

THE BLADE

Department of Surgery Alumni Newsletter
Issue 5: September 2011

Together, Leading and Creating Excellence in Surgical Care



ALUMNI LECTURE EXAMINES QUALITY OF SURGICAL EDUCATION



ALUMNI LECTURE begins on page 8

Photos provided by Dr. Marcia Clark

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Message from Dr. Kortbeek

Welcome to the fifth edition of The Blade. We were privileged to host Dr. Marcia Clark at this year's Lafreniere Lecture. Dr. Clark spoke eloquently on the continued evolution of surgical training. In addition to running the Core Surgical Skills Program and practicing as a busy arthroplasty Surgeon, she is still able to enjoy other pursuits including her interest in search and rescue. It was a pleasure to meet Dr. Clark during her Fellowship year and we are proud to include her as a member of our Distinguished Alumni.

The tremendous work of our faculty continues. Some significant highlights over the past year in research include the development of the Ohlson Research Centre led by Dr. Joe Dort in the Section of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and the Prostate Research Centre developed and led by Dr. Bryan Donnelly within the Western Canada Urologic Institute at the Rockyview General Hospital. Dr. Donnelly was further recognized for his contributions by being awarded the Faculty of Medicine Clinical Research Award. We offer him our sincere congratulations on this significant achievement.

We are pleased to present the future career plans of our graduates, many of whom are going on to seek additional Fellowship training as they embark upon their careers. We also extend a warm welcome to our new Residents. We are pleased that you have joined the Department of Surgery and the University of Calgary. You will be working with a team of outstanding Surgeons, many of whom are recognized international leaders in their field.

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



Dr. John Kortbeek
Head of the Department of Surgery

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.



2010/2011 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 Recognitions – June 2010 to June 2011

- ❖ **Dr. Bryan Donnelly** (Urology)
 - Awarded the Research (Clinical) Award by the University of Calgary - Faculty of Medicine
 - Recognizing significant achievements in clinical research in 2010
- ❖ **Dr. Richard Buckley** (Orthopaedics)
 - 2009/2010 Gold Star Award for teaching in Course II (MSK/Skin/ENT) from UME
 - Associate Dean's Letter of Excellence for teaching excellence in Course 2
- ❖ **Dr. Doug Johnson** (General Surgery)
 - Awarded the Silver Medal for Distinguished Service (29.5 hours direct teaching)
 - Curriculum Design, Implementation Committee and Course 6 Committee (Integrated Reproductive Medicine and Infant/Child Course)
- ❖ **Dr. Kenneth Romanchuk** (Ophthalmology)
 - Awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award by Lions International
- ❖ **Dr. Robert M. Hollinshead** (Orthopaedics)
 - Alberta Medical Association Award
 - Member Emeritus: in recognition of his significant contributions to the medical profession, seniority and long-term membership
- ❖ **Dr. Paul Petrasek** (Vascular)
 - PLC Physician Order of Merit Award
 - In the Financial Post for embarking on advanced education in physician leadership. He is pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Health Care Management at the Harvard School of Public Health which he hopes to complete this summer
- ❖ **Dr. Tony MacLean** (General Surgery)
 - 2009 PARA Clinical Teaching Award of Excellence
- ❖ **Dr. Vivian Hill** (Paediatric Surgery)
 - 2009/2010 Letters of Excellence Award for teaching in Course V (Neurosciences and Aging) from UME
- ❖ **Dr. Jacques Bouchard** (Orthopaedics)
 - Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Award of Merit
- ❖ **Drs. Michael E. Ashenurst and John T. Huang** (Ophthalmology) and **Dr. G. N. (Gerry) Kiefer** (Peds Orthopaedics)
 - Alberta Medical Association Award
 - Long Service Award for unselfish contributions of knowledge, skill and time to the advancement of the profession
- ❖ **Dr. Kevin Hildebrand** (Orthopaedics)
 - J. Edouard Samson Award for:
 - Research proposal, entitled "Post-traumatic Joint Contractures: Correlation between the Human Condition and an Animal Model, and Identification of a Potential Preventative Intervention"
 - Departments of Surgery and Medicine Research Development Fund/Award: \$12,500:
 - Project Title: "Evaluation of an evidence-informed care pathway for patients with hip fractures"
- ❖ **Dr. Shamir Chandarana** (Otolaryngology)
 - Completed a Masters in Public Health, University of Michigan
- ❖ **Dr. Paul Duffy** (Orthopaedics)
 - University of Calgary/Department of Surgery Research Prize (2010) - \$75,000
- ❖ **Dr. Cy Frank** (Orthopaedics)
 - AHFMR Senior Investigator Award/2 year term - \$420,000
- ❖ **Dr. Joseph Dort** (Otolaryngology)
 - Terry Fox Research Institute (Calgary site-PI) \$180,000.00
 - Fluorescent Visualization in Oral Cavity Carcinoma, 2011-2015
- ❖ **Dr. Wayne Rosen** (General Surgery)
 - Curriculum Development Leader/Unit Chair
 - Medical Skills Ethics in Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) for a 3 year term
 - Chair of the Undergraduate Medical Skills Course - University of Calgary
- ❖ **Dr. Beth Lange** (Otolaryngology)
 - Facility Chief Surgery – South Health Campus & Department Facility Chief RGH

Awards and Recognitions – Continued

- ❖ **Dr. Kelley deSouza** (Orthopaedics)
 - Facility Medical Director, Rockyview General Hospital and Member of the Alberta Clinician Council
- ❖ **Dr. Gary Gelfand** (Thoracics)
 - President of the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons
- ❖ Trauma Services - **Drs. Andrew Kirkpatrick** (General Surgery) and **Vincent Grant** (Paediatrics) and Ms. Chris Vis (Trauma Services)
 - Accredited for a 5-year Term
- ❖ **Dr. Adrian Harvey** (General Surgery)
 - Clerkship Evaluation Coordinator – Surgery in Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) for a 3 year term
- ❖ **Dr. David Sigalet** (Peds General Surgery)
 - Appointed as the Vice President of the World Federation of Associations of Paediatric Surgeons and will be the President in six years
- ❖ **Dr. Warren Loeppky** (Paediatric Dentistry)
 - Elected President of the Canadian Academy of Paediatric Dentistry
 - Examiner for the specialty of Paediatric Dentistry for The Royal College of Dentists of Canada
 - He has joined Drs. Marie-Claude Cholette and Robert Barsky who are existing Examiners within the Department
- ❖ **Dr. Elijah Dixon** (General Surgery)
 - Co Editor (Special Edition) and Charles M. Volmer Jr.
 - Intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm: Coming of age World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery. 2 (10): 299-305
- ❖ **Dr. Carmen Brauer** (Peds General Surgery)
 - CIHR grant in the Partnerships for Health System Improvement Competition
 - TITLE: An interdisciplinary collaboration to explore quality indicators in Paediatric orthopaedics
 - Co-Investigators: Dr. Antonia Stang, Dr. Henry Stelfox, Dr. William Ghali
- ❖ Congratulations to Cancer Surgery Alberta & WebSMR for receiving Canadian Health Informatics Association (COACH) Award for 'Innovation in the Adoption of Health Informatics'
- ❖ **Dr. John Graham** (General Surgery)
 - Rockyview General Hospital, Medical Staff Association President hosted the Rockyview General Hospital Medical Staff Association Annual General Meeting held June 14, 2011
- ❖ **Dr. Donald McPhalen** (Plastic Surgery) and **Dr. Douglas Johnson** (General Surgery)
 - Master Teachers in Undergraduate Medical Education Program - Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary
- ❖ 2011 Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) Office of Admission/Faculty of Medicine, 644 Applicants interviewed
- **Dr. Gary Gelfand** (Thoracics)
- **Dr. Doug Johnson** (General Surgery)
- **Dr. Eduardo Kalaydjian** (Dentistry & Oral Health)
- **Dr. Linda Mrkonjic** (Orthopaedics)
- **Dr. Rob Mulloy** (General Surgery)
- **Dr. Peter Wilkin** (Urology)
- ❖ Curriculum Design, Implementation Committee and Course 2 Committee (Integrated Musculoskeletal and Special Senses Course) awarded the Bronze Medal for Distinguished Service (12 hours direct teaching) to:
 - **Dr. Carmen Brauer** (Paediatric Orthopaedics)
 - **Dr. Richard Buckley** (Orthopaedics)
 - **Dr. Robert Chan** (Orthopaedics)
 - **Dr. Carol Hutchison** (Orthopaedics)
 - **Dr. Gerhard Kiefer** (General Surgery)
- ❖ 2010 Multiple Mini Interview – Office of Admissions – Faculty of Medicine wants to thank the following for their participation:
 - **Dr. R. Peter Wilkin** (Urology)
 - **Dr. David Sigalet** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Robert Mulloy** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Linda Cooper** (Ophthalmology)
 - **Dr. James Brookes** (Paediatric Otolaryngology)

Awards and Recognitions –Continued

- **Dr. Gary Gelfand** (Thoracic)
- **Dr. William de Haas** (Plastic Surgery)
- **Dr. Roger Cho** (Orthopaedics)
- ❖ Class of 2010 have nominated the following for the Gold Star Award for teaching in Surgery/Anesthesia:
 - **Dr. Hani Redwan** (General Surgery Resident)
 - **Dr. Jim Nixon** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. John Graham** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Kathryn Lanuke** (General Surgery Resident)
 - **Dr. John Heine** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Mantaj Brar** (Colorectal Surgery Fellow)
- ❖ Faculty of Medicine would like to thank the following for their teaching contributions:
Course 1: Introduction to Medicine, Gastrointestinal and Blood Multidisciplinary Unit
 - **Dr. Neal Church** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Rohan Lall** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Wayne Rosen** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Greg Abelseth** (Orthopaedics)
 - **Dr. Jacques Bouchard** (Orthopaedics)
 - **Dr. Vaughan Bowen** (Orthopaedics)
- ❖ Rockyview General Hospital PGY-1 Resident nominations for “Star Educator” Award:
 - **Dr. Lea Austen** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. John Graham** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Steve Martin** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Jeffrey Way** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Michael Dunham** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Robert Lui** (General Surgery)
 - **Dr. Neil Hagerman** (General Surgery)
- ❖ **Dr. Alicia Ponton-Carss**
 - Queen Elizabeth II Graduate (Doctoral) Scholarship
 - Completed her PhD in Medical Education with emphasis in Surgical Education, entitled “Assessment of Surgical Skills and Four CanMEDS Competencies Simultaneously: A Psychometric Study of a Surgical Education Program”
- ❖ **Dr. Justin LeBlanc**
 - Successful completion of a Masters of Science in Education (Surgeon Scientist Program) with **Dr. Hu** - Engineering, **Dr. Hutchison** – Surgery in Orthopaedic Simulation
- ❖ **Dr. Doug Johnson** (General Surgery)
 - Accepted into the Master Teachers Program

Congratulations to all faculty members
for your outstanding service to the
Department of Surgery.

Orthopaedic Fellows Research Continues to Impress at Fourth Annual Research Symposium

The Fourth Annual Fellows Research Symposium was held on May 4th, 2011, and as always, it provided a great opportunity for the Orthopaedic Fellows to get together to share their research. This year's symposium was held at the Calgary Winter Club, and consisted of presentations by the Orthopaedic Fellows, a dinner and an awards presentation. The symposium, which is organized by **Dr. Jim Powell**, occurs once a year to provide a forum for Orthopaedic Fellows to present the research they undertake while training at the University of Calgary. It has traditionally been well attended and supported by the faculty, continuing to be very successful and popular among the Section of Orthopaedics.

Every year a guest adjudicator is brought in for the symposium along with two local adjudicators. **Dr. Emil Schemitsch** from the University of Toronto was the guest adjudicator for this year's symposium. In addition to being a Professor at the University of Toronto, Dr. Schemitsch is the Head of the Section of Orthopaedic Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Linda Mrkonjic, Clinical Assistant Professor at the UofC, and **Dr. Ganesh Swamy**, Clinical Assistant

Professor at the UofC, were the local adjudicators for the evening. This year's symposium included presentations from 15 Orthopaedic Fellows, with **Dr. Schemitsch** also presenting throughout the evening.

The symposium began with a welcome and introduction from **Dr. Norman Schachar**, Orthopaedic Education Director. Fellows then gave their 10 minute presentations on their latest research. After the presentations, the adjudicators began their deliberation.

• The Norman Schachar Research Award, 1st Place Prize was presented to **Dr. Ravindra Gudena**, joint reconstruction Fellow, for his research studies to determine the optimum position of an Acetabular Component in Hip Resurfacing Arthroplasty, a type of hip replacement that replaces the arthritic surface of the joint but removes far less bone than the traditional total hip

replacements.

• The 2nd place Research Prize went to **Dr. James Smith**, joint reconstruction Fellow, for his research focused on the size of bearing surface influencing metal ion levels in large head metal on metal total hip Arthroplasty.

• The 3rd place Research Award went to **Dr. Charbel Fawaz**, combined spine Fellow, for his research on the risk factors for clinically significant non-unions (when a broken bone fails to heal, it is called a non-union) in Hangman's Fractures.

With the success of the Fourth Annual Fellows Research Symposium, next year's symposium is currently being planned. The symposium will take place on May 9th, 2012. Congratulations to all the Orthopaedic Fellows for their outstanding research this year. Best of luck to you in your future medical careers.



From left to right; Dr. James Powell, Dr. Emil Schemitsch, Dr. Linda Mrkonjic, Dr. Norman Schachar and Dr. Ganesh Swamy.



The Orthopaedic Fellows gathered on May 4th, 2011, at the Calgary Winter Club to present their latest research. A dinner and awards ceremony followed the presentations. Next year's symposium will be held on May 9th.

Photos Courtesy of Christine Fjaagesund

Resident Developing New Device to Manage Diabetic Foot Disease

The Department of Surgery Residency Program is known for having some very bright individuals, and though these keen thinkers are just entering into the profession of medicine, their desire to improve and innovate never ceases to stop.

While completing her first year of Residency under the Section of Plastic Surgery, **Dr. Breanne Everett** founded a company called Orpyx Inc., with advisors; **Dr. Duncan Nickerson** and **Dr. Robert Bray**. Orpyx Inc. is a company focused on the development of the SurroGait Insole, a medical device designed to help manage diabetic foot disease.

"I really wanted to get involved in a project that I really had my heart in," Dr. Everett said. "I thought of the idea for the insole and wanted to see it through to the very end. That's when I approached Dr. Nickerson about it, and he thought it was a good idea, so we founded Orpyx Inc.," she continued. "Everyone has been supportive of me through this entire process."

The SurroGait Insole, which is currently in development, was envisioned by Dr. Everett as a device that will be able to give people with diabetic foot disease (Peripheral Neuropathy) the ability to see where the pressure points on their feet are, and adapt to their condition.

Dr. Everett says she plans on introducing a feedback system that will allow the user to see where the pressure points are on their feet, and will be notified by a device when a sensor detects an excess of pressure in a certain area.

"About seven per cent of the North American population will be affected by diabetes in their lives," she said. "About half of those will develop Peripheral Neuropathy, which would cause them to lose sensation in the nerves in their feet."

With such a large portion of the population at risk of losing feeling in their feet, Dr. Everett says that it becomes more critical for people to look at possible ways of managing their condition. The problem with Peripheral Neuropathy, as Dr. Everett explained, is that people experience a dysfunction of the nerves in their feet,



Dr. Breanne Everett, who completed year two of her Plastic Surgery Residency this year, will take her Master's Degree in Business Management starting September, 2011

leading to a lack of supplied blood to that area, and eventually the brain receives no feedback from the nerves.

"That's what the SurroGait is designed to assist," Dr. Everett said. "It's basically an insole that fits inside your shoe with pressure sensors that relay information to a feedback device that lets the patient know when they are putting too much pressure on their feet. They can re-train their minds to 'feel' their feet again."

Dr. Nickerson says that the SurroGait Insole may be an effective way of trying to give patients with Neuropathy a defense against complications, including amputation. "When Dr. Everett first approached me, I thought it was a very unique idea," Dr. Nickerson said. "I introduced her to Dr. Robert Bray, who works with innovative devices, and has a lot of connections that could help get this thing going. Now that we're underway, we're looking at getting a prototype up and running soon so we can begin our clinical trials at the Sheldon Chumir."

The Orpyx Inc. team privately fundraised the money to begin development of the insole. Dr. Everett says the cycle time for start up fundraising for the project was at least twice as fast as trying to obtain CIHR support for the venture.

Also involved with this project were: **Mr.**

Kip Fyfe, Electrical Engineer and former President of Dynastream, developer of the Nike Running Monitor, and **Mr. Marcel Groenland**, Engineer.

Dr. Everett realizes that bringing the SurroGait Insole from an idea to finished product will require a significant amount of time, as well as management expertise.

Since she has taken the role of CEO of Orpyx, Dr. Everett feels that it is in the company's best interest that she earns her Master's Degree in Business Management.

Dr. Everett finished her second of five years of Residency training this year, and is now enrolled in the Haskayne's Executive MBA program at the University of Calgary from August 2011 to April 2013.

Haskayne's Business program would allow Dr. Everett to bring a very unique background to her future surgical practice. "If there is one thing a Medical Degree does not give you, it's how to effectively and efficiently manage a business," Dr. Everett said.

Upon completing her Master's Degree, she will return to her Residency, and resume working on the SurroGait Insole.

Plans are being made for Dr. Everett's SurroGait Insole to be studied in clinical trials at the Sheldon Chumir Health Centre, in order to monitor its effectiveness in reducing the complications of neuropathy.

Alumni Lecture Discusses Future of Surgical Education in Canada



Dr. Marcia Clark, Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, and Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta

Photos courtesy of Dr. Marcia Clark

Dr. Marcia Clark, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Alberta, and Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, was the guest speaker at the 2011 Alumni Lecture.

Dr. Clark completed her Undergraduate Degree at the University of New Mexico and her Medical Degree at the University of Calgary followed by Orthopaedic Residency training at the University of Alberta.

Additionally, she is an active member of the Canadian Alpine Ski Team Medical group, providing care for athletes and support staff at the national and international level. Dr. Clark was a member of the Alpine Rescue Team during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

In her lecture, Dr. Clark discussed the role of surgery education today, and how it has changed over the years, for better or worse. Her presentation, *Shifting Sands – The Future of Surgical Education in Canada*, delivered some thought provoking arguments about the quality and delivery of surgical education in Alberta.

The goal of her lecture was to introduce the argument that surgical education, and its delivery have changed over the last 20 years. Dr. Clark noted in her presentation that there is still denial that the environment that surgical education is delivered in has changed. Though we have adapted to the changing environment, there is still potential to adapt the methods of teaching, and the environment the teaching is delivered in.

The two primary objectives of Dr. Clark's lecture were: to describe the paradigm shift that is occurring in surgical education in Canada today and to provide an introduction to the solutions to meet the new challenges in surgical education.

"I wanted to educate the department about the shift that is going on in the education of new Surgeons," Dr. Clark said. "But more than that, I wanted them to leave my lecture with even more questions."

Dr. Clark raised a number of important points in her presentation:

- Are we training new Surgeons to be 'good enough,' and meet the minimum standard or are we training them to excel

at what they do?

- Are we incorporating the importance of communication among team members in the training of Surgeons? Dr. Clark said in her presentation that communication failures among team members are central to most medical mishaps - a reality that affects many thousands of medical personnel every year.

The Canadian Adverse Events study conducted in 2004 found that adverse events occurred in 7.9% of hospital admissions, 37% of which were preventable through better communication.

- With the ever expanding complexities in our patient population, and the rapid increase of new information, how do we best assist learners in comprehending this?

Dr. Clark's examination of the education process, and the emphasis of teaching the three domains of learning: knowledge, motor skills, and professional attitudes, provided a look at the importance of balancing the different domains in the education of new Surgeons.

"The problem," Dr. Clark said "is that the

Alumni Lecture Continued

training of a Surgeon is very time-based. Most programs in North America are five years long, and they have been that way for 30 years now. But the content in the programs have changed, the learners have changed, and the complexity of patient conditions have changed."

Her concern for the changing surgical education environment stems partially from her time as a Resident. Dr. Clark recalls her Residency training as having "a host of competencies and capabilities to focus on."

Dr. Clark recognizes that surgical education needs to focus on teamwork and formal simulations.

"I would definitely like to see more simulations done in a more formal way," Dr. Clark said. "Simulation offers richness and depth that a lecture simply cannot offer."

Dr. Clark has been actively involved in educating Surgeons for three years, and understands that not only is the environment in which surgical education is facilitated in has changed, but also those who are being trained, the students, are changing as well. Their needs are different than those of previous years, and the teaching methods and structure of the programs need modifications to accommodate the changes in medicine and technology over the years.

"We're seeing a highly driven and highly motivated group of people in our programs," Dr. Clark said. "But we are seeing a number of challenges for both Residents and Surgeons arise – and they need to be addressed."

"*Shifting Sands – The Future of Surgical Education in Canada*," examined how the learners have changed over the years. Dr. Clark said in her presentation that the average age of a medical student in 2007 was 25, and 64.5% of those students were women. Almost half of all medical students at the time of the study had already completed six years of post-secondary education prior to entering the medical field.

Dr. Clark also noted that over 33% of students graduated their medical

programs with a debt exceeding \$80,000.

"Statistics like those cannot be ignored," Dr. Clark said. "It is vital that we as educators try to understand the demands of our students, and accommodate our

"We're seeing a highly driven and highly motivated group of people in our programs, but we are seeing a number of challenges for both Residents and Surgeons arise – and they need to be addressed."

–Dr. Marcia Clark

programs around that."

"One big change that's been ongoing in surgery is the shift to working in a team, rather than working as an individual. Patients are no longer cared for by a lead physician, but are rather taken care of by the entire team."

Adapting to these changes is paramount to the success of future Surgeons. By providing clear goals and objectives, employing a rigorous assessment of the learners, providing competency-based medical education that is outcome focused, and utilizing a broad array of simulations for students, the changing learning environment can be better dealt with.

"I see our education system changing within the next 10 years, which will be beneficial to everyone," she said. "There are consequences to the current delivery of surgical education that we need to be ready to address – but we can definitely get there."

As her lecture concluded, Dr. Clark believed her goal of making everyone think about the quality of surgical education in Alberta was met.

"People often don't know that there's a problem unless you bring it to their attention," she explained. "I brought this to their attention, and now that everybody understands the problem, we can start working on a solution."



Dr. Marcia Clark is an Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Alexandria Hospital



Dr. Clark was a member of the Alpine Rescue Team during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics



Dr. Clark and another rescuer were lifted up to the rescue helicopter above during training



During her training for the Alpine Rescue Team, Dr. Clark learned the importance of teamwork and working under pressure

Photos Courtesy of Dr. Marcia Clark

Resident and Fellow's Research Continues to Impress at Surgeons' Day



As judges, **Dr. Richard Buckley** and **Dr. James Bain** said during the morning symposium, "The 29th Annual Surgeons' Day showcased some of the finest research the Department of Surgery has ever seen." The research presentations were held at the Auditorium on the fourth floor in the Alberta Children's Hospital, June 24, 2011. The Annual Research Symposium provides Residents and Fellows from the Department of Surgery with a forum to present and discuss their research.

Dr. Richard Buckley and guest judge Dr. James Bain from McMaster University were invited to judge the research presentations, and participate in an open forum to discuss the latest research by the bright minds of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Buckley is the Head of Orthopaedic Trauma at the Foothills Medical Centre, University of Calgary. Dr. Buckley has over 16 years of caring for trauma patients, and has served 15 of those years as the Program Director for the Orthopaedic Residency Training Program. Dr. Bain is a Professor in the Section of Plastic Surgery at McMaster University. He has been the Program Director of Plastic Surgery at McMaster for four years. He currently serves as the Associate Chair of Research, Department of Surgery, McMaster University.

The symposium was broken into four sessions, each run by a sessional moderator. **Dr. Earl Campbell** (Plastic Surgery,) **Dr. Paul Beaudry** (Peds General Surgery,) **Dr. James Brookes** (Peds Otolaryngology,) and **Dr. May Lynn Quan** (General Surgery) were this year's sessional moderators.

Their responsibilities included: introducing the speakers and their research topics, monitoring time limits and inviting questions from the judges and audience.

There were 22 Residents and Fellows on-hand to present their research at the symposium, as well as presentations from the judges, Drs. Buckley and Bain.

The symposium was made up of a wide variety of presentation topics including; "Optimal position of acetabular component in hip resurfacing. A finite



The Surgeons' Day Awards and Dinner evening was held at Gasoline Alley at Heritage Park

element analysis study," "The impact of trauma centre care on cost effectiveness and utility following severe lower extremity injuries" and "Cardiovascular fitness and mortality following contemporary cardiac rehabilitation."

The symposium was not limited to research presentations by Fellows and Residents. **Dr. Rob Harrop** (Plastic Surgery) introduced Dr. Buckley's presentation for the McMurtry Lecture, entitled "There is no 'I' in Team." **Dr. Duncan Nickerson** (Plastic Surgery) introduced Dr. Bain's presentation for the McPhedran Lecture, entitled "Where is the evidence? Advocating resources through research."

Dr. John Kortbeek (Department Head) presented the **Dr. Peter Cruse Memorial Award** to **Dr. Michael Opoku-Darko**, Medical Student at the UofC who placed first with "Tumour endothelial marker 8 over-expression in breast cancer cells enhances tumour growth and metastasis."

Dr. Duncan Nickerson led the poster review, which showcased Resident research in the form of posters. Dr. Nickerson guided the McMurtry and McPhedran Judges (Dr. Buckley and Dr. Bain) through each poster and a brief presentation led by the Resident or Fellow who conducted the research.

Following a full day of presentations, Surgeons, Fellows, Residents, Department Members and guests showed up to Gasoline Alley at Heritage Park dressed in Western attire to celebrate the

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

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to **Dr. Dale Birdsell** (Plastic Surgery) of ACH, **Dr. Walley Temple** (Surgical Oncology) of FMC, the late **Dr. Reg Harse** (Urology) of PLC and the late **Dr. Ted Elliot** (Urology) of RGH.

Educator of the Year was awarded to **Dr. Jason Werle** (Orthopaedics) and Ectopic Educator of the Year was awarded to **Dr. Randy Moore** (Vascular Surgery.)

Drs. Brad Mechor (Otolaryngology,) **Fionna Costello**, **Yves Starreveld** and **Shelly Bhayana**, members of the P.I.T.N.E.T. Team were presented with the Surgical Innovation award.

There were four categories in Resident research. Best overall research was awarded to **Dr. Herman Johal** for his research on "The impact of trauma centre care on cost effectiveness and utility following severe lower extremity injuries" Honourable Mention for Overall Research was presented to **Dr. Brendan O'Neill** for his research on "Active abducted and weighted abducted radiograph views." Best research by a Surgical Fellow was awarded to **Dr. Billie-Jean Martin**, for her research on "Cardiovascular fitness and mortality following contemporary cardiac rehabilitation." Best Poster was presented to **Dr. Paul McBeth** for "Internet-based, Remote, Tele-Mentored, FAST and EFAST Ultrasonography."

Surgeons' Day Award Winners



Dr. Dale Birdsell was the award winner of the Distinguished Service Award for ACH. Dr. Birdsell earned his M.D. in 1961 at the University of Alberta, and completed residencies at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital and the St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Dr. Birdsell currently acts as a Clinical Professor of Surgery for the Section of Plastic Surgery at the Foothills Medical Centre. Dr. Birdsell is a member of the Plastic Surgery Education Foundation, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and the American Association of Plastic Surgeons among others.



Dr. Walley Temple was the award winner of the Distinguished Service Award for FMC. Dr. Temple received his M.D. in 1970 at the Queen's University School of Medicine, Kingston, Ontario. He completed his General Surgery Residency at the University of Manitoba, and completed a Fellowship with the American Cancer Society at the University of Miami. Dr. Temple currently sits as the Section Chief for Surgical Oncology, Calgary Zone. He has won many distinguished awards in the past, including the Smith Distinguished Achievement Award, University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine, in 2005, and the Best Doctor (Canada) Award in 2007. He is admired by his peers for his dedication to his profession and love for medicine.



Dr. Ted Elliot was the award winner of the Distinguished Service Award for RGH. The Department of Surgery is saddened to have announced the loss of Dr. Elliot on May 5th, 2009. Dr. Elliot began his surgical practice in Urology in Calgary in 1982. He completed most of his Urology training at the University of Alberta. Dr. Elliot completed a Fellowship in Oncology at Indiana University. He was the Section Chief for Urology for 10 years, from 1988 to 1998. Dr. Elliot will be remembered for his work behind the scenes and for his dedication to the Section of Urology. The award was accepted on behalf of his family.



Dr. Reg Harse was the award winner of the Distinguished Service Award for PLC. The Department of Surgery is saddened to have announced the loss of Dr. Harse on October 14, 2004. Dr. Harse graduated from the University of Alberta Faculty of Science and Medicine and began his long association with the Calgary General Hospital as an intern in 1954. He retired as Chief of Surgery of the General Hospital in 1997. He will be remembered for his dedication to his profession, and his love for educating others. He always treated his students and patients with the utmost respect. The award was accepted on behalf of his family.

Surgeons' Day Awards Continued



Dr. Jason Werle was the award winner of the Educator of the Year Award. He was nominated, and highly admired by his Orthopaedic students. He received his M.D. with Distinction, from the University of Saskatchewan in 1994. He completed multiple Orthopaedic residencies at the University of Saskatchewan before completing his Adult Reconstruction/Joint Replacement Fellowship at Stanford University, in Connecticut. Currently Dr. Werle is a Clinical Associate Professor, Section of Orthopaedics, at the University of Calgary. Last year Dr. Werle won the Surgical Innovation Award for his work with the Joint Optimization and Incentive Team (JOINT), Department of Surgery.



Dr. Randy Moore was the award winner of the Ectopic Educator of the Year Award. Nominated by his students, Dr. Moore accepted his award with honour. Dr. Moore earned his M.D. in 1990 at the University of Saskatchewan, and completed Residencies at the University of Alberta, Royal Alexandra Hospital and Walter Mackenzie Hospital. He completed Fellowships at McMaster University and the University of Nottingham, England. Dr. Moore is a member of the Canadian Society of Vascular Surgery among other committees. He is currently an Associate Professor of Vascular Surgery at the University of Calgary.



Dr. Brad Mechor and his group: "PITNET: the Pituitary Inter-departmental, multi-disciplinary Team-based approach to optimizing Neurosurgical, Visual, and Endocrinological Treatment," received the award for Best Surgical Innovation. The team is comprised of Dr. Mechor, **Dr. Fiona Costello**, Ophthalmology, **Dr. Yves Starreveld**, Neurosurgery and **Dr. Shelly Bhayana**, Endocrinology. Dr. Mechor completed his M.D. at the University of Saskatchewan with Distinction, and went on to complete his Otolaryngology Residency at the University of Alberta in 2006. Dr. Mechor began his Endoscopic Sinus and Skull Base Surgery at the St. Paul's Sinus Centre at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Mechor has been actively involved in research, most recently trying to improve the care of patients with pituitary lesions at the University of Calgary through PITNET.



Dr. Billie-Jean Martin, R6 Cardiac Surgery Resident, was given the award for the Best Research by a Surgical Fellow. Her research topic, "Cardiovascular Fitness and Mortality Following Contemporary Cardiac Rehabilitation" investigated the association between fitness and mortality in subjects who attend cardiac rehabilitation. Dr. Martin won the Best Overall Research award at last year's Surgeons' Day, and continues to impress the Faculty of Cardiac Surgery with her research. Dr. Martin moved to Halifax in 2005 to pursue a career in Cardiac Surgery and in 2008 she returned to Calgary to complete a PhD in obesity and cardiovascular disease. She is working to complete her PhD training in 2013.

Surgeons' Day Awards Continued



Dr. Brendan O'Neill, R5 Orthopaedic Resident, received the award Honourable Mention for Best Overall Research. His research, "Active abducted and weighted abducted radiograph views: Effect on glenohumeral joint space" examined the diagnosis of glenohumeral osteoarthritis, and the importance of weight-bearing in determining the severity of radiographic joint space in osteoarthritis. Dr. O'Neill earned his M.D. at Dalhousie University, Halifax. He is trained in Advanced Trauma Life Support, and is an Advanced Trauma Life Support provider. Dr. O'Neill is a member of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association.



Dr. Herman Johal, R3 Orthopaedic Resident, received the award for Best Overall Research. Dr. Johal's research, entitled, "The Impact of Trauma Centre Care on Cost Effectiveness and Utility Following Severe Lower Extremity Injuries" examined the cost effectiveness of treatment at level 1 trauma centres compared with that of a non-trauma centres for patients with major lower extremity injuries. Dr. Johal earned his M.D. at Queen's University, Kingston, ON. He has since participated in research projects in Kingston, Calgary and Baltimore. Dr. Johal will complete his Residency training in 2013.



Dr. Paul McBeth, R5 General Surgery Resident, received the award for Best Surgical Poster. His research, focusing on the potential implications and uses for Remote FAST and EFAST Ultrasound, examined the inaccessibility of diagnostic imaging equipment in remote areas around the globe, and how a remote wireless ultrasound system could benefit countries and regions without access to a skilled ultrasound practitioner. Dr. McBeth earned his M.D. in 2007 at the University of Calgary. He has since done electives with Trauma Services in Toronto and at the Johnson Space Centre in Texas.



Dr. Richard Buckley and **Dr. James Bain** were the guest judges at the Surgeons' Day Symposium. Dr. Buckley was the guest speaker at the McMurtry Lecture. His presentation was "There is no I in Team." Dr. James Bain was the guest speaker at the McPhedran Lecture. His presentation was called, 'Where's the evidence? Advocating resources through research.' The judges were honoured at the awards ceremony and were each given a plaque to acknowledge their roles in the 29th Annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium.

GRADUATING RESIDENTS

Over the last year, the Department of Surgery had 95 Residents, of whom 17 have recently graduated. Most of the graduating Residents are moving onto Fellowships in specialties, including Orthopaedic Sports Medicine, Ankle, Trauma, Upper Extremity and Microvascular Surgery. One will remain in Calgary to begin his Fellowship, while another will take on a Locum position. Many will be moving on to: Ottawa, Vancouver, Washington, Singapore, Kuwait and Australia. 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!

Colorectal Surgery

•**Dr. Sebastien Drolet**, Graduating Colorectal Surgery Resident, will be moving to Quebec City to begin a full-time Locum position at a Colorectal Clinic at Laval University.

Dentistry and Oral Health

•**Dr. Amreek (Ricky) Suri**, graduating Dental Resident, has completed his Dental General Practice Residency training. He is currently an Associate Dentist at Valley Dental Clinic in Strathmore, AB.

•**Dr. Devin Jones**, graduating Dental Resident, is heading to Mandurah, Australia to work as an associate in a private practice. He plans to return to Canada to practice General Dentistry in a few years.

General Surgery

•**Dr. Balpreet Brar**, Graduating General Surgery Resident, will be moving to Ottawa to complete his Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship.

•**Dr. Mantaj Brar**, Graduating General Surgery Extended Resident, will begin a two-year Colorectal Surgery Fellowship in Calgary with the Department of Surgery.

•**Dr. Ryan McColl**, Graduating General Surgery Resident will be taking on a Locum position in Lethbridge, AB.

•**Dr. Michele Riordon**, Graduating General Surgery Resident, will complete a one-year Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX.

•**Dr. Kourosh Sarkhosh**, Graduating General Surgery Resident, is moving to Edmonton to complete a Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship.

•**Dr. Glen Vajcner**, Graduating General Surgery Resident, will be taking on a Locum position in Calgary, and surrounding areas.

Paediatric General Surgery

•**Dr. Esmael Taqi**, Graduating Paediatric General Surgery Resident, will complete his Royal College exams in September and will then return to Kuwait to start work there as a Paediatric General Surgeon.

Surgical Oncology

•**Dr. Gitonga Munene**, Graduating Surgical Oncology Extended Resident is moving to take a faculty position at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, Department of Surgery.

•**Dr. Thomas Ho**, Graduating Surgical Oncology Resident, is headed back home to Singapore to be with his family. He will be joining the Surgical Department in a teaching hospital where he will be focusing on Endocrine/ Head and Neck surgery.

Orthopaedic Surgery

•**Dr. Eldridge Batuyong**, Graduating Orthopaedic Resident, is going to Melbourne Australia to complete a one year Foot and Ankle Fellowship. Then he is headed to San Francisco for a year to do an Arthroplasty Fellowship at Stanford University.

•**Dr. Christina Hiscox**, Graduating Orthopaedic Resident, is going to Kingston, Ontario for the next year for a Fellowship in Upper Extremity and Microvascular Surgery.

•**Dr. Emmanuel Illacal**, Graduating Orthopaedic Resident, will begin his Adult Reconstruction Fellowship at the University of Ottawa starting August 1, 2011. On August 1, 2012 he will begin an Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh.

•**Dr. Michael Monument**, Graduating Orthopaedic Resident, has passed his qualification exams in Orthopaedic Surgery. He plans on completing a 3 year combined clinical and laboratory Orthopaedic Oncology Fellowship in Salt Lake City, Utah.

•**Dr. Curtis Myden**, Graduating Orthopaedic Resident, will be going to Melbourne Australia, to complete a one year Paediatric Orthopaedic Fellowship, then to Vancouver for a year to do a Sports Medicine Orthopaedic Fellowship.

Otolaryngology

•**Dr. Scott Walen**, Graduating Otolaryngology Resident will be moving to St. Louis, MO, to complete a one-year Fellowship in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Washington University.

Plastic Surgery

•**Dr. James Kennedy**, Graduating Plastic Surgery Resident, has passed his final exam with the Royal College. He will be completing a Hand and Microsurgery Fellowship at the University of Southern California and hopes to return to Calgary.

New Faculty 2010/2011

Dr. Thomas Yu – Section of Dentistry and Oral Health (FMC)



Dr. Thomas Yu joined the Department of Surgery on June 1st, 2010 in the Section of Dentistry and Oral Health. He was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. His major hobby is playing the piano. Dr. Yu prides himself as being a renowned classical pianist, performing in concert halls around the world. Since moving to Calgary, he has recently become interested in snowboarding, and tries not to hurt himself while on the mountains. Dentistry is a career choice that came as a surprise to Dr. Yu. Though he wanted to be a medical professional and work with his hands, he still wanted to continue his hobby as a pianist. Throughout his dental education, he has been supported by the Section of Dentistry and Oral Health in his pursuit of music. Dr. Yu studied Dentistry at the University of Saskatchewan, which was followed by a Residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. He completed his Master's Degree in Periodontology at the University of Toronto. His thesis was on the diagnosis of head and neck cancers at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Dr. Yu looks forward to working with the Section of Dentistry and Oral Health as well as working with Residents to help them achieve their full potential.

Dr. Chad Ball - Section of General Surgery (FMC)



Dr. Chad Ball joined the Department of Surgery on September 1st, 2010 in the Section of General Surgery. Dr. Ball has been with AHS for a year, and since his arrival, he has become a prominent member of the General Surgery/Surgical Oncology team. Dr. Ball is married with two children; 3 years old and 8 months old, and has been involved in healthcare for the last 10 years. He enjoys skiing in the winter and water sports in the summer as well as travelling year round. Dr. Ball has enjoyed patient care, particularly working with people at their most vulnerable time, and helping them get through their medical struggles. He took his BSc. at the University of Alberta, MSc. at the University of British Columbia, and his M.D. at the University of Toronto. His Residency was completed at the University of Calgary, and completed Fellowships in Trauma Surgery and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery. Dr. Ball looks forward to his continued involvement in trauma care at the Foothills Medical Centre. He has focused much of his research on Vascular and Cardiothoracic Trauma techniques, Interventional Radiology in Trauma Care, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary, and Surgery in Spaceflight Research. Dr. Ball was involved in the Aerospace Medicine Program from 2003-2010 at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. He has also trained with the da Vinci Surgery Robot from 2009-2010.

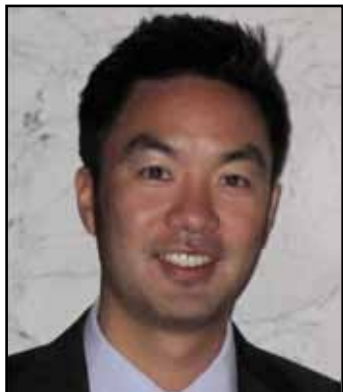
Dr. Gurpreet Singh Dhaliwal – Section of Orthopaedics (FMC)



Dr. Gurpreet Dhaliwal joined the Department of Surgery on September 1st, 2010 in the Section of Orthopaedics. Dr. Dhaliwal completed his Bachelor of Science Degree with Distinction at the University of Manitoba, and moved on to complete his M.D. there as well. After moving to Calgary in 2004, and completing an Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at the University of Calgary in 2008, he pursued two years of Fellowship training. His first year was spent at the New York University Hospital for Joint Disease. He then moved on to Washington University where he completed a Fellowship in Hand, Peripheral Nerve and Microsurgery with the Section of Plastic Surgery. In addition to his Hand and Wrist Surgery experience, Dr. Dhaliwal also had the opportunity to treat a broad spectrum of hand anomalies as well as peripheral nerve and brachial plexus injuries. His Fellowship training gave him the opportunity to present some of his research at major national meetings. He has also had the opportunity to teach and instruct Residents both academically and clinically. Dr. Dhaliwal strongly believes that research and education are two of the most essential academic practices in medicine. Dr. Dhaliwal looks forward to continuing to deliver excellence in patient care with the Section of Orthopaedics. He is committed to patient care, and believes strongly in backing up medical procedures with strong research. Dr. Dhaliwal is excited to have returned to Calgary after completing his Fellowships abroad. His family and close friends live in the city, and he looks forward to continuing to working in a community close to home.

New Faculty 2010/2011

Dr. Ryan Yau - Section of Ophthalmology (RGH)



Dr. Ryan Yau joined the Department of Surgery on October 1st, 2010. He was born and raised in the Calgary community of Lake Bonavista, and is excited to be returning back home to Calgary to begin his medical career. Dr. Yau loves to travel, and over the summer, explored the beautiful European region of Scandinavia. He also enjoys playing football, volleyball and softball in a competitive environment. He takes great pleasure in reading, particularly historical fiction. Playing with night vision goggles in his youth, coupled with his Uncle undertaking world class basic vision research at Johns Hopkins sprouted his first inklings of working with the eyes. He took his BSc. in Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary, and completed his medical school and Ophthalmology Residency at the University of Alberta. He has also completed courses and electives in the United States and Europe. Dr. Yau is joining the Department of Surgery in Ophthalmology as a Comprehensive Ophthalmologist. His clinic is part of the Mitchell Eye Centre and the Southern Alberta Eye Center. He will also run emergency clinics and perform emergency surgeries at the Rockyview General Hospital. His surgical scope includes Cataract, Lids, Strabismus, Pterygium, and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Yau looks forward to building the growing Ophthalmology Residency program in Calgary and will be introducing a new comprehensive optics teaching course in the Fall.

Dr. Jamie Bhamra - Section of Ophthalmology (RGH)



Dr. Jamie Bhamra joined the Department of Surgery on October 1st, 2010 in the Section of Ophthalmology. He was born and raised in Fernie, British Columbia. Dr. Bhamra is an avid traveler. After completing his Fellowship, Dr. Bhamra and his wife took six months off to travel around the world. They toured 17 countries in six months. He sought out a career in medicine because he was looking for a lifelong career that would allow him to help others, and would allow him to learn and grow as well. Dr. Bhamra took his BSc. in Biological Science at the University of Calgary. He completed his M.D. in 2003 at the University of Calgary, and completed his Ophthalmology Residency training at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Bhamra looks forward to learning, developing and experiencing new medical and surgical techniques and technologies. He says Cornea, External Disease and Ophthalmology are hot fields right now full of fantastic medical and surgical innovations that will lead to better patient care. He strives to provide excellent medical and surgical care to his patients and helps with the Residency and physician education. He is grateful to be a part of the Department of Surgery at the University of Calgary.

Dr. Ryan Frank - Section of Plastic Surgery (ACH)



Dr. Ryan Frank joined the Department of Surgery on March 1st, 2011 in the Section of Plastic Surgery. He was born and raised in Calgary, and is excited to be working in his home town. Dr. Frank has been involved in medicine since he began his med school in 2001. Much of Dr. Frank's inspiration to become a Plastic Surgeon came from his father, Dr. Cyril Frank. Dr. Ryan Frank says as he was growing up, his father, an Orthopaedic Surgeon, was his hero, and he always aspired to be like him. As an avid golfer in the summer, and snowboarder in the winter, Dr. Frank always finds a way to keep himself busy. He loves to travel, and has been to 41 countries in his lifetime. Adventure is nothing new to Dr. Frank. Scuba diving is a recreational activity that he enjoys. He has completed over 50 dives in eight different countries. He even spent a year backpacking across Australia. He took his BSc. in Physiology at McGill University, and his M.D. at the University of Calgary. He completed his Residency at the University of Calgary, a Fellowship in Paediatric Craniofacial Surgery at the University of California, and a Fellowship in Aesthetic Surgery at the University of California. He looks forward to obtaining his MBA from Queen's-Cornell University to potentially end up in a leadership role with the Department of Surgery.

New Faculty 2010/2011

Dr. Steven Lopushinsky - Section of Paediatric Surgery (ACH)



Dr. Steven Lopushinsky joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of Paediatric General Surgery. He was born and raised in Calgary, and graduated from Bowness High School. He and his wife Addie currently have a two-year-old boy named Carter and a newborn, as of June. Dr. Lopushinsky likes to spend as much time outdoors as possible. He particularly enjoys skiing in the winter, camping and hiking in the summer, and vacationing to exotic places like Hawaii and Italy. Dr. Lopushinsky says he is privileged by the inherent trust given to him by his patients and their families. Having the opportunity to help people during some of the most challenging times in their lives has always been a large factor that drew him into a career in medicine. He first attended the University of Alberta studying Biochemistry. He then received his M.D. at the University. Dr. Lopushinsky completed a General Surgery Residency at the University of Toronto. While there, he also completed a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology. More recently he did a Paediatric Surgery Fellowship in Halifax, NS, at the IWK Hospital/Dalhousie University and a Paediatric Urology Fellowship at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. Dr. Lopushinsky looks forward to coming back to Calgary and working at the newest paediatric hospital in the country.

Dr. Warren Yunker – Section of Paediatric Surgery (ACH)



Dr. Warren Yunker joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of Paediatric Surgery: Otolaryngology. He was born in Morden, Manitoba, and was raised in St. Albert, Alberta. Dr. Yunker's wife Rebecca has currently taken a job at the Alberta Children's Hospital, which is one reason Dr. Yunker is excited to be working there. Dr. Yunker currently has two children, Adam, who is 2-years-old, and Eric, who is 6-months-old. Skiing is a hobby that Dr. Yunker truly enjoys, and he tries to get out on the slopes as often as he can in the winter. He and his family also enjoy travelling locally and abroad. Dr. Yunker entered into a career in medicine because he believes that he can make a difference, and has always been intrigued by the field. He took his BSc. in Environmental Biology at the University of Edmonton, PhD in Cell Biology and Physiology at the University of Edmonton, and took his M.D. at the University of Edmonton. He completed his Otolaryngology Residency at the University of Calgary, and went on to complete his Paediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship at the Texas Children's Hospital. Dr. Yunker is excited to be coming back to Calgary and working at the Alberta Children's Hospital. He looks forward to using his skill sets within the Section of Paediatric Surgery.

Dr. Luke Rudmik – Section of Otolaryngology (RGH/ FMC)



Dr. Luke Rudmik joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of Otolaryngology. He was born in St. Catharines, Ontario, lived most of his life in Toronto, and moved to Calgary in 1995. He has been married for seven years and currently has a 2-year-old daughter as well as a dog named Leroy. Dr. Rudmik wanted to be an Otolaryngologist because it would give him the ability to perform international medicine and relief work, which he passionately cares about. He has been involved in medicine since 2001, when he started his Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biology at the University of Calgary. In the summer months, Dr. Rudmik enjoys playing golf – his true passion. He took his BSc. at the University of Calgary, completed his Residency at the University of Calgary, and spent his Residency at the University of Alberta. Dr. Rudmik also completed his Fellowship in Rhinology - Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery, at the Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Rudmik joined the Section of Otolaryngology this year, and will be pursuing a Masters of Health Economics, Policy and Management at the London School of Economics starting in December, 2011. He looks forward to contributing to the Section of Otolaryngology by delivering high quality clinical care to patients, producing innovative research, and providing surgical education to the Residency program.

New Faculty 2010/2011

Dr. Feisal Adatia - Section of Ophthalmology (RGH)



Dr. Feisal Adatia joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of Ophthalmology. He was born in London, England, but moved to Canada when he was two years old. He was brought up in a suburb in Ottawa, and only recently moved to Calgary a year ago to pick up a Locum position as an Ophthalmologist. Dr Adatia's wife also works for Alberta Health Services as a Pharmacist at the Foothills Medical Centre. Together they have an eight-month-old son named Zane. Dr. Adatia did his undergraduate training at the University of Ottawa where he received a gold medal. He then moved to Toronto to complete a Masters in Physiology, where he also completed his medical school and Residency training. Dr. Adatia then moved to England to complete his first Retina Fellowship in Medical Retina at the Moorfields Eye Hospital. He then continued his Surgical Retina training at the University of Calgary. Dr. Adatia returned to Moorfields for a short Locum Surgical Retina Fellowship to learn the differences in surgical techniques. While in England he caught the travel bug, and has since travelled all over Europe, the United States and to India. Dr. Adatia entered the medical field because he wanted to help people and make the world a better place. Dr. Adatia is now working in the Section of Ophthalmology as an Ophthalmologist with Retinal Surgery Subspecialty training. He plans on travelling to Japan next year to learn the innovative surgical techniques being performed there.

Dr. Patrick Mitchell - Section of Ophthalmology (RGH)



Dr. Patrick Mitchell joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of Ophthalmology. He was born in Australia, and was raised there until he was 8 years old. He then moved to Calgary. Dr. Mitchell has been married for two years now, and celebrated his wedding anniversary in June. He currently has two children, twins, who, as of September are 9-months-old. Dr. Mitchell enjoys travelling all over the world. His hobbies include; skiing, hockey, martial arts and spending time with his children. He wanted to enter into a career in medicine so he could help people, specifically in Ophthalmology and Retina surgery, because of his love for optics. He completed a family medicine Residency in Calgary, worked for two years as a GP, and then retrained in Ophthalmology in Norfolk, Virginia. He then went on to do his Residency in Calgary, and was awarded the Resident of the Year Award for Ophthalmology. Since then he has completed a two year Fellowship in Vitreoretinal Surgery at the University of Calgary, three months of which he spent on an elective at the William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan. Dr. Mitchell looks forward to the opportunity to provide medical and surgical retina care to the community, particularly to children with Vitreoretinal Disease.

Dr. Indraneel Datta - Section of General Surgery (PLC)



Dr. Indraneel Datta joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of General Surgery. He and his wife Sheila, a family doctor, currently have a 19-month-old daughter named Anjali. He and his wife love to travel, and have been to England, Spain, Japan, and Thailand in the last few years. Dr. Datta enjoys playing sports in his free time, particularly tennis, squash and swimming. Dr. Datta decided to enter a career in medicine because of his interest in the science of medicine. He enjoys teamwork, and loves the challenge of the surgery profession. Dr. Datta completed his medical school and Residency in General Surgery, at the University of Calgary, his MSc. Health Economics and Policy and Management at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He completed his Fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the University of Toronto. Dr. Datta has been involved in medicine since 2001, when he first entered medical school. He is most excited about starting his first clinical practice here in Calgary, and at the same time working with his colleagues in the Section of General Surgery and the University of Calgary. While with the Department of Surgery, Dr. Datta hopes to improve the delivery of Health Care in Alberta and give patients the best quality of care as possible.

New Faculty 2010/2011

Dr. Bryce Weber – Section of Urology (ACH)



Dr. Bryce Weber joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of Urology, focusing on Paediatric Urology. He was born at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary and was raised on a farm West of Airdrie. He completed his medical school in Edmonton in 2004, and then completed his Urology Residency in 2009 in Toronto. Since then he has been training at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, focusing on Paediatric Urology. Dr. Weber is excited to be returning to Calgary. He will be working out of the Alberta Children's Hospital, which is a stone's throw away from where he was born. He enjoys travelling year round, martial arts, playing squash and curling. Dr. Weber decided to pursue a career in medicine since he already had a degree in cellular, molecular, and microbial biology. He found medicine to be very intriguing, so he decided to pursue a career as a Urologist. Dr. Weber played many sports as a child and thought he would become an Orthopaedic Surgeon. Yet, in medical school, he found several great mentors in Urology and really enjoyed the specialty. He is excited to move back to his home province of Alberta and to begin an exciting practice in Minimally Invasive and Reconstruction Paediatric Urological Surgery. He hopes to continue his work in advancing the field of surgical simulation and medical education while working for the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Matthew (Eric) Hyndman – Section of Urology (RGH)



Dr. Matthew (Eric) Hyndman joined the Department of Surgery on July 1st, 2011 in the Section of Urology. He was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, while his father was training in Paediatric Urology. Like his father Dr. William Hyndman, Dr. Eric Hyndman also trained to be a Urologist, and is very happy to be joining the Section of Urology at the Rockyview General Hospital. Dr. Hyndman has been involved in medicine since 1996, and is married with three children; 4 years, 2.5 years and 10 months old. He enjoys skiing in the winter, playing soccer in the summer, hiking, reading night-time stories to his children and walking his Golden Retriever named Monty. Dr. Hyndman initially wanted to get into the music industry, but after realizing that dream was too far off, he decided to become a Urologist. He took his BSc. at the University of Victoria, his PhD at the University of Calgary, and spent his Residency at the University of Alberta. Dr. Hyndman also completed his two-year Fellowship in Urologic Oncology at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland, where he focused on Laparoscopic and Robotic surgeries as well as open Oncological Surgery. He looks forward to joining the Section of Urology, and is excited to bring his skill sets to the Rockyview General Hospital.

Dr. Peter Lewkonja - Section of Orthopaedics (FMC)



Dr. Peter Lewkonja joined the Department of Surgery on August 1st, 2011 in the Section of Orthopaedics. He was born and raised in Calgary, but has spent the last few years in Vancouver completing his Fellowship. Dr. Lewkonja enjoys hiking in the wilderness, telemark skiing in the winter months, and chasing around his two-year-old son. Dr. Lewkonja entered into a career in medicine because he wanted a career that would evolve and change over time, and provide him with a challenge. He took his BSc. in Cell Biology and Genetics at the University of British Columbia, his MSc. in Cancer Biology at the University of Calgary, and his M.D. at the University of Calgary. Dr. Lewkonja also spent his Orthopaedic Residency at the University of Calgary, but completed his Combined Neurosurgical and Orthopaedic Spine Fellowship at the University of British Columbia. He has also had a chapter on bracing and orthoses published in *Decision Making in Spinal Care 2nd Edition*. At last year's Surgeons' Day, Dr. Lewkonja took home the award for best poster. Dr. Lewkonja looks forward to the challenge of his future career as a Spinal Surgeon, and hopes that he will make a difference to both his patients and the Orthopaedic Surgery team. He is excited to start building a practice in Calgary and developing a strong academic career.

New Faculty 2010/2011

Dr. Geoffrey Gotto - Section of Urology (RGH)



Dr. Geoffrey Gotto joined the Department of Surgery on September 1st, 2011 in the Section of Urology. He was born in Montreal, but spent most of his upbringing in Victoria. Dr. Gotto lived in Vancouver for 13 years as a student, and then a Resident at the University of British Columbia. He spent his winter vacations during his Residency as a ski patroller at Whistler-Blackcomb. Dr. Gotto enjoys recreational activities such as skiing, mountain biking, kite boarding and travelling to exotic destinations such as Nepal and Southeast Asia. Dr. Gotto took his Bsc. at the University of British Columbia, where he also received his M.D. He completed his Urology Residency at the University of British Columbia, Department of Urological Sciences. In the last two years, Dr. Gotto has lived in New York and Boston, completing a two-year Fellowship in Urologic Oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, and obtaining a Master's Degree in Public Health from Harvard University, Boston. Dr. Gotto is excited to return to Canada, especially to be close to the mountains again. His main areas of interest within Urology include open and minimally-invasive (including robotic-assisted) approaches to prostate, bladder, kidney, adrenal, testis, and penile cancers. Other interests include health outcomes research and surgical education/training.

Dr. Miller Smith - Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (PLC)



Dr. Miller Smith joined the Department of Surgery on September 1st, 2011 in the Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He was born and raised in Calgary, growing up in Springbank, and attending Western Canada High School. Dr. Smith and his wife, an Orthodontist in Calgary, have three children; Sidonie, 4, Everett, 2, and Brynnleigh, who was just born May 31. Dr. Smith and his family enjoy travelling. They have been across Europe, to at least 27 States in the USA, Mexico, China, and more. Dr. Smith hopes to explore many more countries, and plans to be involved with medical missions in countries abroad in the future. His goal is to try to improve function and quality of life for oncologic, orthognathic, TMJD, sleep apnea, and paediatric deformity patients. Dr. Smith completed his BSc. at the University of Calgary and attended Dental School at the University of Alberta. He received his M.D. at the University of Michigan Medical School, which is where he also completed his Residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He completed his Fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology and Craniofacial Reconstruction at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, United Kingdom. He looks forward to evolving a multidisciplinary approach to Craniomaxillofacial Surgery, and focusing on reconstructive outcomes.

Dr. Marie-France Guimond - Section of Vascular Surgery (PLC)



Dr. Marie-France Guimond joined the Department of Surgery on September 1st, 2011. She was born and raised in Quebec City, and was a dedicated figure skater until her late teen years. Nowadays she skis more than anything, downhill, cross-country and alpine touring. She enjoys trekking and backcountry camping as well as mountain-biking and street-cycling. She completed her medical school at the University of Montreal and went on to complete her Residency in General Surgery at Université Laval in Quebec City. She completed a Fellowship in Vascular Surgery at McGill University. Dr. Guimond has been practicing medicine for nine years, and has developed a strong interest in Noninvasive Imaging, Noninvasive Vascular Laboratory, Complex Peripheral Surgery and Wound Care. She has been the Program Director of Vascular Surgery at Université Laval for three years, and has extended her dedication to teaching by getting involved with the General Surgery Program Committee. She also has experience as an Examiner for the Royal College Exams of Vascular Surgery for the last three years. She wishes to be able to create strong bridges with other surgical specialties, and to work in a multidisciplinary team. She looks forward to this challenge, and hopes that Calgary will serve as a backdrop that will allow her to succeed in her future career with the Department of Surgery.

New Residents 2011-2012



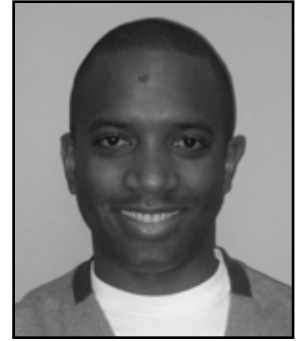
Dr. Daniel Holloway *R1*
Cardiac Sciences
Queen's University



Dr. Tyson Allred *R1*
Dentistry and Oral Health
University of Saskatchewan



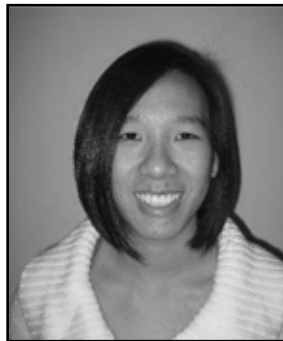
Dr. Aliya Rajwani *R1*
Dentistry and Oral Health
University of Alberta



Dr. Juan Arminan *R1*
General Surgery
Advanced Institute of
Medical Sciences
Havana, Cuba



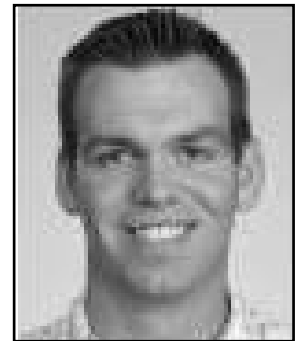
Dr. Brittany Dingley *R1*
General Surgery
University of Calgary



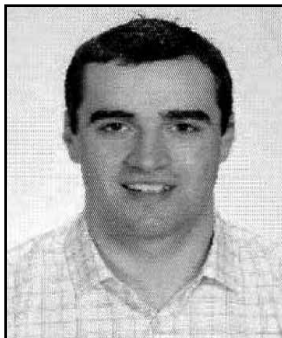
Dr. Jennifer Lam *R1*
General Surgery
University of Western
Ontario



Dr. Ting Li *R1*
General Surgery
University of Calgary



Dr. Ryan Rochon *R1*
General Surgery
University of British
Columbia



Dr. Kenton Rommens *R1*
General Surgery
University of Alberta



Dr. Benjamin Turner *R1*
General Surgery
University of Western
Ontario



Dr. Vikram Lekhi *R1*
Ophthalmology
University of Calgary



Dr. Stephanie Wood *R4*
Ophthalmology
Dalhousie University

New Residents 2011-2012



R1

Dr. Rachael DaCunha
Orthopaedics
University of Calgary



R1

Dr. Chris Dusik
Orthopaedics
University of Calgary



R1

Dr. John Esposito
Orthopaedics
University of Ottawa



R1

Dr. Nick Romatowski
Orthopaedics
Queen's University



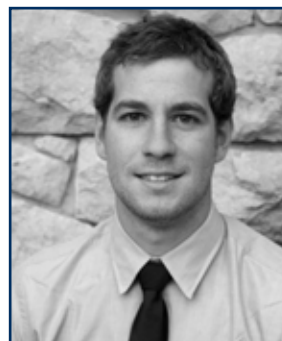
R1

Dr. Bryn James Sharkey
Orthopaedics
University of Manitoba



R1

Dr. Jarret Woodmass
Orthopaedics
University of Manitoba



R1

Dr. Jonathan Dautremont
Otolaryngology
University of Saskatchewan



R1

Dr. Donald Graham
Plastic Surgery
University of Calgary



R1

Dr. Brett Byers
Plastic Surgery
University of Saskatchewan



*Welcome new Residents to the
Department of Surgery*

Extended Residents and Fellows 2011-2012



Dr. Mantaj Brar ^{R6}
University of Calgary
12 Month
Colorectal Surgery
Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Khadijah Alattas
King Abdul Aziz University
12 Month
Paediatric Retina
Fellowship
starts September 2011



Dr. Hassan Al Bisher
King Faisal University
12 Month Endocrine
Surgery Fellowship
starts September 2011



Dr. David Camoriano
University of Texas
12 Month
Anterior Segment
Fellowship
starts August 2011



Dr. Karim Hammamji
University of Montreal
12 Month
Retina Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Laura Chin-Lenn ^{R6}
University of Melbourne
12 Month
Surgical Oncology
Fellowship starts July 2011



Dr. Ashraf Maghrabi
King Abdul Aziz University
12 Month
GI Surgery Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Yarrow McConnell ^{R6}
Dalhousie University
12 Month
Surgical Oncology
Fellowship starts July 2011



Dr. Richy Lee ^{R6}
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
12 Month
Paediatric General Surgery
Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Ghazi Alqahtani
Dalhousie University
12 Month
Trauma Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Mateen Arastu
South West Thames SpR
Rotation, London
12 Month
Trauma Fellowship
starts February 2011



Dr. Samir Alsayegh
Saudi Commission for
Health Specialties
12 Month
Paediatric Spine Fellowship
starts July 2011

Extended Residents and Fellows 2011-2012



Dr. Krissen Chettiar
Royal College of Surgeons
of Edinburgh, UK
12 Month
Joint Reconstruction
Fellowship starts July 2011



Dr. Mark Gatha
Memorial University of
Newfoundland
12 Month
Joint Reconstruction
Fellowship starts July 2011



Dr. Simon Grange
Royal College of Surgeons
of England
12 Month
Upper Extremity Fellowship
starts February 2011



Dr. Hani Alsulaimany
Saudi Council for Health
Specialties
12 Month
Combined Spine Fellowship
starts February 2011



Dr. Christina Goldstein
McMaster University
12 Month
Combined Spine
Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Amre Hamdi
University of Ottawa
5 Month
Hand and Wrist
Fellowship
starts September 2011



Dr. Eric Huang
University of Alberta
12 Month
Combined Spine
Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Mohammed Shamji
University of Ottawa
12 Month
Combined Spine
Fellowship
starts July 2011



Dr. Ala'a Suliman
Royal College of Surgeons
of Edinburgh, UK
12 Month
Hand and Wrist
Fellowship starts July 2011



Dr. Jeff Clark
University of Calgary
12 Month
Vascular Fellowship
starts July 2011

R6

Welcome new
Fellows to
the Department
of Surgery!

Robot-Assisted Surgeries the Way of the Future for Section of Urology

Robotic-assisted surgeries may soon become the standard for complex surgeries. With four surgical robots already in Alberta, and two of them residing in Calgary, it is becoming more common for Surgeons to opt for a robot-assisted surgery when it comes to operating on hard to access areas of the body.

The Section of Urology has recently purchased a da Vinci Si HD surgery robot for the Rockyview General Hospital, and though it has only been in service for a year, it has already assisted Surgeons with hundreds of complex procedures.

Urologist, **Dr. Gregory Kozak**, has performed over 150 surgeries with the da Vinci robot to date, and he expects the frequency of robot-assisted surgeries to increase in the future.

"We currently do two surgeries with the robot per day," Dr. Kozak said, "Most of the surgeries take about three hours to complete, so that's all we can feasibly accomplish with one robot."

The robot itself, which looks like a mechanical Octopus, has four surgical arms that can accommodate a variety of tools such as forceps, three dimensional cameras, and various blades and cutting instruments.

The robotic arms are inserted into the patient's body through small incisions along with a camera which displays magnified, high-definition 3D images onto a screen, which is viewed by the Surgeon.

The da Vinci surgery robot typically costs \$1.3 Million, but the Rockyview General Hospital opted for the Si HD model, which costs about \$3.3 Million. The Section of Urology funded the robot entirely through private fundraising events and corporate donations. It was also supported by funds raised at the 2006-2008 Rockyview Invitational Golf Tournaments. The Rockyview General Hospital took delivery of the robot last year, and has been performing Prostate Surgeries, Partial Nephrectomies and

Pyeloplastic Surgeries ever since.

"We have the largest Urology centre in Canada," said **Ms. Collen Toothill**, Clinician with the Section of Urology. "We have 14 Urologists in our sector."

"The robot was originally fundraised to assist prostate surgeries, but the need for the robot to assist in other surgeries was also there. We expect that there will be other uses for the robot in the future as well."

With robot-assisted surgeries, the steady arms of the robot allow for the Surgeon to perform small incisions, and maneuver the tiny forceps around so as not to disturb the surrounding tissues and organs.

"We inflate the stomach with carbon dioxide gas so we can get a clear view of the surgery with the camera," said **Dr. Doug Coddington**, Surgery Assistant. "That way we also don't get all the different organs pushed together. It gives us a lot more room to operate."

Dr. Kozak said that: "Exposure is the number one thing in a surgery, I cannot stress that enough. By being able to maneuver the robotic arms into place, and being able to see everything on my 3D screen, the exposure is maximized, which makes for a very effective surgery."

One element that makes for an easier surgery is the flexibility of the robotic arms. The robotic arms have more flexibility than the human wrist.

"With 270 degrees of flexibility, we can articulate the arms in such a way that we couldn't do with our hands," Dr. Kozak explained. "This means we can get into places, or get at angles with the forceps that we couldn't do otherwise."

Another advantage, as mentioned by Dr. Kozak, is that with traditional open surgeries, the Surgeon doesn't see most of the procedure, and has to rely on touch and feel to get through the surgery. With the da Vinci robot, the entire surgery is visible to the surgical team, and is viewed by the Surgeon through a 3D monitor.

(Continued on next page...)



The \$3.3 Million da Vinci surgery robot currently assists in 2-3 surgeries daily



Dr. Gregory Kozak sits at the controls where a 3D image of the surgery is projected inside



Multiple TV screens display the surgery as seen from the 3D camera inside the patient



Surgery Assistant, Dr. Doug Coddington adjusts the camera inside the patient

Robot-Assisted Surgeries Continued

"It puts me right there inside the patient. I can see everything I am doing."

Robotic-assisted surgeries are minimally invasive, and typically results in less pain and blood loss along with faster recoveries for patients.

"We're all about preserving the nerves here," Dr. Coddington said. "The da Vinci robot does a better job at preserving those nerves than most traditional surgical methods do. Also the blood loss is usually less than 50cc, compared to about 200cc or more with traditional open surgeries."

The Section of Urology is pleased so far with the da Vinci Robot and how it has both improved the standard and quality of care for their patients.

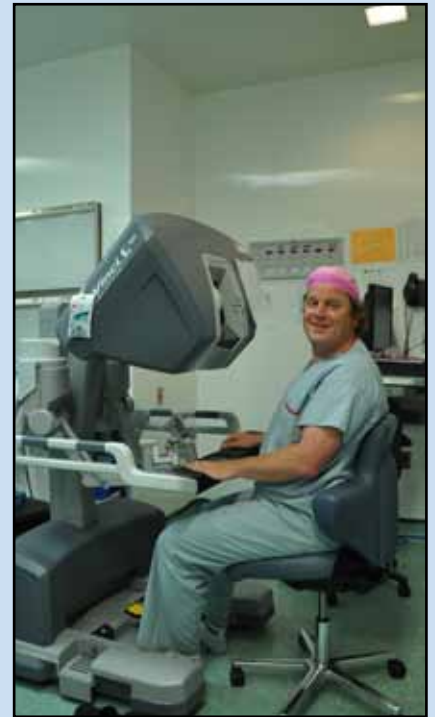
"There's still data out there that questions robot-assisted surgeries, but that goes for any surgical procedure. There will always be skeptics," Dr. Coddington said. "The da Vinci is a lot more practical (than open surgery) for removing tumours and cancers. It's effective, precise and lets the

entire surgical team see exactly what is going on inside. It's been very effective for us so far, and we definitely see more uses for it in the future."

Dr. Kozak agrees that this is just the beginning for robot-assisted surgeries. "They'll become a more prominent fixture in operating rooms within the next ten years or so. What we have now is just the beginning."



Dr. Kozak stitches up the small incisions that were created to insert the four small robotic arms for the surgery.



Dr. Kozak is a veteran at using the da Vinci surgery robot. He has done over 150 robot assisted surgeries to date.

\$550 Million McCaig Tower Operational for One Year

Envisioned more than 10 years ago, the McCaig Tower, named after philanthropist, **JR (Bud) McCaig**, has now been in full service for an entire year. The facility became operational on October 30th, 2010, and surgery units began moving into the facility in mid-November.

In addition to the incorporation of existing services at the Foothills Medical Centre, such as the Sections of Orthopaedics and General Surgery, the McCaig Tower now holds three 32-bed Orthopaedic Surgery inpatient units; one for Health Resource Centre activity, and transfer of Units 71 and 72 from FMC. The facility currently houses eight fully functional operating rooms, including one hybrid OR, with the capacity for another sixteen.

"Even though there are four less beds in each surgical unit than in the Foothills main site, the surgery capacity at any given time is greater," explained **Dr. Richard Hu**, Facility Chief at FMC. "Foothills has the most functioning OR's in one campus than any other hospital facility in Canada, and that is mainly due to the addition of the McCaig Tower."

McCaig had a vision to develop an integrated and innovative approach to the delivery of bone and joint health care as well as research and education in Alberta. Now that vision has become a reality.

"With the McCaig Tower, the idea was to create economy of scale and standardization of care for our patients," Dr. Hu said. "The OR's were designed to

house bone and joint surgeries, but are standardized to accommodate nearly any surgery."

The Tower also houses a minor surgery section, which is used by the Sections of Plastic Surgery, General Surgery and Otolaryngology.



The McCaig Tower houses Orthopaedic surgery as well as minor surgery Sections.

McCaig Tower Continued

"It doesn't feel like a hospital," said **Ms. Kelly Chapman**, OR Manager at the Foothills Medical Centre. "When patients walk in, it feels more like a hotel, which calms them down. The facility is very state of the art and modern, from the lobby to the OR's," she said.

The operating rooms themselves are also larger than those at similar facilities. The smallest operating room in the McCaig Tower is 62 square meters, with the largest being 72 square meters.

Chapman says that the larger size of the OR's is better for surgical staff because it gives them more room to work with, and it opens up the room for specialized surgery equipment.

Most of the OR equipment can be controlled from a single computer using video integration and telecommunication techniques. The staff can control the video display and video capture from a central location to multiple screens within the surgical suite.

This technology allows people involved in the care of the patient to see the surgical site and diagnostics from any location in the room. Every aspect of the surgery, including monitors displaying a patient's vital signs, can be viewed from these screens.

"We also worked on getting a closed circuit TV system installed over the summer," Dr. Hu explained. "That allows for medical staff outside the operating room to view the surgery, which could be used for education purposes."

Dr. Kevin Hildebrand, Section Chief for Orthopaedics, says that about 70% of bone and joint surgeries in Calgary are now done at the McCaig Tower. "Since the facilities are built to accommodate complex surgeries, we're now doing a lot of our bone and joint work there," he said. "We're looking to transition about 80% of our (resources) over there by the end of the year."

Dr. Roger Cho, Orthopaedics Facility Chief for the Foothills Medical Centre said that the space is brand new, and "we have the capabilities to perform more complex surgeries because of the larger OR's and newer equipment. The OR's were built to accommodate any surgery, so we can add or remove equipment as we see fit."

The surgical rooms in the McCaig Tower are also designed with what Dr. Cho referred to as laminar flow, a system in which air flow enters the room from one area, and flows in one direction to an exit point across the room. "This minimizes the infection rate for patients, and increases the standard of care we can provide. Since the air is flowing in one direction at a higher velocity, it's a lot harder to cross-contaminate."

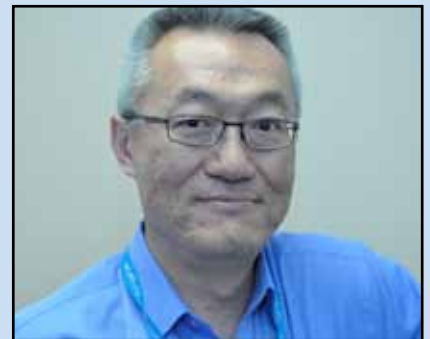
The new equipment processing room in the basement of the McCaig Tower officially opened in October 2010, and now provides equipment sterilizing services to the entire FMC site.

The McCaig Tower surgical units have the capacity to expand in the future. "As the need for more OR's becomes greater, we have the capacity and the infrastructure to expand," Dr. Hu said.

The McCaig Tower currently deals with Complex Trauma, Hand and Wrist Surgeries, Spinal Surgeries and Surgical Oncology.



Dr. Roger Cho, Orthopaedics Facility Chief for the Foothills Medical Centre



Dr. Richard Hu, Facility Chief for the Foothills Medical Centre



Ms. Kelly Chapman, OR Manager at the Foothills Medical Centre



One of the new minor surgery rooms designed by Laura Thurgood, Frontline RN at FMC



One of the seven Orthopaedic day surgery rooms, which utilizes the latest technology and innovations

Resident Ski and Golf Days Build Relationships and Trust Among Orthopaedic Residents

Every year the Section of Orthopaedics has something special planned for their Residents. It is a well known fact that Residents, much like Surgeons, are incredibly dedicated to the work they do, and take on long hours of hard work and research to get one step closer to becoming a Surgeon themselves.

There is more to being a Surgeon than saving lives and researching new surgical methods. **Dr. Richard Buckley**, the fourth Program Director for the Orthopaedic Residency Program and Chairman of the Post Graduate Surgical Training Committee, believes that having fun, getting to know your colleagues and team building are important aspects of working in a hospital environment.

"Every year for the last 27-some-odd years we have hosted Annual Ski and Golf days to get the Residents out there to see a different side of each-other," Dr. Buckley said. "It's a positive experience for everyone, because the Residents work closely in their studies, but they don't really get the chance to spend a day or two really getting to know each other."

Dr. Buckley says that it is important to recognize that being a member of the Orthopaedics program doesn't just involve coming to work every day. There are some skills and relationships that can't be built in a clinical environment.

"It's about being together and building teams, it's about having fun with your colleagues, it's about being a part of something that's bigger than just coming to work in the hospital," he explained. "It builds history and builds fond memories. These things are important for team building."

Dr. Buckley says that the days away from the clinical teaching environment take everybody out of the hierarchy of their lives and puts them into an environment that is friendly and different. "We're all the same when we're out there – there is no hierarchy. That allows them to get to know each other and to just have fun."

The ski and golf days show everyone

involved that they are not just Doctors, they are people too.

The goals of the day are to have fun with colleagues, to experience the day with others, and to build relationships with faculty members as well as other Residents.

"The Residents work so hard for us, and we're attempting to work hard for them as well," Dr. Buckley explained. "To help support them is a part of building a reputation within a program, it's also attempting to help create a Resident-friendly environment that will enhance their local working conditions and enhance our reputation."

It's not just Residents that get involved in the professional days, Orthopaedic Fellows and Faculty are invited to attend as well, giving them an opportunity to meet and get to know the Residents in the Orthopaedics program.

Funded entirely by the staff and partners with the Section of Orthopaedics, the event is always well attended, and is fondly remembered by both Residents and Faculty.

"A great thing is that a fifth year Resident, who normally doesn't get to work with the first year Resident, can go skiing together, or can be on the same golf team. They really get to know each other, and they form bonds with one-another."

Dr. Gary Hughes, one of the first program chairs for the Residency program, came up with the idea to do a ski day in the winter and a golf day in the summer, to get the group to work as one cohesive unit. The first ski and golf days were held in 1984, and to this day, his idea that there is more to being an Orthopaedic Surgeon than surgeries and clinical studies, still stands strong.

"It's an experience that we've latched onto that's become an important part of the Orthopaedic program," Dr. Buckley said. "There's more to life than just putting the nose to the grindstone, and that's what we want to show our Residents through these ski and golf days."



Every year the Section of Orthopaedics organizes Resident Ski and Golf days



Dr. Schachar (left) with some of the Orthopaedic Residents at the 2010 annual golf day



1984 Resident Ski Day. From Left to right: Drs. Fairbanks, Bell, Dewar, Hollinshead, Schachar, vanZuiden



Dr. Buckley (left) having a good time at the Resident Golf Day in the Kananaskis with some of the Residents

Photos Courtesy of Dr. Richard Buckley

Recognizing Incredible Service to Alberta Health Services

On Thursday, May 5th, the Department of Surgery took the time to thank three outstanding individuals for their service to the Department. A special recognition dinner held by **Dr. John Kortbeek** served as a reminder to these individuals that though they have stepped down from their former positions, they were greatly appreciated for the time and effort they dedicated to Alberta Health Services.

Ms. Marie McEachern, Department Manager (2001-2010), **Dr. James Nixon**, Facility Chief at the Peter Lougheed Centre (2005-2010,) and **Dr. John Dushinski**, Facility Chief at the Rockyview General Hospital (2002-2010) and Urology Section Chief (2007-2010,) were invited to attend the dinner to be thanked for their outstanding work with the Department of Surgery.

Ms. Marie McEachern served as the Manager of the Department of Surgery from 2001-2010 and worked hard during her nine years in that role.

"It felt so nice to be recognized for my work," McEachern said. "I did a lot of work behind the scenes, and set others up for success. It was hard work, but I enjoyed it."

McEachern said that the thing she will miss the most about working in the Department of Surgery is the people.

"A lot of them were really great people, and I enjoyed working with them a lot. I am going to miss them."

She recalls the commitment of the staff, and the dedication to their work as well as their growth over the years.

McEachern is proud of her accomplishments as the former Manager of the Department. She enjoyed seeing the Department grow, and hopes that it continues to strengthen and develop.

McEachern is currently employed as the Managing Director for the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute for Child and Maternal Health.

Dr. John Dushinski has served with Alberta Health Services for 14 years. He recently stepped down from his role as Section Chief of Urology and Facility Chief of the Rockyview General Hospital (RGH,) and is proud of his accomplishments.

"It was great to be recognized for my hard work," Dr. Dushinski said. "There were just a few of us at the dinner at a small venue, which was really nice. The only people there were the ones who knew us well, and understood the hard work we put forth in our roles."

Dr. Dushinski is proud of leading the expansion of the outpatient treatment facilities and building the new Operating Rooms in the basement of the RGH. Dr. Dushinski also played an instrumental role in the building of the Southern Alberta Institute of Urology at the RGH.

"After that, my wife and I agreed that it would be best for me to step down as the Section Chief because the Southern Alberta Institute of Urology took a lot of time and effort to get operational," Dr. Dushinski said. "It was a lot of hard work, and I wanted to spend more time with my family."

Dr. Dushinski says he will miss leading

the Section of Urology, but is happy to continue his role as an active Urologist in the Section.

"I'm still an active Surgeon, so I am still working with the same people. I can't say I will miss them, because I am still working with them," he joked.

"Being the Facility Chief of the Rockyview for the last three years was difficult, but it was rewarding as well."

Dr. James Nixon served as the Facility Chief for the Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC) from 2005-2010, and has developed many fond memories during his time as the Facility Chief.

"The people were fantastic, and they made my job worth it," he said.

Dr. Nixon says that even though nothing major went on during his five year term as the Facility Chief, he played an instrumental role in keeping the facility running, and making sure that the day-to-day tasks were being done properly.

"The surgical community here in Calgary is outstanding," Dr. Nixon said. "They work so hard, and they really strive to make the system work. I really want to stress that the Surgery Department that we have is top notch."

Prior to being the Facility Chief for the PLC, Dr. Nixon was the Section Chief for General Surgery at the PLC. "Both jobs had their challenges," he said, "but I accepted the role as Facility Chief because I knew I could handle it."

Though his term as the Facility Chief of the PLC is up, Dr. Nixon is continuing to practice General Surgery at the PLC.



Ms. Marie McEachern opens a gift from the Department of Surgery



Dr. John Dushinski holds up a box containing a soapstone carving of a bear



Dr. James Nixon opening his gift from the Department of Surgery at the recognition dinner
Photos courtesy of Braidon Stephens

First Annual General Surgery Softball Game a Smashing Success!

With the new group of Residents just beginning their journey with the Department of Surgery, the General Surgery Faculty has decided on a unique way to welcome their new R1's.

Dr. Chad Ball is a supporter of teamwork and wanted to get the Residents working together. That is why he has decided to kick off the new research curriculum with the swing of a baseball bat.

On Thursday, July 28th, the General Surgery Faculty and Residents headed down to the Parkdale Community Centre for the First Annual Surgeons vs. Resident Softball Game.

"It was something that was done where I did my Fellowship to welcome the new Residents," Dr. Ball said. "It was very successful, and I thought it was a great idea, so I decided to bring it here to welcome our General Surgery Residents."

Dr. Ball, as a Fellow at Emory University, participated in these events. When he joined our Department of Surgery last September, he saw the benefits of hosting the event for the Section of General Surgery.

"The Residents don't know yet that we've got a trophy, one of those huge, tacky, totally cheesy trophies, and the winning team gets to keep it, but they have to defend their title the following year," Dr. Ball continued. "All the Residents will be on one team, and the General Surgery Faculty will be on the other team. It will be interesting," he said.

Though Dr. Ball admitted that the Faculty wasn't as prepared for the big game as they could have been, he made sure to note that the event is all in the name of fun.

"The problem is that when you're on a team full of old people, injuries are bound to happen," he laughed. "There have been some very famous American Surgeons who have been injured doing things like this, which makes it even tougher on us old guys," he joked. "Even so, we're going to play the game very seriously. We even bought our team matching T-shirts with nicknames on the back."

Dr. Ball said that historically speaking, the Residents usually win, but that didn't

stop him or his team from aiming for victory.

Dr. Paul McBeth, Administrative Chief Resident, took charge of the Residents' team, determined to carry his team to victory.

"This is the first year of the event, so we have to make it count. We have to win," Dr. McBeth said prior to the game, with a very serious face. "We are going to annihilate and dominate!"

"We've been training rigorously, almost daily," Dr. McBeth said, cracking a smile. "There's no doubt in my mind that we won't win."

When the two teams squared off, it was go big or go home. The Residents took to bat first, **Dr. Juan Arminan** was up, determined to hit the ball out of the park. With the swing of the bat, he connected with the ball. After a few successful hits, the Residents scored the first run, igniting their team spirit.

It wasn't until the sixth inning when the game got serious. It was 17-18 in favour of the Surgeons. The Surgeons were up to bat, and with the throw of the ball, and the swing of the bat, a final home run was achieved.

In the end, the Surgeons took home the coveted trophy. The final score was 17-23 in favour of the Surgeons.

"We overwhelmed them with power and experience," **Dr. Francis Sutherland** exclaimed. "We're not expecting to lose next year; we're not expecting to lose ever."

Even though the Surgeons won, everyone still had a good time.

"I can't wait to do it again next year," Dr. Ball exclaimed. "We had a blast, and we're going to hold onto the trophy next year. Just you watch – we will do it!"

If anything, the big game got everyone outdoors in an environment where they could work together and just have fun.

"It's nice to have events like this because it brings the Residents and faculty closer together in the context of fun activities and sportsmanship outside of the hospital setting," Dr. McBeth said. "It's fun to see your colleagues in a more relaxed setting, and you get to know them more as people too."



Dr. Juan Arminan, first year Resident, knocks the ball out of the park for the Residents' team



Dr. Ball gave all of his teammates nicknames. Dr. Buie (Senior Proctologist) heads up to the plate to score a run for the Surgeons' team



Dr. Steve Johnson runs for first base as the Surgeons' team scrambles to intercept him



Drs. Kirkpatrick (The Captain), Sutherland (Linda's Husband) and Reso (Albania Rules!) celebrate their victory over the Residents

Department of Surgery 2010/2011 - Looking back at a great year!



Dr. Paul Cantle, R4, demonstrating how to tie a surgical knot to the new R1's during a PGY1 Surgical Skills course



Drs. Ken Romanchuk, Geoff Williams, and Amin Kherani accept a \$20,000 cheque from Mr. Neil Thurber of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Alberta. The donation will help fund an EyeSi surgical simulator to train Ophthalmology Residents in various types of eye surgeries



The Section of Vascular Surgery just got approval for a complete renovation of their facilities at the PLC. The project will be built in shelled space on the 5th floor of the PLC East Wing. The facility update is expected to be completed in 2014.



The Prostate Cancer Centre at the Southern Alberta Institute of Urology has been open for a full year as of March 29, 2011. The Centre currently houses outpatient consultations as well as ultrasound services, biopsies, and multiple sub-specialty services.



First year Residents; Drs. Brittany Dingley (General Surgery,) Donald Graham (Plastic Surgery) and Brett Byers (Plastic Surgery) participating in one of their PGY1 Skills courses



Dr. Norman Schachar, Office of Surgical Education, and his wife enjoying the evening festivities at the 29th Annual Surgeons' Day at Heritage Park's Gasoline Alley

IN MEMORY OF OUR COLLEAGUES

Dr. Marian T. Troy. September 24, 1926 - September 8, 2010

Dr. Marian T. Troy passed away on September 8, 2010 after a long battle with Prostate Cancer. Born September 24, 1926, Dr. Troy was a third generation physician who dedicated much of his life to the well-being of others. He was born in the town of Poznan, Poland, and following the German invasion of Poland during World War II, he left his family and made his way across war-torn Europe. With the help of the Polish Army, Dr. Troy was admitted to the University of Durham, England to pursue a career in medicine. It was while he was in medical school that he met Margaret Kelly, a student nurse, whom he married and enjoyed life with for 57 years. Following his education, he accepted a position at St. John's Hospital in Newfoundland and officially immigrated to Canada. In 1961, Dr. Troy and his family moved to Calgary, where he began a private practice as a General Surgeon out of the Calgary General Hospital. In 1973, Dr. Troy and his eldest son embarked across the Caribbean in a 33-foot sail boat. Dr. Troy was known by his loved ones and co-workers as an adventurous and caring man who cared a lot for the well-being of others. In addition to his surgical career, Dr. Troy was also passionate about photography and playing the piano. He was an avid history enthusiast, and he loved to write. In his later years he was a serving officer of St. John's Ambulance. Dr. Troy will be remembered by the Department of Surgery for his dedication and passion as well as his desire to alleviate the pain and suffering of all of his patients.

Dr. Vincent J. Murphy. November 24, 1922 - August 23, 2010

Dr. Vincent J. Murphy passed away on August 23, 2010 at the age of 87 years old. Dr. Murphy was born in the small town of Castor, Alberta, on November 24, 1922, and was raised on the family farm. After completing high school, Dr. Murphy began an apprenticeship as a Pharmacist. That is where his love of the medical field began to take shape. When World War II broke out, Dr. Murphy, like his older brother, enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces. He became a navigator for the Royal Air Force, Path Finder Squadron No. 35, flying missions to Le Havre, France and Nuremburg, Germany in the later years of the war. On June 23, 1944, his plane was shot down, and he spent the remainder of the war as a Prisoner of War, residing in Stalag Luft III in Zagan, Poland. He remained there until January, 1945, when he was rescued and brought home by allied forces. Upon returning home from the war, Dr. Murphy attended medical school at the University of Alberta and completed an internship at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. He finished his medical school in 1953, and later decided to specialize in Orthopaedics, and completed a second internship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1957 he returned to Calgary and joined the Associated Clinic where he actively practiced as an Orthopaedic Surgeon until 1993. He continued to work as an Orthopaedic Consultant until 2007. Additionally in 1957, he began his 51 years of service as a Doctor for the Calgary Stampeders. When he went into semi-retirement, he was the longest-acting team physician in all of pro sport. In recognition to his loyalty and service, he was placed on the Stampeders Wall of Fame, and was awarded the Art Evans Memorial Award. In 2002, Dr. Murphy became an advisor of the Great Escape Memorial Project, dedicated to the memory of the 50 prisoners that were executed at the Stalag Luft III camp that Dr. Murphy was held at during the war. Outside of his surgical practice, Dr. Murphy loved to play golf. He became a member of the Willow Park Golf Club in 1965, and continued his passion until his later years. He enjoyed taking trips abroad with his golf buddies, as well as cross-country and downhill skiing. Dr. Murphy will be greatly missed, and will be remembered for his dedication to his career as an Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Dr. Oskar Retzer. February 24, 1929 - June 8, 2011

Dr. Oskar Retzer passed away on June 8, 2011 at the age of 82. Dr. Retzer was born on February 24, 1929. He received his M.D. in 1956 from the University of Alberta, and took an additional six years of training to become a Surgical Specialist. He worked out of the Calgary General Hospital in the city as a General Surgeon, and also worked out of a local Cancer Clinic. Dr. Retzer cared about his patients and their well-being, always staying by their side, and doing his best to assist each and every one of his patients. He was an Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Calgary until his retirement in 1996. He is remembered by his colleagues as a very quiet, always polite, soft spoken man who cared so incredibly much about his patients. Though he was quiet, he was an incredibly hard worker. Dr. Retzer was known for his easy-going attitude, and his approachability. He was always well respected by his patients and surgical staff. Dr. Retzer will be greatly missed by the surgical community, and will live on in spirit as a phenomenal Surgeon who affected so many lives.

ALUMNI LECTURESHIP

Alberta Health Services & University of Calgary

The Alumni Lectureship Committee was established in 2007 to showcase distinguished Surgeons who trained under **Dr. Rene Lafreniere**. **Dr. John Heine** was appointed as the first ever Chair of the Lectureship Committee. His job was to locate and arrange to bring in these individuals to speak at the Annual Alumni Lectures.

During his five-year term, Dr. Heine found some very accomplished Alumni to speak to the Department.

"It's always a challenge because you want to get good quality speakers to showcase something unique that they have done," Dr. Heine said. "We've had some great speakers in the past, and they keep proving to us that the Department had produced some truly phenomenal thinkers."

Dr. Heine has always focused on speakers who have done something unique or exceptional; whether it be the lifestyle they lead or a new type of surgical practice.

"The goal of the lectureship has been to get people to see that when Dr. Rene Lafreniere took over, he took the Department to a new level, and we are producing people who go out and do novel things," Dr. Heine said. "It shows that we are producing people who think, evolve and become lifelong learners rather than just doing the same thing as everyone else."

The hoped outcome is to get people to think about what we can learn from their teachings. The lecturers come from different Surgery Sections every year to keep the content fresh, and to broaden the topics being explored.

"If we get someone to talk about a new hip surgery, then I, as a General Surgeon, would be learning something new," Dr. Heine said. "For me it's like watching the Discovery Channel, but in real life."

Dr. Heine has completed his five years as the Chair of the Lectureship Committee, and the Department is in the process of appointing a new Chair for a five year

term.

The Department wishes to acknowledge Dr. Heine for his outstanding job as the Chair of the Committee, and for giving us the opportunity to see some of the great minds the Department has produced.



Dr. John Heine (General Surgery) served five years as Chair of the Alumni Lectureship Committee

ALUMNI LECTURE HISTORY



Dr. Bob Kiaii was our 2007 Alumni lecturer. Dr. Kiaii attended medical school and completed a surgical internship at the University of Western Ontario. He completed his General Surgery Residency at the University of Calgary and then returned home to the University of Western Ontario for a Fellowship in Cardiac Surgery and Cardiac Transplantation. Dr. Kiaii also attended the University of Leipzig, Germany where he carried out additional training in robotic and minimally invasive cardiac surgery.



Dr. Kelly Johnston was the honoured speaker at the Alumni Lecture for 2009. His presentation focused on "Current Concepts in Adult Hip Disease" where he looked at potential causes of Osteoarthritis of the hip. After completing his Undergraduate Degree in Biochemistry at the University of Calgary, he went on to complete his M.D. at the University of Alberta. It wasn't until the second year of his General Surgery Residency that he decided to switch into Orthopaedics. Since then, Dr. Johnston has become a prominent fixture in the Section of Orthopaedics as a Hip and Knee Surgeon.



Dr. Philip Haigh served as the 2008 Alumni Lecturer. Dr. Haigh was born and raised in Calgary, but has been working in Los Angeles since 2002. When Dr. Haigh finished his Residency in Calgary, he moved to California, where he took on a two year Surgical Oncology Fellowship, an Endocrine Surgery Elective and a Fellowship in Breast and Endocrine Surgery. His presentation was entitled; "Surgical Research Vignettes from Hollywood, California," where he spoke about his research at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Centre.



Dr. Debrah Wirtzfeld was the guest speaker at the 2010 Alumni Lecture. Dr. Wirtzfeld discussed the General Surgeon with a lifestyle in hopes of encouraging healthy, balanced lives for Surgeons. Dr. Wirtzfeld went on to complete her Bachelor of Science with a distinction in Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology and her M.D. at the UofC. 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.



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Department of Surgery - Alberta Health Services

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