

# SURGICAL FRONTIERS

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY  
NEWSLETTER

QUARTER THREE 2016

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NEW  
RESIDENTS  
OF 2016



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# SURGICAL FRONTIERS

**SURGICAL FRONTIERS IS PUBLISHED BY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY**

## **OUR OBJECTIVE**

To profile the department's initiatives, activities and accomplishments for the benefit of our staff, alumni, friends and community.

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## **ON THE COVER**

Graduating Residents of 2016  
Photo by Michael Leenheer



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
**FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY**  
Department of Surgery



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FROM THE DESK OF DR. ERIN WRIGHT



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# MESSAGE

FROM THE CHAIR



**Douglas M. Hedden, MD, FRCSC**

**Walter Stirling Anderson**  
Professor and Chair

**Department of Surgery**  
**Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry**  
**University of Alberta**

**The summer season is a bittersweet time in the Department of Surgery.**

These are the days where we bid farewell to one group of graduates while welcoming fresh faces to take their place.

On the thirteenth of May, we celebrated the beginning of this change with our twenty-eighth annual Tom Williams Surgical Research Day. Dr. Steven F. Morris, Professor of Surgery in the Division of Plastic Surgery and Medical Neuroscience at Dalhousie University joined us as our distinguished guest judge for the day, and I would like to thank him for his valued contribution to our successful research day. The quality of research presented was once again excellent and I want to compliment all of our presenters on the work done and their presentations.

As is tradition, we capped off the day with our annual Surgical Awards Dinner, which exists to celebrate the academic year that was. It is a time for honouring our department members, awarding scholarships, and recognizing our graduating students and chief residents. When the dust settles after a long day of research and recognition, and one has time to pause and consider what has transpired, it's hard not to feel like you're a part of something truly extraordinary.

It is with that thought in mind that I reflect on the newest group of surgical residents who we have accepted into the fold. It was a great pleasure to meet many of you during our annual PGY-1 Welcome BBQ in July, and I am confident that you will bring much to the table during your residency here.

Change has also touched our leadership positions, and I would also like to highlight a recent announcement; Dr. Roderick MacArthur has been appointed as the new Divisional Director and Section Head of the Division of Cardiac Surgery. Dr. MacArthur has a dedicated history with the University of Alberta, and we are pleased to have him take on the responsibility that comes with leading a division and section. I would also like to thank Dr. David Ross for his contributions as the previous director, a position he held since 2010.

The theme continues as I consider my time with the department. Currently in my tenth year as Chair, having accepted the role in 2006, it is hard to believe that nearly a decade has already passed. There is still much to be done before I pass the duties forward, but I am inspired by what I have seen so far in the candidates who have placed themselves up for consideration. It is good to know the department will be in capable hands. I hope everyone enjoys their summer and for most a well deserved rest.

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DR. ERIN WRIGHT  
DIRECTOR, POSTGRADUATE SURGICAL EDUCATION

# POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION UPDATE

## COMPETENCE BY DESIGN

Our most recent department education retreat in December of 2015 featured Dr. Jason Frank – author of CanMEDS and strong voice for Competence by Design. CBD will change the structure of resident education via competency based training and milestones.

- A time-line was released that put Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery in the first cohort of change with several surgical specialties aligned to follow soon after.
- ◇ Anticipate that OH&N will integrate CBD in July 2017, which means that residents entering into these programs in July 2017 and beyond will experience CBD based training and assessment.
- ◇ Surgical Foundations and Urology are in Cohort 2 but Surgical Foundations will also be going live in July 2017 as well.
- ◇ Some logistical challenges of new technology systems and support structures required that the proposed roll out schedule be revised. "Universities have individual data and IT system needs and logistical and resources challenges, and we recognize that this approach may not be viable for all our partners."

## WORK OF CBD ADOPTERS

Adoption of CBD starts with the specialty committee of each discipline (along with program directors, clinician educators, continuing professional

development experts and invited guests). For approximately two-years, they collaborate with the Royal College to:

- Separate their discipline into the stages of training laid out in the CBD Competence Continuum diagram;
- Create specialty-specific milestones and entrustable professional activities (EPAs);
  - ◇ integrating the updates CanMEDS Physician Competency Framework content and CanMEDS Milestones;
  - ◇ assign milestones and EPAs to each stage of training;
- Determine competency-based assessment practices and technology solutions; and
- Prepare faculty and update the curriculum.

Once these activities are complete (about two-years after the specialty committees begin working on CBD) residents entering into the program begin experiencing aspects of the CBD model of assessment and learning.

## CANMEDS 2015 IMPLEMENTATION

An updated version of the CanMEDS framework was released which includes changes to role descriptions and definitions. Additionally, the new framework outlines complementary milestones which clearly define targets to guide learning and assessment and mark the progression of competence throughout a physician's career.

## EDUCATION RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Jason Frank, noted creator of CanMEDS

framework and a driving force behind the CBD education model. Discussion included the concepts behind the new model and the status of implementation stages.

Dr. Erin Wright provided an overview of the process which OH&N has been using to implement CBD, being one of the first cohorts to undertake the initiative. The afternoon discussions, led by Dr. Jonathan White, were centered on surgical careers, including entry and retirement planning.

## CARMS 2016

There were 338 applicants and a productive round of interviews as we matched all 17 spots successfully.

## ACCREDITATION

Postgraduate programs are subject to an external review every 6 years to receive accreditation status by the Royal College. Accreditation is a process that ensures that all residency programs associated with the Royal College adhere to a set of minimum standards.

Preparation for an external review requires much effort of the Program Directors, administrators and members of the Residency Program Committee, as well as requiring faculty support in reporting their ongoing research and OR stats.

### Timing:

- March 16 & 17, 2017 – Royal College Pre-survey visit
- May 31, 2017 – Pre-Survey Questionnaire documents due to be submitted to the Royal College
- Nov 26 – Dec 1, 2017 – Royal College External Review Meetings

# WE NEED A WAKEUP CALL

## STUDY SHOWS THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF MAJOR TRAUMA INCIDENTS IN ALBERTA DURING THE LAST DECADE WERE CAUSED BY ALCOHOL—AND COMPLETELY PREVENTABLE.

By: Alison Dotinga

**A** University of Alberta study reviewing the causes of major trauma in Alberta over the last decade finds that most cases were largely preventable—and only further proves that we need to hold each other accountable in order to see a change.

Jessica McKee was formerly the provincial trauma epidemiologist at the School of Public Health's Injury Prevention Centre when she published the paper online at BioMed Central earlier this year—she is now the Clinical Director at Innovative Trauma Care Inc. and continues to look for solutions to assist trauma surgeons. The paper was co-authored with Sandy Widder, an associate professor in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's Department of Surgery and director of Trauma Services at the University of Alberta Hospital, who further collaborated with the University of Calgary to gather data.

Health care centres like the University of Alberta Hospital use an intake form that checks a patient's blood alcohol content following a major trauma incident. McKee and Widder wanted to examine that registry to determine how significant alcohol was over the past ten years.

"I wanted to see how we're doing as a whole and hopefully identify opportunities for injury prevention," McKee says. "Because if the biggest cause of trauma is preventable and you can decrease those rates, you decrease a major burden on the health care system."

Ultimately they found that almost 40 per cent of all major trauma cases were alcohol-related, and that 82 per cent of those found to be intoxicated had a blood alcohol content (BAC) well over the legal driving limit. While drunk-driving incidents do count for some major trauma (25.4 percent), the fact is that the true scope of injuries caused by alcohol use is far larger than what is being captured.

"We found that we are not screening as many people as we could or should when they enter the Emergency Room," Widder says. "This could be because of age or stereotype, but in truth everyone should have their blood alcohol levels drawn."

McKee points out that the data gathered for this study only included major trauma. The average injury severity score (ISS) for this study was 21—in these cases the patient was severely hurt and had injured two or more body systems. But if a patient, for example, broke both of their arms and legs in an alcohol-related accident, their ISS score would only be 9—and hasn't been included in this study.

"Think about any long weekend," she goes on. "Think about how many bar fight victims take up emergency beds. Think about the incidents where a patient may not have required a hospital admission, but they required an ambulance. There are those who go to their regular doctor or a medicentre for treatment. And, of course, there are the domestic violence cases that alcohol contributes to as well."

"When you add it up, these preventable injuries cause a huge burden on our medical system and are costing us billions of dollars per year."

"The prevalence of alcohol use, despite all of our messaging, is still a province-wide issue," adds Widder. "Having a positive alcohol level is associated with violence, with other drug and substance use and abuse. We need to focus on all of these issues with intervention and not just have a very limited view of the problem."



Accessibility to alcohol is a contributing factor to these results; besides numerous bars and restaurants, retail liquor stores are essentially open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. every day of the week. Just this past April, Edmonton's City Council voted to allow more liquor stores in the suburbs, bypassing a weakly-enforced rule where liquor stores couldn't operate within 500 metres of each other.

There are strategies to educate patients about their drinking. Audits—a voluntary questionnaire conducted in hospitals—can serve as an eye-opening moment for patients who had no idea what their BAC was at the time of their injury. The study found that of those who positively screened for alcohol use, nearly 40 per cent had a BAC more than double the legal driving limit (the legal limit is 17.4 mmol/L; 38 per cent had BAC of over 39.4 mmol/L).

"We as a society don't know what drinking means, or what being drunk looks like," McKee says. "If you order a nine-ounce glass of wine, that counts

as two standard drinks. If you have three of those glasses in one night, you are technically binge drinking—but most of us don't see it that way."

"We know that there are vulnerable populations out there," says Widder. "We also know that people who arrive intoxicated are often repeat offenders" (In fact, when data was pulled for the registry multiple times). "In order to be best able to offer interventions to these people, we need to know who needs the help."

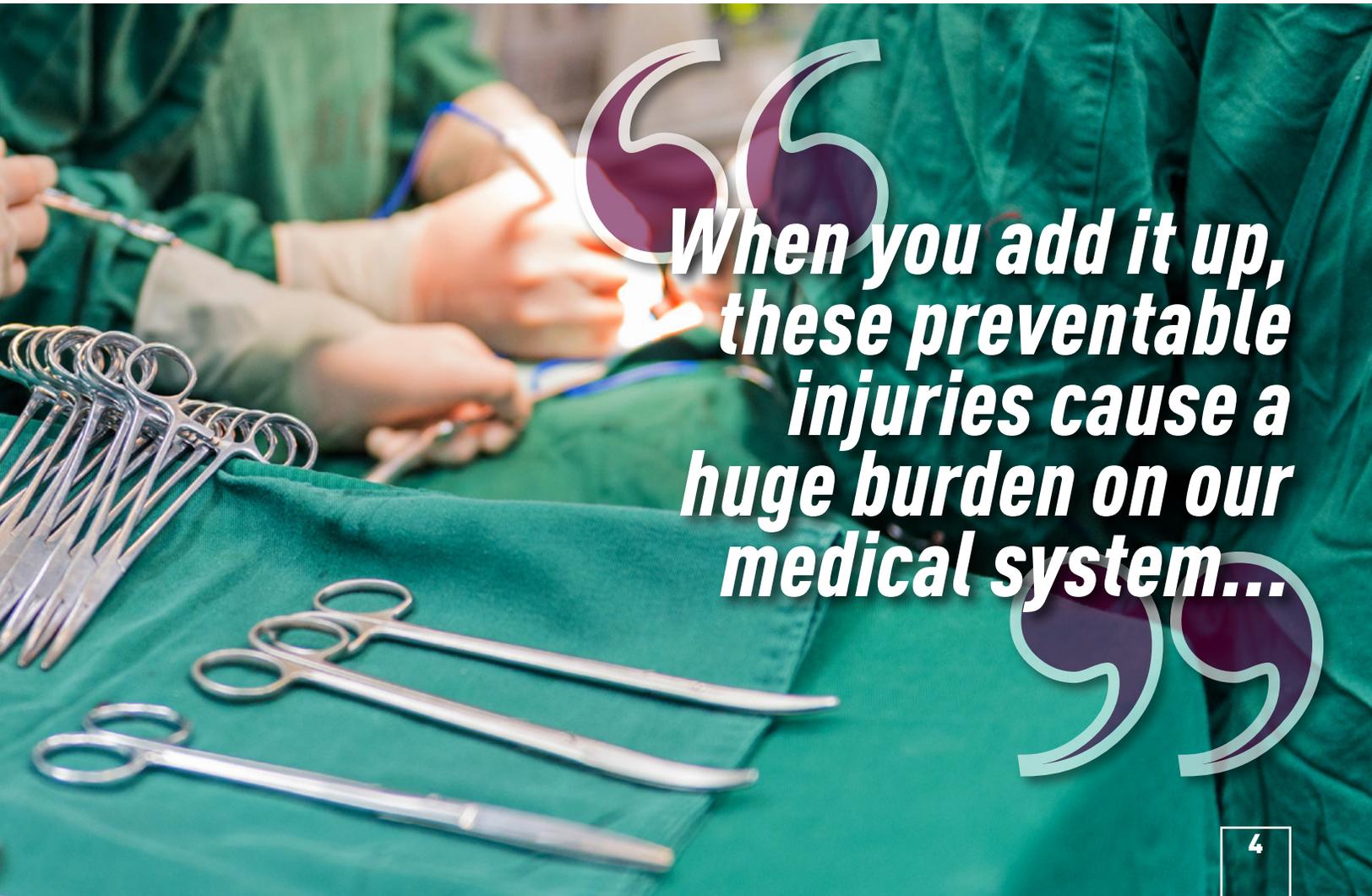
"Unfortunately we don't have adequate resources for those people who want and need help. We do have a social worker who works very closely with members of the trauma team and does offer some basic interventions, but in terms of ongoing outpatient interventions, this is something that we cannot sustain as a trauma service."

Health care workers have the opportunity to provide the patient with

support and resources like Alcoholics Anonymous as a way to help during the audit process. But more often than not, trauma surgeons will mend their patients, only to have them return to the streets and highways without treating the underlying issue of their alcohol abuse.

"Complete government control or prohibition is not necessarily the answer, but we do need programs that teach us strategies to deal with drinking," McKee explains. "It's not necessarily about teaching them right or wrong and putting a moral connotation to it. It's about providing them the facts and making sure they are informed so they can make the best decisions. If we learn this young enough and if we can take the 'magic' out of drinking, then we should be able to create a shift that lowers the risk of these events."

Widder sums up the entire issue perfectly: "Trauma is actually the one disease that is curable, if we focused on injury prevention."



*When you add it up,  
these preventable  
injuries cause a  
huge burden on our  
medical system...*

# Research Day

## HIGHLIGHTS

### DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Congratulations are due to the winners of the 29th Annual General Surgery Resident Research Day. The event was held on Friday, April 8, and was host to a number of outstanding presentations.

#### Clinical Science:

- First - Pang Young  
Urine I-FABP Predicts Acute Mesenteric Ischemia in Patients  
Preceptor: Dr. Thomas Churchill and Dr. Rachel Khadaroo
- Second - Gil Eamer  
Emergency General Surgery in an Elderly Population: A Multicentre Post-Discharge Cost Analysis  
Preceptor: Dr. Rachel Khadaroo
- Third - Jed Scharf & Brandi Iio  
Investigation of Knowledge Retention after Informed Consent for Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy  
Preceptor: Dr. Klaus Buttenschoen

#### Basic Science:

- First - David Lim  
"Combination Trophic Peptide Therapy for Neonatal Short Bowel Syndrome"  
Preceptor: Dr. David Bigam

- Second - Michael Laffin  
"The Prebiotic Fructooligosaccharide Worsens Systemic Inflammation in a Model of Post-Operative Crohn's Disease"  
Preceptors: Bryan Dicken, Richard Fedorak, Karen Madsen  
Co-author- Troy Perry
- Third - Simon Byrns  
"Development of a Surgical Kinematic Capture System for Objective Assessment and Training in Open Surgery"  
Preceptor: Dr. Bin Zheng

We would also like to thank Dr Kamal M.F. Itani, Professor, Department of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine for attending as the visiting professor and guest judge.

### DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

Residents Cameron Elliott (Clinical Neuroscience category) and Andrew Jack ( Basic Neuroscience category) were both recently awarded with second prize in the 2016 K.G. McKenzie Research competition. The competition was sponsored by the Canadian Neurosurgical Society (CNSS).

### DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

The Division of Plastic Surgery held their Annual Resident Research Day on April 1st, with special guest Dr. Antonyshyn of the University of Toronto as the visiting professor.

#### Clinical Category:

- First - Hollie Power
- Second - Joshua Wong

#### Basic Science Category:

- First - Curtis Budden
- Second - Josh De Serres

### DIVISION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD & NECK SURGERY

#### Resident Research Day Winners:

- First - Research Presentation: Andre Isaac
- Second - Research Presentation: Timothy Cooper
- Clinical Service Award - Jr Resident: Jessica Clark
- Clinical Service Award - Sr. Resident: Brittany Barber
- Academic Excellence Award: Andre Isaac and Timothy Cooper
- Annual Research Award: Brittany Barber
- Resident Teaching Award: Timothy Cooper
- Resident Well Being Award: Bree Erickson



Division of General Surgery Surgical Resident Research Day

# TOM WILLIAMS SURGICAL RESEARCH DAY AWARD WINNERS



## **BASIC SCIENCE POSTER**

First - Wenlong Huang<sup>1</sup>  
Second - Bridget Wiafe

## **CLINICAL SCIENCE POSTER**

First - Ryan McLarty  
Second - Jessica Clark<sup>2</sup>

## **ORAL BASIC SCIENCE**

First - Troy Bornes<sup>4</sup>  
Second - Adam Kinnaird<sup>4</sup>  
Third - Christopher White<sup>4</sup>

## **ORAL CLINICAL SCIENCE**

First - Hollie Power<sup>3</sup>  
Second - Pang Young<sup>3</sup>  
Third - Brittany Barber



The Department of Surgery would like to thank everyone for their submissions on Tom Williams Surgical Research day, and we would like to extend a special thanks to our visiting professor and judge, Steven F. Morris MD, MSc, FRCSC, Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Dalhousie University.



# CLASS

OF 2016





**GRADUATE STUDENTS (3)**

- Saad Alrobaiea MSc
- Cara Ellis PhD
- Joshua Hahn MSc
- Peter Kwan PhD
- Shakti Singh PhD
- Talal Takroni MSc

**RESIDENTS**

**CARDIAC SURGERY (1)**

- Fisal Alamri
- Wei Wang

**GENERAL SURGERY (6)**

- Suzana Kupper
- Mike Saba

**NEUROSURGERY (5)**

- Wael Alshaya

**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY (4)**

- Amro Alhoukail
- Ryan Paul
- Kyle Stampe

**OTOLARYNGOLOGY – HEAD AND NECK SURGERY (7)**

- Han Zhang

**PLASTIC SURGERY (2)**

- Kate Elzinga
- Jessica Robb
- Joshua Wong

**UROLOGY (8)**

- Erik Beuker
- Joseph LaBossiere



# SURGICAL AWARDS DINNER

## THE RE FRASER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Troy Perry (General Surgery)  
Brittany Barber & Erik Beuker<sup>2</sup>  
(Speciality Surgery)

## THE COOPER JOHNSTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Babak Sharifi

## THE HASTINGS MEWBURN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN ORTHOPAEDIC MEDICINE

Kyle Stampe<sup>1</sup>

## THE FRANK SQUIRES SCHOLARSHIP IN UROLOGY

Nathan Hoy  
Trevor Haines

## THE GEORGE R. GRAHAM POSTGRADUATE MEMORIAL BURSARY

David Lim

## THE MARSHALL C. HUNTING AWARD IN VASCULAR SURGERY

Blaire Anderson<sup>3</sup>

## THE SHAB PURI AWARD IN CARDIAC SURGERY

Victoria Lam

## THE DR. RAY RAJOTTE GRADUATE AWARD

Wenlong Huang<sup>4</sup>  
Jiaxin Lin<sup>4</sup>

## TOP TEN TEACHERS

### GENERAL SURGERY

Ghassan Alhassani  
Ron Brisebois  
Dave Callahan  
Mike Chatenay  
Erika Haase  
Shahzeer Karmali  
Art Plewes  
James Stewart  
Jonathan White  
Walter Yakimets

### SPECIALITY SURGERY

Mike Allegretto  
David Cote  
Eric Estey  
Allan Ho  
Niels Jacobsen  
Steven Meyer  
Dan O'Connell  
Trevor Schuler  
Blair St. Martin  
Erin Wright



# AWARDS & ACCOLADES



- The Department of Surgery would like to extend congratulations to David Williams (top left) on being awarded the Drew Sutherland Teaching Award at the Division of General Surgery's Research Day Awards Banquet held at the Art Gallery of Alberta on April 8. The Drew Sutherland Award has been developed to honour a faculty member as selected by residents in the Division of General Surgery at the University of Alberta. The award recognizes those who are dedicated to patient care, showing respect for patients and colleagues.
- Hadi Seikaly (middle left) of the Division of Otolaryngology has received the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association Researcher of the Year Award.
- Gordon Wilkes (bottom left) of the Division of Plastic Surgery has received The Life Achievement – Medal of Service Award for the EZMSA.
- James Shapiro of the Division of General Surgery and Alberta Diabetes Institute received the 2016 JDRF David Rumbough Award for Scientific Excellence.
- Lieutenant-Colonel William Patton, Division of General Surgery received the John McCrae Memorial Medal.
- Gregory Korbutt, Division of Surgical Research, recently received four JDRF grants as one as one CIHR Grant (Co-PIs Dr. Adetola Adesida, Dr. James Shapiro).

## EDMONTON CIVIC EMPLOYEES CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE FUND AWARD WINNERS

- Keith Rourke
- Adetola Adesida (Nadr Jomha)
- Norman Miles Kneteman (Jonathan Mora)
- Lauren Beaupre (Co-PI), Robert Chan (Co-PI), David Sheps (Co-PI) (Michael Lapner, Aleem Lalani, Joseph Bergman, Juliana Mollins)
- Edward Tredget (Jie Ding, Leah Campeau)

- Suresh Nayar (Brock Debenham, William Preshing)
- Jaret Olson (K. Ming Chan, Matthew W.T. Curran)
- Vincent Biron (H. Zhang)
- Christine Webber
- Peter Metcalfe (Thomas Churchill, Adetola Adesida)

## THE DIVISION OF SURGICAL RESEARCH CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION

- Hadi Seikaly & Jeffson Chung: The Modified Submandibular Gland Transfer Procedure for Prevention of Xerostomia in Patients with Oral Cavity Cancer
- Vince Biron: Detection of human papiloma virus-related head and neck cancer by droplet digital polymerase chain reaction
- Steven Meyer & Abdelsalam Elhenawy: Efficacy and Safety of Intravenous Iron Therapy to Treat Anemia Prior to Cardiac Surgery: A Pilot Randomized, Blinded Controlled Trial
- Catherine Hui & Mark Sommerfeldt: Association among Return to Sport, Adiposity, Nutrition and Physical Activity in First Year Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction: A Pilot Study

## SUMMER STUDENTSHIP AWARDS

We are proud to announce the results of the Department of Surgery's Summer Studentship Awards competition.

(Student / Supervisor):

- Kirolos Labib / Adetola Adesida  
Fourth Year Medical Student,  
National University of Ireland
- Zack Li / Peter Metcalfe  
Third Year Medical Student,  
Kingston University
- Stephanie Pilienci / Rachel Khadaroo  
Second Year Medical Student,  
University of Alberta
- Sofiya Terekhovska / Greg Korbutt  
Third Year Bachelor of Science in  
Pharmacology, University of Alberta

## CARDIAC SURGERY

Sabin Bozso

## GENERAL SURGERY

Nasser Abualhassan  
Abdulmohsin Babsail  
Elizabeth Clement  
Andrew MacDonald  
Igor Mihajlovic  
Valentin Mocanu  
Daniel Skubleny  
Iran (Iren) Tavakoli

## NEUROSURGERY

Vivien Ka-Ying Chan  
Abdelaziz Sagga

## ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Aljarrah Aleidan  
Tyson Boettcher  
Charles Bouchard  
Elizabeth Jack

## OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD & NECK SURGERY

Abdulrahman Alenazi  
Shanmugappiriya Sivarajah  
Connor Sommerfeld

## PLASTIC SURGERY

Emilie Robertson  
Courtney Wilkes

## UROLOGY

Benjamin Beech  
Kristopher Dodd

## DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Kristin Black  
Allison Clay  
Farah Ladak  
Julia Parkman  
Alexandra Prior  
Sean Zhu

# 2016 PGY-1 RESIDENTS



# CARDIAC SURGERY'S NEW **DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR**

We are pleased to announce Dr. Roderick MacArthur as the new Divisional Director and Zone Section Head of Cardiac Surgery, effective April 20, 2016.

Dr. MacArthur completed his medical degree at Dalhousie University, after which his surgical training was carried out at the University of Alberta. During Dr. MacArthur's residency he completed a Master of Science in Experimental Surgery. Following his residency training, Dr. MacArthur completed fellowships in Heart Failure/Valve Surgery and Aortic Surgery.

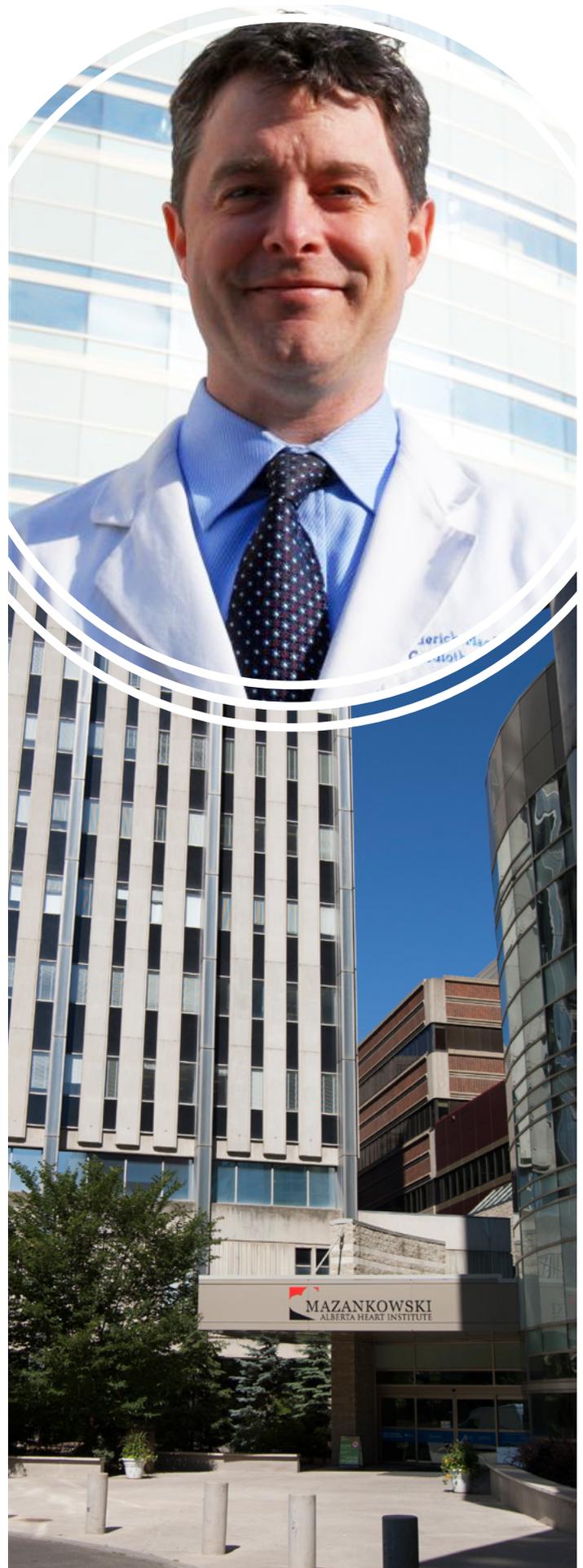
Since returning to the University of Alberta in 2005, Dr. MacArthur has taken on several leadership roles, including serving as Program Director for the Cardiac Surgery Training Program, Program Medical Director – Cardiovascular Surgery Ward and Director Lead Extraction Program – Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute.

Dr. MacArthur is an active member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and sits on several committees at a local, provincial and national level; he is a well-respected surgeon, educator and leader.

We congratulate Dr. MacArthur on his new role within the Division and Section of Cardiac Surgery and wish him continued success. We would also like to extend our thanks to former Divisional Director, Dr. David Ross, for his contributions to the division and department from 2010 to 2016.

**Robert C. Welsh,**  
MD, FRCPC, FESC, FAHA, FACC  
Professor of Medicine, University of Alberta  
Zone Clinic Department Head, Cardiac Sciences,  
Edmonton Zone, Alberta Health Services

**Douglas M. Hedden,**  
MD, FRCSC  
Walter Stirling Anderson Professor and Chair,  
Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine &  
Dentistry, University of Alberta  
Zone Clinical Department Head, Edmonton Zone,  
Department of Surgery



# RRSMRI HAPPENINGS

## NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT TRAINING LABS

By Dr. Richard Fox

The Neuro surgical skills lab is designed to allow neurosurgical residents and higher-level medical students on neurosurgical rotation to practice the fundamental skills used in neurosurgery. Specifically, this includes various suturing, dissection and drilling skills under the microscope as well as under direct vision.

Development of skills using instruments such as the pneumatic drill and other electric drills are emphasized and experience with spinal instrumentation.

The Neurosurgery skills lab was also used as a facility for the SEAD program to expose first year medical students to Neurosurgery in the Ray Rajotte Surgical-Medical Research Institute.

## DISCOVERY DAYS

By Greg Olson

During the month of October the RRSMRI held a CAMIS sponsored Discovery Day. This was geared to expose some interested high school students in the use of some surgical equipment. Instructions and demonstrations were offered by various resident surgeons.

## ESSENTIAL SURGICAL SKILLS (ESS)

By Jessica Hogan

The Office of International Surgery (OIS) at the University of Alberta has joined with the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) to bring the Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) Instructors Course to Edmonton, Alberta. On November 13 and 14, 2015, surgeons from Newfoundland, Ontario, British Columbia, and, of course, Alberta, came to the impressive RRSMRI lab in the Heritage Medical Research Centre.

OIS was fortunate enough to have Dr. Robert Taylor, a surgeon with immense international experience and a history of 25+ years of teaching the ESS Course, instruct the 2-day program. Following a brief lecture, the surgeons were placed directly into a hands-on experience. Low-fidelity materials were used at various stations to showcase methods of creating a faux chest, spine, abdominal, and even gynecological models that can be fashioned in limited-resource settings. Each participant took turns crafting the simulators, practicing the teachings in a context that was modeled for a low-resource setting, and engaging in interesting discussion.

The purpose of this instructors' level course is for each of the clinicians to be certified to teach foundational and life-saving surgical skills to practitioners in developing countries. With CNIS facilitating, these new instructors work with the international partner in need of support to deliver what would be a 5-day course to any provider. Standardized protocols, life support and anesthesia, obstetrics and genitourinary emergencies, orthopedics and traumatology are some of the key topics covered.

The course could not have been orchestrated without the hard work of Greg Olson, Deb Dixon, and the other behind-the-scenes staff that went above and beyond to create professional and warm environment that was ideal for this program.



# SURGICAL EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

## RRSMRI & SEAD

By Greg Olson

RRSMRI was proud to recently host several surgical simulation discovery sessions. They took place over a few days from May 2 to May 13.

A total of 20 first-year medical students had a tremendous experience in various disciplines of surgery. "The students enjoyed more than 32 hours of high level surgical simulation experience across a breadth of specialties.

Four insightful seminars aimed at addressing the myths and challenges of a surgical career path. Our 20 students were placed into some 200 OR's over the course of two weeks, giving them a broad introduction to surgery at the University of Alberta.

The elective wrapped up with attendance at the Tom Williams' Surgical Research Day, highlighting our Department's academic endeavors," explains Dr. Cian O'Kelly, Residency Program Director.

## CAMIS & SEAD

By Keith Andony

As part of the 2 week SEAD (Surgical Education and Discovery) elective, CAMIS (Centre for the Advancement of Minimally Invasive Surgery) organized a comprehensive introduction to MIS (Minimally Invasive Surgery) for the first and second year medicine students.

Participants were able to practice skills on endo-trainers and surgical simulators as well as have hands on opportunities to learn about powered instruments and imaging.

Congratulations to our 20 SEAD students on their graduation from our inaugural Surgical Exploration and Discovery elective for first year medical students which ran from May 2-13. Photo by Kirsten Bauer



# NINTH ANNUAL TEACHER TRAINING RETREAT

The Teacher-Training Workshop for Surgical Foundations is now in its ninth year and continues its tradition of success. For the third year in a row, the Workshop included all PGY-1s in Surgery from both Edmonton and Calgary, as well as a combined faculty.

Evaluations proved positive and illustrate success in meeting the educational needs to our target group of learners. New methods, based on prior feedback, were utilized for workshops that took place at the Banff Centre in February.

We're proud to announce that over 300 surgery residents in Alberta have now completed this course since its inception in 2008.

Special thanks to the our U of A team

- Dr. Erika Haase
- Dr. Jon White
- Dr. Keith Rourke
- Dr. Cathy Flood
- Dr. Fady Kamel, PGY-2
- Patricia Payne
- Valerie Jackson
- HeeJung Kim

## ALUMNI CORNER

**We've been here in Hinton for a year now and are really enjoying our surgical practice and our new community. We have been spoiled with an incredibly warm welcome and feel lucky to work with a wonderful group of people every day.**

There have been many highs and lows in the first year of practice, as we're sure any surgeon will chuckle at. Fortunately, our training in Edmonton was fantastic and has prepared us well, and our mentors are only a phone call away to talk through difficult cases. A small town surgery practice is certainly a big change from life in "the city", a practice most trainees don't routinely see. Our commute to work only has one stoplight and takes four minutes, and although we are often on-call, we can take our call from the mountain bike trail or the golf course most days. Working with much more limited resources, however, means there are complex cases and patients who aren't best served in our hospital; working in a limited secondary center takes some adjustment. Transitioning to a small hospital has also required some new and different skill sets. With the assistance of our amazing OR team and a hospital that is eager to help, we have been able to grow. It has also been exciting and rewarding to bring new expertise to the community, such as more advanced laparoscopic procedures. Providing specialist care in a rural setting closer to home for our patients is gratifying and we hope that more trainees will consider practicing in smaller communities in Alberta and elsewhere.

A big thank you to all the wonderful people that made our training in Edmonton possible, we wouldn't be here today without you!

- Allie Hobbs & Tyler Parrington



# DEPARTMENT **UPDATES**

## CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Rachel Khadaroo of the Division of General Surgery has been invited to present under the theme of “the biology of frailty” at the Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Reception on Frailty, titled “Frailty Among the Aged”, taking place in October of this year.

The event was formulated to educate Members of Parliament on the social and economic benefits of Canadian health innovations and research. As many as 16 other presenters from across Canada will also be in attendance.

The Department of Surgery would like to congratulate Dr. Khadaroo on this prestigious honour.

## NEW SURGEON WELCOME



The Department of Surgery is pleased to welcome Dr. Jeevan Nagendran to the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor within the Division of Cardiac Surgery, effective July 1, 2016.

Dr. Nagendran completed his medical degree and cardiac surgery residency at the University of Alberta. During his residency, Dr. Nagendran completed a PhD in Experimental Surgery through the University of Alberta’s Clinical Investigator Program. Following his residency training, Dr. Nagendran completed a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Valve and Revascularization Surgery at Western University London, Ontario.

Dr. Nagendran’s primary focus of research is in basic science; specifically, the improvement of tissue engineered heart valves. In addition to his primary research interest, Dr. Nagendran has an impressive track record for clinical research in multiple aspects of cardiac surgery which will help the Division of Cardiac Surgery to progress in collaborations with local and national networks in both basic science and clinical research arenas.

## STAFF UPDATE

The Department of Surgery is pleased to welcome Tracy Campbell to the Postgraduate Office of Surgical Education as the General Surgery Residency Program Assistant. She will be closely working with Dr. Kamran Fathimani, Valerie Jackson and the rest of the postgraduate team. Duties include academic half day, program calendar, electives and events. Tracy’s assistance will be invaluable as we prepare for the Royal College external review in 2017.

Tracy comes to us from AHS where she worked with the Canadian Obesity Network and the Alberta Access Improvement Measures (AIM) programs.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### GRAND ROUNDS

Friday, September 9, 2016

### DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY EDUCATION RETREAT

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

### TOM WILLIAMS SURGICAL RESEARCH DAY

&

### SURGICAL AWARDS DINNER

Friday, May 12, 2017

## MOVING?

Please send your change of address or email account to [surgcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:surgcomm@ualberta.ca), or mail your details to:

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## SHARE YOUR STORIES

Surgical Frontiers exists as a communications conduit for the faculty, friends and alumni of the Department of Surgery. Our objective is to provide a voice for alumni and department news, successes and initiatives.

If you would like to submit an item for publication, or have questions about Surgical Frontiers, please email the Communications Coordinator via email at [surgcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:surgcomm@ualberta.ca).

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