



GENDER BARRIERS IN
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

DR. LAURIE HIEMSTRA



OPTIMIZING OPIOID
PRESCRIBING

DR. ANDREW GRAHAM

FALL 2022

The Blade

The Department of Surgery

CUMMING SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Calgary acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

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

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

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MESSAGE FROM **DR. KEVIN HILDEBRAND,** DEPARTMENT HEAD



I want to begin by welcoming Drs. Marcia Clark and Natalie Yanchar to the department leadership team. Dr. Clark has taken on the role of Deputy Department Head of Clinical Programs and Operations, Surgical Quality and Innovation. This existing position responds to new directions, such as expansion into chartered surgical facilities, overhead policy, clinical alternate relationship plans, and new practice patterns and profiles. Dr. Yanchar has taken on the role of Deputy Department Head of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Wellness, and Professionalism. This new position will work towards embedding these elements into our processes, such as recruitment, retention, practice patterns and profiles, meetings, and communication. Both surgeons bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we look forward to their contributions.

Sadly, I must also recognize the passing of our colleague and friend, Dr. James Nixon. Dr. Nixon had a long and successful career, spending over 30 years working in the Calgary area, with many positive impacts on our surgical community. Our sympathy goes to his family, friends, colleagues, and patients. He will be deeply missed.

While the last few years have been rife with Covid-19 disruptions, I am happy to report that we are almost back to business as usual. There have been no operating room closures in 2022 on the scale we saw last fall during wave four, and surgical activity is at 90% of our 2018/2019 volumes, though our waitlists have increased and need to be addressed. The Alberta Surgical Initiative continues to move forward, focusing on improved access to specialist treatment and reduced surgery wait times through surgical waitlist management and improved referral and surgery processes. As a department, we continue to focus on Acute Care Coverage and diversions, and we are working on a collaboration with Family Practice and a clinical ARP with Family Medicine. With the biggest Covid-19 hurdles behind us, I look forward to continued progress in these areas.

With a relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions, this year saw us once again return to in-person events. June saw our first in-person Surgeons' Research Day since 2019, and we will host our first in-person department gala and awards event in November. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, celebrate our colleagues' success, and unwind from the last few tumultuous years. By the time you read this issue, the department will have also held a strategic planning retreat where we will outline the department's strategic vision for the next five years.

While the last few years have brought many challenges, I am proud of what our members and staff have achieved, and I believe we have much to look forward to in the upcoming year. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Blade.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kevin Hildebrand, Department Head

UPDATE FROM **DR. MARCIA CLARK,** DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEAD, CLINICAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS, SURGICAL QUALITY AND INNOVATION



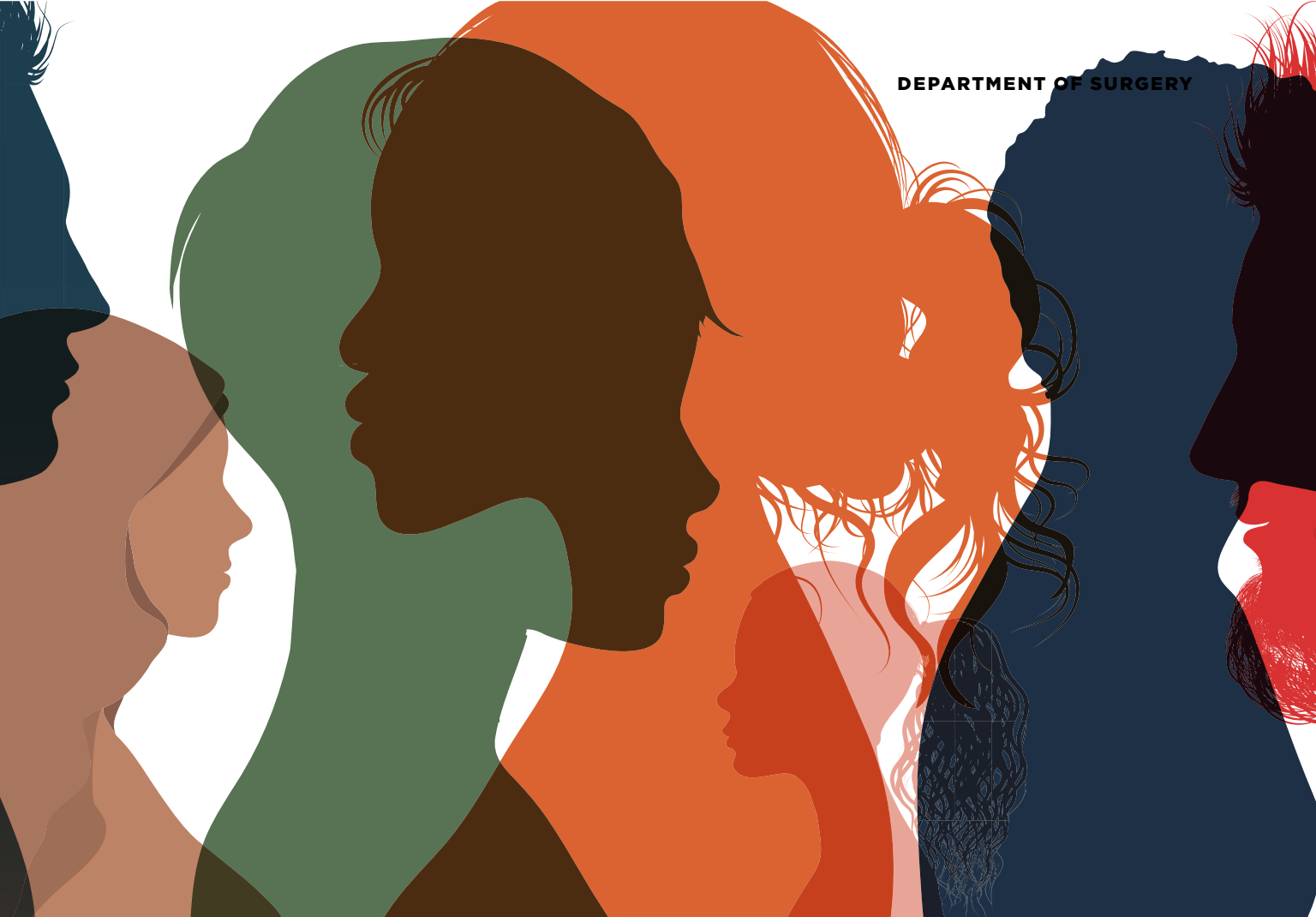
I want to begin by saying how excited I am about this leadership opportunity and how much I appreciate the depth of experience and organizational history within our current leadership team.

During my first six months, I intend to focus on meeting with other department leads, building relationships, and understanding how I can best support our surgeons. I will also engage in a strategic priorities process with our members, which will help define who we are and what we want to accomplish over the next several years.

We have learned much from our experiences during the pandemic, and I believe we can build on this hard work to enhance patient care and the success of our department. This includes strengthening our investment in department leaders and succession planning to support our department's resilience in the ever-changing healthcare environment. I intend to build our relationships with the healthcare system's key institutions, including Alberta Health Services, the Government of Alberta, and the University of Calgary. Increased engagement is one way that we can inform, improve, and adapt the healthcare system.

When meeting with members, I have a key question: "how can I best help you?" I do not always have the answers, but I enjoy engaging with others and building relationships to find solutions. I am inquisitive about what motivates people to perform their job to the best of their abilities, and I look forward to engaging further with our surgeons.

I am excited about the future, and I look forward to meeting with department members. Please get in touch with me at marcia.clark@albertahealthservices.ca.



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

UNDERSTANDING GENDER BARRIERS IN ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

When Dr. Laurie Hiemstra joined the Canadian Orthopedic Association's (COA) Executive as its first female member, she was immediately asked to work on gender diversity. "To be honest, I wasn't initially interested in pursuing this work. I didn't see or understand the extent of the problem," says Hiemstra. "But, once I began reading and studying, I was really surprised with what I found, especially when I reflected on my own career and experiences."

Female identifying students make up 57% of medical school classes, but only 13.6% of orthopedic surgeons

are women¹. With nothing innate about the profession that would prefer one gender over the other, Dr. Hiemstra and her team set out to identify and understand barriers contributing to this gender gap. "It's great that so many women are entering the medical profession," says Hiemstra, "but you have to wonder why orthopedic surgery doesn't reflect the gender parity we see in medical schools."

Hiemstra's study used the Gender Bias Scale questionnaire (GBS), a validated tool with 47 questions that measure gender bias against female leaders. The questionnaire was then taken a step further by incorporating questions

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



**"I HOPE THIS
WORK CREATES
UNDERSTANDING
THAT WOMEN
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ISSUES."**

about burnout from the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) along with questions about job satisfaction. Three open-ended questions allowed women to describe additional barriers, the impact of biases outside of gender, and provide input on creating more equitable work environments. "We wanted to better understand how female orthopedic surgeons experience common gender barriers," says Hiemstra. "Using the GBS and MBI provided a process to test, measure, and validate that had a scientific basis."

The analyzed data identified five barriers for female orthopedic surgeons from the GBS survey. Barriers included constrained communication, unequal standards, male culture, lack of mentoring, and workplace harassment. A further theme was identified through the qualitative analysis, work-life integration, or the difficulty balancing parental and childcare responsibilities with their career plans. According to Hiemstra, the biggest surprise was how many women identified barriers in the main

questionnaire but then said they had no barriers in the open-ended questions. "I found this curious until I thought back to my reaction when asked to do diversity work," says Hiemstra. "I didn't initially recognize the barriers, but it doesn't mean they weren't there." Hiemstra believes the normalization of gender roles and gendered behaviour may be why some women are unaware of these barriers.

Another surprise for Hiemstra was self-silencing, a learned behaviour that sees women actively censor their views and opinions to maintain relationships and conform to traditional gender roles. "I was struck by the number of women who were afraid to speak up or assert themselves in the workplace," says Hiemstra. "When women show good leadership qualities and speak out, they are seen as difficult and can experience pushback. This can cause them to hold back in the future." According to Hiemstra, this is a catch-22 because when women

continued...

show “female” or “caring” characteristics, they are not seen as effective leaders. Walking this difficult line affects women’s well-being and contributes to career stress and burnout.

When asked about the most gratifying aspects of the study, Hiemstra pointed to the number of men who have approached her since the paper was published. “So many men have reached out and thanked me for opening their eyes,” says Hiemstra. “They had no idea this was happening

“YOU HAVE TO WONDER WHY ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY DOESN’T REFLECT THE GENDER PARITY WE SEE IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS.”

around them. They are now looking more carefully at their department and their own life.” Hiemstra hopes that a shift will occur as more people develop understanding. “We can only fix problems once we are aware of them,” says Hiemstra. “I hope this study is the first step towards improved gender equality in orthopedic surgery.”

The study has generated several papers and an additional study. The first paper based on the 47 GBS questions was published in The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in August, and two more papers will be ready for publication in late

2022 or early 2023. The new papers look at the correlation between gender barriers and burnout and how surgeons can work towards creating more equitable work environments. Response to the study has been positive, but one reoccurring question requires further investigation: do men experience the same barriers? To find out, Hiemstra’s team intends to send the GBS questionnaire to male orthopedic surgeons. “It’s very intriguing,” says Hiemstra. “I’m interested to learn if they are experiencing the same or different barriers as women or perhaps the same barriers but to a lesser extent.” The new study is currently in ethics approval.

“If this work does one thing, I hope it gets people to put themselves in another person’s shoes. I hope it creates understanding that women have different experiences than men and deal with different workplace issues,” says Hiemstra. “By taking the first step of creating understanding, we can work towards cultural change.”

To read Experiences of Canadian Female Orthopaedic Surgeons in the Workplace, please visit https://journals.lww.com/jbjsjournal/Fulltext/2022/08170/Experiences_of_Canadian_Female_Orthopaedic.5.aspx

By Tammie Roy

Dr. Laurie Hiemstra has been with the Department of Surgery since 2001 and is a Clinical Associate Professor with the University of Calgary. Dr. Hiemstra works at the Banff Sport Medicine Clinic, and she has been the Canadian Orthopedic Association’s President since June 2022.

1. Hiemstra L, Kerslake S, Clark M, Temple-Oberle C, Boynton E. Experiences of Canadian female orthopaedic surgeons in the Workplace. JBJS [Internet]. 2022 Aug;104(16):1455–61.

2022 SURGEONS’ DAY

The 39th Annual Surgeon’s Day Research Symposium was held in person on June 24, 2022. The event was a great success, with close to 100 attendees and 20 presenters. This year’s symposium had presentations given within three pillars, including Clinical Research, Health Systems, and Education, as well as a Resident Research Showcase and the highly successful Sharpest Knife Live Grant Competition. Thank you to our special guests, Dr. Alan Dardik, Section of Vascular Surgery, Yale School of Medicine, McPhredran Lecturer, and Dr. Ezekiel Weis, Section of Ophthalmology, University of Calgary and University of Alberta, McMurtry Lecturer. A thank you also goes to the presenters, moderators, and event organizers who helped ensure a successful and enjoyable event. Please join us in congratulating the Surgeons’ Day winners!



Dr. Ezekiel Weis
Guest Judge and
McMurtry Lecture



Dr. Alan Dardik
Guest Judge and
McPhredran Lecture

RESIDENT RESEARCH SHOWCASE FIRST PLACE



Dr. Evan Compton
PGY-5, Section of
Otolaryngology-Head &
Neck Surgery
*Predicting vocal cord
pathology using artificial
intelligence*

RESIDENT RESEARCH SHOWCASE SECOND PLACE



Dr. Jeff Grab
PGY-4, Section of
Vascular Surgery
*Efficacy of Cold Renal
Perfusion Protection for
Open Complex Aortic
Aneurysm Repair: A
Meta Analysis*

SHARPEST KNIFE LIVE GRANT COMPETITION



Dr. Patrick Gooi and Team
(Drs. Mark Ungrin, Derek
Waldner, Abdullah Al-Ani)
Section of Ophthalmology
*Optimizing Wound Healing
in Glaucoma Surgery and
Beyond*

PETER CRUSE AWARD



Dr. Brett Ponich (right)
PGY-1, Section of
Plastic Surgery
*The Temporal Artery
Biopsy Debate*

RESEARCH CORNER



Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle

Top Ranked Abstract at ERAS 2022

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Claire Temple-Oberle, who presented at the ERAS 2022 World Conference held in Madrid, Spain. Of all abstracts submitted, six were top-ranked to be presented at the podium, with Dr. Temple-Oberle's ranked #1 for her study called Mobile app post-operative home monitoring after oncologic surgery using ERAS protocols improves quality of recovery: Results of a randomized controlled trial.

Dr. Francis Sutherland & Dr. Chad Ball

Textbook Publication

Congratulations to Dr. Francis Sutherland and Dr. Chad Ball, who recently completed writing a textbook called The Wise Scalpel: Tips & Traps in Liver, Gallbladder, & Pancreatic Surgery.



Dr. Prism Schneider

CIHR Funding

Congratulations to Dr. Prism Schneider on receiving two CIHR grants, with combined funding of almost \$700k. The funding will support two projects, including HIP fracture thromboPROphylaxis (HIP PRO) Pilot: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial as well as Evaluating Individual Cancer-associated Thrombosis Mechanisms to Inform Personalized Thromboprophylaxis in Patients with Metastatic Bone Disease.



Dr. Richard Buckley

Textbook Publication

Congratulations to Dr. Richard Buckley, who recently published the sixth edition of his textbook Surgical Exposures in Orthopedics. The textbook was translated into six languages and is used around the world. The second edition of his textbook, Surgical Exposures in Foot and Ankle Surgery, is also close to publication.

SURGICAL FELLOWS AND EXTENDED RESIDENTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

This year's symposium took place in person on May 26, 2022. The keynote speaker was Dr. Prasad Jetty, an Associate Professor and Director of Research from the Division of Vascular Surgery, University of Ottawa. The event was well attended and included 25 presenters and 6 adjudicators. Please join us in congratulating this year's award recipients!

FIRST PLACE RESEARCH AWARD

ROOM 1

Dr. Vishwajeet Singh,
Pediatric Spine Fellow

ROOM 2

Dr. Jessica Hopkins,
Colorectal Surgery Extended Resident

ROOM 3

Dr. Isis Vargas,
Functional & Reconstructive Urology Fellow

SECOND PLACE RESEARCH AWARD

ROOM 1

Dr. Scott Willms,
Trauma Surgery Fellow

ROOM 2

Dr. Greg Padmore,
Surgical Oncology Fellow

ROOM 3

Dr. Natalia Figueiredo,
Retina Fellow

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RETREAT

The Department of Surgery held a virtual retreat on February 25, 2022, focused on physician wellness. With over 70 attendees, the full-day event explored a variety of topics, including the pandemic's impact on physicians, wellness as a shared responsibility, cultural factors of healthy medical workplaces, and enhancing personal resilience. Themes were identified in the areas of system-level issues and established cultural norms. These along with other themes helped inform the department's strategic retreat in October, which is moving this work forward in conjunction with Dr. Yanchar.

“WE WENT FROM MEETING PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES 49% OF THE TIME TO MEETING GUIDELINES 81% OF THE TIME. THIS MEANS 15 FEWER OPIOID TABLETS GOING OUT THE DOOR PER PRESCRIPTION.”

DR. ANDREW GRAHAM OPTIMIZING OPIOID PRESCRIBING

Dr. Andrew Graham, a thoracic surgeon, has always been interested in how existing data sources can be used to improve clinical outcomes in the healthcare system. As the Director of the Office of Surgical Quality (OSQ) for the Department of Surgery (DoS), Dr. Graham is using this interest in data and quality improvement to help surgeons optimize opioid prescribing following surgery. “The data already exists, and this is something we, as surgeons, can control,” says Graham. “Why wouldn’t we do everything possible to ensure addiction does not begin within the healthcare system?”

While illicit opioid production is the driving force behind many newspaper headlines, prescriptions are also a

factor¹. In 2016, Canada was the world’s second-largest consumer of prescription opioids, and in 2017, Alberta saw 66% of opioid-related accidental deaths occur within thirty days of filling a prescription¹. With these numbers in mind and with opioids an Alberta Health Services (AHS) priority, Dr. Graham’s team decided to look at the data for areas of improvement following surgery.

Determining if a problem existed began with the Quality Improvement (QI) Leads of each surgical section identifying their core surgical procedures. The OSQ then worked with the AHS Data and Analytics team to link the core procedures to the provincial pharmacy database, a registry

that tracks every opioid prescription filled in the province to monitor opioid use. “We couldn’t have done this without the analytics team,” says Graham. “What they have created is so powerful. It runs in the background, so we can pull data on surgeries and prescribing practices at any time. This wasn’t a chart review (a review of individual patient records), so it was very cost efficient.” After the OSQ created a dashboard to filter the data, QI Leads reviewed the prescribing practices for individual procedures, with unique identifying information removed to protect patient privacy.

The next steps in the project involved leveraging a quality improvement framework developed by AHS called AIW (AHS Improvement Way), a process based on collaborative project management. Francisco Aguirre, Quality Improvement Consultant for the OSQ, says, “Using this systematic process helped the team target the right problem, gather the right information, and bring all stakeholders to a

consensus before proposed solutions were implemented. Using this framework ensured we wouldn’t circle back months later because we had missed a step.” The AIW process involves opportunity identification, building understanding, acting to improve, and sustaining results.

After reviewing one year of data, an opportunity for improvement was identified with the minimally invasive lung resection surgery. Almost always a cancer surgery, this painful procedure has a published opioid prescribing guideline from the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons, which is not something all surgical procedures have available. The data revealed that, upon discharge, this procedure only met prescribing guidelines 49% of the time. “Minimally invasive lung resection is the most common thoracic surgery we perform,” says Graham, “so it was also a great candidate because it would have the largest impact on our section’s opioid prescribing.”

The OSQ and thoracic team dove into understanding the problem through a stakeholder brainstorming exercise to identify root causes and solutions. This involved using a Priority Matrix tool to create consensus on the best solutions, solutions that would balance effectiveness with cost and effort. Stakeholders chose to standardize opioid prescribing by aligning it with national guidelines and creating a handout for patients about using opioids after surgery. A three-month implementation period allowed the thoracic surgeons, nurse practitioners, and residents to get used to the new standardization.

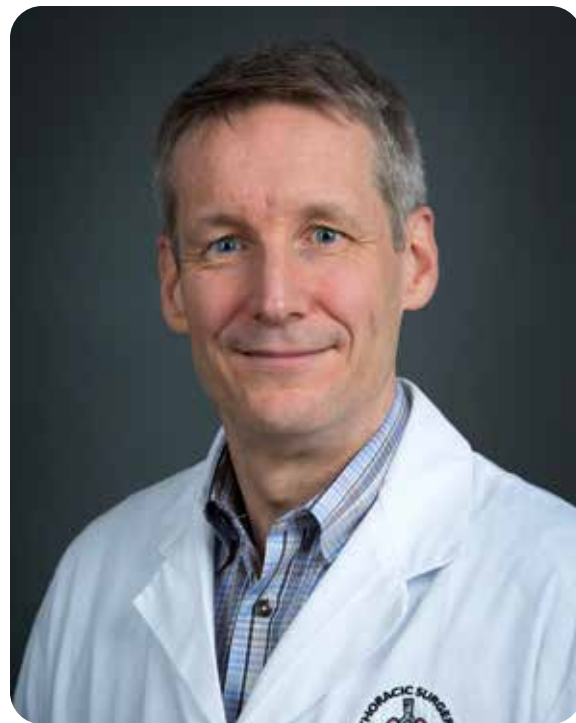
The team collected and monitored data for one year, tracking the average prescribed dose and how often prescriptions complied with national guidelines. "I'm proud to say that we went from meeting prescribing guidelines 49% of the time to meeting the guidelines 81% of the time," says Graham. "This means 15 fewer opioid tablets going out the door per prescription". Guidelines were not followed after every surgery because flexibility is still needed to manage individual patient needs. "Every patient and surgery is different, so we can not say that one size fits all," says Graham. "For example,

a patient entering the hospital already taking opioids will likely need a higher dose after surgery." The data review also confirmed that patients prescribed within guidelines did not need to seek additional refills to manage their pain, meaning there was no downside to the new intervention.

With a sustainability plan in place, the OSQ and Section of Thoracic Surgery expect to maintain these positive results. The OSQ is now looking to meet with the QI Leads of other surgical sections, hoping to utilize the tools and lessons learned to help other groups with opioid prescribing optimization. "From my experience, patients are better off with fewer opioids. They report feeling better, being more alert, and less nauseated," says Graham. "This project has been very gratifying, and I'm looking forward to engaging with other groups that would like our help."

This work received the Robert J. Ginsburg Award for Resident Research at the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgery's September meeting. It is awaiting publication in the Canadian Journal of Surgery.

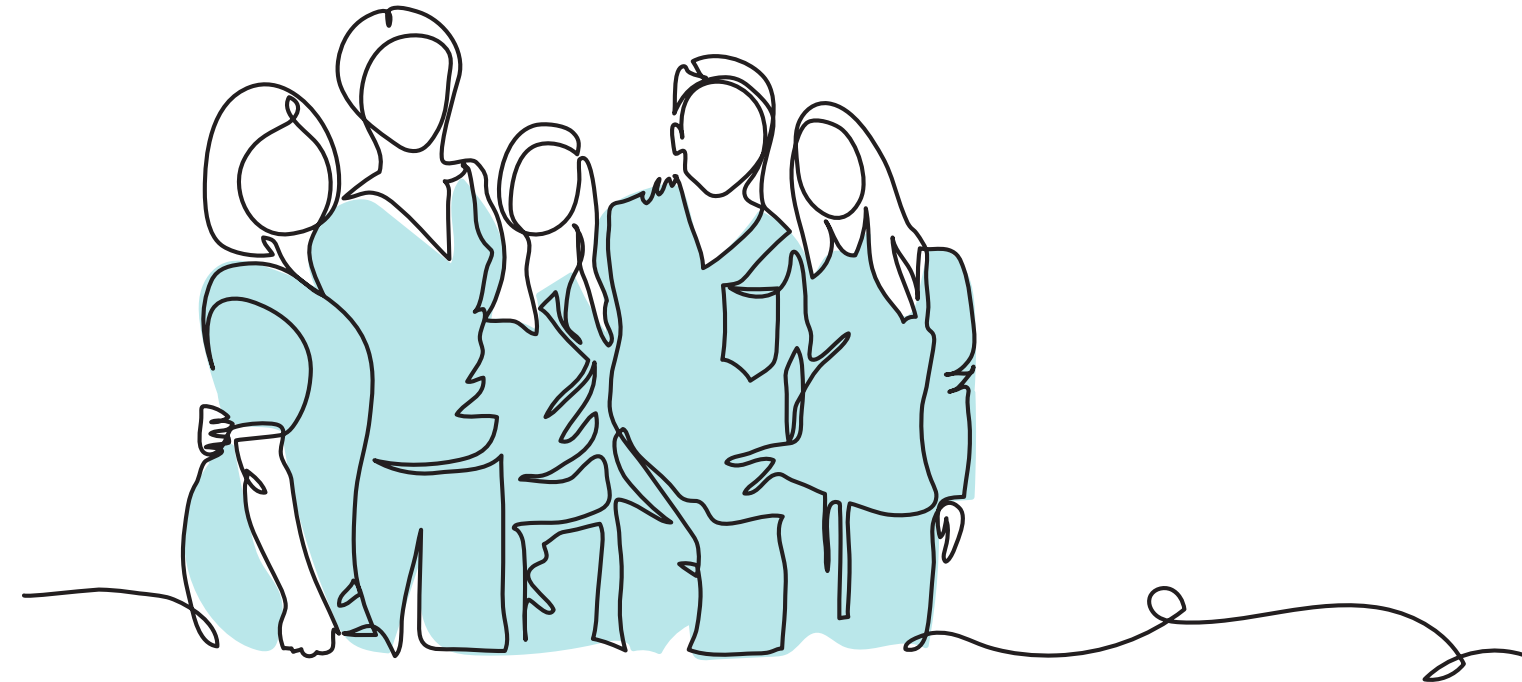
By Tammie Roy



Dr. Andrew Graham has been with the Department of Surgery since 2001 and is a Clinical Associate Professor with the University of Calgary. Dr. Graham works at the Foothills Medical Centre and has been the Director of the Office of Surgical Quality since 2016.

Opioids prescribed in different forms required a common standard. All opioid prescriptions were converted to a Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME). The dosage went from 158 MME to 100 MME. This equates to approximately 15 fewer oral hydromorphone tablets (15 mg) per prescription.

1. Barber E, Whidden M, Aguirre F, Graham A, Optimizing opioid prescribing practices following minimally invasive lung resections through a quality improvement process



ENTREPRENEUR NETWORKING & PLANNING SUMMIT

How can we support surgeons to make their innovative ideas a reality? This was the question tackled when a group of surgeons, clinicians, researchers, investors, and advisors came together on September 22, 2022, to network and envision what a Surgical Startup Ecosystem would look like and how it could become a reality.

The evening was organized by Dr. Richard Hu, the department's Entrepreneur in Residence. It included invited speakers and a panel discussion, followed by a breakout session to identify key gaps

and possible solutions to the haphazard support encountered by health technology entrepreneurs.

The evening was a success, and Dr. Hu intends for the event to become a regular gathering, the start of an ecosystem where relationships are formed, problems are solved, and ideas become a reality. Please feel free to contact Dr. Hu at Richard.Hu@ahs.ca for information about future events.



MEET JERILEE PAREDES UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

As the Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Coordinator, Jerilee Paredes spends her days helping medical students have the best experience possible when they rotate through the Department of Surgery. "I'm happy to be part of their journey to becoming a doctor," says Paredes. "I love my job. Every day I combine my passion for helping people with my love of learning."

Medical students rotate through a variety of specialties, such as Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Psychiatry, during pre-clerkship (year two) and clerkship (year three). During this time, there are three rotations with the Department of Surgery, helping increase students' exposure to different surgical specialties. Jerilee is responsible for scheduling all clerks rotating through the

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department during their mandatory rotation with General Surgery and their selectives and electives rotation with other surgical sections. With over 150 pre-clerks and clerks rotating through the department, plus visiting clerks from other Canadian universities, Jerilee has her work cut out for her and her organizational abilities tested daily. "Last-minute changes are my biggest challenge. Schedules are created far in advance," says Paredes, "but last-minute conflicts inevitably arise, and schedules are rearranged. But at the end of the day, it is very satisfying when the problem is solved."

Before joining the Department of Surgery, Jerilee spent two years at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in various roles, including coverage as the Education Coordinator for the Oncology Residency Program. "That's where I found my love of medical education," says Paredes. "I only covered a short leave, but I really enjoyed the role." Jerilee joined the Department of Surgery in 2019, assisting the Department Head in a temporary admin position before beginning her current role as the UME Coordinator. "When I learned about the UME role, I jumped at the opportunity," says Paredes. "I was excited to get back into education and supporting students."

Prior to starting with AHS, Jerilee worked in administrative roles in various industries, including finance, engineering, construction, and hospitality, before settling in healthcare. "It may sound cliché, but I really enjoy helping people," says Paredes, "and healthcare allows me to make a difference by helping our medical students achieve their dreams of becoming a doctor or surgeon." Jerilee has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

with a Major in Management Accounting from St. Paul University Surigao, Philippines, and completed the Hospital Unit Clerk Program at Bow Valley College.

Originally from the Philippines, Jerilee and her husband moved to Dubai, working as expats for four years before coming to Canada. Though initially apprehensive about the cold Canadian weather, they moved here in 2012 and have not looked back. "Canada has given me a lot of opportunities," says Paredes. "It was tough at first, the harsh weather and packing my life into two suitcases, but this is the place I call home now." Jerilee and her husband settled in Cochrane and became Canadian citizens in 2020.

When not working, Jerilee spends time with her husband, nine-year-old daughter, and two-year-old son. They enjoy family time, especially swimming and taking road trips. Jerilee also enjoys spending time with her mother, who moved to Canada and became a permanent resident in September. "I'm so thankful that my mom has been able to visit often and has moved here for good," says Paredes. "We are fortunate she can enjoy time with her grandkids as they grow up." With her mother here, Jerilee and her husband have more flexibility for some adult time. Huge rock and punk music fans, they love going out to see live music shows and are hopeful to spend more time doing so in the future. "I feel very blessed. I have built a wonderful life for my family, and I love working with AHS and the University of Calgary," says Paredes. "There is so much diversity in healthcare. I feel as though the possibilities are endless."

By Tammie Roy

FUN FACT:

Jerilee played guitar in a reggae band during her college days. Called Jah Vibe, they won a battle of the bands contest, with their popularity seeing them play at different local events!

MARTIN T. SPOOR MEMORIAL AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Annalise Abbott, who was selected by the Department of Surgery Residency Training Program Directors as the 2021-2022 recipient of the Martin T. Spoor Memorial Award.

This award is given annually to a University of Calgary surgical resident committed to providing the highest level of patient care and who displays qualities of leadership, mentorship, technical proficiency, and compassion to their patients and colleagues.

Dr. Abbot is a fourth-year postgraduate resident in the Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program and is completing a Master's in Medical Sciences. She is studying how metastatic bone cancer lesions respond to new immunotherapies and health care utilization costs associated with emergency versus elective surgeries for metastatic bone cancer.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Abbott!

OLIVER COPE MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Janice Pasieka, who was awarded the 2021 American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES) Oliver Cope Meritorious Achievement Award. The award was established in 1985, and Dr. Pasieka is the 10th recipient and first female recipient of the award. Recognizing surgeons who have made true and substantial contributions in the field of endocrine surgery, Dr. Pasieka was selected for her productivity in broad-based scholarly contributions, administrative genius for AAES, and exceptional service as a surgical mentor and role model.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Pasieka on receiving this significant award!

CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AWARDS

CSM INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Fabio Ferri, recipient of the CSM International Health Award for Clinical, Adjunct, and Research Faculty. This award acknowledges his significant achievements in 2021, including his ongoing work to improve the access and quality of reconstructive surgical care for children with disabilities in Brazil.

Dr. Ferri's main contribution to international health has been developing and monitoring the first paediatric spine registry in Brazil (GEPEDI) in collaboration with the Brazilian Society of Spine Surgery and 26 academic centers in Brazil. The registry builds on his previous work on ethics of health resource allocation, which was published by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) in the form of an extended health policy brief. This work has recently expanded to Latin America in collaboration with the AO Spine organization.

Dr. Ferri is an elected Fellow of the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), and he has served as a regular examiner for COSECSA since 2017. With this network, he plans to further extend the reach of this capacity-building project in paediatric spine surgery to the COSECSA region.



CSM UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Wayne Rosen, recipient of the CSM Undergraduate Medical Education Award for Clinical, Adjunct and Research Faculty. Dr. Rosen has a long and successful history of teaching undergraduate medical education, and this award recognizes his significant contributions and achievements.

Dr. Rosen regularly contributes to teaching undergraduate trainees through lectures and seminars on topics related to colon and rectal surgery, bioethics, and medical skills. He has co-chaired the Undergraduate Bioethics Unit for over 15 years, co-authoring a new bioethics textbook in 2020. He has also chaired the Undergraduate Medical Skills Course since 2011. His dedication has brought about innovation in the curriculum, including producing significant online video content to support learners and teachers. Dr. Rosen consistently contributes to lectures, small group teaching, ethics workshops, and numerous other one-on-one environments to aid in the growth of undergraduate trainees.



WELCOME TO **NEW FACULTY**



Dr. Mark Assmus

Clinical Lecturer
Urology

Dr. Mark Assmus was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. He completed medical school and a urology residency at the University of Alberta. Dr. Assmus then pursued fellowship training in endourology (complex kidney stone and benign prostate disease) and a master's degree in public health at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Assmus joins the Calgary urology team at the Rockyview General Hospital and will establish the first holmium laser enucleation of the prostate (HoLEP) program in Alberta.

Dr. Alexander Ragan

Ophthalmology



Dr. Meaghan Marien

Clinical Lecturer
Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Meaghan Marien was born in London, Ontario but raised in Montreal, Quebec. She completed her medical school training at McGill University and residency at the University of Ottawa. After graduating, Dr. Marien pursued her first fellowship at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City in pediatric orthopedics, followed by a second fellowship at the Banff Sport Medicine group in arthroscopy and sports medicine. She currently practices at the Alberta Children's Hospital, focusing on knee arthroscopy and general pediatric orthopedics.

Dr. Catherine Cho

Clinical Lecturer,
Dentistry and Oral Health



Dr. Paul Huang

Clinical Lecturer
Ophthalmology

Dr. Paul Huang graduated from medical school at Queen's University in 2015 and completed an ophthalmology residency at the University of Calgary in 2020. He is the Competency by Design Lead for the Section of Ophthalmology and Co-Medical Director for the International Vision Organization. Dr. Huang's research pursuits include refractive laser surgery following corneal transplantation and surgical simulation in residency teaching.



Dr. Rebecca Hartley

Clinical Assistant Professor
Plastic Surgery

Dr. Rebecca Hartley completed her residency in plastic surgery at the University of Calgary, followed by a fellowship in pediatric plastic surgery in Vancouver at the BC Children's Hospital. Dr. Hartley is grateful and excited to return to Calgary in her role as a pediatric plastic surgeon at the Alberta Children's Hospital and adult plastic surgeon at the Rockyview General Hospital.



Dr. Rena Sihra

Casual Dentist

Dr. Rena Sihra was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Alberta and earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. After several years as a general dentist, she pursued specialty training and completed a pediatric dentistry residency at the University of Manitoba.



Dr. Thomas Cawthorn

Clinical Assistant Professor
Plastic Surgery

Dr. Thomas Cawthorn is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon with training in pediatric and adult surgery. Originally from Prince Edward Island, he completed undergraduate and medical school training at Queen's University followed by residency training at the University of Calgary. He then completed subspecialty fellowship training in pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) through the University of Toronto. Dr. Cawthorn practices at the Alberta Children's Hospital and Rockyview General Hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS IN NEW POSITIONS

Please join us in welcoming these members to their new positions in the department:

Dr. Darren Desantis,

Quality Improvement & Safety Lead, Urology,
effective September 1, 2022

Dr. Miller Smith,

Quality Improvement & Safety Lead, Oral & Maxillofacial
Surgery,
renewal effective September 1, 2022

Dr. Karim Manji,

Quality Improvement & Safety Lead, Podiatry,
renewal effective September 1, 2022

Dr. Kenton Rommens,

Quality Improvement & Safety Lead, Vascular Surgery,
renewal effective September 1, 2022

Dr. Natalie Yanchar,

Deputy Department Head, Professionalism, Physician
Wellness, Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity,
effective August 1, 2022

Dr. Alex Hatchell,

Quality Improvement & Safety Lead, Plastic Surgery,
effective August 1, 2022

Dr. Rob Hart,

Physician Lead, Evidence Decision Support Program,
renewal effective August 1, 2022

Dr. Mike Dunham,

Interim SHC Facility Site Chief,
effective August 1, 2022

Dr. Paul McBeth,

Interim SHC Site Lead, General Surgery,
effective August 1, 2022

Dr. Andrew Graham,

Physician Lead, Quality Assurance and Improvement,
reinstatement effective August 1, 2022

Dr. Cory Cundal,

RGH Site Lead, Orthopaedic Surgery,
renewal effective July 1, 2022

Dr. Graham Cobb,

Section Chief, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,
effective July 1, 2022

Dr. Shamir Chandarana,

Section Chief, Otolaryngology,
effective July 1, 2022

Dr. Estifanos Debru,

Physician Lead Bariatric Surgery Program,
renewal effective July 1, 2022

Dr. Iain Russell,

PLC Site Lead, Orthopaedic Surgery,
renewal effective July 1, 2022

Dr. Marcia Clark,

Deputy Department Head, Clinical Programs and Operations,
Surgical Quality and Innovation,
effective July 1, 2022

Dr. Miller Smith,

Interim Section Chief, Dentistry & Oral Health,
effective July 1, 2022

Dr. Alex Ragan,

Quality Improvement & Safety Lead, Ophthalmology,
effective May 10, 2022

Dr. Natalie Yanchar,

Clinical Head, Pediatric Inpatient Trauma Services,
renewal effective April 1, 2022

Dr. Paul Huang,

CBD Lead, Ophthalmology,
effective January 17, 2022

Dr. May Lynn Quan,

FMC Site Lead, General Surgery,
effective January 1, 2022

Dr. Sean McFadden,

Section Chief, Thoracic Surgery,
renewal effective January 1, 2022

Dr. Kari Badwi,

Division Chief, Pediatric Dentistry,
effective January 1, 2022

Dr. Estifanos Debru,

PLC Site Lead, General Surgery,
Renewal effective January 1, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS WITH EMERITUS STATUS

Please join us in congratulating the following department members recently conferred with Emeritus status, honouring their considerable service to the University of Calgary through teaching, research, and engagement. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

Dr. J. Gregory McKinnon

Dr. Joseph Dort

Dr. Rene Lafreniere

THANK YOU TO RETIRED MEMBERS

We would like to recognize and thank our retired members for their dedication and years of hard work. We thank you for your academic and clinical contributions to the department and wish you a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Dr. Alan Lin, Plastic Surgery

Dr. Borys Hoshowsky, Otolaryngology (maintains office practice)

Dr. Elaine Joughin, Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Joseph Dort, Otolaryngology

Dr. Joseph Warshawsk, Otolaryngology (maintains office practice)

Dr. Leonard Smith, Dentistry and Oral Health

Dr. Rob Mulloy, General Surgery

IN MEMORY OF DR. JAMES NIXON

It is with great sadness that the Department of Surgery announced the passing of Dr. James Nixon, who passed peacefully in the presence of his family on December 10, 2021. Dr. Nixon was a great contributor to the Section of General Surgery over his 30+ year career as a general surgeon at the Calgary General Hospital and Peter Lougheed Hospital (PLC) and as a trauma surgeon at the Foothills Medical Center. His dedication to the surgical education of our residents and students was incomparable.

During his career, he served as President of the Calgary General Hospital Medical Staff Association, Chief of the Division of General Surgery, and Chief of Surgery at the PLC. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the PLC for his many contributions. His patients benefited enormously from his surgical skill and compassion. Dr. Nixon will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Dr. Nixon's family encourages anyone wishing to honour his memory to do so by contributing to land conservation in southern Alberta through the Nature Conservancy of Canada: www.natureconservancy.ca/tributejimmixon

DATES TO REMEMBER

Department Gala

November 4, 2022

Grand Rounds

November 4, 2022

December 2, 2022

February 3, 2023

March 3, 2023

Department Business Meeting

December 8, 2022

March 2, 2023

Surgeon's Day

June 9, 2023 - Save the date!

CUMMING SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE

