading.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVITY

Developing community means fostering inclusivity. Our 2023 membership diversity engagement survey revealed significantly lower perceptions of inclusivity, value, respect, and trust that leaders address diversity and discrimination effectively. In 2024, an equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) toolkit for leaders was developed and piloted with our section chiefs in partnership with colleagues from the Department of Medicine. It promoted self-reflection on leadership readiness by measuring personal attitudes, knowledge, skills, and behaviours related to EDI. Tools were provided to address areas that could be improved.

In fall 2025, leaders will have an opportunity to reevaluate themselves, serving as a reminder that personal and professional development to promote inclusivity is paramount in these roles. We will continue to promote local courses and educational events in EDI to our members through our partnership with the Precision Equity and Social Justice Office (PESJO), including facilitating participation in courses on implicit bias and reducing bias in search and selection processes.

Stay tuned for our second membership diversity engagement survey rolling out in spring 2025. Your participation is paramount to demonstrating the ongoing need for growth as we continue to build a culture of community within our department.

Cultural change to promote wellness and EDI is a marathon, not a sprint. I'm proud to be on this journey with all my colleagues, both within and beyond the Department of Surgery.

Please stay well and be kind to each other.

Sincerely,

Dr. 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

†SJ. Swensen, T.D. Shanafelt. Strategies to Reduce Burnout: 12 Actions to Create the Ideal Workplace. Oxford University Press. 2020.

DEPARTMENT

Offices & Programs

UPDATE FROM

The Office of Surgical Education

Dr. Steven Lopushinsky

Vice Chair of Surgical Education

Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine

University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

I am pleased to present this year's annual report on behalf of the Office of Surgical Education. Over the past year, we have seen significant growth and innovation. I want to take this opportunity to highlight our achievements, acknowledge our challenges, and outline our ongoing efforts to improve surgical education.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

INNOVATION IN SURGICAL EDUCATION GRANT

In 2024, we successfully launched the $100,000 Innovation in Surgical Education Grant, funding seven outstanding projects focused on advancing surgical education. These initiatives include simulation-based learning, competency-based training, and novel assessment strategies. Several projects also aim to develop a pipeline of future trainees or address factors that impact retention. We look forward to the impact these initiatives will have on our educational landscape.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CANMEDS CURRICULUM

A major milestone this year was the successful implementation of a revised CanMEDS curriculum for our surgical residents. The update was driven by self-identified needs and anticipated themes from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. This structured approach reinforces our commitment to non-procedural competencies expected of today's surgeons, emphasizing key domains such as communication, collaboration, wellness, and community.

OFFICE OF SURGICAL FELLOWSHIP (OSF) INFRASTRUCTURE

Under the direction of Dr. Amin Kherani, a key focus has been strengthening OSF infrastructure. We have developed a relationship with the University of Calgary Medical Group (UCMG) to provide financial services to our fellows and programs, adding transparency and meeting audit standards. Fellow payment models have been designed to ensure financial security for trainees, and our goal has been to make educational funds more accessible to programs through more efficient processes.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

This year, we welcomed Dr. Carolina Fermin-Risso as the new lead for CME in the Department of Surgery. Under her leadership, city-wide rounds have continued in a hybrid model, resulting in increased member participation and engagement.

UNDERGRADUATE SURGICAL EDUCATION

Led by Dr. Caleb Zavitz, our undergraduate surgical education efforts continue to

102 surgical residents & extended residents

31 surgical fellows

grow. A highlight is the half-day skills lab at the start of every clerkship rotation, which includes perioperative patient management, critical illness simulation, and procedural practice such as NG insertion and suturing. Thank you to the dedicated faculty and residents who continue to give their time to make this a positive learning experience. Additions to clerkship include available rotations through cardiac surgery and ophthalmology. One of our key goals for 2025 is to expand clerkship capacity for elective students, providing more opportunities for hands-on learning and early exposure to surgical training.

CHALLENGES AND AREAS FOR GROWTH

WORKLOAD BALANCE FOR LEARNERS AND EDUCATORS

As expectations for both residents and faculty continue to grow, balancing clinical responsibilities and educational commitments remains a concern. We are exploring strategies to enhance faculty recognition and optimize learning efficiency without compromising patient care.

FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

While the Innovation in Surgical Education Grant has provided an important boost for new educational projects, securing sustainable funding for long-term initiatives remains a priority. We continue to advocate for additional resources to support faculty development, simulation programs, and research in surgical education.

ONGOING AND FUTURE INITIATIVES

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

Building on the successful launch of MedSis to replace the Royal College e-portfolio platform, we are refining assessment tools that provide timely and constructive feedback to learners and educators.

EXPANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

Recognizing the importance of collaborative practice, we are working on initiatives to integrate interprofessional education. The Cumming School of Medicine will welcome its first cohort of Master of Physician Assistant students in 2025.

STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF SURGICAL FELLOWSHIP

We are streamlining processes to improve access to educational funds, clarify eligible expenses, and support sustainable financial management within fellowship programs.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

We are actively working on establishing international training partnerships to create sponsored opportunities for our trainees. These partnerships will provide unique learning experiences, encourage global surgical collaboration, and enhance the overall educational experience for our fellows and residents.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

A key focus for 2025-2026 will be expanding faculty development opportunities. Please watch for a seminar series / surgical education interest group launching in the fall of 2025.

ACADEMIA IN SURGICAL EDUCATION

We anticipate launching the 2025 Innovation in Surgical Education grant in the fall. We appreciate the collaboration and support from the Office of Surgical Research (OSR).

In closing, I want to thank our faculty, trainees, and administrative staff for their ongoing commitment to surgical education. Your dedication and hard work continue to support excellence in training the next generation of surgeons. As we move forward, I look forward to working together to improve our educational programs and ensure the success of our trainees. Please feel free to reach out with any thoughts, feedback, or ideas for the future of surgical education.

UPDATE FROM

The Office of Surgical Research

Dr. Michael J. Monument

Vice Chair of Research

Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine

University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

The vision of the Office of Surgical Research (OSR) is to help surgeons achieve research excellence. The OSR's mission is to foster and facilitate programs aligned with the four research pillars through education, promotion, and investment in surgeons working on innovative and impactful research.

The OSR directives are to:

- Organize internal research funding opportunities, including adjudication, accounting, and progress reports.
- Plan and deliver 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.
- Develop research analytics, quantifying research productivity across the department.

OSR TEAM AND PRIORITIES

The OSR team includes the Vice Chair of Research, Dr. Michael Monument, MD MSc FRCS(C), the Operations Lead, Emi Sanders, BSc, CCRP, and a new research/admin coordinator who will join the team in 2025.

Priorities of the OSR include increasing the department's research productivity, supporting surgical innovation, and increasing external funding successes for department members. To support these priorities, the OSR provides multi-year catalyst funding for promising research programs, enhances internal grant review processes to optimize funding success, and supports department research with external funding competitions. It also provides biostatistical support, fosters collaboration with the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) research institutes, and offers insight into formulating research policy, direction, and goals. In addition to this direct support, the OSR is committed to building a culture of research enthusiasm within the department.

SURGEONS' DAY

The 42nd Annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium was held in person on June 21, 2024, at the Health Sciences Centre, Libin Lecture Theatre. Attendance was 125, including faculty, residents, students, and research support staff. We were honoured to have Dr. Khara Sauro, PhD (Ohlson Professor of Head & Neck Health Services Research, University of Calgary) and Dr. Adam Kinnaird, MD, PhD, FRCSC (Frank and Carla Sojonky Chair in Prostate Cancer Research, Division of Urology, University

of Alberta) join our program as the invited McMurtry and McPhedran lecturers. The program also included six faculty presentations, five resident rapid-fire talks, the Peter Cruse Memorial Award presentation, six resident research showcases, and the Sharpest Knife Live Grant Competition.

- Dr. Fatemeh Ramazani (otolaryngology) won the top prize for their resident research showcase, Sculpting Surgical Proficiency: Navigating the Future of Local and Regional Flap Reconstruction.
- Dr. Laura Morrison (orthopedic surgery) was runner-up for their resident research showcase, Robotic Assessment of Post-call Sensorimotor and Cognitive Function in Orthopedic Surgery Residents.
- Dr. Haley Shade (general surgery) was awarded the Peter Cruse Memorial Award for the best medical student surgery-related research project, An Indigenous Perspective on Receiving Surgery in the Calgary Zone.
- Dr. Olina Dagher and Dr. Corey Adams (cardiac surgery) won the Sharpest Knife Live Grant Competition for their team's research proposal, A Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial for Chest Tube-Delivered Bupivacaine to Decrease Postoperative Pain After Cardiac Surgery: The FREEZE-B Trial.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

In 2024, the OSR awarded grants to 15 projects totalling $240,943 CAD while continuing to support multi-year projects where funding commenced in 2022 and 2023.

- Calgary Surgical Research and Development Fund (CSRDF) grants were awarded to six research initiatives, supporting faculty and resident research across the department.
- Open Access awards were provided to six research teams to help offset the costs associated with open-access publication fees.

research grants and awards sponsored	15
hours statistical support provided	561
funding provided	$240,943

The Pathways to Success award, a renewable three-year grant ($50,000/annum), was developed in 2021 to support department researchers and/or research groups striving to obtain stable, external funding to support their multi-year research initiatives. This funding opportunity encourages applicants to align with a CSM research institute and engage in formal internal peer review. The OSR continues to see excellent value in the program and will continue to endorse this opportunity on a yearly basis.

Pathways to Success Award recipients:

- Dr. Laurie Hiemstra (orthopedic surgery), 2024 recipient
- Dr. Alison Laws (general surgery, oncology), 2024 recipient, bridge funding
- Dr. Rebecca Hartley (plastic surgery), 2023 recipient
- Dr. Derrick Randall (otolaryngology), 2023 recipient
- Dr. Trafford Crump (ophthalmology), 2022 recipient
- Dr. Prism Schneider (orthopedic surgery), 2022 recipient
- Dr. Eric Hyndman (urology), 2021 recipient
- Dr. Ganesh Swamy (orthopedic surgery), 2021 recipient

STATISTICAL SUPPORT

The OSR continues to provide statistical support for Department of Surgery residents, fellows, and faculty. Our OSR statistician provided over 561 hours of statistical support for 31 research projects through consulting, sample size calculations, systemic reviews and meta-analyses, data comparisons, grant applications, and publication support.

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 partnered with the University of Calgary analytics team to create research productivity metrics for all department members. Metrics focus on publications, citations, presentations, funding, and research growth stemming from OSR-funded initiatives. Interim and final reports from investigators are being collected to analyze the impact of research dollars provided by the OSR on research productivity, research program growth, development, and external grant success.

HIGHLIGHT

Research Funding & Scholarly Output

Department members continued to demonstrate strong research performance, holding a substantial portfolio of funding across major agencies as of February 2025 and contributing to a high volume of peer-reviewed publications throughout the 2024 calendar year.

As of February 2025

Total Research Funding $14.6M

$2.8M
Foundations

$1.1M
Tri-Council

$4.6M
Industry & Government

$6.1M
Other Sources

January to December 2024

Total Publications 437

310
Articles

10
Abstracts

24
Editorial

49
Review

44
Other

AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Department of Surgery is pleased to acknowledge the following awards received by our faculty and students. Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their well-deserved accomplishments.

2024 SURGEONS' DAY RESEARCH AWARDS

RESIDENT RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Fatemeh Ramazani (PGY5) (first place)

Laura Morrison (PGY4) (second place)

DR. PETER CRUSE MEMORIAL AWARD

Haley Shade (UCalgary medical student)

SHARPEST KNIFE LIVE GRANT COMPETITION

Corey Adams, Olina Dagher, and team

CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE 2024-2025 POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AWARDS

RESIDENT MENTORSHIP AWARD (5-6 YEAR PROGRAMS)

Randy Moore

RESIDENT LEADER AWARD

Antoine Sylvestre-Bouchard

CLINICAL TEACHING AWARDS

Alexandra Hatchell

Alisha Tessier

Carolina Fermin-Risso

Ian Lo

Jonathan Seto

Kenton Rommens

Nathan Zondervan

Paul Beaudry

Randa Berdusco

Stephanie Dotchin

Tamara Gimon

UPDATE FROM

The Office of Surgical Quality

Dr. Rob Harrop

Director of the Office of Surgical Quality

Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine

University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Andrew Graham

Academic Director of Quality Improvement

Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine

University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

The Office of Surgical Quality (OSQ) supports members of the Department of Surgery and its QI (quality improvement) section leads in a variety of QI initiatives. We aim to facilitate a culture of quality improvement, provide training in QI methodology, and share lessons learned from QI projects done within the Department of Surgery.

In addition to providing training for surgical residents and interested faculty in the methodology necessary for conducting QI projects, we provide hands-on assistance with data processing and analysis in QI projects. We coordinate monthly meetings of the Calgary Zone Surgical Quality Council, which provide a forum for shared learning on a variety of quality improvement and quality assurance topics.

The OSQ team includes Dr. Rob Harrop, Director; Dr. Andrew Graham, Academic Director of Quality Improvement; Francisco Aguirre, Quality Improvement Consultant; and Jennifer Bolt, Data Analyst. The current QI section leads are Drs. Alex Hatchell (plastic surgery), Miller Smith (oral and maxillofacial surgery), Karim Manji (podiatry), Jonathan Yip (otolaryngology-head and neck surgery), Emmanuel Illical (orthopedic surgery), Shawn Brophy (thoracic surgery), Kenton Rommens (vascular surgery), Alexander Ragan (ophthalmology), Thomas Cawthorn (pediatric surgery), and Tamara Gimon (general surgery). The QI lead position in the Section of Urology is currently vacant.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

DEPARTMENT QI PROJECTS

Risk-adjusted length of stay (ALOS) data for targeted surgical procedures with comparison to national benchmarks (expected length of stay). This is an effort to partially replace outcome measure data previously provided through the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), which AHS no longer supports.

Dashboard for antibiotic prophylaxis for targeted procedures. This project aims to have the process measure of delivery of antibiotic prophylaxis within a recommended timeframe before surgery for targeted procedures.

SECTION QI PROJECTS

- Optimization of opioid prescriptions after thyroidectomy (otolaryngology). This is the first multi-site opioid optimization project in the Calgary Zone where the primary objectives are to develop a clinical practice guideline on the amount of opioid

QI training by the OSQ included 63 residents, 5 fellows, and 12 faculty. 97% of participants rated the training at the highest level of satisfaction in post-training surveys.

(measured in morphine milligram equivalents) required after total thyroidectomies and hemi thyroidectomy and to measure guideline compliance over time. The improvement team led by Dr. Jonathan Yip and the OSQ are pleased to report that thyroidectomy prescriptions were reduced from 69.1 MME on average per prescription to 10.2, and hemi thyroidectomy prescriptions were reduced from 67.3 to 10.5 MME on average per prescription.

- Reduction of surgical site infection rate for patients with panniculectomy post-bariatric surgery and massive weight loss (plastic surgery).
- Implementation of a clinical care pathway for triple-negative and HER2+ breast cancer patients (general surgery).
- Reduction of below-knee amputations after transmetatarsal amputation (orthopedic surgery).
- Bariatric surgery: Procedure quality improvement (general surgery).
- Streamlining surgical trays for video-assisted thoracoscopic (VATS) wedge resection of the lung to reduce CO2 emissions (thoracic surgery).

QI TRAINING FOR RESIDENTS, FELLOWS, AND FACULTY

The QI training program covers key elements necessary to successfully complete quality improvement projects and is based on the AHS Improvement Way (AIW) methodology. Training duration and scheduling are flexible to accommodate the attendees' needs. Participants learn relevant theory in classroom sessions and have the opportunity to work in groups applying this knowledge to hypothetical QI problems or an actual QI project relevant to the section.

Residents from 10 of 11 Department of Surgery residency programs and two programs outside of the department have participated or are scheduled for training. This includes 63 residents, five fellows, and 12 faculty.

The OSQ also participated in a half-day retreat for obstetrics and gynecology, where quality improvement methodology was reviewed, and the group worked on the real-life challenge of reducing urinary tract infections after gynecologic surgery.

SUSTAINABLE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The OSQ has initiated a relationship with the sustainable quality improvement team with the objective of adding expertise in sustainability issues to the OSQ portfolio. We now have a dedicated sustainability initiative on our SharePoint website.

CALGARY ZONE SURGICAL QUALITY COUNCIL

The 2024 Calgary Zone Surgical Quality Council sessions included many interesting topics, such as Enhanced Recovery After Surgery for Spinal Surgery in Calgary, Post-Esophagectomy LOS Reduction, Quality Improvement and Implementation Science: Synergies and Differences (UCalgary), Our Frontline Journey in Surgical Data Collection and Quality Improvement Initiatives Post COVID-19 Pandemic, Overview of Improving Health Outcomes Together (IHOT), and Muli-Modal Pain Management Protocol for Total Knee Arthroplasty.

We thank our QI leaders and partners for their monthly participation. Satisfaction surveys continue to indicate that participants perceived high value in these sessions.

SHAREPOINT

The OSQ maintains a SharePoint website, where department members can find information related to the OSQ and a variety of QI-related topics, including QI methodology tools and a surgical procedure dashboard with data regarding post-op opioid prescriptions, length of stay, and sustainability issues. This SharePoint website can be accessed at https://albertahealthservices.sharepoint.com/teams/DOSQuality/SitePages/Home.aspx

UPDATE FROM

The Evidence Decision Support Program

Dr. Robert Hart

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 Klassen
PhD

Scientific Lead – Evidence Decision Support Program

Department of Surgery, Cumming School of Medicine,

University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services

In 2024, the Evidence Decision Support Program (EDSP) helped shape the province's operations-based model within Acute Care Alberta, supporting the implementation and scale of high-value clinical solutions. While staying true to its core mandate to support evidence-informed decisions to advance surgical innovation, health technology adoption, and system sustainability, the EDSP's role in broader system change continued to expand, with a growing focus on clinical impact and system stewardship.

A collaboration with the provincial advisory council on device innovation saw the EDSP help Alberta evaluate off-label, in-house, and locally developed devices; contribute to the new partners and innovation process; and connect clinical innovation with regulatory, procurement, and commercialization supports.

The EDSP helped advance surgical sustainability through projects such as the CASCADES Perioperative Scorecard, surgical pack optimization to reduce waste, recycling single-use devices and anesthesia gas bottles, and identifying low-barrier, high-impact changes across perioperative environments.

The EDSP's evolution supports Alberta's shift to a learning health system prioritizing sustainability, frontline-led innovation, and evidence-based care with measurable impact.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Undertook more than 137 knowledge translation, educational, and scholarly activities, including a national presentation at the Canadian Association of Medical Device Reprocessing Conference titled Trials and Loaners, as well as two city-wide surgical rounds in Calgary titled Strategic Directions for Robot & Technology Enhanced Surgery in Alberta and Surgery: Leading the Green Charge.
- Received 81 new intakes, introduced the new sustainability (SUS) pathway and crafted 83 custom deliverables for local, health system, and government decision-makers.
- Completed a 17-year journey with the Enterra Gastric Electric Stimulator, a technology not adopted. Dr. Phillip Mitchell, the only surgeon in Canada trained in this procedure, used the Health Canada Special Access Program to treat out-of-province patients who otherwise lacked access.

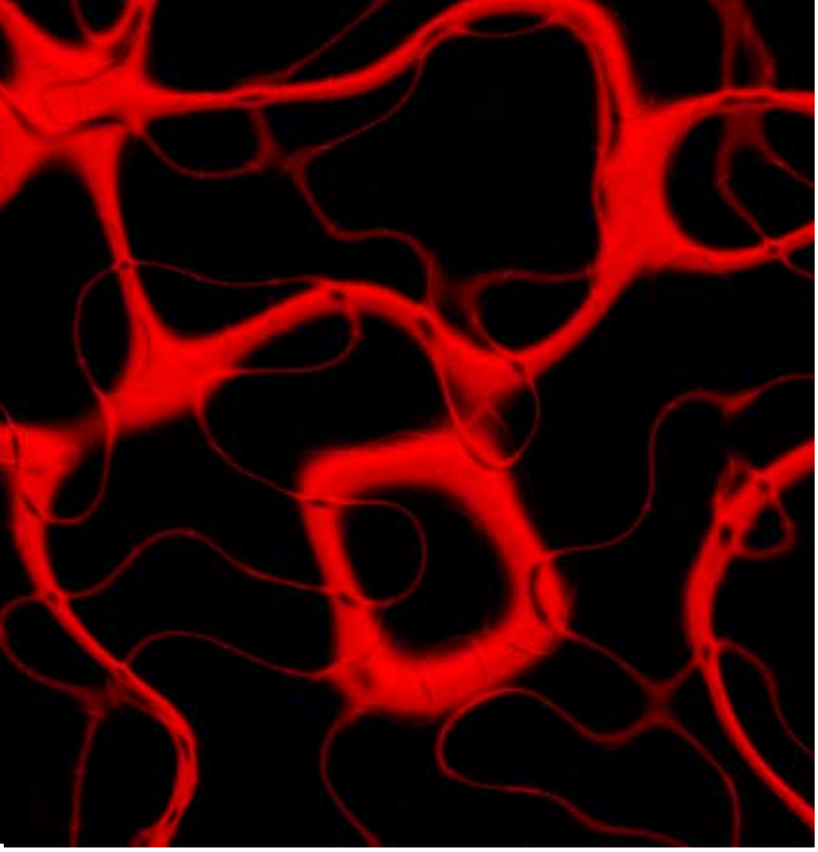
81	83	32	18	17
health technology & innovation intakes	reports & deliverables	health technology trials with industry	partnerships with research institutes	partnerships with health organizations

- Multiple projects matured with support from the Calgary Health Foundation, including comprehensive endoscopic spine surgery ($8.5 M), the Minimally Invasive Mitral Valve Interventions Program ($3.52M), and wire-free, radiation-free breast cancer care ($5.7M in partnership with the Alberta Cancer Foundation).
- Partnered with anesthesiology and pain medicine, the Provincial Drugs & Therapeutics Committee, and provincial pharmacy services to approve Sugammadex sodium for surgical use, enabling reversal of neuromuscular paralysis and extubation within four minutes in high-risk patients and procedures.
- Leveraged Calgary experience to scale implementation of health technologies and procedures provincially, including no incision transcatheter edge-to-edge repair of leaking mitral valves (Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute), peroral endoscopic myotomy for swallowing disorders (Royal Alexandra Hospital), and holmium laser enucleation of the prostate to all provincial urology programs establishing a new standard of care for benign prostatic hyperplasia in Alberta.
- Provided scientific, technical, and health systems expertise to support provincial and national initiatives across post-secondary, government, regulatory, and healthcare organizations.

ONGOING AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

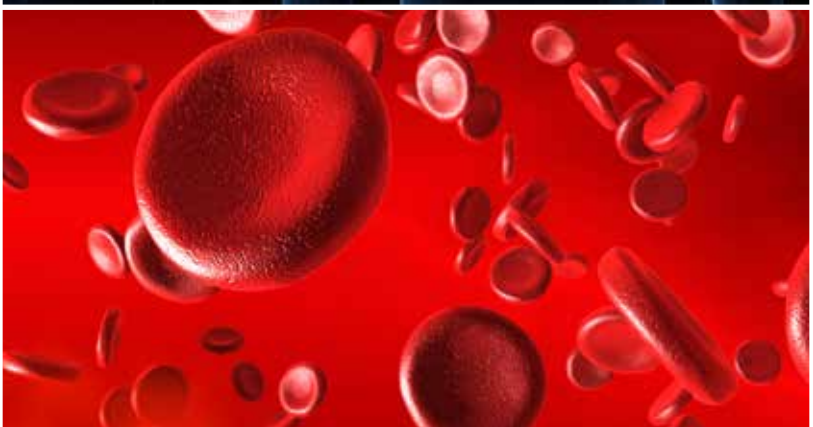
- The executive leadership team endorsed a provincial governance model for existing, new, and future robotic surgery programs. Robot and technology-enhanced surgery committees were established at each Calgary Zone hospital site in addition to a city-wide committee. The continuity phase of the provincial strategy for multipurpose robotic surgery concluded with replacing the Da Vinci system at Rockyview General Hospital with the newest generation (Xi). The equity and expansion phase has plans for multipurpose and orthopedic robotic systems at adult surgery sites across Calgary.
- Continuing to support clinical and health systems evaluation trials of novel technologies and pathways across the province, including an AI-powered sensor to better predict and treat hypotension in cardiovascular intensive care, point-of-care testing of coagulation for precision-guided blood product administration in cardiac and trauma surgery, a pediatric orthotic device as an alternative to casting pediatric femur fractures, a minimally invasive radiofrequency ablation system for benign thyroid nodules (an awake same-day outpatient procedure), and patient-administered inhaled analgesics for short-term pain relief in urology and gynecology in medical and procedural settings.
- Over the next 3 years, the EDSP and urologists at the Prostate Cancer Centre (Calgary) and the Kipnes Urology Centre (Edmonton) will recruit 1,000 Alberta men to a randomized control trial of ClarityDX Prostate. This non-invasive, easy-to-perform blood test may improve the discovery of clinically significant prostate cancer.
- Leading the Provincial Surgical Services Policy and Point-of-Care Working Group to promote a culture of continuous improvement in Alberta. Over 400 subject matter experts are standardizing policy and point-of-care procedural practice for nursing and allied health teams by replacing outdated and inconsistent zone-level resources. The shift to standardized, evidence-based practices enhances patient safety, reduces care variations, and empowers healthcare professionals to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care.
- The Alberta Medical Device Innovation Consortium was established with a $7M Major Innovation Fund grant from the Government of Alberta. This pan-provincial initiative will strengthen Alberta's medical device sector, focusing on rural, remote, and underserved populations. As co-lead of Activation Program 3, Dr. Klassen is co-developing training, credentialing, and engagement frameworks that equip innovators to catalyze inclusive, user-centred medical device innovation through community-driven design and cross-sector collaboration.

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, contact EDSP@ahs.ca or the EDSP research scientist at tara.klassen@ahs.ca.



SECTION

Highlights



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.

Dr. Adham Fares
Section Chief of Dentistry and Oral Health

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. We also provide 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:

- Our hospitals and emergency rooms, the cancer centre, and the multidisciplinary teams of the Calgary Zone.
- Our patients, some of whom represent the most vulnerable health sectors due to their complex medical conditions, unique dental and oral challenges, and social challenges.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

DIVISION OF ADULT DENTISTRY

- The Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) Dental Clinic has been renamed the ACCC Dental Clinic (Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre-Dental Clinic).
- The ACCC Dental Clinic is currently staffed with five general dentists and two general practice dentistry residents.
- The dental clinic successfully completed its move to the new cancer center and is now housed in a state-of-the-art facility with the latest in digital dentistry technology. The clinic has 11 operatories, including a moderate sedation room and a deep sedation room.
- Dr. Lorenzo Marcil is the newest addition to the team. Dr. Marcil graduated from McGill University and went on to complete two years of general practice residency education. We welcome him to the group.
- Dr. Tuan Bui and Dr. Jay Lalli (oral and maxillofacial surgery) also join the clinic as part-time clinical instructors, overseeing the surgical training and education of residents in our general practice residency program.
- Our residents are currently engaged in two research projects and have received funding from the Office of Surgical Research. They are expected to present at the annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium.

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

- The division is composed of 18 pediatric dentists. They have AHS clinical privileges at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH) and all chartered surgical facilities.
- The ACH Dental Clinic offers comprehensive dental, orthodontic, and oral care to pediatric patients with medical complexities. It also offers dental specialist consultation services to the Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic, the Velopharyngeal Insufficiency Clinic, the Craniofacial Clinic, and the Temporal Mandibular Joint/ Rheumatology Clinic.
- Dr. Marie-Claude Cholette is the ACH Dental Clinic director. She is an examiner for the Royal College of Dentists of Canada and a surveyor for the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada.
- The ACH Dental Clinic staff includes eight pediatric dentists: newly recruited Drs. Kevin Amaniampong, Manar Alghanim, and Warren Loeppky, along with regular part-time Drs. Marie-Claude Cholette (0.7 FTE), Prabhdeep Chahal, Sarah Hulland, Choo-Kar Kua, and Tim Seto. The team also includes Drs. Jennifer Smith and Catherine Cho (orthodontists) and Drs. Miller Smith and Kevin Robertson (oral and maxillofacial surgeons).
- The ACH Dental Clinic is seeking to fill regular part-time clinical positions.
- The contracts for the majority of pediatric dentists have been switched to fee for service. The service is hoping to attract more staff through this change.
- All division members are part of the division's after-hours emergency service.

EDUCATION

- Our Dental General Practice Residency Program (hospitalist dentistry) welcomed two residents for the 2024-2025 academic year, Drs. Julia Burgess and Shiva Farrahi. This one-year postgraduate program continues with great success at the ACCC Dental Clinic. The residents rotate through the ACH Dental Clinic, community public health clinics, as well as anaesthesia, otolaryngology, and other dental specialties.

procedures at the FMC Dental Clinic	4,372
patients seen at the ACH Dental Clinic	3,084

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Access to OR time for adult dental patients remains limited, with an increasing waitlist. Improving access for both adult and pediatric dentistry patients remains a section priority.
- Staffing for the ACH Dental Clinic remains a challenge. The fee for service contract change is intended to attract more full-time staff to the clinic.

SECTION OF

GENERAL SURGERY

The Section of General Surgery consists of 50 surgeons across the four adult hospital sites in the Calgary Zone, including the Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC), Rockyview General Hospital (RGH), and South Health Campus (SHC). 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, including a general surgery residency and six fellowship programs.

Dr. John Heine
Section Chief of General Surgery

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

- Dr. Artan Reso was named deputy department head of governance and physician services and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons.
- Dr. Gwen Hollaar co-leads the International Institute for Medical Education Leadership and co-developed four faculty modules (22 virtual sessions) delivered across seven countries.
- Dr. Tamara Gimon is the section's new quality improvement lead.
- Drs. Neel Datta (PLC), John Graham (RGH), and Paul McBeth (SHC) continue as general surgery site leads. Dr. May Lynn Quan (FMC) completed her term and was succeeded by Dr. Lloyd Mack.
- Dr. Lloyd Mack is head of the Division of Surgical Oncology, academic deputy head of the Department of Oncology, and president of the Alberta Association of General Surgeons.
- Drs. Mike Dunham (SHC) and John Heine (PLC) are the surgery facility site chiefs, and Dr. Don Buie completed a 10-year term (FMC).
- Dr. Jeanie Kanashiro led the successful launch of the PLC Magseed program for breast cancer patients.
- Dr. Rohan Lall served as medical director of Trauma Services.
- Dr. Grant Moffat is the department's quality and safety physician lead and surgery representative on the PLC Safety and Quality Committee.
- Dr. Oliver Bathe co-chaired the Provincial Upper GI/HPB Cancer Diagnosis Pathway Committee and served on the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) Research Committee.
- Dr. Caitlin Yeo served as faculty at the National General Surgery Review Course, chairs the General Surgery Competency Committee, co-chairs the Alberta Thyroid Oncology Group, and is president of the FMC Medical Staff Association.
- Dr. Mark Lipson is treasurer for the Alberta Association of General Surgeons.

general surgeons in the Calgary Zone **50**

EDUCATION

- Several members received awards recognizing their contributions:
    - Dr. Ryan Rochon (Educator of the Year) and Dr. Chris Armstrong (Ectopic Educator of the Year). Dr. Paul Armstrong (RGH Distinguished Service Award) retired after a long and distinguished career.
    - Dr. Mike Dunham (Gold Star Teaching Award), Dr. Nathan Zondervan (PGME Clinical Teaching Award), Dr. Mark Lipson (Educator of the Year), and Dr. Renelle Daigle (Outstanding Contribution to Surgical Education).
- Dr. Adrian Harvey is our new residency program director, supported by assistant program director Dr. Nathan Zondervan. Thank you to both for leading our 23 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).
- Drs. Grant Moffat and Caitlin Yeo are faculty advisors for several residents.
- Dr. Oliver Bathe supervises two PhD candidates and one master's student and was an external examiner for two doctoral candidates.
- Dr. Hyea Min Yoon developed the curriculum and runs the monthly Sim Lab for all training levels.
- Dr. Gwen Hollaar continues her outreach work in Laos and Tanzania through the university's Global Health Office.

RESEARCH

- We are excited to introduce our new Research Committee: Drs. Elijah Dixon, Alison Laws, Warren Sun, and Samantha Wolfe. They are identifying faculty research interests/projects and matching residents without projects.
- Dr May Lynn Quan is the principal investigator (PI) or co-PI on two grants, including $13.85M (in progress).
- Dr. Andy Kirkpatrick continues as PI for the COOL Trial, edited a textbook, and authored/co-authored multiple publications.
- Dr. Lloyd Mack presented nationally and internationally on cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) and co-authored several publications.
- Dr. Caitlin Yeo received a UCalgary travel grant and a $25K neuroendocrine tumour (NET) research grant. She authored/co-authored three publications and is a PI on a fine needle biopsy clinical trial.
- Dr. Gwen Hollaar is co-lead on a Global Affairs Canada grant.
- Dr. Alison Laws received over $100K in breast cancer research funding and was the lead author on four publications.
- Dr. Oliver Bathe is PI or co-investigator on five active trials, with total funding of over $1M. He co-authored five publications.
- Dr. Elijah Dixon co-authored 11 publications.
- Dr. Mike Dunham co-authored one publication.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- We welcomed seven new surgeons to our faculty: Drs. Nathan Zondervan (breast), Annie Ritter (trauma), Eva Thiboutot (melanoma/breast), Mack Jacobson (physician wellness), Warren Sun (abdominal wall reconstruction), Michael Driedger (HPB), and Samantha Wolfe (endocrine).
- Tier 1 workforce shortages continue to affect our section.
- Additional GFT and AMHSP positions are needed to support non-clinical work in research, education, administration, and leadership.

SECTION OF

OPHTHALMOLOGY

The Section of Ophthalmology has 43 physicians who provide clinical services throughout the Calgary Zone. We are based primarily at the Rockyview General Hospital, with pediatric services offered at the Alberta Children's Hospital, and perform surgeries at both public and chartered surgical facilities. Our section provides a full range of subspecialty services, including retina, cornea, glaucoma, ocular oncology, neuro-ophthalmology, and pediatric and adult strabismus.

Dr. Stephanie Dotchin
Section Chief of Ophthalmology

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL SERVICE

- Clinical volumes over the last year included:
  - Over 16,000 cataract surgeries were performed in chartered surgical facilities.
  - Over 1,000 other ophthalmic procedures were performed in public hospitals.

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP/ADMINISTRATION

- Dr. Andrew Crichton completed six years of service as the ophthalmology section chief. We thank him for his leadership and many contributions to the section and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.
- Dr. Stephanie Dotchin began her term as the ophthalmology section chief. She intends to build on Dr. Crichton's work with a continued focus on patient care, section growth, and fostering a culture of physician wellness.
- Dr. Amin Kherani is the director of the Office of Surgical Fellowship.
- Dr. Helen Chung is the section's residency program director.
- Dr. Paul Huang is the competence by design lead for ophthalmology.
- Dr. Alex Ragan is the quality improvement lead for ophthalmology.
- Dr. John Huang is the undergraduate medical education lead for ophthalmology.
- Our four fellowship programs are led by Drs. Karim Punja (orbit, oculofacial plastic & reconstructive), Patrick Gooi (glaucoma), Ezekiel Weis (orbit, oculoplastic & ocular oncology), Amin Kherani (retina), and Geoff Williams (retina).

EDUCATION

- Our residency program has 10 residents for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- We also have three fellows in our surgical retina, oculoplastic, and ocular oncology fellowships.
- We held a successful annual resident research day, with Dr. Fiona Costello, professor in the Departments of Clinical Neurosciences and Surgery at UCalgary, as our invited speaker. We also hosted our annual glaucoma day and optics day, which included presentations by ophthalmology residents from UCalgary and UAlberta.
- Dr. Helen Chung was awarded the master clinical teacher award.

RESEARCH

- The section had over 25 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

ophthalmologists in the Calgary Zone	45
ophthalmology residents	10
cataracts performed in chartered surgical facilities	OVER 16,000
other ophthalmic procedures performed in hospitals	OVER 1,000

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- We welcomed three new members to our section in 2024. Dr. Monique Munro and Dr. Jessica Ruzicki are our two new surgical retina recruits. We also recruited Dr. Helya Aghazadah for ocular oncology.
- Our section is currently recruiting in the areas of pediatrics, low vision, and glaucoma, and we expect new members to join us in 2025.
- We have significant challenges in the recruitment of pediatric ophthalmology. This position has remained open for the past 2 years.
- With the population growth in the Calgary area, we are struggling to keep pace with the recruitment needed to continue providing high-quality care.

SECTION OF

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

The Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) has 14 active members and provides surgical services at the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC), Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre (AJCCC), Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH), and chartered surgical facilities (CSF).

Dr. Graham Cobb
Section Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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, our 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-centred care ensures that each patient receives individualized attention and personalized treatment plans that address unique needs and concerns.

Our members provide on-call services and expertise in facial trauma, management of odontogenic infection, and aggressive head and neck fascial space infections. We provide 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.

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 AJCCC.

surgeons in the Calgary Zone	14
surgical cases completed at the Peter Lougheed Centre	498
surgical cases completed in chartered surgical facilities	2,519

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL SERVICE

- Surgical volume increased by 10% in 2024 across all sites in the Calgary Zone, including 498 cases at the Peter Lougheed Centre and 2,519 cases completed in chartered surgical facilities.
- Dr. Cobb played a key role in designing and funding the new clinic at the AJCCC, which will house dentistry, outpatient OMFS consults, and minor surgery. He also led efforts to make the clinic fully operational.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

- Our Dental General Practice Residency Program (hospitalist dentistry) welcomed two residents for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Our Surgical Training Fellowship Program in orthognathic, TMJ arthroplasty, and jaw reconstruction was approved, and our first fellow, Dr. Bjorn Lindell (MD, DDS, Upsala, Sweden), completed their first year. Dr. Lindell increased research productivity with abstracts published and presented at the IAOMS (International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons) in Rome in September 2024. We remain committed to 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 also the PLC site lead for OMFS. He is the 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 and a Royal College examiner.
- Dr. Brett Habijanac is a Chartered Surgical Facilities Committee member and an OMFS representative on the Department of Surgery's peer support team.
- 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.
- Dr. Tuan Bui is the Provincial Head & Neck Cancer Executive Committee member.
- Dr. Kevin Robertson is an executive member of the Alberta Society of Dental Specialists.
- The Head and Neck Tumour Clinic members include Drs. Graham Cobb, Brad Fisher, and Tuan Bui.
- The ACH Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic members include Drs. Miller Smith and Kevin Robertson.
- The AJCCC Minor Oral Surgery and General Practice Residency Clinic members include Drs. Graham Cobb, Simon Touchan, Shawn Higashi, Todd Fairbanks, Sandeep Dhesi, Brad Fisher, Kevin Robertson, and Tuan Bui.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Our section grew to 14 members in 2024, an important step toward meeting the increasing demand and service volume in the Calgary Zone.
- With continued population growth in Calgary and its surrounding area, we anticipate further increases in demand for mouth and jaw pathology, orthognathic surgery, maxillomandibular advancement (MMA) surgery for obstructive sleep apnea, and TMJ arthroplasty. The Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) will support the increased demand for OMFS services.
- The increased use of custom patient implants is expected to put stress on current budgets.

SECTION OF
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

The Section of Orthopedic 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 orthopedic care at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH). Orthopedic surgeons perform surgeries related to the musculoskeletal system, including joint replacement, spine surgery, and treatment of fractures.

Dr. Jason Werle
Section Chief of Orthopedic Surgery

The orthopedic residency training 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 orthopedic 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, the University of Calgary, and subspecialty societies of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association.

Section members provide key leadership roles for Alberta Health Services, the University of Calgary, and regional, provincial, national, and international orthopedic associations and professional societies. These leadership roles held by our members have a significant impact on improving patient care.

orthopedic surgeons in the Calgary zone	72
residents in the orthopedic residency training program	26
orthopedic surgical cases performed at all five hospitals	OVER 15,000
AHS-funded orthopedic surgical procedures completed at chartered surgical facilities	OVER 1,000

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- There are 72 active orthopedic surgeons in the Calgary zone across five acute care sites.
- There are 26 residents in the University of Calgary's Orthopedic Residency Training Program.
- Publicly funded contracted orthopedic procedures have increased at Clearpoint Health, a chartered surgical facility. This has included arthroplasty, spine, shoulder, knee, foot & ankle, and hand & wrist surgical procedures.
- The rapid access clinic (RAC) pilot project has been established to provide surgical consult screening to patients awaiting orthopedic surgical opinions on conditions such as spine, shoulder, soft tissue knee, and hip & knee osteoarthritis. Four clinics in the Calgary zone contribute to this effort.
- 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 third Annual Frank Talks event, named in honour of Dr. Cy Frank, was held in March 2024. This faculty research symposium highlights the incredible research of our faculty members. 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of Cy's passing, with special events planned throughout the academic year.
- Dr. Aaron Bois was named program director of the University of Calgary Orthopedic Residency Training 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 team in real time. Thank you to the RGH OR and residents for supporting this educational activity.
- The section and Dr. Michael Monument hosted the ABC Traveling Fellows in June 2024.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- The lack of acute care call coverage at all sites continues to challenge the delivery of safe and efficient orthopedic patient care, resulting in surgical diversions. Challenges persist in the ongoing recruitment of associate physicians. A recently implemented physician assistant training program at the University of Calgary will hopefully assist with closing these gaps.
- Waitlists remain extremely long for all orthopedic care in the zone, including consultation and surgery.
- Nursing and anesthesia staff shortages have led to postponed operating room slates.
- Maintaining surgeon wellness remains difficult, given the ongoing challenges to surgical care provision.
- This year, several of our colleagues retired, including Dr. Jim MacKenzie (SHC), Dr. Vaughan Bowen (SHC), Dr. Hugh Dougall (PLC), Dr. Greg Abelseth (RGH), Dr. Roger Cho (FMC), and Dr. Jacques Bouchard (FMC). We thank them for their valuable contributions and wish them all the best as they embark on this new chapter.
- Several new recruits have joined our team across multiple sites and subspecialties. Dr. Randa Berdusco (shoulder) and Dr. Jennifer Purnell (foot & ankle) have been recruited to PLC, while Dr. Denise Mackey (shoulder) and Dr. Devin Lemmex (hip arthroscopy/sports) have joined SHC.
- We have completed 13 recruitments in the last two years, and more colleagues will join us soon. Given the ongoing waitlists and demand for musculoskeletal care in Calgary, we will continue our recruitment efforts.

SECTION OF

OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

The Section of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery delivers surgical care at all five Calgary hospitals. Our surgeons specialize in providing comprehensive care across the spectrum of otolaryngologic disorders. There are 23 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.

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE

- Dr. James Brookes is the competence by design (CBD) director for the Department of Surgery.
- Dr. Rob Hart is the co-director of the Evidence Decision Support Program.
- Dr. Derrick Randall completed his term as the department's director of continuing medical education (CME) and was awarded for excellence in teaching for CME and faculty development. He is also the residency program director (PD) and sits on the Office of Surgical Research Council.
- Dr. Justin Lui is the assistant program director of our residency program and received an award for the outstanding contribution of a new faculty member.
- Dr. Monica Hoy is the equity, diversity, and inclusion/wellness liaison and the section's CBD director.
- Dr. Jon Yip is the quality improvement (QI)/safety lead and a QI council member.
- Dr. Michael Deutschmann is the director of undergraduate medical education.
- Dr. Anita Hui is the workforce planning director.
- Dr. Jason Chau is the section's CME director.
- Dr. Wayne Matthews is the director of the Ohlson Research Initiative, Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute.
- Dr. Euna Hwang is the section's research director.
- The hospital site leads include Drs. Brookes (ACH), Chau (SHC), Randall (PLC), Mechor (RGH), and Chandarana (FMC). We thank Dr. Bosch for his leadership as the outgoing site lead at PLC.
- Dr Randall was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor, and Dr. Khara Sauro was promoted to GFT Associate Professor.
- Dr. Khara Sauro received the Lynn McIntyre Outstanding Service Award from the O'Brien Institute for Public Health.
- Drs. Fatemeh Ramazani and Ella Kooner each received an award for resident physician leadership from PARA (Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta).

3,628
adult surgical cases (25% increase from previous year)

2,433
pediatric surgical cases (stable from previous year)

$2.3M
in grant funding

119
peer-reviewed presentations, invited lectures, publications, awards, and recognitions

EDUCATION

- Our otolaryngology residency training program now accepts two residents each year and currently has seven residents. Our section also has a fellowship in advanced head and neck surgical oncology.
- Dr. Rob Hart directs the National Review Course in Calgary for final-year residents preparing for their ENT board exams.
- Dr. Jon Yip directs the Western Canadian Sinus Course, drawing experts and learners from across the country to Calgary.
- Dr. Justin Chau continues as the co-chair of the Royal College exam committee.
- Drs. Chris Bell and Kiana Mahboubi completed their Royal College certification in otolaryngology in 2024. Dr. Bell will pursue a sinonasal/skull base fellowship in California, while Dr. Mahboubi will pursue a head and neck oncology fellowship in Celebration, Florida.
- Dr. Fatemeh Ramazani received the Helios Scholarship to pursue advanced training in laryngology.

RESEARCH

- Drs. Khara Sauro, Shamir Chandarana, and Rob Hart are co-investigators for a Canadian Institutes of Health Research-funded project to investigate transitions in care for head and neck cancer patients.
- Drs. Sauro, Matthews, Hart, Chandarana, Hinther, and Lui continue their important involvement with the Ohlson Research Initiative.
- Dr. Justin Lui and collaborators received an Office of Surgical Education innovation award for two projects: validating the application of virtual learning for flap education and bridging the education gap between family medicine and otolaryngology.
- Dr. Fatemeh Ramazani won multiple regional and national awards for her research on enhancing education on local flap reconstruction for head and neck defects, including the best resident research project at the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology's annual general meeting.
- Dr. Dan Edwards, head and neck fellow, received the best research award at the department's fellows research evening.
- Drs. Chandarana and Mahboubi received the department's surgical innovation award for creating and evaluating a clinical care pathway for patients with aggressive thyroid cancer.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Our section's main challenge is meeting the demand for office consultations and providing surgical intervention within a targeted timeframe. We are pursuing new means of handling the demand, including collaboration with Specialist Link and Facilitated Access to Specialized Treatment to develop established and standardized referral pathways.
- We continue to utilize the Holy Cross chartered surgical facility for low-risk procedures through the Alberta Surgical Initiative.
- Dr. Ethan Newton was recruited as a general otolaryngologist (SHC and ACH), and we continue to search for a full-time pediatric otolaryngologist.
- Dr. Phil Park retired from SHC after a long career focused on otology/neurotology. He was recognized with a Department of Surgery distinguished service award.

SECTION OF

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

The Section of Pediatric Surgery delivers comprehensive surgical care at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH). Pediatric surgeons from general surgery, orthopedics, plastic surgery, otolaryngology, urology, and ophthalmology are section members. Our service also includes surgeons from dentistry and oral health, oral & maxillofacial surgery, and the departments of neurosciences and obstetrics and gynecology.

Dr. Simon Goldstein
Interim Section Chief of Pediatric Surgery

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL SERVICE

- Surgical case numbers continued to rise, reaching 9,851 total cases (almost a 10% increase), plus 875 interventional radiology cases and 557 induction room cases using operating room (OR) resources.
- Pediatric orthopedics recruited a physician-assistant for the developmental dysplasia of the hip/clubfoot program.
- Pediatric dentistry switched ASA I (low-risk) and many ASA II (moderate-risk) patients to non-hospital surgical facilities for general anesthetics, increasing OR time at the ACH for special needs patients.
- Pediatric plastic surgery continues the ACH Burn Treatment Program with $1.14 million in funding over three years from the ACH Foundation and Calgary Firefighters' Burn Treatment Society.
- Pediatric and adolescent gynecology (PAG) now staff a full-day clinic weekly and a half-day fellow clinic. The Fertility Preservation Clinic has been launched for Alberta patients undergoing gonadotoxic therapy.

EDUCATION

- Dr. Brindle and Dr. Daodu continue collecting local and national awards. Dr. Brindle regularly presented as a visiting professor, including at the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Daodu delivered a major presentation at the Women in Healthcare Leadership PLUS4W conference.
- Drs. Parsons, Harrop, Fraulin, and Lo are members of their respective Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) examination boards. Dr. Goldstein sits on the National Residency Accreditation Committee for the RCPSC.
- Dr. Lo continues as the pediatric surgery residency program director and the surgical foundations bootcamp director.
- Dr Lopushinsky received the Canadian Association of Medical Education Certificate of Merit.
- Dr. McQuillan holds several educational posts with the North American Society of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, including co-chair of the fellowship program director committee.
- Pediatric orthopedics has initiated a clinical fellowship program supporting two fellows.

RESEARCH

- Pediatric orthopedics initiated an annual research grant competition.
- Pediatric urology has several studies ongoing at ACH.
- Pediatric plastic surgery has developed a research group and hired a research assistant, publishing numerous papers in peer-reviewed plastic surgery journals. Dr. Cawthorn has received a grant for his cleft program.
- Pediatric general surgery remains active in research. Dr. Brindle has published 25 peer-reviewed articles, has $10 million in active grants, and is the MacNeill Surgery Research Chair for the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute. Dr. Daodu received a clinical research award, two innovation in surgical education grants, and authored five peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Yanchar co-authored eight publications on trauma care and wellness. Dr. Beaudry contributed two papers on pediatric surgical care.
- Pediatric and adolescent gynecology saw valuable contributions from Dr. McQuillan, with six peer-reviewed articles in 2024. Dr. Nelson is the research lead.

total cases	10,726
elective surgeries	7,811
emergency/urgent surgeries	2,040

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

- Site section leads include Drs. Frank (plastic surgery), Brookes (otolaryngology), Weber (urology), Lopushinsky (general surgery), Smith (oral and maxillofacial), Phillips (orthopedic), Dotchin (ophthalmology), Cholette (dentistry - interim), Riva-Cambrin (neurosurgery), and McQuillan (PAG).
- Dr. Beaudry completed his term as the pediatric surgery section chief and ACH site chief in December 2024. We sincerely thank him for helping the ACH through the challenging COVID pandemic, unprecedented respiratory viral surges, and a community E. coli outbreak. Dr. Goldstein will assume this role on an interim basis.
- Dr. Fraulin completed his term as deputy department head of governance and physician services. He is now interim associate zone medical director, supporting the departments of surgery and anesthesia.
- Dr. Harrop is the director of the department's Office of Surgical Quality and a member of the surgery peer support team.
- Dr. Cawthorn is the quality improvement lead for pediatric surgery.
- Dr Brookes continues as the department's competency by design lead.
- Dr. Lo is the vice-chair of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons Education Committee.
- Dr. Lopushinsky is the department's vice-chair of education and regional representative for the Royal College Pediatric Surgery Specialty Committee.
- Dr. Yanchar is the deputy department head of professionalism, physician wellness, equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as chair of the International Trauma Resuscitation in Kids Course.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- ACH surgical groups are planning for future service expansion due to the under-18 population growth and 30% year-over-year trauma volume increases.
- OR space upgrades remain a priority, supported by site operations and section members exploring innovative ways to extend care within current resource models. This is critical due to access changes through contracted surgical facilities
- Active recruitment is underway in pediatric orthopedics and spine, with plans to add surgeons in otolaryngology, ophthalmology and pediatric surgery to fill projected vacancies. Pediatric and adolescent gynecology continues to recruit aggressively due to increasing needs and only three programs in Canada.

SECTION OF

PLASTIC SURGERY

The Section of Plastic Surgery has 28 full-time members and two locum surgeons practicing in Calgary. We provide care at the five acute care sites, offering comprehensive plastic surgery services for pediatric and adult patients in Calgary.

Dr. Earl Campbell
Section Chief of Plastic Surgery

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

- Dr. Frankie Fraulin accepted the role of interim associate zone medical director. To accept this role, Dr. Fraulin resigned from his position as the deputy department head of governance and physician services for the Department of Surgery.
- Dr. Alexandra Hatchell accepted the quality and safety lead position for plastic surgery within the Department of Surgery.
- Dr. Aaron Knox assumed the role of program director for the plastic surgery residency training program. He was also awarded the McPhedran Award for Innovation in Surgical Teaching by the Department of Surgery.
- Our program designated two new resident research directors, Dr. Rebecca Hartley and Dr. Thomas Cawthorn.
- Dr. Christiaan Schrag was appointed the facility site chief of surgery for the Foothills Medical Centre.
- Dr. Aaron Knox and Dr. Kimberly Sass were promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

CLINICAL SERVICE

- The Gender Affirming Working Group had considerable success in early 2024, and the framework for a gender-affirming clinic in Calgary was established. Due to the diverse concerns and specific medical needs within this patient population, multidisciplinary care is essential, and many committed practitioners in the city are dedicated to making this work. Unfortunately, administrative support for this clinic has been on pause since late summer. Despite this setback, Dr. Mankowski has continued to provide care and advocate for this patient population.

active plastic surgeons **28**

EDUCATION

- Our plastic surgery residency program has 11 residents for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Aaron Knox is the program director.
- Dr. Emma Yanko and Dr. Colborne Kemna joined our residency program in July 2024. Dr. Ann-Sophie Lafreniere and Dr. Julien Shine completed their residency. Dr. Lafreniere embarked on a fellowship, and Dr. Shine accepted a staff surgeon position in Quebec.
- The Section of Plastic Surgery has three fellowship programs, including oncology, microsurgery, and hand and wrist surgery. The program directors are Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle, Dr. Jennifer Matthews, and Dr. Justin Yeung, respectively.
- After a venue change in 2023, the D. C. Birdsell Plastic Surgery Resident Research Day returned to Calgary in 2024. Dr. Blair Peters was our guest lecturer and judge.
- The Residency Cosmetic Clinic was established in 2023 and has been an undeniable success. Under the supervision of individual staff surgeons, our senior-year residents assess potential patients for surgical interventions, perform procedures, and oversee post-operative care. This has given our residents unparalleled exposure and experience in the subspecialty of plastic surgery.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- The Section of Plastic Surgery welcomed Dr. Peter Mankowski to Calgary in 2024. Dr. Mankowski specializes in gender-affirming care and is leading the province-wide initiative to provide comprehensive care in Alberta, allowing patients seeking gender-affirming care to remain in the province instead of seeking care in other jurisdictions.
- Dr. Anna Todd and Dr. Meike Heyns, two recent graduates of our plastic surgery program, returned to Calgary in 2024. Dr. Todd assumed a locum position at the Rockyview General Hospital, and Dr. Heyns accepted a locum role at the Peter Lougheed Hospital.
- Dr. Maleka Ramji departed from the Peter Lougheed Hospital in 2024 to take a position in Ontario. We wish her success in her new position.
- The biggest challenge for the Section of Plastic Surgery is providing care for a rapidly growing population. With Calgary's population increasing by over 100,000 in the last two years – and still growing – demand for care will only increase. The surrounding communities, including Cochrane, Sundre, Airdrie, Strathmore, Okotoks, High River, and Canmore, have also experienced growth, straining all acute care sites. To keep pace with demand, we expect to recruit several new plastic surgeons in the near future. However, more surgeons and patients require additional OR space, a commodity already at a premium in Calgary.

SECTION OF
PODIATRIC SURGERY

The Section of Podiatric Surgery includes 12 surgeons who deliver surgery to all five hospitals in the Calgary Zone, with section members treating disorders of the foot and ankle.

Dr. John Toole
Section Chief of Podiatric Surgery

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.

surgeons in the Calgary Zone **12**

visits to the Zivot Limb Preservation Clinic **OVER 12,000**

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 12,000 patient visits in 2024. In addition, over 3,000 procedures were performed in the Minor Surgery Clinic at the Peter Lougheed Centre. Section members also provided call coverage for the five acute care facilities in Calgary, urgent care facilities, RAAPID, E-referrals, and Specialist Link for the Calgary Zone.
- The section continues to present at national and international conferences on limb preservation and foot surgery.
- 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.
- We continue our collaboration with the Podiatry School at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, with many students completing a one-month rotation at our clinic and the Peter Lougheed Hospital with our surgeons.
- The fellowship in limb preservation and foot reconstruction continues to thrive. The fellow is gaining valuable experience, and we are welcoming our third fellow for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- The Zivot Limb Preservation clinic is currently running a clinical trial for an offloading medical boot for diabetic foot ulcers with a very successful recruitment for the study.
- With the help of Ronmor Developers, we have established the Zivot Limb Preservation Clinic Charity Golf tournament. The tournament has raised over $150,000 in the last two years, which will benefit podiatric services in the city.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- We continue to face increasing challenges due to Calgary's growing population and increasing demands on the healthcare system.
- We are monitoring the demands on our surgeons and will continue to hire as the demand increases.

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.

Dr. Colin Schieman
Section Chief of Thoracic Surgery

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL SERVICE & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- The section has successfully integrated three quality improvement initiatives into its workflow over the past two years:
    - Using absorbable barbed subcuticular closure (Stratafix) instead of horizontal silk mattress sutures has simplified tube removal and incision closure, reduced pain, and eliminated the need for outpatient suture removal.
    - Replacing the Pleur-Evac system with a digital drainage system has improved patient mobility, enhanced air leak assessment after lung surgery, and shown early signs of reduced length of stay.
    - Developing a simplified post-esophagectomy care pathway with a multistakeholder team has reduced the median length of stay from 15 to just over 10 days while improving post-discharge nutritional support.
- The section, along with Dr. Paul Belletrutti of gastroenterology, initiated the first per oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) program for achalasia in Alberta. The program has been a great success thus far, with over 25 procedures in the first year.

120 MME
patients undergoing minimally invasive lung resections received an average opioid prescription of 120 morphine milligram equivalents (MME), meeting the goal rate

98%
of surgical patients received the correct preoperative prophylactic antibiotic within the recommended timeframe

EDUCATION

- Dr. Sean McFadden serves as the residency program director for thoracic surgery.
- Dr. Shawn Brophy successfully completed residency training and the Royal College exams in November and has accepted a permanent position in thoracic surgery at the University of Calgary – congratulations and welcome, Dr. Brophy.
- Our program welcomes Dr. Raj Selvam, our new thoracic surgery resident, who will graduate in June 2026.
- Our residency program says goodbye to Dr. Andrew Graham, who played a pivotal role in establishing the program. As the first program director, his dedication and leadership shaped our program into a model for training programs nationwide. His kind, caring approach to education had a lasting impact on trainees and colleagues alike.
- The section is grateful to Drs. Dan Holloway, Paul Belletrutti, and Chris Hergott, who serve on the Residency Training Committee.
- Dr. Gelfand continues his long-standing service on the Undergraduate Surgery Clerkship Committee.
- Dr Crispin Russell will serve as the competency committee lead once competence by design commences in thoracic surgery.

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

- Drs. McFadden, Edwards, and Russell serve on the Royal College Specialty Committee.
- Drs. Schieman and Russell serve on the Royal College Examination Committee.
- 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.
- Dr. Shawn Brophy has taken over as the section's quality improvement lead.

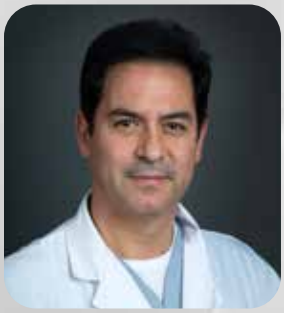
CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- The section welcomed two thoracic surgeons in 2024: Dr. Shawn Brophy and Dr. Crispin Russell.
- In December 2024, Dr. Andrew Graham formally retired from clinical practice and his roles in the Section of Thoracic Surgery. We thank him for his years of dedicated clinical work and incredible impact on the section and the department, particularly in quality improvement. He founded the department's first chair of surgical quality and led numerous quality improvement initiatives that profoundly improved patient care. We are immensely grateful for Dr. Graham's contributions and wish him all the best in the next phase of his career and personal life. He will continue to support the department in administrative roles.
- The section has experienced incredible growth in clinical volumes, with a 70% increase in incoming referrals over the last 4 years.
- The section will actively recruit an additional surgeon in the coming year to address the growing clinical demands and workforce challenges.

SECTION OF

TRANSPLANT SURGERY

The Section of Transplant Surgery offers comprehensive care for pediatric and adult populations in Southern Alberta, focusing on kidney and pancreas transplantation and dialysis access surgeries. We deliver care at Calgary's five hospitals, providing critical services to a wide range of patients.



Dr. Mauricio Monroy-Cuadros
Section Chief of Transplant Surgery

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL SERVICE

- The section has experienced a significant increase in transplant activity and patient acuity. The passage of Bill 205, the mandatory referral of potential organ donors, will likely streamline and increase organ donation, which is crucial given the high demand for transplants. The fentanyl crisis continues to play a significant role in the rising number of organ donors.
- Our use of living and deceased donors for kidney and pancreas transplants is helping increase organ availability, while multi-organ abdominal organ procurement from deceased donors ensures optimal organ use.
- We continue to collaborate with transplant centers across Canada and the National Kidney Paired Donation Program to reduce wait times and address the transplant backlog.

EDUCATION

- The section continues to support medical education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. We provide training and education for nephrology fellows, general surgery, vascular surgery, and internal medicine residents in areas related to transplantation and dialysis access.
- Dr. Neal Austin, the transplant fellowship program director, is collaborating with the Section of Nephrology to establish a Royal College Area of Focused Competence (AFC) fellowship in solid organ transplantation.
- Dr. Samir Damji, a graduate of Imperial College London, will complete our two-year fellowship program in 2025.

2,639 transplant and vascular access clinic visits

123 kidney/pancreas transplants

70 multi-organ donor procurements

40 living donor nephrectomies

RESEARCH

- Our recently formed research committee is a collaboration with the Division of Medical Transplantation and the Alberta Transplant Institute and is fostering a more research-driven approach to transplantation. By focusing on clinical and basic science research across diverse speciality areas, the committee is laying a strong foundation for advancing the field. The committee aims to enhance collaboration, disseminate findings, and mentor colleagues, which is key to driving innovation. Dr. Fatma Al Hinai represents the section on the committee.
- Dr. Serdar Yilmaz is a co-investigator in a Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) randomized control trial comparing dialysis access methods in elderly patients starting dialysis and transitioning to kidney allograft failure. Understanding the risks and identifying opportunities for intervention is critical to improving outcomes for this vulnerable patient population. This research has the potential to shape guidelines and practices for dialysis and kidney transplant procedures, which is important given the aging demographic of patients needing a kidney transplant.
- Dr. Monroy-Cuadros is a co-investigator in a CIHR multinational and multicenter clinical trial studying the long-term effects of living kidney donation. He is also involved in studies with the Donor Nephrectomy Outcomes Research Network to improve outcomes in living donors. These studies are crucial for the sustainability of transplant programs as living donation becomes more common.

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

- Medical leadership in the section is committed to advancing local and national efforts in organ donation and transplantation and ensuring our region remains a leader in transplantation innovation and policy development.
- Dr. Yilmaz is a member of the Canadian Blood Services Living Donor Advisory Committee, an important contribution as living organ donation continues to be a key strategy for addressing organ shortage.
- Dr. Monroy-Cuadros represents the section at the Canadian Blood Services Kidney Transplant Advisory Committee and the Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Program. These committees are critical for improving transplant protocols and facilitating better donor-recipient matching across Canada.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Recruitment and retention of specialized physicians and multidisciplinary team members are essential for ensuring the quality and sustainability of the transplant program. Expanding the transplant team will ensure adequate call coverage and reduce the risk of surgeon burnout.
- Dr. Evan Nelson continues as a locum, while Dr. Fatma Al Hinai has transitioned from a locum role and joined us as a permanent faculty member. Both bring valuable experience to the team, and their contributions ensure the section continues to provide top-tier care while addressing the challenges of call coverage and staff well-being.

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.

Dr. Eric. Hyndman
Section Chief of Urology

consults seen in the SIAU	23,000
total urology cases completed	7,110
urology cancer cases completed	1,511
peer-reviewed publications	9

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- The Rance and Marilyn Fisher Family Foundation Expansion of the Prostate Cancer Centre is now complete. The expanded facility includes pre-habilitation and rehabilitation services, mental health services, and an artificial intelligence/machine learning surgical hub. The expansion was made possible thanks to the support of the Rance and Marilyn Fisher Family Charitable Foundation, John DeSanti, Clayton and Linda Woitas, AGAT Laboratories, and the Women for Men's Health initiative.
- Dr. Geoffrey Gotto was promoted to Clinical Professor, Dr. Kam Kaler was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor, and Dr. Mark Assmus was promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor by the University of Calgary.
- Dr. Gotto received a PGME Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching.
- Shaine Jivan, a physician assistant in urology, received the Jun Kawakami Award for Clinical Excellence.
- Dr. Eric Hyndman and Dr. Mark Assmus presented at the Department of Surgery's annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium in June 2024, highlighting another productive year of research in our section.
- Our members continued to work on provincial and Calgary Zone initiatives related to the Alberta Surgical Initiative.

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Dr. Richard Barr officially retired from active clinical practice, though he continues to support the section by doing outcall and rapid access clinics. He has been an invaluable section member for many decades, and many patients have appreciated his excellent and compassionate care.
- Dr. John Dushinski retired after 27 years of service to Calgarians. We appreciate his hard work and dedication and recognize his many years of service. We wish him well in his future endeavours.
- Two highly trained nurse practitioners (NPs) left the section, which has an impact on patient care. We will be recruiting NPs to fill these vacancies.
- Dr. Fadl Hamouche joined the section in September 2024. His subspecialty is endourology, and he has been a great addition to our team.
- The section will recruit two urologists in 2025.
- More urologists, physician assistants, and urology-trained nurse practitioners are needed, as well as more operating space to meet the needs of Calgarians. Patients are not being seen within a reasonable timeframe, which impacts patient care.

SECTION OF

VASCULAR SURGERY

The Section of Vascular Surgery has nine members who deliver surgical care based at the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC) and provide emergency and urgent vascular care to all other Calgary hospitals.

Dr. Paul Cantle
Interim Section Chief of Vascular Surgery

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL SERVICE

- Clinical volumes over the last year included:
  - 15,000 clinic patients (10,000 in-person and 5,000 virtual visits)
  - 400 complex aortic clinic patient visits
  - 1,200 major procedures, including aortic, carotid, and lower extremity bypasses
  - 385 emergency procedures, including vascular trauma and iatrogenic injury
- Combined cases included collaboration with cardiac, surgical oncology, urology, and spine.
- The use of novel technology, including the TAMBE (Thoracabdominal Multibranch Endovascular) device, demonstrates our section's continued international leadership in innovative aortic disease treatments.

EDUCATION

- Dr. Rommens continues as the residency program director and co-director of the advanced aortic surgery fellowship. He is an active Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET) course instructor.
- Dr. Zavitz is the Department of Surgery clerkship director, as well as the program director and competence committee chair for surgical foundations. He received the department's 2024 teaching award for new faculty.
- Dr. Cantle continues as the section's competency committee chair and competency by design lead. He also continues as the ASSET course coordinator. Dr. Cantle received the postgraduate medical education award for resident mentorship (5-6 year program).
- Dr. Clark continues as the section's clerkship director.
- Dr. Khoja successfully completed his advanced aortic surgery fellowship in 2024.
- Dr. Grab successfully completed his exams and began independent practice in 2024.
- Dr. Jones, one of our four current trainees, will begin a vascular surgery stroke neurology multidisciplinary fellowship in Calgary and Houston in August 2025.
- Our residents remain heavily involved with undergraduate medical anatomy teaching.

RESEARCH

- Our section continues to be active in clinical research, with 22 active projects, ongoing participation in FDA-sponsored device trials, and interventional radiology partnerships exploring novel technologies.
- Drs. Moore, Zavitz, Petrasek, Cantle, Rommens, and vascular surgery residents published peer-reviewed work in 2024.
- Dr. Moore is the section's director of research. He presented at multiple international conferences and continues to have successful entrepreneurial partnerships with the Haskayne School of Business and the Schulich School of Engineering.

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

- Dr. Samis ended his term as vascular surgery section chief, a position he held since 2017. We thank him for his dedication and wish him well as he transitions to a new role as deputy department head of clinical programs and operations, surgical quality and innovation.
- Dr. Petrasek currently acts as the surgical access lead for the department and Calgary Zone. Through 2024, he was the department lead for the Facilitated Access to Specialty Treatment (FAST) program. Dr. Petrasek sits on the Royal College vascular surgery specialty and examination committees.
- Dr. Rommens is the section quality improvement 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 and document oversight committees, and the Royal College vascular surgery specialty committee. He completed his term on the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Executive. Through 2024, he was the Calgary Zone Connect Care medical informatics lead (MIL) for inpatient surgery and continues as the PLC Connect Care MIL.
- Dr. Zavitz is a PLC Medical Staff Society co-president and a member of the Alberta Medical Association compensation committee. Through 2024, he was the Calgary Zone Connect Care MIL for ambulatory surgery and the provincial medical lead for virtual health.
- Dr. Cantle sits on the Calgary Zone transfusion and department education steering committees. He acted as trauma education and senior Advance Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course director through 2024.
- Drs. Guimond and Nutley continue their work with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC). They are deployment-ready with the CRC Emergency Mobile Response Unit.

patient consultations	15,000
major procedures	1,200
emergency procedures	385

CHALLENGES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

- Challenges for our section continue to centre around inpatient bed capacity and operative resources driven, in part, by anesthesia shortages.
- Acute care coverage challenges remain. Several times per year, we are faced with a vascular surgeon taking call with no house staff and no option for diversion.
- In 2024, funding was withdrawn for our Vascular Quality Initiative database despite being one of the highest enrollment centres in Canada. This presents challenges with assessing and maintaining quality surgical care.
- Dr. Mark Rockley has been recruited to join our group in April 2025.
- We anticipate hiring two additional surgeons over the next five years, primarily due to attrition.

2024
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
AWARDS

AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Department of Surgery is pleased to acknowledge the following awards received by our faculty and students. Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their well-deserved accomplishments.

EDUCATION

Caleb Zavitz,
Excellence in Teaching for New Faculty

Rajrishi Sharma,
Excellence in Teaching for Senior Faculty

Aaron Knox,
McPhedran Award for Innovation in Surgical Teaching

Ryan Rochon,
Educator of the Year

Christopher Armstrong,
Ectopic Educator of the Year

Derrick Randall,
Excellence in Teaching for Continuing Medical Education & Faculty Development

RESEARCH

Prism Schneider,
Outstanding Contribution in Basic Science Research

Mary Brindle,
Outstanding Contribution in Clinical Research

RESIDENT EXCELLENCE

Brett Ponich (PGY3),
Martin T. Spoor Memorial Award in Medicine for 2024-2025

QUALITY & LEADERSHIP

Miller Smith,
Dedication to Surgical Quality

Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer Rapid Response Team (ARRT), Surgical Innovation
This team includes Rob Hart, Moosa Khalil, Steve Gorombey, Adrian Box, Cynthia Card, Debbie Lamb, Dean Reuther, Robyn Banerjee, Sana Ghaznavi & Shamir Chandarana

Justin Lui,
Outstanding Contribution of a New Faculty

Kelly Johnston,
Excellence in Surgical Care for Underserved Populations in Canada and Abroad

Jitendra Gohill and Dr. Shannon Pulosk,
Surgical Citizenship

Eric Hyndman,
Outstanding Contribution in Leadership

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Simon Goldstein,
Alberta Children's Hospital

Andrew Graham,
Foothills Medical Centre

Iain Russell,
Peter Lougheed Centre

Paul Armstrong,
Rockyview General Hospital

Phillip Park,
South Health Campus

Promotions

The Department of Surgery is pleased to report the following academic and clinical promotions in 2024.

Please join us in congratulating our members as we recognize their hard work and achievements.

Carolyn Hutchison, GFT Professor
Prism Schneider, GFT Professor

Khara Sauro, GFT Associate Professor with tenure
Michael Monument, GFT Associate Professor
Vincent Gabriel, GFT Associate Professor, Departments of Clinical Neurosciences and Surgery
Yuan (Shawn) Xu, GFT Associate Professor with tenure, Departments of Oncology and Surgery

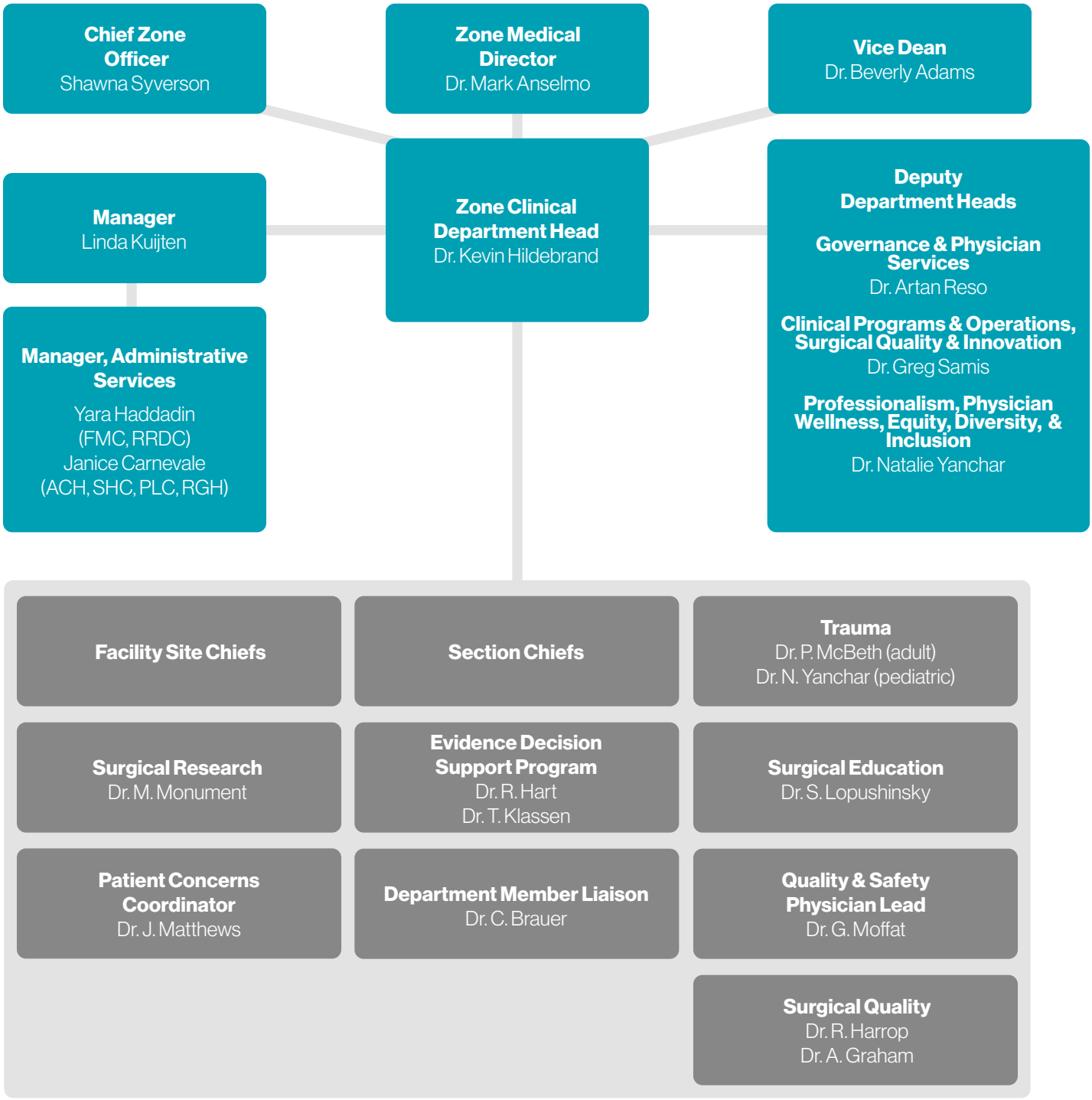
Geoffrey Gotto, Clinical Professor
Marcia Clark, Clinical Professor
Suresh Subramaniam, Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Neurosciences and Surgery

Aaron Knox, Clinical Associate Professor
Derrick Randall, Clinical Associate Professor
Jonathan Wong, Clinical Associate Professor
Kam Kaler, Clinical Associate Professor
Kenton Rommens, Clinical Associate Professor
Nicholas Desy, Clinical Associate Professor
Ryan Rochon, Clinical Associate Professor

Alexandra Hatchell, Clinical Assistant Professor
Christina Hiscox, Clinical Assistant Professor
Gurpreet Dhaliwal, Clinical Assistant Professor
Helen Chung, Clinical Assistant Professor
Hyea Min Yoon, Clinical Assistant Professor
Kimberly Sass, Clinical Assistant Professor
Maleka Ramji, Clinical Assistant Professor
Marcel Abouassaly, Clinical Assistant Professor
Mark Assmus, Clinical Assistant Professor

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Leadership



UPDATED: MAY 30, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Section Chiefs

ZONE CLINICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD
Dr. Kevin Hildebrand

Section Chief
Dentistry & Oral Health
Dr. A. Fares

Section Chief
General Surgery
Dr. J. Heine

Section Chief
Ophthalmology
Dr. S. Dotchin

Section Chief
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. G. Cobb

Section Chief
Orthopedic Surgery
Dr. J. Werle

Section Chief
Otolaryngology
Dr. S. Chandarana

Section Chief
Pediatric Surgery
Dr. S. Goldstein (interim)

Section Chief
Plastic Surgery
Dr. E. Campbell

Section Chief
Podiatric Surgery
Dr. F. Harton (interim)

Section Chief
Thoracic Surgery
Dr. C. Schieman

Section Chief
Transplant
Dr. M. Monroy-Cuadros

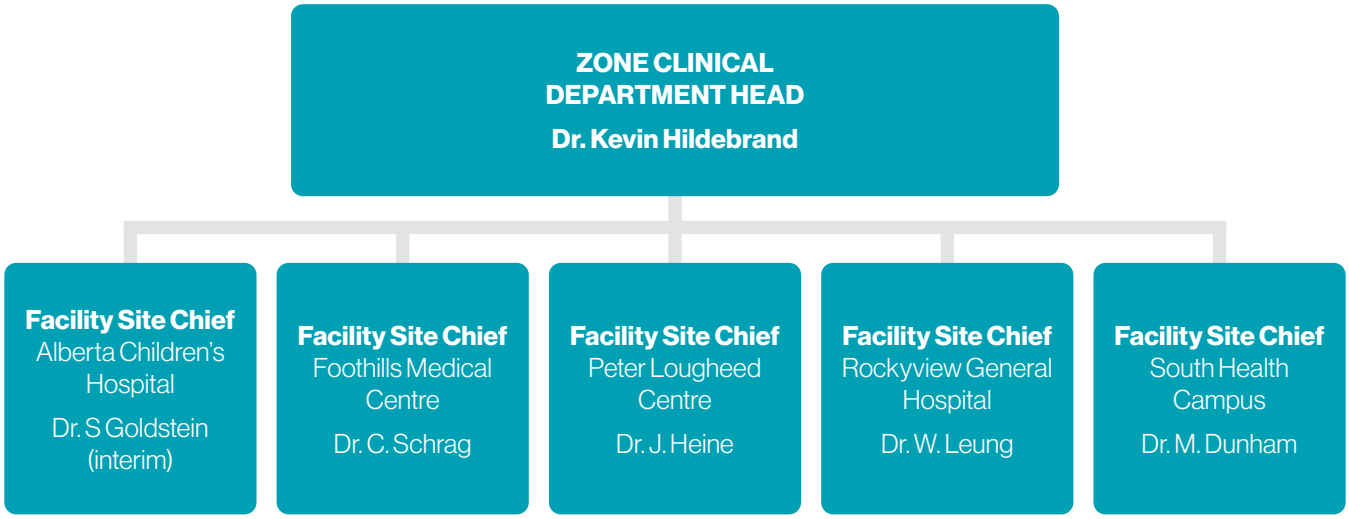
Section Chief
Urology
Dr. E. Hyndman

Section Chief
Vascular Surgery
Dr. P. Cantle (interim)

UPDATED: MAY 30, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Site Leadership



Alberta Children's Hospital
Dr. Simon Goldstein (interim), Facility Site Chief
Jennifer Crysdale, Executive Director

Rockyview General Hospital
Dr. Wynne Leung, Facility Site Chief
Renee Duckworth, Executive Director

Foothills Medical Centre
Dr. Christaan Schrag, Facility Site Chief
Mandy Hammer (interim), Executive Director

South Health Campus
Dr. Mike Dunham, Facility Site Chief
Lara Osterreicher, Executive Director

Peter Lougheed Centre
Dr. John Heine, Facility Site Chief
Christine Guss, Executive Director

UPDATED: MAY 30, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Surgical Research

UPDATED: MAY 30, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Surgical Education

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT HEAD, SURGERY

Dr. Kevin Hildebrand

Vice-Chair, Office of Surgical Education

Dr. Steven Lopushinsky

Undergraduate Medical Education

Clerkship Director
Dr. Caleb Zavitz

Evaluation Coordinator
Dr. Annie Ritter

Continuing Medical Education

Physician Lead
Dr. Carolina Fermin-Risso

Global Health

Chair
Dr. Gwen Hollaar

Surgical Foundations

Program Director
Dr. Caleb Zavitz

Associate Program Director
Dr. Andrew Graham

UPDATED: MAY 30, 2025

Post Graduate Surgical Training Committee

Vice-Chair
Dr. Steven Lopushinsky

Residency Program	Program Director
Colorectal Surgery	Dr. W. Donald Buie
General Dentistry	Dr. Bradley Fisher
General Surgery	Dr. Adrian Harvey
Ophthalmology	Dr. Helen Chung
Orthopedic Surgery	Dr. Aaron Bois
Otolaryngology	Dr. Derrick Randall
Pediatric 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

Office of Surgical Fellowships

Director
Dr. Amin Kherani

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 Dr. Geoff Williams
Orthopedic – Joint Reconstruction	Dr. James Powell
Orthopedic – Upper Extremity	Dr. Ian Lo
Orthopedic – Foot & Ankle	Dr. Jeremy LaMothe
Orthopedic – Hand & Wrist	Dr. Gurpreet Dhaliwal
Orthopedic – MSK Oncology & Limb Reconstruction	Dr. Shannon Puloski
Orthopedic – Pediatric	Dr. Marcel Abouassaly
Orthopedic – Pediatric Spine	Dr. David Parsons
Otolaryngology – Advanced Head & Neck Surgical Oncology	Dr. Robert Hart
Plastic Surgery – Hand, Wrist & Peripheral Nerve	Dr. Justin Yeung
Plastic Surgery – Microsurgery	Dr. Christiaan Schrag
Plastic Surgery – Oncology	Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle
Transplant	Dr. Neal Austin
Urology – Oncology	Dr. Geoffrey Gotto
Urology – Pediatrics	Dr. Carolina Fermin-Risso
Urology – Reconstructive & Functional	Dr. Richard Baverstock

UPDATED: MAY 30, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Alberta Health Services

Annual Report 2024