

THE BLADE

Department of Surgery

Together, Leading and Creating Excellence in Surgical Care



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Winter 2018

Report designed, compiled and edited

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All content and photography (unless otherwise stated)

Provided by Malak Amche

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

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Calling all Department of Surgery Alumni

The Department of Surgery would love to continue to send you copies of our 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 our newsletter, please contact Rosey Hwang, to update your contact information. You may phone her at (403) 944-2699 or email her at rosey.hwang@ahs.ca. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.



A Message from Dr. Sean Grondin



Dr. Sean Grondin
Head, Department of Surgery
Photo courtesy of Dr. Grondin

I am very pleased to share the latest issue of the Blade newsletter in which we report on several of the events and highlights in the Department of Surgery (DoS) as well as introduce some of the outstanding new faculty who have joined our ranks.

As the incoming Head of the DoS, one of my first objectives was to re-evaluate our academic goals in research and education while continue to work toward fulfilling our mission to provide excellence in clinical care.

In an effort to build on previous academic accomplishments, detailed reviews in education and research were begun and new important initiatives have been initiated. Strong surgical leaders have emerged to support these efforts and to manage the challenges of redesigning the current infrastructure to best fulfill our mission and meet our goals.

Improving Clinical Care and Maximizing Resource Utilization

In the relatively short time I have been in this position, I have witnessed the implementation of novel surgical techniques that have been shown to improve the quality of patient care and reduce resource demands. For example, the Section of Orthopedic Surgery and Alberta Health Services (AHS) leadership came together to ensure the thoughtful implementation of the direct anterior approach for hip arthroplasty. Critical to the success of this implementation has been the leadership of Dr. Raj Sharma and the

Peter Lougheed Center (PLC) orthopedic team who helped with the training of surgeons and allied health professionals in the zone as well as the AHS Executive Directors who worked to ensure funding for equipment.

Another important objective of the DoS is to ensure efficient use of operating room (OR) resources by evaluating variation in case costing and OR time utilization as well as improving teamwork with all stakeholders related to surgical planning and performance. To better understand what needs to happen to meet this goal, exercises such as the PLC OR Team Building Event at the Calgary Zoo as well as Kaizen events at the Foothills Medical Center have identified areas for improving efficiency in patient care. A review of these recommendations is underway to identify the best means of implementation. Furthermore, an OR resource position is being created in the DoS to explore new opportunities for savings across the Calgary Zone by decreasing unnecessary variation in surgical practice patterns and reviewing equipment costs.

Education

Dr. Artan Reso has assumed the role of Director of the Office of Surgical Education. Artan is a strong communicator who is enthusiastic about modernizing teaching practices. He is meeting regularly with representatives from the Cumming School of Medicine Postgraduate Medical Education Office and Program Directors (PD) to plan for the implementation of competency based medical education (CBME). Shared learnings from programs who have already instituted CBME (ENT, Pediatric Surgery), as well as leadership from Dr. Andrew Wong (CBME Lead for the DoS) will be critical in ensuring a smooth transition.

Artan is also collaborating with Dr. Justin LeBlanc (PD for Surgical Foundations) and Alicia Ponton-Carss to create a “bootcamp” for PGY1 residents in the Surgical Foundations program beginning in the summer of 2018.

A Message from Dr. Sean Grondin

In the Continuing Medical Education portfolio, Dr. Vick Chahal has assumed the leadership role. Vick will be continuing with Royal College Maintenance of Competency (MOCOMP) updates but will also be focusing on improving DoS efforts to organize educational conferences for our surgical and family medicine colleagues. Vick is also playing a key role in updating our DoS Grand Rounds Schedule as well as Surgeons' Day content.

In the Office of Surgical Fellowship Dr. Jim Powell and an experienced support staff continue to provide strong leadership. A total of 30 fellows are trained annually in programs such as general surgery, ophthalmology and orthopedic surgery. An external review of the current funding model within the OSF is underway to ensure a sustainable funding mechanism.

Research

The Office of Surgical Research is currently led by Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle. With the Assistance of Chelsie O'Brien, Claire oversaw a successful Resident Research Day in June in which high quality presentations were noted from residents as well as from the invited judges, Drs. Shamir Chandarana and Paolo Campisi. Claire is also actively involved in the review of the DoS research program. Plans are underway to work with research leaders in the DoS to identify pillars of research interests and how best to effectively use research resources for increased success.

Notably, several faculty members have been successful in grant competitions throughout the year. The SCN seed grant competition is a recent example with a total of four grants being obtained by surgeons (Drs. Ryan Martin, Prism Schneider, Colin Schieman and Mary Brindle).

New Initiatives

New initiatives are underway to advance DoS goals in surgical quality and global surgery. Dr. Andrew Graham is overseeing the development of the Office of Surgical Quality. He is currently focusing his efforts on completing an environmental scan of existing resources within the DoS and AHS in an effort to develop a strategic plan for measuring and improving the quality of surgical care. Dr. Gwen Hollaar is actively pursuing the creation of a Center of Global Surgery within the DoS that will promote equitable access to essential surgical care and improve participation in International and Global Surgery activities. Additional details on these two great initiatives will be available in the upcoming months.

In the past year, I have been honored to serve as the Head of the Department of Surgery. The position has a steep learning curve and I deeply appreciate the support that I have received. I am extremely proud of our faculty and staff and I am fortunate to witness firsthand our significant accomplishments in education and research. Our department continues to provide exemplary innovative clinical care as well as strong leadership with several surgeons holding important positions in government agencies, institutions and surgical associations. Thank you and enjoy the newsletter.

A Message from Dr. Mary Brindle



Dr. Mary Brindle
Associate Head
Department of Surgery

The hallmarks of Academic Surgery are high acuity and high-quality complex, multidisciplinary care; and excellence in programs of research and education.

Traditional fee for service practices poorly capture or reward the scope of academic surgical practice. Members of the department consistently make personal and financial sacrifices to achieve clinical and academic excellence.

The expansion and development of Academic Medical Frameworks in Calgary provide an opportunity to address some of the deficiencies of existing compensation models. This past year, our department was given the opportunity to move forward with an Academic Medical Framework. The two sections selected to participate in the first roll-out are pediatric surgery and thoracic surgery. A central framework and governing structure will support this process which we expect to eventually expand to additional sections throughout the department.

The process has been long and challenging. We are learning from the struggles and successes of other departments in Calgary as well as across Canada. Currently the department is developing key performance indicators that capture the unique contributions of surgeons. We are also working with sections to develop provincial compensation models.

To further support our members' academic productivity, this year we are tackling the on-boarding process for new surgeons. Our administration has been working to streamline a surgeon's transition to practice and alleviate some of the administrative burdens.

An orientation manual has been developed by the department that will provide guidance and necessary information for new faculty and a resource for established members. One of the primary goals in this on-boarding process is to help new surgeons develop and achieve clear clinical and academic objectives. We plan to meet with all surgeons in their first four years of practice this fall to help refine objectives, identify and tackle barriers and support mentorship relationships and other facilitators of success.

Department of Surgery Retreat 2017

The annual Department of Surgery retreat took place over two days in March 2017, at the Hotel Alma. Unlike last year, the department decided to host this event in town to encourage as much participation as possible, and keep overall costs low.

This year's topics were both important and timely and included quality and safety, academic ARPs, and surgical research. Dr. Andrew Graham focused on quality initiatives, Dr. Mary Brindle led a review of the developing surgical academic ARP, and a review of the department's research program was led by Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle.

Speakers at the retreat included a rich representation of experts in Calgary as well as renown speakers from Ontario and Michigan. Dr. Donald S. Likosky, a PhD Health Services Researcher from the University of Michigan, presented his perspective during the quality and safety retreat. He spoke about targeting variability in care as a method to improve the quality of surgical care and his experience in leading national projects in quality improvement. Other presentations with a focus on quality initiatives included topics about the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), the Bone and Joint Network, Surgical Clinical Network Cost, the institute for public health and the Ohlson Research Initiative. Speakers from the Department of Surgery were joined by Dr. Bill Ghali and Gregg Nelson to expand on the role of surgical quality initiatives within a broad local and national context.

Dr. Rudan the Surgical Department Head from Queen's University, presented his experience with leading a successful Alternative Relationship Plan program (ARP) that has evolved over the last 25 years. Dr. Rudan discussed the theoretical underpinnings of ARPs and the practical issues encountered in developing, evolving and maintaining a surgical AARP. Dr. Rudan was joined by other physicians including Dr. Steven Lopushinsky and Dr. Sid Viner to share their thoughts on what it takes to build a successful ARP, along with any tips they had for running such programs.



Dr. Mary Brindle
Associate Head
Department of Surgery

The department members participated in groups to develop proposed key performance indicators that capture the key measures of excellent clinical care. These measures have contributed to the departmental ARP framework. For the final aspect of the retreat, Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle from the Office of Surgical Research led an exploration of the role of research within the Department of Surgery. Presentations were supplemented by group learning activities. Speakers included Drs. Rob Harrop and Marcia Clark. Topics included the history of the Office of Surgical Research, how productivity is measured, and defining a purpose for the new office. This aspect of the retreat concluded by exploring the potential priorities for research within the Department of Surgery and a discussion of the resources required.

The annual retreat was a great success showcasing the excellent work done by department members, engaging the membership in group discussion of key issues, as well as identifying priorities for the department for years to come. One of the department's key goals is to develop greater teamwork, cohesion and collaboration among its members. Department leadership hope to see even greater participation in activities such as this spring's retreat to further strengthen the department.

Highlights, Awards, Grants and Promotions

Promoted to Assistant Professor

Dr. Jeff Clark – Vascular Surgery
Dr. Justin LeBlanc – Orthopedic Surgery
Dr. Chirag Shah – Ophthalmology
Dr. Tom Wierzbicki – Dentistry and Oral Health
Dr. Jonathan Wong – Ophthalmology

Promoted to Associate Professor

Dr. Michael Fielden – Ophthalmology
Dr. Geoff Gotto – Urology
Dr. Jay Lee – Urology
Dr. Peter Lewkonja – Orthopedic Surgery
Dr. M. Alexandra Soroceanu – Orthopedic Surgery

Leadership Appointments

Dr. John Heine – PLC Site Lead
Dr. Lloyd Mack – ACB Provincial Lead
Dr. Artan Reso – OSE Lead
Dr. Andrew Wong – CPD Lead (peds)
Dr. Jacques Bouchard – CPD Lead
Dr. Robin Eccles - Safety Lead (peds)
Dr. Duncan Nickerson - Safety Lead (adult)
Dr. Andrew Graham – OSQ Lead
Dr. Elaine Joughin - Department Advisor on Gender and Equity and Faculty Ombudsman
Dr. Rohan Lall - Joint appointment as medical Chair of the
Alberta Trauma Services Core Leadership Team (ATS CLT)

Associate Dean's Letter of Recognition for significant "Behind-the-Scenes" Contributions to the Clerkship 2016-17 Academic Year

Dr. Frankie Fraulin - Pediatric Surgery
Dr. Christopher Armstrong - General Surgery
Dr. John Graham - General Surgery
Dr. Jay Lee - Plastics
Dr. David Mackenzie - Plastics
Dr. Lloyd Mack - Surgical Oncology
Dr. Fred Loiselle - Plastics
Dr. Jeremy Lamothe - Orthopedics
Dr. Don Buie - General Surgery

Dr. Mark E. Lipson - General Surgery Resident

Awarded the 2017 Kristin Sivertz Resident Leadership Award by the
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the ICRE planning committee

Highlights, Awards, Grants and Promotions

2017 PGME Appreciation Awards

Dr. Lloyd Mack: Outstanding Commitment to Residency Education Award

Dr. Joseph Dort: Award of Resident Mentorship.
Jessica Bartolome: Service in Support of Residency Education

Cumming School of Medicine Clinical/Adjunct/Research Faculty Award Recipient's

Dr. Chad Ball - Clinical Research Award
Dr. Adrian Harvey - UME Award
Dr. Jason Werle - CME Award

Awards/Recognition

- Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle: Robert Maudsley Award (RC)
- Dr. Gail Thornton: Awarded the NSERC Discovery Grant \$130,000
- Dr. Sean McFadden: 2016 Resident Mentorship Award from PGME
- Dr. David Hart: \$25,000 CSM Enhanced Bridge Funding Program
- Dr. Marcia Clark: RCPSC recognition for contributions to simulation-based education
- Dr. Robert Lindsay: 2016 FMC Medical Staff Association Service Recognition Award
- Dr. Jeremy Kubik (PGY3 Ortho): 2016 CSCI Award for Excellence in Resident Research (Runner up)

Surgeon Scientist Program

Dr. Devon Livingston: (\$60,000)

Research and Education Development Fund

Dr. Prism Schneider and Dr. Paul McBeth: (\$100,000)

Calgary Surgical Research Development Fund

Dr. Prism Schneider (\$4,000)
Dr. Joseph Dort (\$1,900)
Dr. Ryan Martin (\$3,600)
Dr. Gwen Hollaar (\$4,000)

Departments of Medicine and Surgery Development Fund Competition (DOM/DOS)

Dr. Prism Schneider (\$12,500)
Dr. Elizabeth Oddone Paolucci (\$12,500)
Dr. Robert Herman (\$12,500)

SCN Seed Grants (\$10,000/each) - 2016

Dr. Paul Petrasek
Dr. Paul Beaudry
Dr. Rob Harrop
Dr. Graham Thompson

SCN Seed Grants (\$10,000/each) - 2017

Dr. Ryan Martin
Dr. Prism Schneider
Dr. Colin Schieman
Dr. Mary Brindle

Highlights, Awards, Grants and Promotions

Grants in the Department of Surgery

PI Name	Project Sponsor/ Grant Title	Project Title	Amount
Dr. Richard Baverstock	Movember Discovery Grant sponsored by Prostate Cancer Canada	Measuring the relationship between overactive bladder symptoms and prostate cancer treatment	\$196,000
Dr. Karim Manji	ORPYX Medical Technologies INC	Pressure-Sensing Insoles in the Neuropathic Ulcer Treatment Pathway (PINUP)	\$146,000
Dr. Prism Schneider	McCaig Encore Catalyst Grant	Can High Resolution CT Determine Healing Time for Distal Radius Fractures?	\$30,000
Dr. Prism Schneider	University of Calgary Research Portfolio Award	Can High Resolution CT Determine Healing Time for Distal Radius Fractures?	\$30,000
Dr. Bryce Weber	Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Foundation	Evaluating Pain Outcomes of caudal versus ilioinguinal nerve block in children undergoing unilateral groin surgery	\$10,000
Dr. Paul McBeth	Canadian Association of General Surgeons	Characterization of Early Coagulopathy in Trauma Patients with massive Hemorrhage using Rotational Thrombelastography	\$10,000
Dr. Marcia Clark	University of Calgary Students Association	Student Run Simulation Team (SRST)	\$5,400
Dr. Mark Nutley	Lawson Health Research Institute	Graft explants following endovascular aneurysm repair	\$500

35th Annual Surgeons' Day

Recognizing Excellence



Dr. Paolo Campisi, Kris Norman,
Dr. Fiona Costello, Dr. Mary Brindle (Left to right)

The Department of Surgery held their 35th Annual Surgeons' Day Research Symposium on June 2, 2017 at the Alberta Children's Hospital Amphitheater and Atrium.

The annual event is to recognize, and celebrate the achievements and research activities of surgeons, residents, fellows and medical students.

This year's three Symposium Sessional Chairs were Dr. Paul Beaudry from Pediatric Surgery, Dr. Prism Schneider from Orthopedic Surgery, and Dr. Marcia Clark from Orthopedic Surgery.

The symposium research presentations began after Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle, Interim Director of the Office of Surgical Research, gave her welcome and opening remarks. This year's resident research presentations were from several different sections from within our department and created a strong and varied day program with presenters ranging from year one to five in their training.

The guest judges this year were Dr. Shamir Chandarana, Clinical Assistant Professor, Section of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Oncology/Reconstructive Surgery, University of Calgary, and Dr. Paolo Campisi, Professor and Vice Chair of Education, Director of Postgraduate Education, and member of the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

The Dr. Peter Cruse Memorial Award for best surgery-related research project by a University of Calgary Medical Student was awarded to Ms. Kristen Barton, for her work in Orthopaedic research.

After lunch, all members were given the opportunity to participate in a poster review led by Drs. Michael Monument, Orthopedic Surgery and Miller Smith, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.

Award Ceremony

That evening, surgeons and their families, residents, fellows and medical students attended the Surgeons' Day Award Ceremony and dinner hosted at the Sheraton Hotel in Eau Claire.

Five Distinguished Service Awards were presented this year, recognizing surgeons from all of the Calgary sites. The recipients were as follows:

Dr. Stephen Miller, Section of Orthopedic Surgery from the South Health Campus, Dr. Maureen O'Brien, Section of Orthopedic Surgery from the Rockyview General Hospital, Dr. Gary Gelfand, Section of Thoracic Surgery from the Foothills Medical Centre, Dr. J. Douglas Bosch, Section of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery from the Peter Lougheed Centre, and Dr. Robin Eccles, Section of Pediatric Surgery from the Alberta Children's Hospital.



The Research Symposium presentations at
the Alberta Children's Hospital Amphitheater

35th Annual Surgeons' Day

Recognizing Excellence

This year we had a number of new awards introduced to celebrate faculty contributions in Research, Education, Surgical Quality, Innovation, Clinical Care and Leadership.

Five Education Awards were distributed this evening:

The Excellence in Teaching by New Faculty Award was presented to Dr. Justin LeBlanc as a new faculty member within his first five years of teaching. Dr. Wayne Matthews was the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching by Senior Faculty Award for being an outstanding educator for over five years. Dr. Frankie Fraulin received the Educator of the Year Award for his excellence in surgical education based on resident nominations for faculty members within their own surgical specialty. This year's Ectopic Educator Award was received by Dr. Shamir Chandarana, also for his excellence in surgical education based on resident nominations for faculty members, outside of their own surgical specialty. The McPhedran Award for Innovation in Surgical Teaching was presented to Dr. Jacques Bouchard, for his demonstration of innovation in educational achievements within the Department of Surgery.

The surgeons research awards were presented as follows:

Dr. Joseph Dort received the Outstanding Contribution in Basic Science Award for his exceptional commitment to Basic Science Research. Dr. Elijah Dixon received the Outstanding Contribution in Clinical Science Research Award for his dedication and commitment to Clinical research.

The Surgical Innovation Award was presented to Dr. Rajrishi Sharma for "The Direct Anterior Total Hip Arthroplasty."

Dr. Lea Austin was the recipient of the Dedication to Surgical Quality Award.

Dr. Eric Hyndman was the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution of a New Faculty Award, for dedication to the provision of excellent clinical care within his first five years of practice.

Last but not least the Outstanding Contribution in Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Fiona Costello. Surgeons weren't the only ones who were awarded, but residents were also recognized for their outstanding research skills.



Dr. Shamir Chandarana (left) and Dr. Paolo Campisi (right)
at the Surgeons' Day dinner



Dr. Jacques Bouchard, winner of the The McPhedran Award
for Innovation in Surgical Teaching and his family

35th Annual Surgeons' Day

Recognizing Excellence

The Best Overall Research Award was presented to Dr. Andrea Devrome, Section of Vascular Surgery. The Runner up Research Awards were received by Dr. Carrie Liu, Section of Otolaryngology and by Dr. Rebecca Hartley, Section of Plastic Surgery.

The Best Poster Award was presented to Dr. Michael Horkoff, Section of General Surgery. Mieke Heyns, Medical Student, was the recipient of the Best Poster Honourable Mention Award.

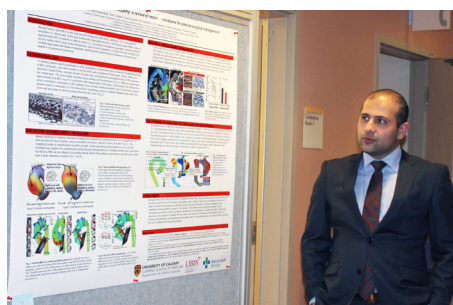
All guests enjoyed a delicious four-course meal and a live performance by the Two Bit Bandits. It was indeed another spectacular Surgeons' Day. From the Department of Surgery, congratulations to all of the winners!



Residents take group photo with Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery faculty at Surgeons' Day Gala.

Presentations and Mingle Session

Alberta Children's Hospital



Awards Ceremony



The Excellence in Teaching by New Faculty Award was presented to Dr. Justin LeBlanc (left), by Dr. Artan Reso (right)



The Excellence in Teaching by Senior Faculty Award was presented to Dr. T. Wayne Matthews (left), by Dr. Artan Reso (right)



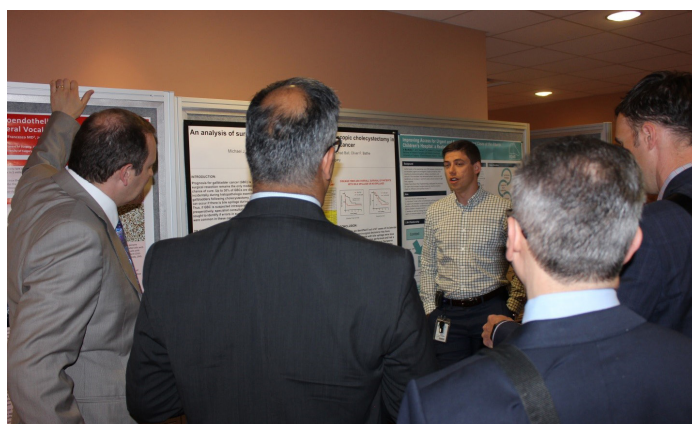
Dr. Frankie Fraulin was the recipient of the Educator of the year Award



Dr. Shamir Chandarana was this year's recipient of the Ectopic Educator Award



Mieke Heyns (left), Medical Student, received the award for Best Poster Honourable Mention for "What are the provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons' guidelines on smartphone clinical photography?"



Dr. Michael Horkoff (facing judges), General Surgery R2, received the award for Best Poster for "An analysis of surgical decisions made during laparoscopic cholecystectomy in patients with incidental gallbladder cancer"

Awards Ceremony



Best Research Award was presented to Dr. Andrea Devrome (left), Vascular Surgery, R3 *"Cardiac rehabilitation (CR) in subjects with peripheral arterial disease (PAD): a higher risk patient population who benefit from attendance"*



Runner up Research Award was presented to Dr. Carrie Liu (left), Otolaryngology, R4 *"Oral Antibiotic use for Otitis Media with Effusion: Ongoing Opportunities for Quality Improvement"*



Runner up Research Award was presented to Dr. Rebecca Hartley (left), Plastic Surgery, R3 *"Pediatric Hand Fractures: A Clinical Prediction Rule to Identify which Hand Fractures Need Specialized Care"*



Dr. Shamir Chandarana (far left) and Dr. Paolo Campisi (far right) with the research award winning residents



Dr. Joseph Dort received the outstanding contribution in Basic Science Award



The Surgical innovation Award was presented to Dr. Rajrishi Sharma (left) for *"The Direct Anterior Total Hip Arthroplasty"* by Dr. Gary Gelfand (right)

Awards Ceremony



Dr. Elijah Dixon (left) received the outstanding contribution in Clinical Science Research Award presented by Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle (right)



The McPhedran Award for Innovation in Surgical Teaching was presented to Dr. Jacques Bouchard (left) by Dr. Sean Grondin (right)



Dr. Lea Austin (left) was the recipient of the Dedication to Surgical Quality Award presented by Dr. Gary Gelfand (right)



Dr. Eric Hyndman was the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution of a New Faculty Award



Dr. Fiona Costello (left) was the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution in Leadership Award, presented by Drs. Mary Brindle (middle) and Claire Temple-Oberle (right)



Dr. Gary Gelfand (left) from Foothills Medical Centre received a Distinguished Service Award presented by Dr. Sean Grondin (right)

Awards Ceremony



Dr. J. Douglas Bosch (left) from Peter Lougheed Centre received a Distinguished Service Award presented by Dr. Sean Grondin (right)



Dr. Stephen Miller (left) from South Health Campus received a Distinguished Service Award presented by Drs. Sean Grondin (middle) and Mary Brindle (right)



Dr. Maureen O'Brien from Rockyview General Hospital received a Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Robin Eccles (left) from Alberta Children's Hospital received a Distinguished Service Award presented by Drs. Sean Grondin (middle) and Mary Brindle (right)



(L to R) Dr. Mary Brindle, Dr. J. Doug Bosch, Dr. Stephen Miller, Dr. Jason Werle, Dr. Robin Eccles, Dr. Gary Gelfand and Dr. Sean Grondin

More from Surgeons' Day



Meet Dr. Trafford Crump

Health Services Researcher PhD – Section of Urology



Dr. Trafford Crump
Section of Urology

Dr. Crump started his new position in the department as an Assistant Professor, conducting research with a handful of Urologists, on March of last year. Prior to joining the Department of Surgery, he earned his PhD in the evaluative clinical sciences from Dartmouth Medical School in New Hampshire, U.S., followed by a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research at the University of British Columbia.

One of the things he likes most about Urology is being able to work with surgeons who are open to ideas and allowing their practices to be assessed and evaluated. “You don’t always get that in health care,” he says.

Dr. Crump is not a physician, and being a non MD is very unusual in the Department of Surgery. He finds it somewhat of a challenge to be working at Rockyview General Hospital while the rest of his peers work in the Department of Community Health Sciences, because there’s not a lot of opportunity to engage with them. For that reason, Dr. Crump makes weekly visits to the Foothills Medical Centre.

“I’m located at Rockyview General Hospital, so there’s not a lot of opportunity to engage in that sort of stereotypical but very important academic mix, so that’s why I come down here [Foothills Medical Centre] on Fridays to do that, to try and engage. So maybe I guess that would be the one thing I dislike, the disconnect between the campus here and Rocky.”

Dr. Crump has several objectives walking into this position, one of them being to become a leading expert in surgical outcomes research, with hopes to contribute to the department and the whole health system in general.

“I think Canada, and Alberta more specifically, face a lot of challenges trying to deliver timely surgical care to patients and so there’s a lot of opportunity there for me to improve this system through improving evidence and more rigorous research,” he explains.

Dr. Crump is presently involved in four major projects. In one he is helping measure the relationship between overactive bladder symptoms and prostate cancer treatment to find out if there’s a significant relationship. “We’ve got a stack of research grants going out right now, one is looking at some of the prostate cancer data that we’ve been collecting to develop predictive models for outcomes, so things like cancer related outcomes, mortality, patient reported outcomes. I’m part of the Alberta Prostate Cancer Research Initiative and we have an enormous dataset of men from across Alberta we can now start using through modeling men’s risk factors,” says Dr. Crump.

Dr. Crump plans to be more productive, and build an independently funded research program. He says the main sponsors will be groups like the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Alberta Innovates, and Prostate Cancer Canada. Most of the focus he assures will be put into learning how to measure quality when it comes to patient care, and ensuring that patients are aware of all of their options.

According to Dr. Crump, it’s important that patient outcomes align with patient preferences because at the end of the day, better informed patients make better decisions. That’s not all.

Dr. Crump also hopes to improve his mentorship skills. He would love to be able to work with Masters or PhD Students over the next five years and pass his knowledge on to them. He just found out that he is involved in a teaching excellence program organized by the Cumming School of Medicine.

“So I’ll be doing that to improve my mentorship skills and my teaching skills,” shares Dr. Crump.

Dr. Richdeep Gill

Reflections of a New Faculty Member



Dr. Richdeep Gill
Section of General Surgery
Photo courtesy of Dr. Gill

Dr. Richdeep Gill has been in practice since August 2015 when he first joined the department as a Minimally Invasive Upper Gastrointestinal and Bariatric Surgeon. Since then he has been working at the Peter Lougheed Hospital and South Health Campus in Calgary as a part of the Bariatric Program at both sites, and does endoscopy and surgeries at the High River Hospital.

Dr. Gill was born and raised in Calgary, and is a married father of three children. Outside of medicine he is an avid enthusiast when it comes to any kind of sport, especially basketball, and loves spending time with his family. He graduated with an MD from the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 2006, which is also where he completed his General Surgery residency and a UGI and Bariatric fellowship.

Although he does move around quite a bit, Dr. Gill says he enjoys working with junior and senior residents to observe their development and help them improve their skills and knowledge.

"I get a chance to do some lectures, and then some work with the residents in the anatomy lab as well as in the wet lab, so it's a good opportunity for them to try things for the very first time in a very safe environment, where we give a lot of good feedback and hopefully help improve their skills."

He finds great pleasure in witnessing their growth and progress firsthand, and helping them prepare for real life when they will be operating on patients independently. He views the different levels of training as rewarding and simultaneously challenging.

One of the things Dr. Gill loves most about his career is that it's varied. Each day could be totally different for him, from being in the operating room doing a variety of different procedures for patients either electively or emergently, to working in the clinic, and being on-call during the evenings. What really motivates him on the job is getting to quickly see the impact treatment can make to a patient, especially if that patient's outcomes are positive and lead to a speedy recovery.

He considers himself very fortunate for the opportunity to get to work with great, and extremely supportive, mentors as well as senior surgeons, with whom he has built strong bonds. He says having their support and guidance every step of the way is what he appreciates most about the department as he feels that he always has someone to rely on for assistance if he ever needs it.

"I think some of the positive memories here have been getting opportunities to operate with them, do some cases together which I think has been really great for confidence building and also for learning new skills and new approaches, it's a privilege to learn from them."

Despite all of the good experiences he's had in the department so far, Dr. Gill mentions a challenge he believes is common in the Department of Surgery: the ability to optimize things while working at a number of different sites. This makes it harder to find a "common ground" for all issues that may arise at each of the sites. A legitimate solution for that can be difficult to find, but he has always thought that good and continuous communication is one way the department can change for the better while still ensuring that patients receive the highest level of care anytime and anywhere.

"Regular communication, making sure that there is good leadership at each site, I think that's the only way we'll be able to challenge problems or issues in general surgery because sometimes they're so broad and different among different sites and different groups. We're not a group with only five or six members so it's not easy to sit down and discuss these things when

Dr. Richdeep Gill

Reflections of a New Faculty Member

you have 40-50 people,” he says.

Dr. Gill also emphasizes the fact that physicians are always striving to optimize their outcomes as much as they can, with an ultimate goal to continue improving patient health care, whether it be technology wise, procedure specific, pre-surgery planning or post-surgery care because quality improvement is essential. As a Minimally Invasive Surgeon, he has been working on a few protocols that have already been put in place to help patients recover from surgery, and he is looking forward to becoming more involved in such things down the road.

In terms of project development from a clinical side, Dr. Gill and his Upper GI colleagues are assisting in the expansion of their current Calgary Adult Bariatric Specialty Program, as there is a huge demand for such programs in Calgary and across the country.

“I think in Canada, Calgary has been a little bit behind in terms of number of procedures we are able to do so I’m hoping now that not just the surgical part but that the whole program continues to grow to provide something that a lot of patients in Calgary need access to. Right now they say probably only one per cent of the patients who are eligible have access to it.”

This program is known to be good at providing a multidisciplinary support team to help guide the care of patients suffering from diseases like obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, infertility, etc., as well as give them access to bariatric surgery.

From the academic side, he and other minimally invasive surgeons are currently working on a couple of grants for clinical trials, which they are hoping to see come through.

With a passion for upper GI and bariatric surgery and a deep interest in clinical research, Dr. Gill hopes to focus more on clinical studies in the years to come.

Finally, he would also like to see the department and its programs continue to thrive, so that in about five years’ time, he can contribute back to the program in more of a leadership role.

“After five years, when I’ve been around for a little longer, I want to help get the next generation progressing, and I hope to be where my mentors are now and hopefully even surpass them.”

Dr. Paul Petrasek

Section Chief, Vascular Surgery - Q&A

In June 2017, Dr. Paul Petrasek concluded 12 years of leadership for the Section of Vascular Surgery. Meaning that last summer, he found spare time to do his favorite things; train for a half marathon in late 2017 and rebuild a cherished 1930 Ford Model A. In between these tasks, he found time to sit down for a Q&A session, to share his vision for vascular surgery and his goals and accomplishments during his term as Section Chief.



Dr. Paul Petrasek, Section of Vascular Surgery
Photo courtesy of Dr. Petrasek

1. So you have been the Section Chief for 12 years now, what was it like being Section Chief, and how do you feel about the journey?

I've worked with three Department Chairs (Drs. Lafreniere, Kortbeek and Grondin) and have seen the transition from the old Calgary Health Region to AHS. It has been a privilege to work with surgical leadership in Calgary and provincially (I am a representative to the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network). Being Section Chief adds many hours to a surgeon's already long work week, but my experience is that the Section Chiefs can improve health care in Calgary, which for me has made it well worthwhile!

2. What in your opinion does it take to be a Section Chief? Why were you fit for this position?

I believe the most important qualities of a Section Chief are (i) the ability to formulate a long-term vision of specific goals for the section that will advance patient care, teaching and research (ii) the determination to work at nurturing and delivering the vision (often in isolation, as the section members are already very busy) (iii) negotiation skills needed to garner resources from AHS to achieve the vision and (iv) the patience and skill needed to manage frequent conflict amongst a highly-competitive group of overachievers (the very definition of a surgeon!). Having said this, no particular surgeon is a natural fit for Section Chief; I reminded my section members many times that I don't have "special powers" to improve our situation, nor does anyone else in the Department of Surgery. We exist in a health care system that has many groups, all competing for limited resources.

Dr. Paul Petrasek

Section Chief, Vascular Surgery - Q&A

3. What projects have you worked on throughout your 12 years of service? If you can describe your most significant ones, and then maybe briefly list all the rest?

My most significant project has been the redevelopment of vascular surgery services for Calgary and southern Alberta. This has involved a \$30 million infrastructure project at PLC (with new ORs, step down unit, inpatient care unit and clinic) as well as a patient centered approach to care, including centralized referral and triage, with wait-time goals and care partnering with Podiatry, Internal Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. In the Vascular Centre at PLC, we can now deliver comprehensive care in a multidisciplinary “medical home” for patients with vascular diseases, arguably the best organized and most up-to-date in North America. In addition to this, I have worked to expand the Section from four vascular surgeons (when I began) to our present group of eight, recognizing that we need to provide the same access to service for our patients as the rest of Canada. This is a work-in-progress, as we still fall considerably short of the Canadian average of 1 vascular surgeon per 160,000 population (at least we are now up to a ratio of 1:300,000)!

4. What are some changes you’ve made during the last few years as Section Chief?

I have tried to shift our care paradigm from provider-focused to patient-focused. This means designing care processes to accommodate frail, elderly and disabled patients who travel great distances to see us. This has meant designing care pathways that minimize travel to multiple separate appointments, working to maximizing the use of same-day diagnostics and surgeon consultations and making available to patients a single site with co-located care providers (vascular surgery, internal medicine, podiatry, etc.). I strongly believe that we have to interconnect “care silos” – health care should not be organized only for the convenience of doctors, nurses and “the system”. Rather, the system should be convenient for provider and patient, with the patient front and center.

5. How important do you think those changes were and why?

With an ever-burgeoning aging population, the changes above are of critical importance for Calgary and all of Alberta. As patient volumes grow inside a limited resource envelope, I believe we have no choice but to adopt the inherent efficiency of care, as I have outlined above. Otherwise, we’ll stall in insolvent health care gridlock.

6. What were your highlights as Section Chief?

My most gratifying moment as Section Chief was opening the PLC Vascular Centre in late 2015 with Dr. Kortbeek, senior AHS leaders, Mrs. McCaig from the Calgary Health Trust and Health Minister Sarah Hoffman. My most gratifying time was that spent working with the Calgary Health Trust and PLC Development Council in fundraising for our Vascular Centre. The Health Trust volunteers are totally committed to improving health care in Calgary. The staff at CHT are exceptional. The PLC Development Council (an arm of CHT) are lay local businesspeople who have the knowledge and skill to raise millions of dollars efficiently. They work for free, purely to improve health care in our community.

7. What were your most challenging experiences?

Although my most gratifying work was with the Calgary Health Trust, raising several million dollars for our vascular redevelopment, this was also some of my hardest work! I think that I spoke at fund raising events in every Rotary Club in Calgary. For two years, I worked with the CHT, to coordinate everything from our Annual Funny Bones Comedy Night (we raised \$400,000 in a single evening with Jann Arden) to various community fund-raising events, such as radiothons. Even harder than this was garnering support within AHS for the vascular redevelopment project. I first proposed the project in 2005 (I wrote a grant proposal for the CHR, at the suggestion of Tracy Wasylak). I prepared countless briefing notes and presentations for leadership in CHR/AHS and the Ministry of Health, before our project was funded. From my first proposal to project completion took more than 10 years.

Dr. Paul Petrasek

Section Chief, Vascular Surgery - Q&A

8. What obstacles have you faced and how have you defeated or outdone them?

I admit that I found the frequent senior leadership churn in the early years of AHS immensely difficult and frustrating. For at least a few years, AHS seemed uncertain of its goals and for this reason, unable or unwilling to commit to major capital projects. In the midst of this, I completed a Master's degree in Health Care Management, thinking that my message for change would be better received if I could talk the language of health care economics. I do think that presenting an economic argument for our vascular centre (proving that more organized care will save bed-days and reduce overall costs) paid off. In the end, our patients are the winners!

9. If you can still change something, what would it be and why?

I think that surgeons all want to have well-run and efficient health care. We make critical decisions every day in the OR, yet we pay little or no role in managing resources. I think that there needs to be a much larger role for physicians to co-manage resources and budgets, at the Section level. Inherent in this would be accepting blame for problems that arise. It frustrates me that I helped to raise millions in funding for my workplace, but have nearly zero role in operational decisions regarding allocating funding. We need to participate more in the work needed to "float our own boats".

10. What do you want to be remembered for?

(i) Never giving up on a vision to "create better" and (ii) working always to put the patient at the center of care.

11. Briefly describe your overall experience, and what piece/pieces of advice would you give the next Section Chief?

I have enjoyed every aspect of my past 12 years and would not trade the experience for anything else. My advice to others is taken from far greater leaders in history: Winston Churchill defined success as "going from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm". A quote often attributed to Harry Truman recognizes that leaders rarely satisfy everybody: "if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog!".

12. Final comments?

I've said enough! I am forever thankful to everyone for the privilege to lead vascular surgery for the past 12 years.

How Much Do You Know About the Advanced Technical Skills Simulation Lab?



Dr. Jacques Bouchard, Section of Orthopedic Surgery
Co-Director of ATSSL

There's a lot of things to know about the University's Advanced Technical Skills Simulation Lab (ATSSL).

1. It is currently applying for RCPSC Accreditation

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) Accreditation is more than just international recognition for the ATSSL. It will also give surgeons and educators a renewed sense of responsibility and commitment to maintain the current surgical education and training quality standards for residents and trainees.

2. It began in 2005

The idea of simulation technology in the Calgary region began in 2005 as a joint project between the former Calgary Health Region, and the University of Calgary. At the time, the project was just a rough plan to introduce what is now called the Advanced Technical Skills Simulation Laboratory (ATSSL).

Dr. Jacques Bouchard, an Orthopedic Surgeon at the Foothills Hospital, as well as a Clinical Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Clinical Neurosciences and Dr. Vincent Grant, Associate Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, and also a member of the kids SIM Pediatric Simulation Program at the Alberta Children's Hospital, were

named Co-Directors of the non-existent ATSSL at the time, with a mandate to fund and build the lab that is still in use today.

Residents and medical students were the primary target learners wanted in the space. Many meetings took place to plan, strategize and search for funding streams for its development.

3. Simulation learning has many benefits

Simulation learning has numerous benefits according to medical experts. Having simulation learning programs and simulation labs on site brings the learner to a level of proficiency much quicker and in a safe environment, placing them in a setting that very closely resembles an actual operating room.

With the constant upgrades and use of the lab, students learn to become more and more confident with each new skill they learn.

"With these labs and the change in the overall environment, we're much more careful about the safety of the patient and try to avoid any complications," says Dr. Bouchard.

Simulation has also allowed trainees to assess each other's operations to learn from their mistakes, and gradually become more confident before they move on to a different procedure.

The newer and more practical of the two current simulation labs is the surgical simulation lab, which was built with pan-tilt-zoom cameras to record learners while doing their procedures. These cameras are sometimes even used to broadcast a certain procedure done by a surgeon on a cadaver, to other students so they can watch and then practice it themselves.



Artificial bone used during simulation labs

How Much Do You Know About the Advanced Technical Skills Simulation Lab?



Residents during a lab in the Surgical Skills Laboratory
Photo courtesy of ATSSL

There is also a need to develop strategies for effective implementation of simulation to use for assessment. Furthermore, they want to incorporate continuous evaluation and update their technology and equipment to better target the required transfer of the learning residents and trainees.

Some of the new machines the ATSSL recently introduced include an ASL500 RespiSim Model, and a Vimedix Ultrasound Trainer adding up to approximately \$80,000 each.

5. It has new flooring

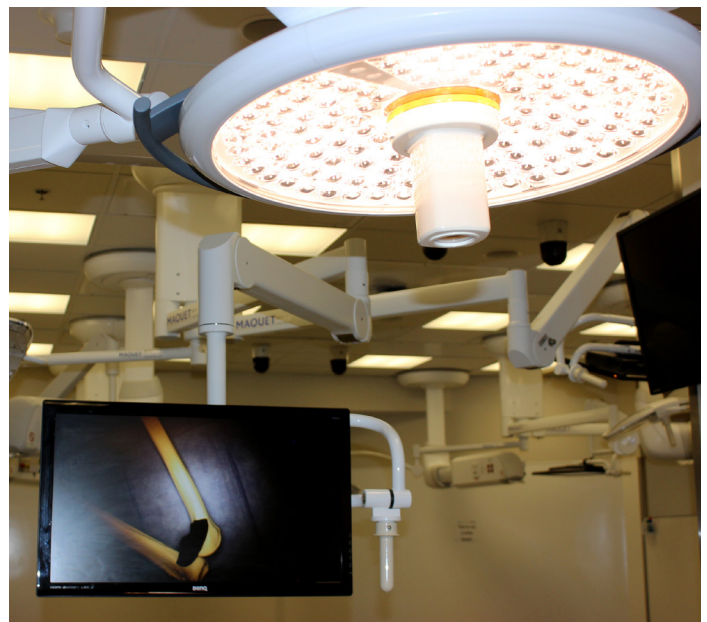
Some may have not even noticed, but the rubber flooring in the ATSSL designed to absorb impact is also a new addition. The wrong type of flooring was initially installed in the lab when it was built, which made it a challenge for lab users to easily and safely maneuver heavy machinery and tables across the room.

4. ATSSL is always developing

Work is being done on behalf of all the ATSSL staff to continue making important advancements in everything from the technology and electronic equipment that is used, to incorporating more evaluations and surgical lab assessments.

The ATSSL is looking into bringing in a more advanced broadcasting system to their current clinical skills lab to better facilitate the aspect of realism for students and trainees. Having a video capturing system is essential to helping trainees when doing their debriefs for two reasons: one being that procedures done in the lab can be recorded and then graded later, instead of having too many examiners grading them on the spot, and two, it makes the assessment and evaluation processes much simpler when trainees can re-watch what they've done.

"That's a bunch of surgeons you have to pull out of medical practice for an afternoon to do that. But if you use the cameras and record them, someone else can just grade them after the fact by watching the video," adds Dr. Bouchard.



Current pan-tilt-zoom camera, lamp, and monitor in surgical skills laboratory

How Much Do You Know About the Advanced Technical Skills Simulation Lab?

6. Its use is increasing

Dr. Bouchard reports that the use of the facilities is on the rise with learners found in the lab more often. That is why he strongly believes that over the next few years, before thinking about expanding the current space, the ATSSL's primary goals should be to standardize how the simulation labs are used and optimize lab usage so that they are used to maximum capacity.

"Well, the future that's happening now and in the next four or five years comes competency based education and that's completely changing the way we need to be running residency programs," says Dr. Bouchard.

Although at times funding can be limited, and the current clinical skills lab is only a re-purposed space, it does the job for now, according to Dr. Bouchard. What's more important is that residents and trainees get to experience a lab before operating in real life as that is the only way they will learn more complex simulations. This type of experience also helps to overcome their fear of coming across a difficult situation or difficult procedure.

Finally, Dr. Bouchard stresses the fact that it is a complete must to have these labs right now even if they are not perfect, and in the future with more time, structuring and money they can work on bringing both labs up to the standards they'd like.



Surgical skills laboratory - Photo courtesy of ATSSL

Alternative Remuneration Plan (ARP)

An Update by Dr. Steven Lopushinsky



Dr. Steven Lopushinsky; Pediatric General Surgeon
at Alberta Children's Hospital

The Department of Surgery at the University of Calgary is supportive of reassessing how its members are compensated to ultimately improve on the quality of surgical care delivered to Albertans while also competitively recruiting and retaining its surgical workforce. Last year, a number of surgical specialties submitted proposals to Alberta Health to be included in the next expansion of Academic Alternative Relationship Plans (AARPs), recently renamed the Alberta Academic Medicine and Health Sciences Program (AMHSP). Thoracic Surgery and Pediatric Surgery were successful in this application. Dr. Steven Lopushinsky, a Pediatric Surgeon at the Alberta Children's Hospital handles the Pediatric General Surgery Clinical ARP and, along with his colleagues, strives to make their current clinical ARP function like an academic one. His role in the implementation of the new surgical AARPs is to help translate surgeons' experiences in a clinical program with largely volume-based deliverables into an expanded academic program pursuing excellence in patient care, administration, research, and education.

Dr. Lopushinsky states that the pediatric surgery clinical ARP "has significantly improved our focus on quality and safety, as well as access to care, whereas the Academic ARP not only includes the clinical part but also research, education teaching, and leadership, so it encompasses more of what people do within the university." He notes that it will be important to draw

on the experience of Neurosurgery given its long membership to an AARP as well as Cardiac Surgery who likewise operate within a clinical ARP.

Dr. Lopushinsky believes that AARPs will improve the ability to support surgeons in their academic environment and career. A transformation in how surgeons are compensated recognizes the amount of time put into quality care initiatives such as developing clinical care pathways, actively monitoring surgical site infections, working on innovative projects or participating in cutting-edge research. The education of our trainees, medical students and subspecialty residents alike, is bound to improve with additional recognition of the key role department members contribute to their professional development.

"If you look at it from across the country, probably about 30% of physicians are on some form of alternative remuneration plan. In Alberta, only about 5% of physicians take part, so it's pretty much been a fee-for-service model and that is not always the best model for best outcomes and best patient care," says Dr. Lopushinsky. The pediatric general surgery group has been successful because of its team-based approach to looking after children and finding harmony by valuing the contributions of all its members clinically and academically. "I think at the end of the day that is what ARPs help us do: provide team-based care, make our group more efficient and provide better care for our patients. Even though we only report clinical deliverables to the government, within our small group of six surgeons, we hold each other accountable for each other's outcomes and also meet their academic interests."



Play area at Alberta Children's Hospital

Alternative Remuneration Plan (ARP)

An Update by Dr. Steven Lopushinsky

The opportunity to bring the rest of the Section of Pediatric Surgery into an AARP excites him both as a surgical colleague and as a father, because the Alberta Children's Hospital as a whole is likely to benefit from this shared mentality. He is hopeful it will result in better utilization of resources, broader use of evidence-based clinical care pathways, and an improved patient-family experience. From a government perspective, it further gives them cost predictability in a time of decreasing financial resources.

Although the process is still in its early stages, a committee led by the Section Chief of Pediatric Surgery, Dr. Frankie Fraulin, is now trying to define the key performance indicators, which will also maintain transparency to Albertans, the Department and the University.

Having an academic ARP in the Department of Surgery will really help define expectations of surgeons at different sites and in different specialties. "From the department point of view, we are enthusiastic about developing Academic ARPs within suitable sections. We see the ARPs as a method of changing the way we do our work in medicine; to increase a focus on quality, to encourage team-based care when appropriate for complex patients, and to support the increasing academic mandate of department membership," says Dr. Mary Brindle, the Associate Department Head of Surgery.

The first step, according to Dr. Lopushinsky, is to try to convince people that this is a good model and secondly to be open to feedback and new ideas as the ARP proposal moves forward. He feels strongly we need to think beyond the traditional ways of

evaluating a surgeon's productivity, and then report that back to Albertans in a transparent manner to demonstrate value for their tax dollar.

"Health care is very expensive and the current models are not sustainable," he admits.

Having said that, people often forget that quality healthcare includes costs for physicians, hospitals and even drugs. So by having a remuneration that promotes accountability, at the very least, it will be easier to track how surgeons are performing, and work towards improved access such as decreased wait-times.

Dr. Lopushinsky claims that he has the best job in the world as a pediatric surgeon. Outside of watching his own children grow, he loves nothing more than making a positive impact on someone's life and seeing a patient leave earlier than expected. He is now also the program director for pediatric surgery and finds great pleasure in teaching residents and fellows.

"It's that relationship you have with the fellows, not only for their education but working around their career development, trying to help them guide where they're going in the future. We get awesome trainees here so it's so much fun to be a part of that."

Last but certainly not least, Dr. Lopushinsky has a passion for research with a specific focus in health services and clinical outcomes. He hopes that with this type of background he will be able to inform how best to do medical education research, and that the ARP can provide support for more activities in the future.

Office of Surgical Quality



Dr. Andrew Graham - Director, Office of Surgical Quality

The Department of Surgery has established a new initiative to measure and improve the quality of health care received by patients - the Office of Surgical Quality. This new office is led by Dr. Andrew Graham from the Section of Thoracic Surgery.

Targeting surgical quality is an ambitious task for Alberta Health Services. Dr. Sean Grondin, Head of the Department of Surgery, along with Dr. Graham, recognized the need to develop standardized policies for measuring quality in surgery and achieving the highest quality care in a cost-effective manner.

"There have been several initiatives introduced by several sections designed to measure quality of care but there has been no clear coordinated effort between surgical leadership groups. The goal of developing the office is to coordinate these efforts and help the sections and the department develop a realistic plan for measuring and reporting quality outcomes," says Dr. Grondin.

Dr. Graham says that the proposal is still in its early stages as he is still exploring the options for a framework to measure quality. He has spent considerable time interviewing surgical leaders to discuss potential framework for this new initiative, considering how quality should be measured as well as determining how to accommodate the differing needs of various sections.

"Now it's figuring out how we're going to organize this office," Dr. Graham reflects, "how we're going to structure it, what's the framework or approach to the problem going to be, and then see if anyone is willing to pay for what we want to do."

Next, Dr. Graham plans to submit his recommendations to the Department of Surgery. He admits that there is still uncertainty as to where the office is heading because ideas are still being pitched and examined, but he anticipates, that his recommendation is going to be to use a framework similar to that of the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA), for the Office of Surgical Quality.

Dr. Graham explains that this framework is appealing as it is easy to understand; offering a clear overarching view that simplifies what can often seem to be a complicated process.

"HQCA presumably have influence across the province, and they're authoritative so it made sense to me. Internally it was coherent and made a complex thing manageable in my own brain, it's Alberta specific, it's not coming from the U.S.," he adds.

Notably, quality improvement programs from other institutes and organizations (e.g. Bone and Joint Institute, American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement programs, etc.) will also be considered in the proposed departmental plan.

There are several reasons why this office will be beneficial according to Dr. Graham. He believes it is crucial that the Department of Surgery knows its clinical outcomes. Surgeons should also know how to use the quality measuring resources that are available. They need to be able to obtain data on their individual outcomes in order to improve the quality of care for their patients.

Surgeons will need to accept that they may be identified as being negative outliers in some areas of quality. If responding to opportunities for improvement becomes a part of the surgical culture however, this becomes an expectation. As the system becomes more transparent to patients, it also becomes more trustworthy.

Dr. Grondin agrees that this initiative is crucial for the long-term improvement of patient care in Alberta. It is anticipated that by developing the Office of Surgical

Office of Surgical Quality

Quality, a coordinated plan can be implemented to improve resource utilization and diminish treatment variation leading to better surgical outcomes.

As for the future of the office, Dr. Graham says, “There is a huge desire at AHS to move forward on this important issue. I think people are interested, and there is a willingness on AHS’s part to fund quality improvement projects so I’m relatively optimistic.”

Although the process is still in its early stages, the department can expect to hear updates about the direction of the new Office of Surgical Quality and its long-term objectives, in the coming months.



Office of Surgical Research

A Message from Dr. Claire Temple- Oberle



Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle Interim Head
of the Office of Surgical Research

Welcome from the Office of Surgical Research (OSR)! I am currently serving as interim head of the OSR. I want to thank my predecessors Drs. Fiona Costello and Elizabeth Odonne-Paolucci for their impactful leadership of the OSR and contributions to enhancing research quality and grantsmanship. Chelsie O'Brien continues an outstanding job administrating the office, and has produced a website and a newsletter that has enhanced our ability to communicate with our surgeons.

We completed an external review of the department's research infrastructure in January 2016, with Dr. Achilles Thoma from McMaster spending two days interviewing our members and touring the facilities. We reported the findings at the DOS annual retreat and received rich feedback using Liberating Structures (www.liberatingstructures.com), which we are incorporating as we come forward with a refreshed direction for the OSR. Our committee met in May and will meet again in the summer specifically to develop and present a plan that reflects the needs of the members. If approved, we will begin implementation forthwith.

We had a successful 2017 Surgeons' Day event at Alberta Children's Hospital, with 109 attendees. We heard 20 podium presentations, including two outstanding lectures by our Otolaryngology judges, Drs. Shamir Chandarana and Paolo Campisi, on their work on variations in care of thyroid cancer and the impact of careful epidemiologic work on a rare laryngeal disease. Top resident paper went to Dr. Andrea Devrome from Vascular Surgery, with her project on cardiac rehabilitation in patients with peripheral arterial disease.

Runner ups were Dr. Rebecca Hartley from Plastic Surgery with her work on a prediction rule for pediatric hand fractures and Dr. Carrie Liu from Otolaryngology for her study on antibiotic use in otitis media with effusion.

We had seven strong poster presentations. Top poster winner was Dr. Michael Horkoff from General Surgery who presented surgical decision making during laparoscopic cholecystectomy in patients with incidental gallbladder cancer, and honourable mention went to Mieke Heyns, a medical student who looked at provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons' guidelines on smartphone clinical photography.

At the awards gala, Dr. Joseph Dort received an award for his contributions in Basic Science Research, and Dr. Elijah Dixon received an award for his contributions in Clinical Research.

We are presently surveying the members for new ideas about how to run a top-notch event that garners great attendance.

Our Chairman, Dr. Grondin, is a strong advocate of surgical research and is supporting our committee in examining our purpose, resources, and structure. With his support we will redefine ourselves with an aim to better support our membership in achieving high quality research outputs that make an impact on the care we deliver to our patients.

Office of Surgical Fellowship



Dr. James N. Powell
Director, Office of Surgical Fellowship
Photo courtesy of Dr. Powell

The Office of Surgical Fellowship (OSF) officially opened in October 2015, and continues to be committed to leading a standardized robust fellowship program across the Department of Surgery. The aim of the OSF is to support and facilitate all fellowship training programs within the Department of Surgery in conjunction with the Cumming School of Medicine. With the support of dedicated resources and streamlined policies and procedures, the Office of Surgical Fellowship hopes to enhance both the educational experience for the fellows and the reputation of the Cumming School of Medicine and Alberta Health Services both nationally and internationally.

In May 2017, the OSF held a successful Fellowship Research Symposium with two concurrent podium presentation sessions that included presentations from 24 fellows and 4 extended residents. Dr. Stephen Kates from Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Medicine spoke on the basic science of Staphylococcal infection as the keynote lecturer. The local adjudicators included Dr. Amin Kherani, Dr. Lloyd Mack, Dr. Shannon Puloski, Dr. Prism Schneider and Dr. Clare Temple-Oberle. Dr. Richard Baverstock and Dr. Jacques Bouchard served as moderators for the evening.

There were six award winners from the two sessions. Dr. Damian Clark, Orthopaedic Trauma Fellow, Dr. Shandy Fox, Orthopaedic Combined Spine Fellow, Dr. Itay Magal, Ophthalmology Retina Fellow, Dr. Travis Marion, Orthopaedic Trauma Fellow, Dr. Stephen Smith, General Surgery Colorectal Surgery R7 and Dr. Benjamin Tuner, General Surgery Oncology R6. Thanks go to the sponsors of this annual event.

Two journal clubs are planned for the academic year. The office and Dr. Temple-Oberle planned the first Principles of Research Course for fellows, faculty and senior residents, which was held in September 2017. This will be a yearly event.

There were 21 fellowship programs, 31 fellows and 95 preceptors throughout the 2016-2017 academic year. We currently have 34 members on the Office of Surgical Fellowship Committee and continue to grow in all aspects of graduate medical education together.

Office of Surgical Education



Dr. Artan Reso
Director, Office of Surgical Education

The Office of Surgical Education (OSE) is designed and structured to assist, coordinate and enhance education in the Department of Surgery for undergraduate medical students, postgraduate learners like residents and fellows as well and continuing medical education and professional development of the surgeons in the department. It also participates and facilitates education of surgical topics outside the department including in the community.

Leading the Office of Surgical Education is its Director, Dr. Artan Reso. Dr. Reso is a graduate of the University of Tirana, Albania where he subsequently completed his general surgery and vascular surgery training. After moving to Canada, he completed his General Surgery Residency training at University of Calgary. He then pursued a Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship at the University of Toronto and a Masters of Medical Education with a focus on surgical education at the Imperial College London, UK.

Dr. Reso has established a strong academic record in surgical education. He introduced the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery Skills course to the Department and has built a comprehensive technical skills simulation program for residents in General Surgery. Dr. Reso is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. He has an active and busy general surgery and bariatric practice at Rockyview General Hospital and South Health Campus.

The Office of Surgical Education would like to thank Dr. Jacques Bouchard for his dedication and contribution to the Office of Surgical Education over the past five years. During this time, the OSE recognized the importance of having a SIM Lab available to the Surgical Programs and Dr. Bouchard, alongside Dr. Vince Grant, designed, obtained financing, oversaw construction and the opening of the ATSSL. The OSE felt that a SIM Lab was a priority for the Surgical Programs and it was important for the Department of Surgery to have a major input in the creation of the Lab; Dr. Bouchard played a significant role seeing this project come to fruition. He restructured the Surgical Foundations Program to meet the standard of the Royal College and make it distinct from the PGSTC. He also organized two surgical retreats that focused on competency based education and the relationship between industry and medication education. Dr. Bouchard was recently awarded the McPhedran Award for Surgical Innovation and Teaching.

The OSE also wishes to thank Dr. Ian Anderson for his 10 years of service as the Chair for the Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development Committee. Amongst his many projects during his years of service to the CME, Dr. Anderson assisted in re-accrediting all of the departments rounds and educational activities with the guidelines provided by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in line with the maintenance of competence program.

Office of Surgical Education

Working hard in the Office of Surgical Education are:

- Dr. Adrian Harvey, Chair, SUGEC
- Dr. Lloyd Mack, Chair, PGSTC
- Dr. Vick Chahal, Chair, CME
- Dr. Justin LeBlanc, Director, Surgical Foundations
- Dr. Alicia Ponton-Carrs, Director, Surgical Skills Program
- Dr. James Powell, Director, Office of Fellowship Education
- Dory Glaser-Watson, BScN, RN, Education Coordinator/Clinical Nurse Education
- Jo-El Buerlen, Program Coordinator

The Clerkship class of 2017 had a total of 154 clerks with 21 clerks completing their clerkship in the rural setting. The 6 week rotation included 3 weeks in General Surgery, 2 weeks in either Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery or Urology and one week in any one of Thoracic Surgery, Vascular surgery, Neurosurgery, Urology or Otolaryngology.

The Surgical Foundations Program consists of Residents from Cardiac, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, OBGYN, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic, Otolaryngology, Plastics, and Vascular Surgery. The 2016-17 Academic year saw 27 PGY-1 complete curriculum in Surgical Skills, Fundamentals of Surgery and Critical Thinking and 22 PGY-2 Residents completed curriculum in Principles of Surgery.

Center for Global Surgery



Dr. Gwen Hollaar, Director of Center for Global Surgery (CGS)
Photo courtesy of Dr. Hollaar

The Global Health and International Partnerships Office (GHIP), is once again undergoing some restructuring and is being renamed as 'Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement (SPaCE). This office has been part of the faculty of medicine since the late 1990's, initially called the International Health Program, in 2010 it was renamed and titled 'Global Health and International Partnerships.' Dr. Gwendolyn Hollaar, a member of the Section of General Surgery at the Peter Lougheed Centre in Calgary, has been the Assistant Dean of the Global Health and International Partnerships Office for the past five years, under Dr. Jennifer Hatfield, Associate Dean. SPaCE seeks to promote accountability of our school to meet medical and surgical needs within communities, on a local and global level.

What's also evolving is a Center for Global Surgery (CGS) within the Department of Surgery, partially created by Dr. Hollaar. The Centre for Global Surgery was developed back in 2009. It was first developed within the Department of Surgery in preparation to host the Bethune Round Table (BRT) conference in 2010 here in Calgary. Interest in international health initially centered on public health and infectious disease, and the growing discussion globally about the role of surgery in international/global health played a key role in the creation of the CGS.

The vision of the Centre for Global Surgery is to advocate for improved surgical care for the world's poor, by building partnerships that promote and provide surgical care within low and middle-income countries (LMIC) as well as disadvantaged populations.

The office has a primary objective of providing a means through which faculty, residents, or staff from the U of C can participate in national or international activities that strengthen surgical care, education, and research in LMIC or amongst disadvantaged populations.

Dr. Hollaar says she thinks the CGS serves several purposes. Firstly, it encourages everyone as a department and university to think beyond themselves; secondly raising our awareness of the issues affecting marginalized people and populations helps make us better surgeons here in Canada; and lastly, CGS can help consolidate current efforts to improve surgical care in remote areas in Canada or in a LMIC.

"By increasing the dialogue, by helping to link people within our institution to each other and to international partners, we can gain synergy and be more accountable and productive in our efforts," she explains.

Many within the Department of Surgery are interested or active in international surgery projects. However one of the issues Dr. Hollaar identifies is that much of the work done often goes unrecognized and are personal contributions. She hopes that the department will make it one of its goals to recognize these efforts, so they don't remain under the radar.

"There has been limited collaboration within our department and lack of acknowledgment of the activities that are being done. We would like to improve this collaboration within the Department of Surgery, but also between all departments who are involved in patient surgical care, such as the Departments of Anaesthesia and Obstetrics & Gynecology."

There is also work being done to get a part-time permanent CGS coordinator, in 2018, to encourage more activity and provide administrative support in the centre. Another challenge identified is finding a source of funding for this work, hence why most of

Center for Global Surgery

the time the work is self-funded. Dr. Hollaar confirms that conversations with regard to funding are underway.

The strategic priorities and goals for the CGS for the next few years include developing a local centre for global surgery engagement, promote global surgery experience and scholarship, and also mentor future global surgery academic leaders.

As for the future of this office, there is an increased interest in global health amongst the current generation entering the medical profession says Dr. Hollaar. She thinks that if their interest is captured and sustained, global surgery with increased involvement and momentum, will be an area of surgery that will only continue to grow.

New Faculty 2016-2017

Dr. Jonathan Dautremont



Dr. Jonathan Dautremont joined the Section of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in the Department of Surgery on August 1, 2016. He was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and has been in Calgary for the last six years. His biggest achievement is getting his dream job here in Calgary, at Rockyview General Hospital. Dr. Dautremont graduated with an MD from the University of Saskatchewan in 2011 and completed his residency at the University of Calgary in 2016. In addition to the typical surgical training path, he's done medical mission work in Honduras and he's now also in the process of completing a Master's Degree in Healthcare Quality through Queen's University. He says he is quite enjoying the fine, detailed nature of the surgical procedures and thinks it's really rewarding to be able to make huge improvements in the quality of life of a wide range of patient age groups. He is excited to begin his career here in Calgary and looks forward to meeting and working with all of

his new colleagues. Outside of medicine, Dr. Dautremont plays several different sports like hockey, golf and tennis, and on some days likes hiking up in the mountains. But during his spare time, he mostly enjoys restoring old motorcycles.

Dr. Derrick Randall



Dr. Derrick Randall, from Gold River, Vancouver Island joined the Section of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery on July 1, 2016 at Peter Lougheed Centre as well as Alberta Children's Hospital as a Clinical Lecturer. He's lived in Calgary since 2010 with his wife, Kym and two children, Robbie and Brooke. Upon graduating with an MD from the University of British Columbia in 2010, Dr. Randall completed his residency in Otolaryngology at the University of Calgary in 2015 followed by a fellowship in Laryngology and Bronchoesophagology at the University of California in 2016. Seeing the dramatic quality of life improvements that can be provided for patients with head and neck concerns affecting their ability to interact with family, friends, and society is what sparked Dr. Randall's interest in Otolaryngology. He would like to improve his skills in management of oropharyngeal dysphagia and improve access and available interventions for patients with airway,

swallowing, and voice disorders by developing a tertiary dysphagia clinic and (eventually) merge it with the existing voice/airway clinic to provide an internationally recognized, comprehensive laryngology program. Skiing, camping, fishing and kayaking are a few of his favourite things to do outside of medicine.

New Faculty 2016-2017

Dr. Euna Hwang



Dr. Euna Hwang joined the Section of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in September of 2016, at South Health Campus. Dr. Hwang grew up in Quebec and has only been in Calgary since she was hired. She graduated with an M.D. from McGill University in 2009, completed her residency at the University of Ottawa in 2014, followed by a fellowship in Otology and Skull Base Surgery at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto for two years. Dr. Hwang's mother has struggled with ear disease and hearing loss, and she became one of Dr. Hwang's inspirations to study the fascinating and intricate anatomy of the head and neck. She calls it a privilege and a unique opportunity to be able to treat diseases in the head and neck as they can especially affect one's special senses, social function and quality of life. Pursuing this career path while staying honest with herself, respecting others and fostering kindness is what she deems her most significant achievement

up until this point. Outside of medicine, Dr. Hwang enjoys performing music, photography and traveling. As a new member of the Department of Surgery she hopes to become a constructive team member by bringing any additional skills she possesses and still adhering to the different needs of the department.

Dr. Vick Chahal



Dr. Vick Chahal was born and raised in Kingston, Ontario, but initially came to Calgary as a one year locum from June 2015 until July 2016 at South Health Campus. Then he officially started in the Section of Plastic Surgery in the Department of Surgery in September, and now lives here with his wife Prabdeep Chahal, a Pediatric dentist, and his three children. Dr. Chahal graduated with an MD from the University of Western Ontario in 2002, which is also where he completed his residency in 2007, and then completed a fellowship in Breast Reconstruction at the University of British Columbia in 2008. Prior to joining the Department of Surgery, Dr. Chahal worked as a plastic surgeon in Kitchener Waterloo for seven years. He served as Chief of Plastic Surgery at Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital for five years, and was also an assistant professor in surgery at McMaster University teaching medical students and residents. What drove him to study

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, was simply the ability to impact patients' form and function. He says he really likes the variety and challenge that Plastic Surgery offers. In the Department of Surgery, Dr. Chahal hopes to build on his medical education leadership skills, and outside of medicine plays beginners ice hockey with hopes of fulfilling his life-long dream of participating in Canada's national pastime.

New Faculty 2016-2017

Dr. Nicholas Desy



Dr. Nicholas Desy, joined the Section of Orthopedic Surgery on January 1, 2016, at Rockyview General Hospital. Originally from Montreal, Dr. Desy came to Calgary for a year to complete an Orthopedic Trauma fellowship at Foothills Medical Centre back in 2014, then moved to the U.S., and is now back in Calgary with his wife and son. He graduated with an MD from McGill University, where he also did his Orthopedic Surgery residency in 2013, and later completed his second fellowship in Hip and Knee Joint Reconstruction, at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Dr. Desy wishes to teach medical students, residents and fellows in future years, and work more on research projects with a focus on randomized controlled trials. When he was in medical school he had a strong interest in biomechanics and anatomy, but what he found most appealing about Orthopedics, was the challenge of putting fractured

bones back together, he says. During his spare time, Dr. Desy enjoys both watching and playing sports, as well as reading good books and being with his family.

Dr. Fred Nicholls



Dr. Fred Nicholls joined the Section of Orthopedic Surgery in January 2017 and has been in Calgary since. He is currently working as a Clinical Assistant Professor at Foothills Medical Centre with the University of Calgary's Spine Program. Dr. Nicholls graduated from Queen's University with an MD in 2008. In 2013, he completed his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Toronto, which was followed by a fellowship in Complex Spinal Deformity at the University of California, San Francisco finishing in 2014. His major interests include complex adult spine trauma and spinal deformity.

New Faculty 2016-2017

Dr. Trafford Crump



Dr. Trafford Crump joined the Section of Urology as an Assistant Professor, on March 1, 2017. While his primary site continues to be Rockyview General Hospital, he visits Foothills Medical Centre on most Fridays to work and engage with his peers who are located at the Department of Community Health Sciences. Originally from Calgary, Dr. Crump has always been a Flames fan. His sincere love for his family and the mountains, left him no choice but to come back after he went away for university. He now resides in the Beltline along with his wife and seven-month old son. The one thing that distinguishes Dr. Crump from all of the other doctors in the department is that he is not an MD. He earned his Ph.D. from Dartmouth Medical School, a small college in New Hampshire, USA. He completed his post-doctoral fellowship at the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. According to Dr. Crump,

Urologists perform a mix of urgent and non-urgent surgeries, pre- and post-operative care, and manage both acute and chronic conditions, all of which can overlap with other surgical and medical specialties. This affords endless opportunities to study fundamental challenges in our healthcare system. Dr. Crump is looking forward to building a portfolio of funded research focused on improving the value of surgical care. Looking to the future, Dr. Crump hopes to improve his abilities as a mentor because he would like to help surgical fellows and graduate students develop their critical appraisal and research skills.

Dr. Jevon Brown



Dr. Jevon Brown joined the Section of Plastic Surgery on July 1, 2016 at the Foothills Medical Centre. Dr. Brown was born in Banff and moved to Calgary as a teenager, and has been living in the city ever since. He graduated with an MD from the University of Calgary in 2010, which is also where he completed his Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery residency in 2015. Dr. Brown then completed his fellowship in Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery and Adult Trauma Craniofacial Surgery at the University of Washington-Seattle in 2016, and is now hoping to achieve bigger things in the Department of Surgery.

New Faculty 2016-2017

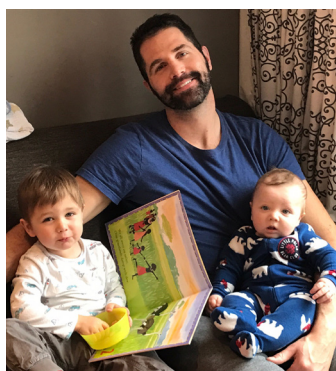
Dr. Lisa Phillips



Dr. Lisa Phillips, a Foot and Ankle surgeon is married to Dr. Andrew Dodd, an Orthopedic Surgeon at the South Health Campus. She started in the Orthopedic Section of the Department of Surgery on January 1, 2017, at Alberta Children's Hospital. She is a mother of two who loves cooking, entertainment, beach vacations, and being in the outdoors enjoying our Alberta sunshine. Dr. Lisa Phillips graduated with an MD from the University of Alberta in 2009 and then completed her residency at the University of Calgary from 2009 to 2014, followed by two fellowships. Her first fellowship was in Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery at the University of British Columbia from 2014-2015, and her second fellowship was completed at the University of Toronto in Orthopedic Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy from 2015-2016. Dr. Phillips initially found Orthopedic Surgery appealing because of

her interest in athletics and trauma and soon realized that she enjoyed technical challenges and fixing things. She says she thrives on the instant gratification of many Orthopedic procedures, and children in particular have the potential for excellent outcomes. In the future she wishes to start and sustain a new sports medicine program at Alberta Children's Hospital for the treatment of athletic injuries in children and adolescents. Being able to work with and potentially make a difference in the lives of children is a huge achievement in her eyes.

Dr. Andrew Dodd

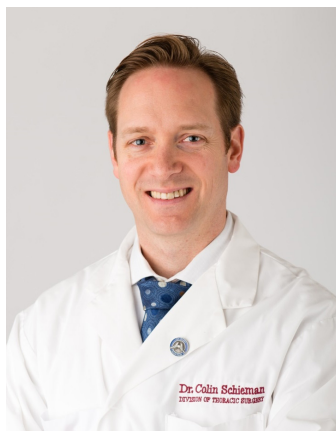


Dr. Andrew Dodd joined the Section of Orthopedic Trauma, Foot and Ankle Reconstruction in the Department of Surgery at South Health Campus in July 2016. He grew up in Calgary, and stayed in the city until he graduated from high school so he could go to McGill for his undergraduate degree. Upon graduating from McGill, he returned for medical school and residency training and then left once again to complete his fellowships in Orthopedic Trauma and Foot and Ankle Reconstruction in Vancouver and Toronto from 2014-2016, before returning to Calgary where he now lives with his wife Dr. Lisa Phillips who is a Pediatric surgeon at Alberta Children's Hospital, and his two sons. Dr. Dodd says he was drawn to the field after experiencing

previous sports injuries that led him to require a few Orthopedic interventions on himself prior to medical school. A goal of his in the department is to enhance the Section of Orthopedics research portfolio. Lastly, some of his favorite things to do outside of medicine are spending quality time with his family, hiking, biking and traveling.

New Faculty 2016-2017

Dr. Colin Schieman



Dr. Colin Schieman joined the Section of Thoracic Surgery at the Foothills Medical Centre in September 2016, as an Associate Professor and Residency Program Director. Dr. Schieman is originally from Calgary, and is married to Nicole with two daughters, Ruby and Millie. After graduating with an MD from the University of Calgary, he completed his residency in General Surgery in Calgary, followed by a Thoracic fellowship in 2010 and another fellowship in Advanced Thoracic Oncology and Minimally Invasive Surgery in 2011 at the Mayo Clinic. During his first five years in a busy practice at McMaster University, Dr. Schieman enjoyed working through the entire breadth of Thoracic Surgery, with an interest in Minimally Invasive lung and esophageal surgical techniques as well as advanced endoscopy. Dr. Schieman has always been attracted to Thoracic Surgery because of its focus on cancer care, the

important connections to patients as well as their families, and the many interesting skills and procedures involved. With time he wishes to be seen as a value-added member to the section and the department through adoption of innovative surgical techniques, a commitment to education, and maintaining collaboration with other sections. Free time is enjoyed with his kids as well as fishing and traveling.

Dr. Lisa Lagrou



Dr. Lisa Lagrou joined the Section of Pediatric Ophthalmology in September 2016 at the Alberta Children's Hospital. Originally from Dorchester Ontario, she has only been in Calgary since July 2010 after she graduated with an MD from the University of Ottawa. She then completed her residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Calgary between July 2010 and June 2015, followed by a Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus fellowship at the University of Michigan from 2015 to 2016. Sports and traveling are just a couple of the things Dr. Lagrou enjoys doing outside of the medical field.

New Faculty 2016-2017

Dr. Natalie Yanchar



Dr. Natalie Yanchar joined the Section of Pediatric Surgery in October 2016. Born and raised in Edmonton, she has done quite a bit of traveling as a Pediatric surgeon until she finally settled to work here in Calgary, at Alberta Children's Hospital, which remains her primary site. After an undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta, Dr. Yanchar obtained her M.D. at Queen's University in Ontario in 1990. She completed her rotating internship, then General Surgery residency in 1996 at the University of Alberta (U of A) in Edmonton, followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at the University of Ottawa. Along the way, she also obtained a MSc in Experimental Surgery from the U of A and another MSc in Community Health and Epidemiology from Dalhousie University. Her avid love for surgery and children inspired her to become a Pediatric surgeon, and she has relocated to Calgary, under

the big sky, after a wonderful 18 years at Children's Hospital in Halifax.

Dr. Yanchar is currently the President of the Trauma Association of Canada, and a Professor in Surgery at the University of Calgary. Most of her research focuses on trauma systems, pediatric trauma care and injury prevention. She's a strong believer in the role of physicians as advocates and was the founding President of Injury Free Nova Scotia.

Dr. Yanchar lives here with one of her daughters, her husband and her dog. When asked what she is most proud of, she doesn't hesitate to say her three children. Outside of medicine she loves being in the outdoors enjoying sports such as cross country skiing and cycling. Now as a new member of the Department of Surgery, she hopes to enhance her research portfolio and utilize her skills as a member of the surgical strategical clinical network for Alberta Health Services. Dr. Yanchar is happy to have joined the Department of Surgery, and looks forward to reconnecting with old friends, meeting new colleagues and building more relationships in the years to come.

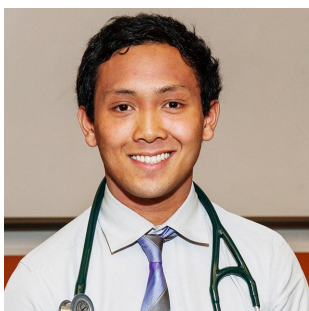
Dr. Janet Edwards joined the Section of Thoracic Surgery on July 1, 2016 as a Clinical Assistant at the Foothills Medical Centre.

Dr. Darren Desantis joined the Section of Urology as a Clinical Lecturer on October 7, 2016 at the Rockyview General Hospital.

Dr. Carolina Fermin-Risso joined the Section of Pediatric Urology on January 1, 2017, at the Alberta Children's Hospital as a Clinical Lecturer.

New Residents 2017-2018

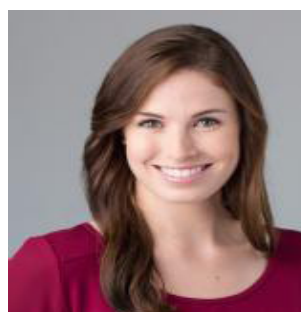
SECTION OF GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Matthew Mah
University of Calgary
R1



Dr. Matthew Martyniuk
University of Saskatchewan
R1



Dr. Jennifer Purnell
University of British Columbia
R1



Dr. Michael James
Washington University
R1



Dr. Naomi Kasteel
University of British Columbia
R1



Dr. Omar Al Busaidi
Sultan Qaboos University
R1



Dr. Murray Wong
Western University
R1



Dr. Taryn Ludwig
University of Calgary
R1



Dr. Riaz Karmali
Queen's University
R1



Dr. Siddharth Shinde
University of Alberta
R1

SECTION OF PLASTIC SURGERY



Dr. Jennifer Redwood
University of Calgary
R1



Dr. Michael Liss
University of Toronto
R1

New Residents 2017-2018

SECTION OF DENTISTRY AND ORAL HEALTH



Dr. Angela Chen
University of Manitoba
R1



Dr. Cheyanne Olsen
University of Alberta
R1



Dr. Daniel Moroz
University of Calgary
R1



Dr. Michael Mak
University of Toronto
R1

SECTION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD AND NECK SURGERY



Dr. Alysha Rasool
University of British Columbia
R1



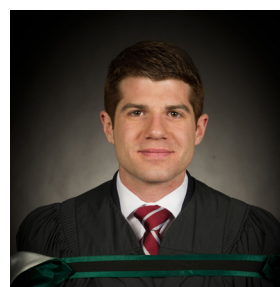
Dr. Khaloud Al Bahri
Sultan Qaboos University
R1

SECTION OF CARDIAC SURGERY



Dr. Vishnu Vasanthan
University of Alberta
R1

SECTION OF VASCULAR SURGERY



Dr. John Hennessey
Memorial University
R1

Extended Residents 2017-2018

SECTION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY



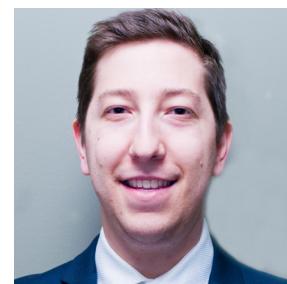
Dr. Jennifer Lam
Western University
R7



Dr. Osama Almosallam
King Abdullah Children
Specialist Hospital, Riyadh
R6



Dr. Ryan Rochon
University of British Columbia
R7



Dr. Mark Lipson
University of Manitoba
R6

SECTION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

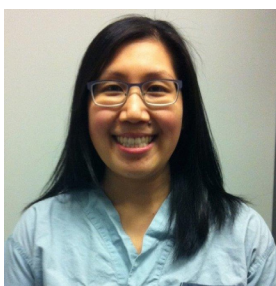


Dr. Scott Hurton
University of Manitoba
R6



Dr. Suzana Kupper
University of Alberta
R7

SECTION OF THORACIC SURGERY



Dr. Victoria Cheung
University of British Columbia
R7

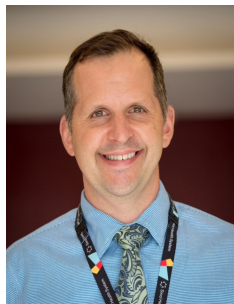
SECTION OF VASCULAR SURGERY



Dr. Kenton Rommens
University of Alberta
R7

Fellows 2017-2018

SECTION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY



Dr. Adam Watson
Joint Reconstruction
Royal Australian College
of Surgeons Australia



Dr. Alejandro Peiro Garcia
Pediatric Spine
Universidad de
Valencia, Spain



Dr. Alisson Teles
Combined Spine
University of Caxias do
Sul, Caxias do sul-RS,
Brazil



Dr. Christos Zafeiris
Combined Spine
Kat Hospital, LRMS
University of Athens



Dr. Chukwudi
Chukwunyerenna
Joint Reconstruction
University College
Dublin, Ireland



Dr. Duncan Cushnie
Combined Spine
University of
Western Ontario



Dr. Felipe Nares Lopez
Combined Spine
Instituto Nacional
de Neurologia y
Neurocirugia, Mexico



Dr. Francis Lyons Trauma
Royal College of Surgeons
UK & Ireland



Dr. Hossein Azadi
Joint Reconstruction
Tehran Medical School



Dr. Jowan Penn-Barwell
Trauma
University of Birmingham



Dr. Mireille Marquis
Banff Sports Medicine
Laval University, Quebec



Dr. Mohamed Sukeik
Joint Reconstruction
Royal College of Surgeons
of Edinburgh



Dr. Raghav Saini
Hand and Wrist
Institute of Med. Ed. &
Res. - Chandigarh, India



Dr. Reza Erfani
Foot and Ankle
Universiti Kebangsaan
Malaysia (National
University of Malaysia)



Dr. Thomas Hester
Trauma
The Royal London
School of Medicine and
Dentistry

Fellows 2017-2018

SECTION OF GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Alexander Bressan
Core
Universidade Estadual
de Lindrina, Brazil



Dr. David Carver
Trauma
University of
Ottawa



Dr. Don Major
HPB
University of
West Indies



Dr. Jane Mills
Endocrine Royal
Australasian
College of Surgeons



Dr. Juan Arminan Cordies
Upper GI
University of Calgary



Dr. Sushant Chaudhary
HPB
Delhi University,
India

SECTION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY



Dr. Matthew Anderson
Retina Ophthalmology
Mersey Deanery
United Kingdom



Dr. Rayan Alshareef
Retina Ophthalmology
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec



Dr. Robert Leslie
Urological Oncology
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario



Dr. Stephan Strahan
Reconstructive and
Functional Urology
Royal Australian College
of Surgeons Australia

SECTION OF PLASTIC SURGERY



Dr. Karin Elebro
Microsurgery
Skane University Hospital



Dr. Victoria Hayward
Plastic Surgery Oncology
University of Toronto

Graduating Residents

GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Brittany Dingley - "I'm headed first on vacation to Italy in June and then starting a Surgical Oncology fellowship in Ottawa for 2 years. I'm headed out to Ottawa with my fiancé and our dog and looking forward to exploring somewhere new! After that I don't know yet but I would eventually love to make it back to Alberta."

Dr. Connal Robertson-More - "I have graduated and passed the Royal College Exam in General Surgery this year. Also, I have gone on to a one year fellowship in Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery and Bariatric Surgery through CAMIS at the University of Alberta."

Dr. Juan Arminan - "After this, I will be doing a 1 year fellowship in Minimally Invasive surgery/Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery here in Calgary."

Dr. Mark Lipson - "I will be continuing my training in Calgary as I have been fortunate to land a position as the Colorectal Surgery Fellow for subspecialty training in the Colorectal Surgery Residency Training Program at the University of Calgary for the next two years."

Dr. Stephen Quigley - "I will be going to the University of Indiana (IUPUI) to do a one year fellowship in HPB Surgery."

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

Dr. Carlos Alvarez Allende - "After graduation I am going to go back to Puerto Rico for private surgical practice."

COLORECTAL SURGERY

Dr. Stephen Smith - "I've accepted a job as a Colorectal surgeon at the Saint John Regional Hospital in Saint John, New Brunswick. I'm starting there this summer."

GENERAL SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Dr. Eva Thiboutot - "I will start working in August as a Surgical Oncologist in the Cité de la santé Hospital in Laval, Québec."

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr. Faazil Kassam - "I will be completing a Masters of Science in healthcare policy and economics next year at Weill Cornell graduate school in New York City."

Dr. Vikram Lekhi - "I will be staying in Calgary practicing comprehensive Ophthalmology. I will also be using my MBA to pursue policy/administrative positions along with further development of my intellectual property and continue healthcare consulting as well."

Graduating Residents

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Dr. Chris Nielsen - "I'm going to U of T for a Spine fellowship followed by Master's degree in medical education at U of C Recipient of the Helios scholarship."

Dr. Devin Lemmex - "I'm going to Duke University for a Sports Med fellowship followed by a Shoulder fellowship in Nice, France."

Dr. Ed Schwartzberger - "I'm doing Locums for 6 months followed by General Orthopedic fellowship in New Zealand (part of it working with a former U of C Foot & Ankle fellow)."

Dr. Jennifer Leighton - "Going to U of T for Gross Arthroplasty fellowship followed by a Trauma fellowship also at U of T." I plan to do a Master's degree in Epidemiology through the University of London (UK) concurrently.

Dr. Jessica Page - "Going to Dalhousie for Arthroplasty/Trauma fellowship with Ross Leighton followed by Sports Med fellowship in Banff."

Dr. Natalie Rollick - "Hospital for Special Surgery (NY) for Trauma fellowship followed by Upper Extremity fellowship at HULC (Western University-London, ON)"

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Dr. Kristine Smith - "I'm moving to Salt Lake City for my fellowship in Rhinology and Skullbase Surgery at the University of Utah with Dr. Richard Orlandi and Dr. Jeremiah Alt. It is a combined clinical and academic (research) fellowship. After I complete this, I plan to pursue a masters in Health Services Delivery as well as look for an academic position to continue my research in health policy and health economics."

PLASTIC SURGERY

Dr. Arezoo Astanehe - "I completed my residency training in the Section of Plastic Surgery. For the next 6 months after graduation, I will be in Vancouver undertaking a comprehensive Breast fellowship, focusing on breast cancer reconstruction. I will then move to University of Ghent in Belgium for 6 months to work with Dr. Phillip Blondeel who specializes in microsurgery and perforator flaps and Dr. Stan Monstrey who has a special interest in trans-gender surgeries."

Dr. Jill Stone - "I am going to Johns Hopkins for a Microsurgery fellowship next year."

FELLOW GRADUATE (PLASTIC SURGERY)

Dr. Rasha Baaqeel - "Currently finishing up my Microsurgery fellowship in August, then going to UBC for a second fellowship in Breast and Aesthetic Surgery for 6 months. I'm on a scholarship from the National Guard Hospital in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, so that's where I'll end up working."

