

THE BLADE



Department of Surgery Alumni Newsletter
Issue 4: September 2010

Together, Leading and Creating Excellence in Surgical Care

WORK LIFE BALANCE IN SURGERY LAFRENIERE LECTURE



Lafreniere Lecture on Page 10

Photo: Provided by Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld/2010

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Blade. It was a great pleasure to welcome Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld back to Calgary to present the Lafreniere Alumni Lecture. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Wirtzfeld as a resident and have enjoyed participating in professional meetings with her since she left to pursue additional fellowship training and begin her career in earnest. Her success comes as no surprise given the energy and determination she demonstrated as a resident.

The surgical training programs at the University of Calgary have afforded us the privilege of interacting with many bright young talented individuals. The effects of our interactions extend well beyond the City of Calgary to Canada and beyond. We welcome our new residents and wish our graduates well as they pursue additional fellowship training and/or embark on new careers.

The art and science in surgery are forever changing. However, the commitment to safe patient care, research and education remains constant and we are pleased to highlight several examples among the many activities and achievements our Department has to offer.

Finally, with sadness we once again recognize our colleagues who have departed and upon whose shoulders we stand.

Sincerely,

John B. Kortbeek, MD, FRCSC, FACS

Department Head, Surgery

Alberta Health Services

Professor and Head, Department of Surgery

Professor, Department of Critical Care Medicine

University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine



CALLING ALL DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY ALUMNI!

The Department of Surgery would love to continue to send you copies of our alumni newsletter, The Blade. Many residents and fellows move on to new and exciting careers outside of Calgary and we would greatly appreciate if you would let us know where you are going and how we can reach you in the future. If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter, please contact Christine Bourgeois, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Kortbeek, to update your contact information. You may phone her at (403) 944-1697 or email her at christine.bourgeois@albertahealthservices.ca. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.



From left to right: Photo Provided by Dr. Alicia Ponton-Carss, Photo Provided by Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld, Photo Provided by the Department of Surgery.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

To those who have received recognition through awards, appointments, accreditation and for those who have successfully reached their goals through school and long-term service, the Department of Surgery wishes to thank you for your hard work and congratulate you on your success.

Awards and Prizes Received by Department of Surgery Members

- **Dr. John Graham** was selected by the class of 2009 for the 2008/2009 Gold Star Award.
- **Dr. Richard Buckley** was awarded the Faculty of Medicine 2008 – Post Graduate Clinical Education Award.
- **Dr. Richard Buckley** was awarded the 2009/2010 Gold Star Award for his teaching of Course II (MSK/Skin/ENT) from UME.
- **Dr. Richard Buckley** received an Associate Dean's Letter of Excellence for teaching excellence in Course II.
- **Dr. Vivian Hill** was awarded the 2009/2010 Letter of Excellence Award for teaching in Course V (Neurosciences and Aging) from UME.
- **Dr. Jacques Bouchard** received the Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Award of Merit.
- **Dr. Cy Frank** was presented with the AHFMR Senior Investigator Award, \$420,000 over a two year term.
- **Dr. Gwen Hollaar** received the 2009 Guenter Distinguished Achievement Award for Contributions in International Health.
- **Dr. Tony MacLean** received the 2010 PARA Clinical Teaching Award of Excellence.
- **Dr. Vivian Hill** was selected for the Top 40 under 40.
- **Dr. Kevin Hildebrand** was awarded the J. Edouard Samson Award for his research proposal "Post-traumatic Joint Contractures: Correlation between the Human Condition and an Animal Model, and Identification of a Potential Preventative Intervention."
- **Dr. Nick Mohtadi** was awarded the 2010 Research (Clinical) Award from the University of Calgary.
- **Dr. Rene Lafreniere, Dr. Sue Ross, Dr. Charles Weijer, Dr. Amiram Gafni and Dr. Ariel Ducey** received the CIHR grant for their work on "Ethics, economics and the regulation and adoption of new medical devices: Case studies in pelvic floor surgery."

Other Highlights in 2010

- **Dr. Janice Pasioka**, President of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons.
- **Dr. Cy Frank**, President of the Canadian Orthopedic Association.
- **Dr. Eduardo Kalaydjian** and his team received accreditation of the residency program at FMC.
- **Dr. Joe Dort**, President of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.
- **Dr. Bill Astle**, Chair of the Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology/The International Council of Ophthalmology.
- **Dr. Gary Gelfand**, President of the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons.
- **Dr. Justin LeBlanc** successfully completed his Masters of Science in Education (with Dr. Hu – Engineering, Dr. Hutchison – Surgery in Orthopedic Simulation).
- **Dr. Dale Birdsell** has stepped down from his position as the Director of the Calgary Surgical Education and Research Trust (CSERT). He has served as Director since 1992. The Department thanks him for his hard work.
- **Dr. Ian Anderson** has taken over the role of Director for the Calgary Surgical Education and Research Trust (CSERT).
- **Dr. Doug Johnson** was accepted into the Master Teachers Program.

Long Service Awards

- **Dr. Steven Baylin** has been serving the Division of Dentistry and Oral Health in Paediatric Dentistry for 30 years.
- **Dr. Donald Wakeham** has been serving the Division of Oral / Maxillofacial Surgery for 30 years.
- **Dr. John Conley** has been serving the Division of Oral / Maxillofacial Surgery for 35 years.
- **Dr. Peter Gibson** has been serving the Division of Ophthalmology for 40 years.
- **Dr. Frank Sutton** has been serving the Division of Plastic Surgery for 30 years.
- **Dr. Dale Birdsell** has been serving the Division of Plastic Surgery for 40 years.
- **Dr. William Hyndman** has been serving the Division of Pediatric Surgery and Urology for 35 years.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AWARDS



Dr. **Richard Buckley**, a Clinical Professor and Orthopaedic Surgeon, was recently awarded with the Post Graduate Clinical Education Award. Dr. Buckley sees his award as a recognition of many years spent teaching. Although the department has many multi-faceted individuals, he said, good teachers are hard to come by. As a teacher, Dr. Buckley has always felt that it is worth his time to make a good impression on his students in hopes that they remember their lessons. As the Chairman of the Post Graduate Surgical Training Committee, Dr. Buckley knows that he must have a passion for what he does. His biggest passion is focused on the continuation of the trauma program and his job as a football coach. Dr. Buckley believes he is meant to be both a teacher and a coach, while understanding that he must also provide direction for those who may need daily recognition of their work and efforts.

Dr. **Tony MacLean**, a Clinical Associate Professor and General Surgeon, was recently presented with the Clinical Teaching Award of Excellence by the Professional Association of Residents of Alberta (PARA). Receiving this award was very gratifying for Dr. MacLean, as he truly values the time he spends in teaching and directing the Program. As a faculty member, he holds the residents close to his heart and thinks of them as his extended family. He finds watching their progress and development throughout their training to be very satisfying and is proud to watch their careers unfold. Residents nominate professors for the award, a way of thanking their professors for the time they spend teaching and guiding the residents through their education. In addition to his role as Director of the General Surgery Residency Training Program, Dr. MacLean is undertaking a variety of research. At the moment his research focuses on inflammatory Bowel Disease and colorectal cancer, as well as quality of life issues and fatigue in General Surgery.



Dr. **Gwen Hollaar**, an Associate Professor and General Surgeon, was recently awarded with the Guenter Distinguished Achievement Award for her contributions in international health. Dr. Hollaar devotes much of her time to international work, including the Lao Human Resource for Community Health Program and the Canadian Network for International Surgery. She sees the award as an honour, considering her involvement in Lao was facilitated by Dr. Clarence Guenter who has been a mentor for Dr. Hollaar. She is now a co-director of the Lau team since Dr. Guenter stepped down. Dr. Hollaar's international work gives her the opportunity to learn about people, other cultures and alternative methods to medical practice and education. The support of co-workers, however, makes international work possible when Dr. Hollaar knows her patients in Calgary will be looked after when she is overseas. She is now developing an Office of International Surgery in Calgary in order to encourage and support those involved or interested in international work.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AWARDS



Dr. **Nick Mohtadi**, a Clinical Professor at the University of Calgary (UofC) and a Clinical Research Director with the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, received the Research (Clinical) Award. Dr. Mohtadi believes that this award reflects his and his team's efforts on the development of an innovative program for health care delivery. This program was done with no financial or salary support and with the assistance of medical students Denise Chan and Breda Lau, and non-physician experts, Meryl Wheeler and Niko Lagumen. This program will focus on new methods of care for patients with knee injuries in the Acute Knee Injury Clinic (AKIC). The AKIC is set to open early July 2010 and would not have been possible without the McCaig Professorship, the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and the UofC Sport Medicine Centre. The AKIC utilizes a Health Access and Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire (HAPSQ) that works to measure all aspects of health care delivery that range from timelines, to patient satisfaction, to costs. The standard of care has already shown dramatic improvement and is important to Dr. Mohtadi because the current standard of care offered is not being satisfied.



Dr. **Jim Nixon**, a General Surgeon and Site Chief for the Department of Surgery at the Peter Lougheed Centre, was awarded the Long Term Education Contribution Award for Clinical, Adjunct and Research Faculty. Dr. Nixon received this award in 2008 with honour, based on his peer's recognition of his hard work and contribution in the area of education. Since 1982, he has been involved with resident, clinical clerk and medical student training, when he first started work as a General Surgeon. Dr. Nixon spends much of his time teaching surgical technique and procedure in the operating room and the theoretical aspects of both medicine and surgery in the classroom. As residents progress through their studies, Dr. Nixon finds it fulfilling to watch residents graduate as certified surgeons and physicians. A resident's progression through their education reminds him that he is making a contribution and giving back to the education system; Just as his professors took the time to both educate and train him as a resident. For now, Dr. Nixon will continue to teach for as long as he is a practicing surgeon.

Photos from the 2010 Department of Surgery, Promotion and Awards Evening at the Peter Lougheed House, April 2010



LAFRENIERE LECTURE EXAMINES SUCCESS THROUGH CONTROL

A successful surgeon is not solely determined by the number of surgeries they perform, or their ability to network. A successful surgeon is a healthy surgeon who has accomplished a balance in their life.

Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld, provincial lead of surgical oncology, Cancer Care Manitoba, was the guest speaker of the 2010 Dr. Rene Lafreniere lecture. Dr. Wirtzfeld discussed *The General Surgeon with a Lifestyle* on March 5 in hopes of encouraging healthy, balanced lives for surgeons.

"The controllable lifestyle," Dr. Wirtzfeld said, "is the ability to structure your own timeline, whether you work part-time or full-time, through the ability to set your own limitations based on your personal and professional goals."

Leadership and mentorship in surgery are necessary to achieve this balance, she said. Surgeons should work as a team and "pick leaders that emulate a controllable and healthy lifestyle," she said.

The meaning of a lifestyle depends on the person and what is important to them, Dr. Wirtzfeld said.

The General Surgeon with a Lifestyle also looked at the history of surgery with respect to the way training has evolved since the early days as an apprenticeship type system where diversity, advancing technologies and patient/societal expectations demand a more multifaceted approach to mentorship, mosaic mentoring. An individual may require multiple mentors in order to achieve success in both their personal and professional lives.

Dr. Wirtzfeld has an extensive background in medical schooling. Her time spent in medical school began upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with honours, at the University of Calgary (UofC). She went on to complete her studies in: a Bachelor of Science with a distinction in Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology and the Medical Doctorate Program at the UofC. Upon completion of these programs, Dr. Wirtzfeld left Calgary to complete a Masters of Clinical Epidemiology at the Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia.

The first time that Dr. Wirtzfeld saw the inside of an abdomen, she knew she would pursue a career as a general surgeon. Surgical Oncology appealed to her because it offered a diverse number of surgical procedures and a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment planning.

Dr. Wirtzfeld holds a keen interest in what she does. She has many clinical and research interests including the management of Hereditary Colorectal and Gastric Cancer Syndromes. Her interests keep her involved in multiple committees on a local, national and international level. Dr. Wirtzfeld had been involved with the executive of the Association of Women Surgeons up until last year, when she decided that it was time to focus her activities on Canadian endeavours.

Her part in the association was important to her because a surgeon's success and ability to recognize their goals depends on their networking abilities, she said. "Traditionally, men have



Photo: Provided by Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld

Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld presented the 2010 Lafreniere Lecture

been taught to work in teams and network," Dr. Wirtzfeld said. The association focused on the success of women surgeons who had been overlooked.

In April 2010, Dr. Wirtzfeld was presented with the University of Manitoba Award for Teaching Excellence of General Surgery Residents. The recognition of her strengths in teaching is something that tells her she is "a strong and helpful mentor to somebody." Upon receiving an award: "You would hope that means you have inspired people to have a passion for what they are doing. I would hope that I inspire others," she said.

Dr. Wirtzfeld's job gives her the chance to structure her life in the way and manner that she wants to unlike other people who do not get the opportunity. This structure allows her to dedicate time both to work life and home life, leaving her time to spend with her two children, Eric, who will be 7 years old in October and Ryan, three.

Looking to the future, Dr. Wirtzfeld hopes to assist the development of programs for surgeons that focus on leadership and mentoring. "The surgical leaders of tomorrow will need business training to deal with the evolving resource shortages and to address the developing needs of the changing surgical workforce. Surgeons need systematic education on stress, financial and time management," Dr. Wirtzfeld said. "I want to be involved in establishing these important priorities."

SURGEONS' DAY: A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN RESIDENT AND FELLOW RESEARCH

The 28th Annual Surgeons' Day was held at the Auditorium in the Alberta Children's Hospital on June 25, 2010, a day that provides residents and fellows from the Department of Surgery with a forum to present and discuss their research.

Both **Dr. David Sigalet** and **Dr. James Wright** were invited to judge the research presentations.

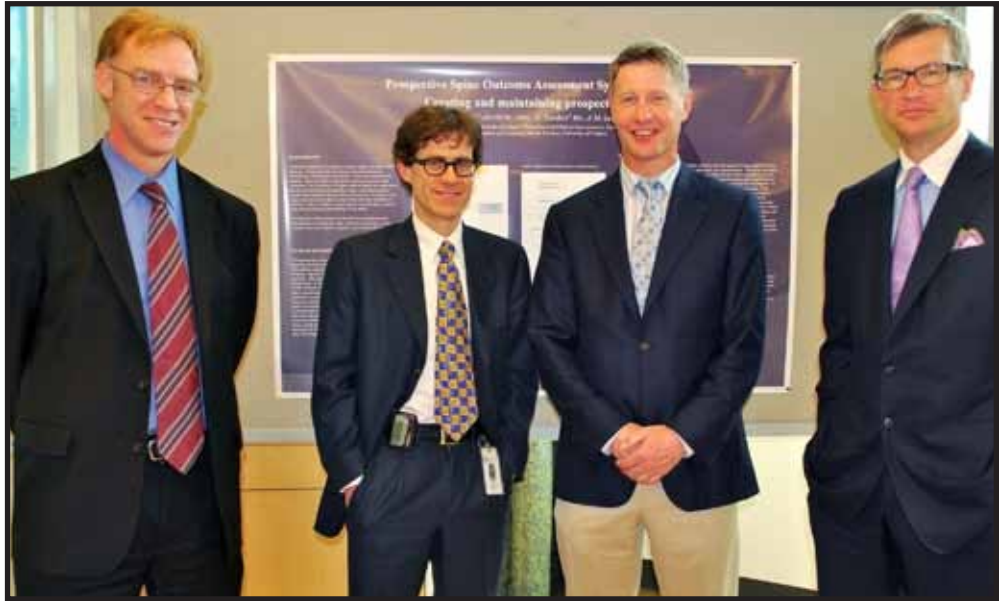
Dr. Sigalet is the Professor and Associate Head at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine; Department of Surgery. He is a member of the Division of Pediatric Surgery, General Surgery. Dr. Wright is the Surgeon-in-Chief and the Chief of Perioperative Services and Professor within the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto.

The symposium was broken into four sessions moderated by chairs. **Dr. Rick Buckley, Dr. Earl Campbell, Dr. Tony MacLean and Dr. Andrew Graham** were this year's sessional chairs with responsibilities that entailed introducing speakers and leading question periods.

There were 21 residents and fellows on hand to present their research at the symposium. The symposium was made up of a wide variety of presentations including, "Abdominal Compartment Syndrome: Burn Patient Resuscitation," "The Environmental Impact of Telehealth" and "Measuring the Microwave Frequency Properties of Lymph Nodes."

The symposium was not limited to research presentations by fellows and residents. **Dr. Rob Harrop** introduced Dr. Sigalet's presentation for the McMurtry Lecture, titled "Lost in Translation: The Challenge of Clinical Innovations." **Dr. Nick Mohtadi** introduced Dr. Wright's presentation for the McPhedran Lecture, titled "Evidence-based Orthopaedics: Beyond the Tipping Point."

Dr. John Kortbeek presented the Dr. Peter Cruse Memorial Award to **Dr. Emily Krauss** who placed first with "Ten Years of ATV Injury, Mortality and Healthcare Costs in Alberta." **Christopher Dusik** was awarded Honourable Mention for "Orthopaedic Surgeon Perspectives on Appropriate Referral of Trauma Patients to Physical Therapy," but was not able to attend.



All Photos: Katie Fisher/2010

From left to right, Dr. John Kortbeek, Dr. Rob Harrop, Dr. David Sigalet and Dr. James Wright.





Awards Dinner

Following a full day of presentations, surgeons, fellows, residents, department members and guests gathered in their gowns and suits at the Eau Claire Sheraton Hotel for the awards dinner.

Awards were presented for distinguished service, educator of the year, surgical innovation and resident research.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to **Dr. Robert Gordon** of RGH, **Dr. Andrew Wong** of ACH, **Dr. Cyril Frank** of PLC and **Dr. Glen Edwards** of FMC.

Educator of the Year was awarded to **Dr. Doug Bosch** and Ectopic Educator of the Year was awarded to **Dr. Michael Dunham**.

Dr. Jason Werle and the RGH J.O.I.N.T. Team were presented with the Surgical Innovation award.

There were four categories in resident research. Best Overall Research was awarded to **Dr. Billie-Jean Martin** for her research on "The Impact of Cardiac Rehabilitation on Outcomes in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease: A Retrospective Cohort Study with a Focus on Women and the Elderly." Honourable Mention for Overall Research was presented to **Dr. Scott Walen** for his research on "The Utility of the Harmonic Scalpel in Selective Neck Dissection." Best research by a Surgical Fellow was awarded to **Dr. Jacob Alant** for his research on "Traumatic Neuroma in Continuity Injury Model in Rodents." Best Poster was presented to **Dr. Peter Lewkonja** for "Reliability of a new classification system for fractures of the Thoracolumbar Spine (TLICS)."



SURGEONS' DAY AWARD WINNERS

Distinguished Service Awards



Dr. Glen Edwards (Foothills Medical Centre) – Dr. Edwards, originally from Edmonton, graduated from the University of Alberta (UofA) in 1954. From 1954 – 1959 he served on the Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery team at the UofA. After, from 1959 – 1960 he served as an Orthopaedic Fellow in Orthopaedic Surgery at Barnes Hospital and the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to retiring, he was an Orthopaedic Surgeon at FMC, RGH and ACH. He also served as a Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Calgary (UofC).



Dr. Cyril Frank (Peter Lougheed Centre) – Dr. Frank is a Senior Investigator with Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions; a Professor within the Department of Surgery with the University of Calgary (UofC); and the Executive Director of the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute. He received his MD in 1976 from the UofC and his FRCS(C) in Orthopaedic Surgery in 1980, both from the UofC. He also did two AHFMR Research Fellowships in San Diego and Toronto before starting practice as an AHFMR Scholar in Calgary in 1984.



Dr. Robert Gordon (Rockyview General Hospital) – Dr. Gordon, originally from Glasgow, Scotland, attended Glasgow University to obtain his M.B. and Ch.B. From 1959 – 1964 he was a resident at the Glasgow Eye Infirmary and from 1964 – 1967 he was a Senior Registrar and Lecturer with the Eye Department at Glasgow University. In 1967 he joined the staff at Calgary General Hospital followed by the PLC, ACH and RGH. From 1982 – 1998 he served as Director of Ophthalmology at the CGH and PLC and from 1998 – 2000 he served as co-director of the Division of Ophthalmology within the Calgary Zone. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary in Ophthalmology.

Photo: Shelley Vandervelde, MPA



Dr. Andrew Wong (Alberta Children's Hospital) – Dr. Wong is the Section Head of Pediatric General Surgery and a Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Calgary. He was the Chief of Surgery at the ACH for 11 years. He received his M.B., Ch.B. (1971) and M.Sc. (1981) from the University of Glasgow. Dr. Wong did a General Surgical residency at the University of Glasgow and fellowship in Pediatric General Surgery at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He did his fellowship in General Surgery in Glasgow (FRCS(G)) in 1978. Dr. Wong returned to Canada and completed a residency in General Surgery at the University of Calgary (FRCS(C)) in 1986 and completed his fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children. He obtained his certificate of Special Competency in Pediatric Surgery in 1988 for the RCPS of Canada.

Photo: Shelley Vandervelde, MPA

Educator of the Year



Dr. Doug Bosch received both his BMSc, with distinction, and his MD, with distinction from the University of Alberta (UofA). He was accepted into the UofA Otolaryngology residency program and completed a Laryngology fellowship at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Currently, as a practicing surgeon he is also the Otolaryngology Residency Program Director within the Department of Surgery, Alberta Health Services, Calgary Zone and the Site Division Chief for the Division of Otolaryngology at the Peter Lougheed Centre.

Photo: Shelley Vandervelde, MPA

Photo Not
Available

Dr. Michael Dunham received his M.D., with distinction, from the University of Alberta. He was accepted into the University of Calgary as a General Surgery Resident and completed two fellowships with the University of Miami through the Ryder Trauma Center. He is now the Director of Advanced Trauma Life Support at the University of Calgary.

SURGEONS' DAY AWARD WINNERS

Surgical Innovation Award



Dr. Jason Werle and the RGH JOINT Team continue to work on a team based project focused on hip and knee replacement efficiency. Dr. Werle serves as the physician lead for the project. The JOINT team utilizes members from different disciplines, including nurses, physiotherapists and staff from the Hip & Knee Central Intake Clinic. The Alberta Bone and Joint institute has also been involved with the project and has provided support. With a goal to improve patient care and measure the performance of their care, score cards were drawn up in order to enable team members to record progress. The project involved a lot of effort but through regular meetings and open lines of communication, the project has been introduced across Alberta with success. Awarded with the surgical innovation award, the award recognizes the teams combined effort towards improved, quality care.

Best Overall Research Award



Dr. Billie-Jean Martin lived in Calgary up until her time spent with the University of Alberta (UofA) for medical school. Following her graduation in 2005, Dr. Martin moved to Halifax to pursue a career in Cardiac Surgery and in 2008 she returned to Calgary to complete a PhD in obesity and cardiovascular disease under the supervision of Dr. Todd Anderson and Dr. Bill Ghali. Dr. Martin's PhD work utilizes vascular biology and epidemiology so as to investigate the impact that obesity has on patients with coronary artery disease. Currently, she is in her sixth year of residency and her third year of her PhD. Dr. Martin is working to complete her training in 2013.

Honourable Mention for Overall Research



Dr. Scott Walen is an R5 resident within the Division of Otolaryngology at the University of Calgary (UofC). Since 2009, he has acted as Chief Resident for the Division of Otolaryngology and is also a Resident Representative for the UofC, Office of Surgical Research Committee, among others. Prior to attending the UofC, Dr. Walen received both his BSc with a focus in Biochemistry and his MD from the University of Saskatchewan. Currently, Dr. Walen is working on a few medical research pieces for publication, including "Selective neck lymphadenectomy; A Prospective, Randomized study comparing harmonic scalpel with traditional technique." Next year, Dr. Walen will be relocating to the Washington University in St. Louis in order to complete a fellowship in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Photo: Shelley Vandervelde, MPA

Best Research by a Surgical Fellow



Dr. Jacob Alant is a combined spine fellow who completed his Bachelor of Medicine, MBChB and Neurosurgical training (MMed) through Pretoria University Medical School in South Africa. Following his immigration in 2008, he completed a Peripheral Nerve Fellowship and a Spinal Surgery Fellowship in Calgary. He was recently awarded the Norman Schachar Research Award and the Best Oral Poster in the basic science category for his research on Traumatic Neuroma. As of July 2010, Dr. Alant will be doing a locum in the Department of Neurosurgery, followed by an MSc in Neurosciences.

Best Poster



Dr. Peter Lewkonja recently graduated from the Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Training Program with the University of Calgary (UofC) in June 2010. Prior to completing the training program he received his MD and MSc through the UofC and his BSc through the University of British Columbia. His resident research project, supervised by Dr. Ken Thomas, focused on the "Inter and intra-observer reliability of the Thoracolumbar Spine Injury Classification System." Dr. Lewkonja has also contributed to the education process through teaching of the Undergraduate Medicine Musculoskeletal Course and the Undergraduate Medicine Clerkship Preparation Course, both at the UofC.

RESIDENT SEEKS FUTURE WITH INTERNATIONAL WORK

Dr. Janet Edwards is a third year general surgery resident. Dr. Edwards hopes to be a part of the international scene when she is finished her education. She is working towards a future not only as a surgeon but as an individual who can assist developing countries through the creation of training programs for self-sufficient surgeons.

One challenge that Dr. Edwards will have to face is finding “surgeons [who will] give up their practice to go and work somewhere else and lose out on their usual salary and usual benefits that they would get,” she said.

Dr. Edwards’ interest in International work stems, in part, from her love for travel.

“I always wanted to travel when I was younger and I never did,” Dr. Edwards said. “I lived in Cape Breton with my family, we love Cape Breton,” she said. “We live right on the ocean, it is a beautiful property.”

Dr. Edwards found herself in New Zealand, after high school, completing an undergraduate educational exchange studying biology at the University of Otago. She is now officially hooked on travelling.

Much of her time has been spent in Africa. She completed medical electives and volunteer work in Niger in West Africa and Tanzania in East Africa. Dr. Edwards is interested in going back to start her international work in Rwanda.

“Rwanda is a good country to start because it’s a small country; you have the potential to make a big difference in a small country that is really lacking in means. [Compared] to Brazil, it would be harder to make a big difference in a huge country,” she said.

“In general surgery you have the opportunity to save a life.”

**- Dr. Janet Edwards
General Surgery Resident**

Collaboration, though, will determine where Dr. Edwards goes for work because it may be easier to find another individual who has a program already in place. Something she can build on.

Another determining factor is her husband. Dr. Edwards’ husband is in the military; a job that dictates where he will be and how long he will be there for. “We’re hoping that once my residency is done we’ll be able to live together. We don’t really care where; we just want to live together again. It won’t so much be a choice for us, I think that we’ll be lucky to find two jobs in the same city,” she said.

For now, Dr. Edwards’ next trips will find her in Los Angeles and Boston. She is writing a United States medical licensing exam in Los Angeles and doing a masters through Harvard in public health with a concentration in global health in Boston. The Harvard program offers opportunities with cooperation’s around the world, including India, Rwanda and Uganda. Dr. Edwards is looking in to these offers but has not set any plans in stone.



Photo: Provided by Dr. Janet Edwards

Dr. Janet Edwards, and her husband, in Cape Breton.

Dr. Edwards will return to Calgary upon completion of her year in Boston in order to complete the two remaining years of her residency with a fellowship to follow. Her fellowship has yet to be determined.

When it comes to general surgery, Dr. Edwards did not seek a career based on travel opportunities. She grew up with hopes of becoming a veterinarian. After working with a veterinarian in Cape Breton for a year she discovered it was not for her. “My jobs involved things like emptying the freezer and taking the deceased pets to the incinerator and I had to feed the birds of prey,” she said.

A career working with animals may have not worked out for her but Dr. Edwards spends her spare time horseback riding. “Whenever I can ride, I ride,” she said. Dr. Edwards does not own her own horses, instead she rides horses that are owned by another local general surgeon. The opportunity to leave the city and spend time riding helps her relax from her busy school schedule.

Dr. Edwards graduated from Mount Allison University, New Brunswick with first class honours with a distinction in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. However, it was not until she was studying her doctor of medicine at Dalhousie Medical School, where she graduated first in class with distinction and was awarded with the BC Stewart Gold Medal in Medicine, that Dr. Edwards found a career that she enjoyed to do. “In general surgery you have the opportunity to save a life,” Dr. Edwards said. “You just see the big difference you make in people’s lives,” she said.

GRADUATING RESIDENTS

In the last year, the Department of Surgery had 78 residents, of whom 11 have recently graduated. Most of the graduating residents are moving onto fellowships in specialities, such as Orthopaedic Sport Medicine, Spinal Surgery and Paediatric Otolaryngology. One will remain in Calgary, while many will be moving on to cities including, Toronto, Vancouver, Portland and Houston. The Department of Surgery commends all the graduating residents on their hard work and wishes them luck in the next phase of their careers.

Congratulations Residents!

General Surgery

Dr. Nadra Ginting will be heading west to complete a Vascular Surgery fellowship in Vancouver, BC.

Dr. Kathryn Lanuke is headed out for Comox, BC in order to complete a locum position.

Dr. Terry Leung will remain in Calgary with a locum position.

Dr. Marilyn Vanderputten will be leaving Calgary and locuming in Port Alberni, BC.

Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. John Grant will be leaving Calgary in July for Ann Arbor, Michigan with his family. He plans to spend two years completing a clinical and research fellowship in Orthopaedic Sport Medicine at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Carrie Kollias is headed to Europe for the summer with her husband followed by a move to Angola for work in September. She plans on returning to Alberta to complete rural locums before moving to Melbourne, Australia to complete a year long Paediatric Orthopaedics fellowship. She will be accompanied by her husband, Tom, who will be taking a teacher exchange position in Melbourne as well.

Dr. Raul Kuchinad will begin his summer with a West Coast road trip that includes Seattle, San Francisco and Napa Valley. He will later head out for the University of Toronto to complete an Adult Reconstruction Fellowship followed by an Adult Deformity and Limb Lengthening Fellowship in New York.

Dr. Peter Lewkonja will be leaving Calgary, accompanied by his family, to start a fellowship in Vancouver, BC. His fellowship is devoted to spinal surgery and will begin in August. His future plans following his fellowship are still in the works.

Ophthalmology

Dr. Peter Lee will be leaving Calgary for Florida in order to join a private practice.

Otolaryngology

Dr. Luke Rudmik will be completing a fellowship in Endoscopic Sinus and Skull Base Surgery at the Oregon Health Science University in Portland.

Dr. Warren Yunker will be leaving for Houston, Texas to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology with Baylor College of Medicine and the Texas Children's Hospital. Dr. Yunker and his wife, a graduate of the Medical Genetics residency, hope to return to Calgary.

2010

NEW FACULTY



Dr. Jun Kawakami joined the Department of Surgery, Division of Urology in August 2009. Dr. Kawakami is a Urologic Oncologist, a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Queen's University. In 2007, he completed his Masters of Science in Epidemiology at Queen's University. His surgical interests are in laparoscopic oncology including Robotic Assisted Radical Prostatectomy and Laparoscopic Partial Nephrectomy. He is also the sole urologist performing Open Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Dissection for Testis Cancer. Dr. Kawakami is married to Julie Hong, a family physician, and has two sons, Summit and Merrit.

Photo: Provided by the Department of Surgery



Dr. Mark Nutley joined the Department of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery in November 2009 at the Peter Lougheed Centre. Dr. Nutley graduated with Honours, in 1992, from the University of Alberta, receiving his BSc. and in 1994 with a MSc. Degree in Neuroendocrinology. He was awarded his MD Degree from the University of Toronto and later came to Calgary to complete his General Surgery Residency and Vascular Surgery Fellowship with the University of Calgary. Prior to joining the Department of Surgery, Dr. Nutley was the Clinical Associate Professor of Vascular Surgery at the University of Laval with support for 50% time in clinical research in minimally invasive vascular surgery. Dr. Nutley has also done multiple mini-fellowships in laparoscopic aortic surgery and interventional Radiology in Quebec City and in the United States. He currently has joint appointments within the Division of Vascular Surgery and Interventional Radiology.

Photo: Provided by Dr. Mark Nutley



Dr. Fabio Ferri-de-Barros joined the Department Surgery, Division of Pediatric Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery in January 2010 and specializes in paediatrics/spine surgery at the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH). Currently, he acts as the Paediatric Spine Fellowship director for the ACH at the University of Calgary (UofC) and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of the Department of Surgery at the UofC. Dr. Ferri-de-Barros has trained in Brazil, the United States, Australia, Switzerland and Canada. He is currently completing a PhD with the University of Toronto, focusing on unmet needs of reconstructive surgical care for children in low to middle income countries. Married to his wife, Natalia, they have three children, Matteo, 8, Giovanna, 6 and Nicolas, 2.

Photo: Katie Fisher/2010



Dr. Mark Hardy joined the Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery in March 2010 with a key interest in Community Health Sciences and Global Surgery. He received his MSc from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. Much of Dr. Hardy's time as a General Surgeon will be spent working in third world countries to assist in the development of surgical services. He is married with three sons. His wife, Dr. Rose Goldstein, is the Vice President of Research at the University of Calgary. His youngest son is attending McGill University enrolled in the Science program, one is attending Film School in Vancouver, B.C and the oldest son also lives in Calgary with his family. Dr. Hardy recently returned from a work term in Africa, accompanied by his wife and one of his sons.

Photo: Provided by Dr. Mark Hardy



Dr. Shamir Chandarana joined the Department of Surgery, Division of Otolaryngology in August 2010. Dr. Chandarana recently completed two years as a fellow at the University of Michigan Health Systems in Ann Arbor, with a focus on Head and Neck Oncology and Reconstructive Surgery. He is also completing his Master's through the School of Public Health. As a clinical instructor at the University of Michigan, he provided mentorship to Head and Neck surgical oncology residents. Currently, Dr. Chandarana's research interests include evaluation of outcomes after surgical rehabilitation for composite defects in order to determine the efficacy of free tissue transfer in the head and neck. He is also involved in investigating the role of biomarkers as they may relate to survival in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma. Dr. Chandarana moved to Calgary with his wife, they are expecting their first child in less than a month.

Photo: Provided by Dr. Shamir Chandarana

NEW RESIDENTS FOR 2010 - 2011

**There are
23 new
residents
joining the
Department
of Surgery
this year.
We welcome
you.**



R1

Uthman Aluthman
Cardiac Surgery
King Khalid University



R1

Chris Blackmore
General Surgery
University of Alberta



R1

Jevon Brown
Plastic Surgery
University of Calgary



R1

Tristan Camus
Orthopaedic Surgery
Dalhousie University



R1

Deiter Fritz
Otolaryngology Surgery
University of Saskatchewan



R1

Devon Jones
Dentistry
Dalhousie University



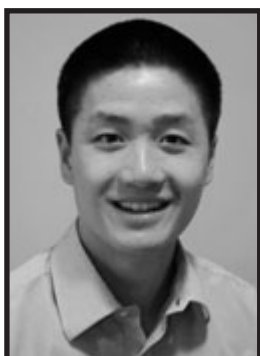
R1

Ewen Jones
Orthopaedic Surgery
McGill University



R1

Michaela Kopka
Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Toronto



R1

Michael Kwan
General Surgery
University of Calgary



R1

Lisa Lagrou
Ophthalmology
University of Ottawa



R1

Holly Mewhort
Cardiac Surgery
University of Alberta

NEW RESIDENTS FOR 2010 - 2011



R1

Adam Muzychuk
Ophthalmology
University of Calgary



R1

Richard Ng
Orthopaedic Surgery
University of British Columbia



R1

Julia O'Keefe
General Surgery
McGill University



R1

Derrick Randall
Otolaryngology
University of British Columbia



R1

Heather Stuart
General Surgery
University of British Columbia



R1

Hisham Sultan
General Surgery
University of Cairo



R1

Ricky Suri
Dentistry
Boston University



R1

Elizabeth Tobola
General Surgery
University of Ottawa



R1

Sharma Vishal
Plastic Surgery
University of Calgary



R1

David Weatherby
Orthopaedic Surgery
Dalhousie University



R1

Joan Wheat-Hozak
Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Calgary



R1

Hyea Min Yoon
General Surgery
Queen's University

2010 FELLOWS

**There are
23 Fellows
beginning
their
fellowships
in 2010.**



Dr. Nabil Alassaf
12 month **Pediatric Spine**
Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Hani Alsulaimany
12 month **Trauma** Fellowship
beginning January 2010.



Dr. Abdullah Alzahrani
16 month **Joint Reconstruction/Conservative Hip** Fellowship beginning in March 2010.



Dr. Jeff Dawes
12 month **Mohs Micrographic Surgery** Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Shaun Deen
24 month **Thoracic Surgery**
Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Charbel Fawaz
12 month **Combined Spine**
Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Ravindra Gudena
12 month **Joint Reconstruction**
Fellowship beginning August 2010.



Dr. Sumit Gupta
12 month **Pediatric Orthopaedic** Fellowship beginning August 2010.



Dr. Libusa Hackenbergova
12 month **Pediatric Ophthalmology** Fellowship beginning in February 2010.



Dr. Amre Hamdi
12 month **Hand and Wrist**
Fellowship beginning September 2010.



Dr. Pamela Hebbard
24 month **General Surgical Oncology** Program beginning July 2010.

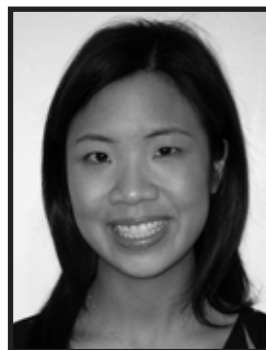
2010 FELLOWS



Dr. Santa Heede
12 month **Pediatric Ophthalmology** Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Andrew Kirker
4 month **Retina** Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Kathy Lee
24 month **General Surgical Oncology** Program beginning July 2010.



Dr. Hamish Love
12 month **Arthroscopy** Fellowship beginning July 2010.



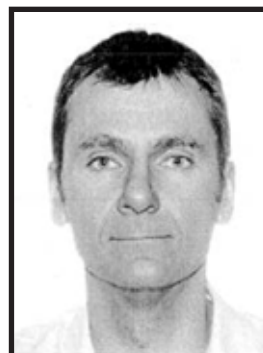
Dr. Sachin Mahajan
12 month **Combined Spine** Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Jean-Francois Oulette
12 month **Trauma** Fellowship beginning in August 2010.



Dr. Jonathon Parkinson
12 month **Combined Spine** Fellowship beginning in February 2010.



Dr. George Roxin
24 month **Colorectal Surgery (Research)** Fellowship beginning July 2010.



Dr. Shadi Shihata
12 month **Combined Spine** Fellowship beginning in July 2010.



Dr. James Smith
12 month **Joint Reconstruction** Fellowship beginning in July 2010.

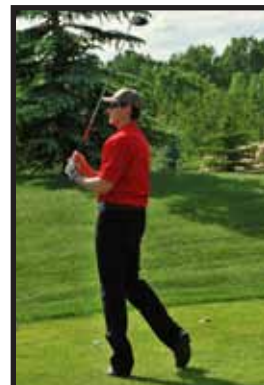


Dr. Ben Storey
12 month **Trauma** Fellowship beginning in July 2010.



Dr. Theodore Tosounidis
12 month **Trauma** Fellowship beginning in July 2010.

GOLFERS SWING AND PUTT FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



With warm weather and a bright, clear blue sky, more than 80 golfers joined the Department of Surgery to raise money for the Calgary Surgical Education and Research Trust at Lynx Ridge Golf Club on June 28, 2010.

The 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament saw golfers start their day with a hearty lunch, sponsored by **Dr. John Kortbeek**, comprised of hamburgers, fries and ceaser salad. After, it was off to the golf carts to prepare for a full afternoon of golf.

Played under the format of a Texas Scramble, golfers spent the afternoon participating in several contests. All golfers competed in: a ball in water draw, a ball closest to barber pole, a short drive, a ball in the sand draw, a long drive, a long putt, a closest to pin and a hole-in-one contest.

Unfortunately, due to the slight breeze, no one drove home with the Lone Star Mercedes, which had been made possible by **John Sweeney** for the hole-in-one con-

test. Special thanks to **Christine Bourgeois** for her work in finding a sponsor for the hole-in-one contest.

Golf bags, funny stories and appetites in tow, participants gathered at the clubhouse, after five hours of golfing, to enjoy dinner together and to get out of the hot sun. Golfers dined on prime rib, chicken, corn-on-the-cob and salad. **Dr. Gary Gelfand** was MC for the evening, responsible for announcing the winners of the day.

Both the Department of Surgery and the Calgary Surgical Education and Research Trust would like to thank the tournament sponsors for contributing to this year's golf tournament, making it a huge success. As of June 28, the Calgary Surgical Education and Research Trust had raised \$7,600 with donations still coming in. If you are interested in sponsoring or participating in next year's 8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, please visit the Department of Surgery website or contact the Department for more information.



Dr. Ian Anderson gets down to play pool at the putting contest.

Results

First:	Nick Mohtadi Ralph Strother Ken Laidlaw Preston Wiley
Second:	Paul Salo Brian Burkart Mike Kirker John Berlett
Most Honest:	Laurie Wallace Elaine De Heuval Estrella Bulloch David Sigalet
Putting Contest:	Adrian Harvey
Sand Draw:	Paul McBeth
Water Draw:	Paul Cante
Barber Pole:	Brett Holmes
Short Drive:	Rob Harrop

Men

Long Putt:	Ken Laidlaw
Long Drive:	Brett Holmes
Closest to Pin:	Bill Kidd

Women

Long Putt:	Anita Jenkins
Long Drive:	Prism Schneider
Closest to Pin:	Julie Leal

Photos: Katie Fisher/2010

ORTHOPAEDIC RESIDENT RETURNS FROM PROGRAM AT HARVARD



Photo: Katie Fisher/2010

Dr. Luke Harmer recently returned from volunteer work in Angola.

Dr. Luke Harmer, a fourth year resident with the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Calgary (UofC) recently graduated from the Surgeon Scientist Program (SSP) in July 2010.

Dr. Harmer completed a course-based program at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, through the SSP. With the assistance of the SSP through funding, he received his masters in public health with a concentration on international health.

With an intention to better understand how the academic, global health and international surgery worlds thought and interacted, he left for Boston and “expected international surgery to be a well defined branch of academia,” Dr. Harmer said. “What I found is that while global health is becoming better defined, surgery has yet to find its niche within the broad global health agenda,” he said.

The course based program took a year to complete and taught him how the global health infrastructure in the world works. He learned how multi-lateral government bodies, unilateral bodies and private bodies interacted and how surgery is beginning to interact with the larger global health effort.

“There’s far more [to global health] than I thought there was,” Dr. Harmer said.

Before returning to Calgary, Dr. Harmer also learned to value the multiple global health organizations and their important role in providing quality surgical care.

“They have a sort of coordinated effort and they have infrastructure there that could allow surgery to happen,” he said.

Following his time spent at Harvard, Dr. Harmer believes that global health has been largely defined by the infectious disease subspecialty. All of this, however, has changed now that “trauma is the third highest cause of disability adjusted life years lost internationally,” he said.

“With trauma becoming more prevalent, there’s more and more of a role for surgeons in the broad global health agenda,” he said.

Global health and international surgery have been interests of Dr. Harmer for a long time. Prior to entering medical school, he became a Short Term Associate Volunteer with the Evangel Hospital, a small mission hospital, in Jos, Nigeria. Dr. Harmer spent two months with the Evangel Hospital in order to assist in providing medical care to patients. In Jos, he began to understand what surgery in a lower-middle income country looks like while gaining medical experience.

“Surgeons are interested but there’s not a system to provide the surgical care.”

-Dr. Luke Harmer
Orthopaedic Resident

“There is a lot of surgical disease in the world that is neglected just for the lack of people interested or people trained to be able to help,” he said.

After his first year in medical school, Dr. Harmer left to join **Dr. Steve Foster** in Lubago, Angola as an Elective Student Volunteer. For five weeks he was involved with both humanitarian aid and clinical training.

“There are people out there who have very treatable surgical disease but there are not people to do the surgery,” Dr. Harmer said. “Surgeons are interested but also there’s not a system to provide the surgical care,” he said.

For now, Dr. Harmer continues with his studies at the UofC, researching “Extension bracing after total knee arthroplasty to prevent flexion contracture.” He is also working to publish some of his work from his course in Boston on “Clubfoot care in low and middle income countries: From clinical innovation to public health program,” in an orthopaedic journal.

Dr. Harmer continues to pursue public health and knows that, “learning about the health system and making the system amendable towards providing surgical care internationally is important,” he said.

“I’m excited to start taking what I learned in Boston from an academic point of view and start applying that to Orthopaedics,” Dr. Harmer said. And “starting to do some research looking at how Orthopaedics can be improved in low and middle income countries,” he said.

RESIDENT FOCUSES ON QUALITY OF CARE FOR CANCER PATIENTS



Photo: Katie Fisher/2010

Dr. Gitonga Munene will finish his two year fellowship in 2011.

As an extended resident within the division of Surgical Oncology, **Dr. Gitonga Munene** is an R7 with an interest in cancer treatment.

Born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Munene completed a General Surgery residency with the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. He is currently working on a two year Surgical Oncology fellowship through the University of Calgary (UofC) at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre.

He pursued a fellowship in surgical oncology because “there’s a lot of potential for improvement in the way we take care of cancer patients,” Dr. Munene said. “It’s an area that I think will always be exciting because of the technical and scientific challenges associated with this particular discipline,” he said.

Currently, Dr. Munene is performing clinical research on gastric cancer patients with a focus on quality of life and has been working on it for one year.

Gastric cancer patients do not do well, he said. “They don’t live long after surgery. In terms of guiding quick decision making, in terms of the patients and what to expect, that’s important,” he said.

“Quality of Life: The trajectory of gastric cancer,” has been worked on with the assistance of **Dr. Wesley Francis** and **Dr. Oliver Bathe**. It was presented at the BC Surgical Society/ Alberta Association of General Surgeons joint spring meeting in May 2010.

Contracted through various risk factors including genetic predisposition, chronic bacterial infection, geographic reasons and smoking, gastric cancer can be difficult to bounce back from after surgery if not monitored.

“My patients stand out because of the courage and resilience they all demonstrate during an admittedly difficult time in their lives.”

- Dr. Gitonga Munene
R7, Surgical Oncology

“Quality of life deteriorates up to three months after surgery and then improves with most patients maintaining a sustained quality of life,” Dr. Munene said.

Improved quality of life, with research, can be achieved through “better patient selection and an objective instrument to measure the gastric related quality of life that should be utilized during subsequent clinic visits,” he said.

Through his work as both a general surgery and surgical oncology resident, Dr. Munene has seen numerous success stories in regards to cancer patients. All of his patients, past and present, however, “stand out because of the courage and resilience they all demonstrate during an admittedly difficult time in their lives,” he said.

Working with cancer patients can be a difficult task for some but Dr. Munene stays focused on his job as a surgeon. “The goal of cancer treatment is to provide individualized treatment based on the most up to date multidisciplinary treatment regimens and abiding by the patients and their families wishes,” he said.

The main challenge that exists with Dr. Munene’s work regarding gastric cancer patient’s quality of care concerns research.

“It’s very tedious,” he said. “You have to get the data, compile it and then analyze it, it’s slow and tedious work,” he said.

What is the result of this tedious work? Dr. Munene achieves a personal gratification that he is working towards a stronger and better quality of life for cancer patients.

At the moment, Dr. Munene is also working on research concerning the treatment of pancreatic necrosis, sarcomatosis and trends in surgical care.

SPINE FELLOW RECEIVES AWARD FOR TRAUMATIC NEUROMA MODEL

For two years, **Dr. Jacob Alant**, a spine fellow, has been researching traumatic neuroma and its effect on rodents through injury. Recently, Dr. Alant presented his work at the third Annual Orthopaedic Fellows Research Symposium at the Calgary Winter Club in May 2010.

Traumatic neuroma is understood as a clinical injury to nerves that could cause motor function issues and sensory issues.

"Traumatic Neuroma in Continuity Injury Model in Rodents" was developed by Dr. Alant and colleagues in hopes of assisting surgeons in their understanding of nerve injury.

"It's a clinical problem that we encounter frequently," Dr. Alant said.

Traumatic neuroma is difficult to diagnose because the development of nerve damage is hard to notice at first. The injury, then, will not be looked at until later which can cause poor recovery outcomes, he said.

Research on nerve injury was tested on Lewis rat sciatic nerves but proved challenging because rodents are more resilient than humans, Dr. Alant said. "Rodents recover so quickly and so well that we couldn't get a parallel deficit afterwards," he said. Rodent nerves are shorter and thus, take less time to recover than a human's nerve.

Another issue that Dr. Alant encountered in his research was the evaluation of functional skills before and after nerve damage. This evaluation in people is easier than it is in rodents. "If you're handwriting should be a bit clumsier than before, you'd notice it," Dr. Alant said.

The rodents succumbed to injuries similar to the physical forces that are witnessed in clinical nerve injuries, he said. Rodents experienced poor functional recovery as expected with neuroma development in the rodents, he said.

The model is an ongoing project and is still going through some fine-tuning. Currently, Dr. Alant is "trying to standardize the model so that any lab would be able to reproduce it in a consistent way," he said.

Dr. Alant's model was one of 13 presentations made regarding spine, joint construction and trauma research. Three guest adjudicators were present that evening: **Dr. Charles Fisher**, Associate Professor of the University of British Columbia; **Dr. Carmen Brauer**, Assistant Professor of the University of Calgary (UofC); **Dr. Rob Harrop**, Clinical Associate Professor of the UofC.

The Annual Orthopaedic Fellows Research Symposium "serves as a soft deadline for data analysis and permits feedback to the investigators usually before manuscript submission," said **Dr. Jim Powell**, fellowship director.

Not only is the Symposium focused on research, it gives fellows and faculty an opportunity to mingle and get to know each other, Dr. Powell said. Those in attendance can listen to experts in research discuss components of their research design, he said.

Dr. Powell was in attendance at the Symposium and provided the opening remarks, closing remarks and the award presentations.

Speakers were judged on their presentations and those selected as the top three were awarded at the end. Dr. Alant placed first



Photo: Christine Fjaagesund / 2010

Dr. Charles Fisher with some of the Orthopaedic Fellows.

and received the Norman Schachar Research Award for his presentation.

Dr. Alant's selection "is special because it's another level of recognition that someone finds the efforts that I put into it useful," Dr. Alant said. "You never know with basic science research whether it's going to develop into anything useful," he said.

Second place was awarded to **Dr. Alexandre Denault** for his presentation on the "Evaluation of Mortality following an Odontoid Fracture in the Octogenarian Population." Third place was received by **Dr. Matthew Oliver** for his presentation on "Elevated Blood Metal Ions, should we be concerned? A Critical Analysis of the Outliers from the ABJHI Hip Resurfacing Database."

Dr. Jacob Alant



Married with four children, **Dr. Jacob Alant** is a spine fellow who completed his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) and Master of Medicine (MMed) through Pretoria University Medical School in South Africa.

Born and raised in South Africa, Dr. Alant's early work in the medical field began upon graduating from High School. His ability to write, speak and read both the English and Afrikaans language made his work possible in South Africa.

It was not until 2008 that Dr. Alant moved to Canada and became a permanent resident. Following his immigration, he completed a Peripheral Nerve Fellowship and a Spinal Surgery Fellowship in Calgary.

Aside from his presentation at the third Annual Orthopaedic Fellows Research Symposium, Dr. Alant won an award for Best Oral Poster in the basic science category at the eighth Annual AOSNA Spine Fellows Forum for his poster and podium on "Neuroma in continuity: a new nerve injury model."

As of July 2010, Dr. Alant will be doing a locum in the Department of Neurosurgery, followed by an MSc in Neurosciences.

"I hope to continue working in academic neurosurgery in Canada with the opportunity to continue my research interests and clinical work," Dr. Alant said.

Photo: Katie Fisher / 2010

IN MEMORY OF OUR COLLEAGUES

Dr. Lorne Isaac Mitchell died peacefully on September 7, 2009. He was an icon of urologic surgery and likely the world's longest practicing urologist. Dr. Mitchell practiced for just over 45 years. He was a graduate of Queen's University in 1942 and the last man left standing from his class. Following an internship in Hamilton and a posting at the Currie Barracks in Calgary, Dr. Mitchell returned to Queen's University, with his bride Agnes, to train with Dr. Berry. Upon completion of his training, Dr. Mitchell returned to Calgary and was one of the first urologists in the city. He was one of three urologists who, in 2007, were honoured by the Department of Surgery with a Distinguished Service Award for his dedication in establishing and practicing urology within Calgary. Dr. Mitchell was the President of the Calgary Medical Society from 1959 – 1960, and remained an active member. He was also active in the Prairie Urological Society. In the early years of his medical work, he would travel to outlying hospitals with his instruments in the trunk of his car to assist other communities. In these situations, he would often administer the spinal anaesthetic himself before proceeding with surgery. He had excellent judgement and skill when it came to his work and because of this the funeral homes always gave him cigars, never turkey. In those days, at Christmas, funeral homes would give surgeon's turkey if they provided the homes with lots of business that year and cigars if they gave the homes little to no business. As a result, there were plenty of cigars around the Mitchell's home and rarely a Christmas turkey. Many of his patients can still be seen throughout his son's practice a true testament to his judgement and skill.

• **Contributed by Dr. Philip Mitchell**

Dr. John A. Williams passed away on October 14, 2009. He was a Urologist who was known by his family, friends and colleagues as Jack. In 1955, he graduated from the medical program at the University of Alberta. Following his graduation, Jack married his wife, Joyce, and acted as the house doctor for the Banff Springs Hotel. He went on to complete a year of surgical training at the Calgary General Hospital in preparation for a three and a half year mission, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in Jobat, India. In India, Jack ran a 100 bed hospital and performed many surgeries, some that he had not trained for but did for the first time on his own. Some of the work he was responsible for included: General Surgery, Medicine, Obstetrics and Cataracts. He is likely the only Urologist who performed a cataract operation. When he was not working in the hospital, he assisted a nursing school through teaching or spent time with his wife learning Hindi. It was not until his time in India that he found his calling in Urology. After India, Jack completed a Urology residency in Vancouver before returning to Calgary. During his work in Calgary, he took time to venture to Minnesota to learn renal transplantation. He then implemented the Renal Transplant Program at the Foothills Medical Centre. Jack was known for his skill and dedication to his patients. Many knew him as the nicest man on earth. He retired from his work in 1999.

• **Contributed by Dr. Geoff Williams**

Dr. Aubrey Hayes passed away May 14, 2010. Born in Ireland, he studied medicine at University College Dublin and did not come to Canada until 1964 where he started a practice in Ophthalmology. Upon arriving in Calgary he obtained some medical privileges at the Calgary General Hospital. He stayed active in his practice in Ophthalmology and was well respected for his work and how he ran his office. He was a pleasant man to be around and was well liked by his patients. He loved his work as an Ophthalmologist and continued to work until he could not work anymore.

• **Contributed in part by Dr. Robert Gordon**

Dr. John Hunter died May 20, 2010. He was an Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Rockyview, Foothills and Alberta Children's Hospitals. After completing his medical training at the University of Alberta, he went on to do residencies in Montreal, Philadelphia and Toronto. Upon completion of his fellowship, Dr. Hunter returned to Calgary and set up his own orthopaedic practice in 1965. When the FMC opened in 1966, he was one of the first four Orthopaedic Surgeons to join the hospital medical staff. He practiced general orthopaedics, trauma and especially enjoyed paediatric orthopaedics. Dr. Hunter was an Assistant Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Calgary and was always supportive of his residents. He took a personal interest in his patients immediate and long term care. Dr. Hunter was the team doctor for the Canadian Ski Teams, often accompanying them to National and International events. Dr. Hunter, an athlete himself, enjoyed and participated in skiing and old timers hockey up until his early retirement, due to medical reasons. He will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

• **Contributed by Dr. Kelly de Souza and Dr. Joe Fairbanks**

RENE LAFRENIERE LECTURESHIP

Alberta Health Services & University of Calgary



Dr. Rene Lafreniere, served as Head of the Department of Surgery from 1993 until 2006.

Dear Alumnus,

To recognize Dr. Rene Lafreniere's 13 years of outstanding leadership as Department Head, the Rene Lafreniere Lectureship was established in 2007. A surgeon, recognized for his or her achievements, is invited to deliver this lecture, and is asked to participate in postgraduate educational activities while in Calgary. We were fortunate to have Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld deliver the fourth Lafreniere Lecture this year. For more information about Dr. Wirtzfeld, please read the article on page 6 of this newsletter, "Lafreniere Lecture Examines Success Through Control."

In 2007, seed money toward the lectureship was made available by the Alberta Health Services and the University of Calgary. Our goal is to make this endeavour self-sustaining. Please consider a directed donation toward this effort. A tax receipt will be issued and your name will appear on a list of donors. You would, of course, be notified in advance of the annual lecture date and be welcome to attend the lecture.

We are now in the process of searching for our next lecturer. Preference will be given to Calgary Surgical Alumni. Forward any suggestions to me at heinej@shaw.ca

Sincerely,

John A. Heine, MD, FRCSC
Chair, Lafreniere Lectureship Committee

Editors: Marie McEachern, Christine Bourgeois and Katie Fisher
Department of Surgery

Publishers: Dr. John Kortbeek
Head of the Department of Surgery
Dr. John Heine
Chair, Lafreniere Lectureship Committee,
Department of Surgery

Mailing Address: Foothills Medical Centre
1403 - 29th Street N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 2T9
(403) 944 - 1697
christine.bourgeois@albertahealthservices.ca

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Shelley Vandervelde, MPA, www.svpphotography.com



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