

## The Department of Surgery



### WESTERN SURGERY: FALL/WINTER 2012

#### CHAIR'S COLUMN: International Education



The sharing of knowledge and experience are core values deeply embedded in the culture and history of medicine. International education is a concept which transcends geographic, language, and cultural barriers. As technology continues to advance at an escalating pace, opportunities for the exchange of knowledge will increase, resulting

in many positive benefits for patients and society as a whole. In the spring of this year, Canada's Governor General David Johnson coined the term "diplomacy of knowledge"; a wonderful expression that succinctly captures the concept of the power of knowledge sharing. The Governor General defined the diplomacy of knowledge as "our ability and willingness to work together and share the knowledge we uncover and refine across disciplines and across borders to improve the human condition together." He stressed the importance of the fundamental concepts of knowledge transfer across both disciplines and borders. Innovation is escalated when individuals or groups begin to work across disciplines and the diplomacy of knowledge becomes immensely powerful when one crosses international borders and cultivates close contacts and interactions amongst students, teachers and researchers. When people research, teach, operate and socialize together, the true power of the diplomacy of knowledge is realized and unleashed.

200 engagements as lecturer or as guest professor – by Department members in 36 countries around the world. This includes 84 presentations in the US and Mexico, 7 in Australasia, 37 in Europe, 37 in Asia, 14 in South America, and 3 in Africa or other countries.



Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro in the OR at West China Hospital, March 2010.

Amongst the most rewarding experiences in academic medicine are to travel and to have a positive impact in another community by transferring our knowledge, experience and surgical abilities to other surgeons and departments around the world. I have found that physicians around the world have the exact same motivation, aspirations, and concerns: namely, to provide a high quality of care to their patients, to have a safe environment for their families to grow and thrive, and to have a positive impact in their community. These values transcend geo-political and cultural differences, social challenges, and indeed conflict. As noted by David Johnson in the same speech, "When nations work, trade and learn together they are much less likely to fight one another. Now is the perfect time to use learning and knowledge sharing to generate closer, more productive ties among nations."

Recently the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Government of Canada formed a panel of experts to advise on developing and implementing an international education strategy. The Panel, Chaired by Western University's President Amit Chakma, defined steps the government must take to attract the best and brightest international students to Canada; strengthen Canada's engagement with emerging nations; expand the delivery of Canadian expertise, knowledge and education services abroad; and promote partnerships between Canadian and international education institutions. The Panel defined international education as a key driver of Canada's future



Drs. Stephen Pautler and John Denstedt with OR nurses at West China Hospital, March 2012.

Department of Surgery members have contributed extensively to the diplomacy of knowledge throughout the history of our Department. This is exemplified by our international research collaborations, student exchanges, and number of

invited lectures and guest professorships provided by our members internationally over the last two years – close to

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prosperity, particularly in the areas of innovation, trade, human capital development and the labour market. Similar to the Governor General, the Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy, believes that "international education in all its facets brings tremendous value to every community in Canada, whether urban or rural, eastern or western, francophone or anglophone." The panel notes that there is tremendous scope for economic contributions from the direct export of Canadian education services abroad. Again, Department of Surgery members have increasingly contributed to this vision in providing a variety of educational activities and courses throughout the world. Increasingly, advanced technology is being deployed to distribute education including live surgery demonstrations on a frequent basis, from our operating rooms to countries as diverse and distant as China and Brazil.

International education is also extremely important for our



Cardiac Surgery Resident Michael Tong with West China Hospital OR staff, August 2011.

students, allowing them to acquire a global perspective that informs and educates them as citizens of the world. This is best exemplified by students in the Department of Surgery at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University travel-

ling to China both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Plastic Surgery Resident Rebecca Greer-Bayramoglu

writes of her September 2011 trip, "the time spent in China has enhanced my overall residency and will make me a better and more conscientious surgeon in the future." I believe these types of exchanges will continue to increase in the near term, providing further diversification, knowledge sharing, and research advancement both for our own Department and touching those departments, universities and countries where we are actively involved. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has strategically identified education as one of Canada's key exports, which aligns extremely well with our current and future planned activities in the Department of Surgery. I look forward to the Department contributing further to the vision laid down by Governor General David Johnson and the Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy.

Sincerely,

John D. Denstedt, MD, FRCSC, FACS

Richard Ivey Professor & Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery

Special Advisor to the Dean, Internationalization and Simulation

<sup>1</sup>David Johnson's opening address at the Conference of the Americas on International Education, <http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=14497>.

<sup>2</sup>Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy Final Report, International Education: A Key Driver of Canada's Future Prosperity, <http://www.international.gc.ca/education/report-rapport/strategy-strategie/index.aspx?view=d>

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Dr. Denstedt Appointed Special Advisor to the Dean

**Dr. John Denstedt to take on new global role at Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry**

Tuesday, October 2, 2012, Schulich Communications, <http://www.schulich.uwo.ca>

Dr. Michael J. Strong, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry has appointed Dr. John Denstedt to the position of Special Advisor to the Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry on Health Globalization, Internationalization and Simulation.



Dr. Denstedt will provide strategic leadership within Schulich Medicine & Dentistry in key areas of globalization and internationalization, including internationally distributed medical education initiatives for the Schulich Medicine & Dentistry programs. Dr. Denstedt will also take a lead role in working with

Western University, in particular the Faculties of Engineering and Health Sciences, in the establishment of a Biomedical Devices Institute.

Building on and integrating the current expertise in simulation training at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry and across the London health sector, Dr. Denstedt will develop a comprehensive educational and international operational strategy for simulation training for the School.

In the coming years, it is expected that this world-class program will be housed in its entirety in the Don Rix Clinical Skills Learning Building. Dr. Denstedt will work closely with London hospital partners, CSTAR (Canadian Surgical Technologies and Advanced Robotics), faculties across Western University, WORLDdiscoveries, the Ivey Centre for Health Innovation and Leadership (ICHIL) and Western's International Office.

"The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry has been increasing its international activity for several years, and has a critical role to play in helping to develop a Canadi-

an presence in health care globalization and internationalization," says Dean Strong. Dr. Denstedt brings 25 years of experience and a respected track record of leadership in international program development and deliv-

ery to the role of Special Advisor. His impressive research and training experience spans the globe including areas such as North and South America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

## Dr. Hernandez-Alejandro, first in Canada to perform successful ALPPS procedure

On April 23rd, 2012, at London Health Sciences, University Hospital, Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro performed a Canadian surgical first. Dr. Hernandez-Alejandro, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, executed stage 1 of the Associating Liver Partition and Portal vein ligation for Staged hepatectomy (ALPPS) procedure. The following week on May 1st, he completed stage 2.



Dr. Hernandez-Alejandro performs ALPPS procedure.

"During the first surgery, the surgeon first removes tumours in the left side of the liver and then partially cuts the blood supply (by 80%) to the right side of the liver. Without blood flow, the right side of the liver shrinks, and the left side of the liver grows exponentially due to excess blood flow," describes Dr. Hernandez-Alejandro, "After one week, the surgeon then performs another sur-

gery on the patient to remove the right side of the liver, and therefore all cancer from the liver." The procedure gives hope to patients who may otherwise suffer from liver failure, but is most suitable for those who are relatively fit as they will be undergoing two surgeries in a week.

Dr. Hernandez-Alejandro first heard about the procedure at the annual meeting of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA) in Miami, Florida, when a German surgical team described their experience [Schnitzbauer AA, Lang SA, Goessmann H et al. Right portal vein ligation combined with in situ splitting induces rapid left lateral liver lobe hypertrophy enabling 2-staged extended right hepatic resection in small-for-size settings. *Ann Surg.* 2012 Mar;255(3):405-14]; he has performed this procedure on five other patients since April.

Dr. Hernandez-Alejandro has been invited to share his expertise across the country, and his success has been picked up by multiple media outlets. He is currently working with Dr. Pierre Clavien and Dr. Eduardo Santibañes [de Santibañes E, Clavien PA. Playing Play-Doh to prevent postoperative liver failure: the "ALPPS" approach. *Ann Surg.* 2012 Mar;255(3):415-7] on a multi-centre study involving Western University, which will be presented at the annual meeting of the European Surgical Association in April 2013.

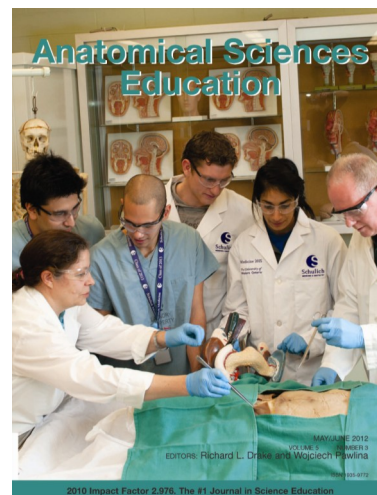
## SOAP Featured on Cover of Anatomical Sciences Education

Students from the Surgically Oriented Anatomy Program (SOAP) club were recently given the honour of appearing on the cover of the peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *Anatomical Sciences Education* (pictured right).

Their article entitled, "Learning surgically oriented anatomy in a student-run extracurricular club: An education through recreation initiative" was featured in the journal's May/June 2012 issue [2012;5(3):165-70].

SOAP, a student-run initiative aimed to increase medical student exposure to anatomy, is one of the most popular extracurricular clubs at Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Using a cadaver, surgeons and residents from various



Dr. Vivian McAlister (far right) demonstrates Whipple's procedure to SOAP members.



surgical specialties demonstrate a surgical procedure of their choosing, highlighting and discussing the relevant anatomy along the way. Students are then given the opportunity to apply what they've learned on the cadav-

ers, and ask any questions about the surgical procedure, patient care, or career issues.

## Brazil team observes live surgery via web

Dr. John Denstedt, Chair/Chief of the Department of Surgery, demonstrated leading edge surgical techniques to surgeons in Brazil through an interactive audio-video broadcast from a St. Joseph's Hospital operating room.

Two live procedures were performed, allowing the surgical team in Brazil to view not just the operating room and the patient, but also internal views of the surgery with the help of a camera scope. The interactive nature of the broadcast provided the team in Brazil to ask questions and collaborate in real time.

InTouch Health (Santa Barbara, CA, USA) provides the secure Internet cloud-based technology, giving London surgeons the opportunity to create better access to health care on an international scale.

"In the future it may be possible to broadcast such sessions across an entire country by linking and networking centres. It enables experienced surgeons to mentor teams on new techniques and collaborate on complex

cases while eliminating time, distance and cost barriers," says Dr. Denstedt.

Dr. Denstedt's international teaching has included several surgical courses at Chengdu China's West China Hospital and broadcasts across China.



Dr. John Denstedt demonstrates leading edge surgical techniques via interactive audio-video broadcast to surgeons in Brazil. (Photo from Communication & Public Affairs, St. Joseph's Health Care).

## Hannah Chair in History of Medicine



As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 Dr. Shelley McKellar became the new Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine, a position that she holds jointly in the Department of Surgery at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and the Department of History in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Hannah Chair is named in honour of Dr. Jason

A. Hannah, who, in 1937, founded Associated Medical Services Incorporated, Canada's first physician-sponsored, not-for-profit prepaid health care organization. When Ontario joined the national Medicare program in 1969, AMS became a self-funded charity, supporting scholarly activity in the history of medicine as a legacy tribute in honour of its founder. The first Hannah Chair was established at Western University in 1974, and was held by Dr. Paul Potter until his recent retirement.

Through research, administrative service and a focus on teaching the history of medicine to medical students as

well as the history of health and disease more generally to non-medical and graduate students across campus, the Hannah Chair significantly contributes to the body of scholarship on the history of medicine.

Dr. Shelley McKellar studies the history of medicine and disease, with a special interest in the history of medical technology, the history of surgery and medical biography. Dr. McKellar completed her BA in History at the University of Ottawa, followed by an MA in History at McMaster University. She then received her PhD in History at the University of Toronto under the well-known medical historian Michael Bliss. Dr. McKellar worked for several years as a medical historian for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. before she joined the History Department at Western University in 2003. Dr. McKellar has published a biography on Toronto heart surgeon Gordon Murray entitled *Surgical Limits: The Life of Gordon Murray* (2003) as well as a book on Canadian medical devices entitled *Medicine and Technology in Canada, 1900-*

1950 (2008).

At Western, Dr. McKellar interacts with medical and non-medical students through a variety of teaching and scholarly activities such as the Osler Society, History of Medicine Colloquiums, and her newest course "Plague, Pox and Flu: Disease in Global History." Dr. McKellar

also curates Western's Medical Artifact Collection ([www.medicalhistory.uwo.ca](http://www.medicalhistory.uwo.ca)) which is a teaching and research collection of approximately 1,000 objects. Her work with the UWO Medical Artifact Collection was published in the *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* "Learning Through Objects: The Medical Artifact Collection at Western" [2006;23(1):219-43].

## WELCOME TO ALL NEW FACULTY MEMBERS!

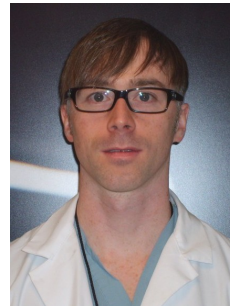
### Dr. Adam Power, Division of Vascular Surgery

This fall, Dr. Adam Power joined the Department of Surgery. During the last year of his undergraduate degree at the University of New Brunswick, Dr. Power went to the University of Bristol in England on a year exchange where he studied Molecular Biology and Clinical Pharmacology.

Dr. Power returned to Canada to attend medical school at Dalhousie University, followed by a general surgery residency at McMaster University. While completing his residency, Dr. Power returned to the UK for a year where he finished a Master's in Bio-Science Enterprise (MBE), a multidisciplinary biotechnology and business degree program at the University of Cambridge. After finishing his

residency, he then headed to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester for a Vascular Surgery Fellowship before returning to Canada this summer.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Power hopes to further the work he did while completing his graduate degree and continue conducting research in the areas of innovation, new products and intellectual property surrounding medical devices. An all-around sports fan, Dr. Power enjoys playing hockey, baseball, rugby and football.



### Dr. Brent Lanting, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

This past September, Dr. Brent Lanting joined the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Lanting grew up in Strathroy, Ontario and completed his post-secondary education at Western University.

Originally set on studying Mechanical Engineering, his interest in orthopaedic surgery was piqued while working in the biomechanics lab with Drs. Graham King and James Johnson. "I got to do biomechanical research and understand how the human body works from an engineer's perspective. I was fascinated and that started into medicine" adds Dr. Lanting. He became the first graduate of the Concurrent Degree Program for Mechanical and Materials Engineering and Medicine.

After completing his orthopaedic surgery residency at Western, Dr. Lanting headed to Charlotte, North Carolina for a fellowship in total joint reconstructive surgery. Dr. Lanting's research and clinical interests include computer-assisted surgery and looking at techniques in the OR that can be taken to improve

a patient's recovery. He is currently completing a Master of Science degree in Medical Biophysics at Western. In his spare time, Dr. Lanting enjoys running and spending time with his family.



### Dr. Sarah Jones, Division of Paediatric Surgery

Dr. Sarah Jones joins the department this fall in the Division of Paediatric Surgery. After completing her bachelor degree in agriculture at the University of Nottingham in the UK, Dr. Jones received her PhD in fetal physiology at the University of Bristol.

She then came to the Lawson Health Research Institute for a post-doctoral fellowship. After several years as a

research scientist, Dr. Jones decided to receive her medical degree at the University of McMaster in Hamilton followed by a general surgery residency also at McMaster. During her last year at McMaster, she headed to Dalhousie University in



Halifax where she completed her general surgery residency along with a paediatric general surgery fellowship.

Before coming to Western University, Dr. Jones was at Queen's University in Kingston as the head of the Department of Paediatrics and the sole Paediatric Surgeon at Kingston General Hospital.

Interested in basic clinical research, Dr. Jones plans on

continuing to work on looking at outcome measures, the utilization of clinical pathways, and how the manpower workforce relates to surgical and paediatric specialties. A cycling enthusiast, Dr. Jones also enjoys cross-country skiing and spending time with her family.

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### Dr. Edward Vasarhelyi, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery



Dr. Edward Vasarhelyi joined the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery this summer at the University Campus of London Health Sciences Centre.

Originally from Toronto, Ontario, Dr. Vasarhelyi completed his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, followed by a Master of Science at the University of Waterloo. The title of his thesis

was, "Influence of object colour on the perception of mass and on the control of grasp forces."

He then completed his medical degree, orthopaedic sur-

gery residency and a fellowship in orthopaedic trauma and post-traumatic reconstruction at Queens University in Kingston. His interest in arthroplasty brought him to Western University in 2011 where he completed a fellowship in adult hip and knee reconstruction.

Dr. Vasarhelyi's clinical and research interests include gait analysis, the clinical issues surrounding hip and knee replacements and computer-assisted surgery.

A father of three children, Dr. Vasarhelyi enjoys playing golf, hockey and skiing, and is looking forward to developing his clinical practice at LHSC.

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### Dr. Alan Getgood, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery



Dr. Alan Getgood joined the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery this fall. Dr. Getgood went to medical school in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh, followed by a residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Cambridge. While completing his residency, he chose to do his doctorate of research (the equivalent of a

PhD) writing his thesis on the subject of articular cartilage tissue engineering.

Sports medicine fellowships brought him to the Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine clinic at Western University and

to the University of Calgary at Banff. In between his time in Canada, Dr. Getgood also returned to the UK to do a soft tissue knee-reconstruction fellowship in Coventry followed by 6 months as Associate Professor at Warwick Medical School.

Dr. Getgood's research and clinical interests lie in complex knee disorders, ligament reconstruction, cartilage repair, meniscus substitution and biological solutions for joint repair.

A former rugby player, Dr. Getgood is also an adventure race enthusiast and recently completed the Marathon des Sables, a 6 day - 243 km race across the Sahara desert in Morocco, in April 2012.

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### Dr. Eric Frechette, Division of Thoracic Surgery



This past September, Dr. Eric Fr  chette joined the Department of Surgery. Dr. Fr  chette received his medical degree at the University of Montr  al and completed a general surgery residency at Laval University. The next couple of years brought fellowships in surgical oncology at the

Ulm University Hospital of Surgery in Germany and the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University in the United States. Dr. Fr  chette then returned to Canada for the following two years to complete a residency in thoracic surgery and a mini-fellowship in endoscopic ultrasonography, both at the University of Montr  al. He finished the year with a mini-fellowship in minimally invasive thoracic surgery at the University of Pitts-



burgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania. Before coming to Western University, Dr. Fréchette served as Co-director of the Thoracic Surgery Residency Program and Head of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Laval University. He was also Vice-President of the Quebec Association of Thoracic Surgeons. Dr. Fréchette's clinical and research

interests include minimally invasive lung and esophageal surgery and endoscopic ultrasonography.

In his spare time, Dr. Fréchette enjoys playing music and spending time with his three children.

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## RESEARCH NEWS

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### Sayra Cristancho Receives Funding from CIHR for medical education research



Dr. Sayra Cristancho received \$117,882 for her study entitled, "Development of Core Competences for Advanced Surgical Practice: Understanding Surgical Judgment and Decision Making during Challenging Surgical Situations."

Dr. Cristancho and her collaborators, Dr. Lorelei Lingard and Dr. Richard Novick, will use systems engineering methods and con-

structivist grounded theory to develop a theoretical framework of the process through which experienced surgeons use their interactions with the surgical environment to adjust their decision-making process during difficult situations.

The evidence provided as a result of this research, will support certification boards in conveying clear expectations around decision-making as part of the Medical Expert competency of the CanMEDS framework, which in turn will ensure high standards of surgical training.

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### Dr. David Holdsworth re-appointed Dr. Sandy Kirkley Chair in Musculoskeletal Research



After completing his BSc in Physics and Astronomy ('82) and a MSc ('86) from the University of Toronto, Dr. Holdsworth received his PhD in Medical Biophysics ('92) also from the University of Toronto. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Robarts Research Institute in the Imaging Research Laboratories and joined the

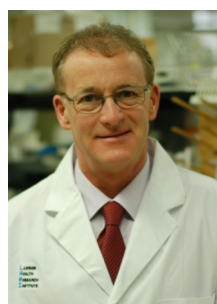
Departments of Medical Biophysics and Medical Imaging

at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. He joined the Department of Surgery in 2007.

Currently he directs the Dr. Sandy Kirkley Centre for Musculoskeletal Research at the Lawson Health Research Institute and co-directs the Interdisciplinary Development Initiative in Bone and Joint Health at Western University. Dr. Holdsworth's research focuses on musculoskeletal diseases, with projects ranging from basic skeletal research to clinical therapy.

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### Gregor Reid Awarded Grand Challenges Exploration Grant



Dr. Gregor Reid, of the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology, and Surgery has received a \$100,000 Grand Challenges Exploration grant. Dr. Reid and colleagues in Tanzania are testing if a yogurt supplemented with the Moringa plant can benefit under-nourished pregnant women by improving their breast milk quality and

the types of bacteria present in their intestines.

Launched in 2003 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in partnership with the National Institutes of Health, the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative aims to

fund research that promises to greatly advance work against diseases that disproportionately affect people in the developing world. Grand Challenges Exploration grants were launched in 2008.

To date, more than 700 Grand Challenge Explorations grants have already been awarded for innovative, early-stage projects in 45 countries. Initial grants of \$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to \$1 million<sup>1</sup>.

Grand Challenges.org [Internet]. Seattle: Grand Challenges in Global Health; c2003-2012 [updated 2012 Sep 5; cited 2012 Sep 5]. Available from <http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations>.

## Lawson Spring 2012 Internal Research Fund Competition Winners

Congratulations to the following Department of Surgery faculty members who's applications were funded:

**Muriel Brackstone, Division of General Surgery -**

"Assessing serial tumor necrosis factor release in locally advanced breast cancer patients receiving neo-adjuvant taxane chemotherapy" - \$14,807.00

**James Johnson, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery -** "The effect of hemiarthroplasty implant design on cartilage contact mechanics using computer modelling" - \$15,000.00

**Joy MacDermid, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery -**

"Evaluation of an imaged-based tool to measure outcomes in patients with osteoarthritis" - \$15,000.00

**Douglas Quan, Division of General Surgery -** "Delivery of siRNA by ex vivo machine perfusion for organ transplantation. A pilot study" - \$15,011.69

## Dr. Weiping Min awarded \$102,000 from CIHR toward heart transplantation research



Heart transplantation is currently the only possible procedure that is performed for the prevention of an end-stage heart failure. Implanted grafts, however, are identified as foreign invaders and are exclusively attacked by our immune systems, resulting in transplant heart rejection.

While rejection can be prevented by the use of immunosuppressive drugs, these drugs possess many potential adverse effects and also reduce one's ability to fight against various infections and cancer, putting transplant patients at increased risk for both of these. Moreover, these anti-rejection drugs are toxic, expensive and need to be taken for the rest of the patient's life. Thus, it is crucial to develop a new anti-rejection treatment without need of continuous use of immunosuppressive drugs.

Dr. Min's study entitled, "Concurrent gene silencing of multiple TLR signaling pathways using targeted nonoparticles for DC-mediated immune tolerance in heart transplantation," will aim to develop a new method to stop an

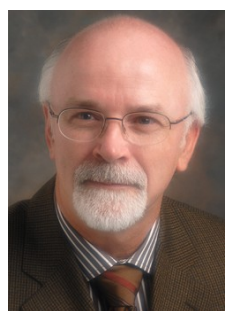
immune response so that the transplanted heart graft will not be rejected.

In this proposed study, an advanced blocking method called siRNA will be used to block the detector molecules. siRNA is 1000 times more powerful than any other methods that are being used in clinics and laboratories. First, different siRNA will be created that can specifically inhibit TLR genes, followed by testing the efficacy of preventing graft rejection after blocking the detector TLR molecules. The recipients will be treated with siRNA following heart transplantation. Finally, the mechanism underlining siRNA-based anti-rejection in heart transplantation will be investigated.

The success of this three year study will lead to a new anti-rejection treatment, which does not require adhering to toxic and expensive immunosuppressive drugs on a daily basis. The patients will no longer suffer adverse effects of the drugs and will not live under possible occurrences of infections and cancers. Therefore, this new anti-rejection treatment will significantly improve the patient's quality of life after heart transplantation.

## RESEARCH DAY

### 2012 Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day



Dr. Michael Strong,  
Dean, Schulich School of  
Medicine & Dentistry.

The 2012 Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day took place on Friday, June 22, 2012 and was held at the Shuttleworth Auditorium in St. Joseph's Health Care. Dr. Michael Strong, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, opened the event and highlighted the importance of clinician research and its value to medical education.

Presentation topics throughout the day included surgical resident education, bladder disorders, mechatronics in surgery and training, transdisciplinary musculoskeletal research at Western, and an overview of thoracic surgery research at Victoria Hospital.

This year's guest speaker was Dr. Garth Warnock, C.N. Woodward Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Warnock is Co-Director of the Ike Barber Human Islet



Transplant Laboratory and British Columbia Islet Transplant Program. His research interests include gastroin-



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Denstedt, Chair/Chief Department of Surgery, Dr. Garth Warnock, Dr. Graham King, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Chair Research Committee.

testinal and pancreatic surgery, laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgery, basic and clinical research on Islet Cell Transplantation for Type 1 Diabetes. He has promoted undergraduate and postgraduate education programs, and promoted research through the Canadian Association of Surgical Chairs, the Canadian Association of Gen-

eral Surgeons, and the American College of Surgeons.

Keeping in tune with Dean Strong's opening remarks, Dr. Warnock further explored the role of the surgeon-scientist in his presentation, "Survival of Research in Canadian Surgery."

Presentations were also made by several surgery residents competing for the Research Award for Best Resident Paper. Dr. Luc Dubois, Division of Vascular Surgery, was presented with the award later that evening at the Resident Celebration Dinner, for his talk "Technical Factors are Strongest Predictors of Postoperative Renal Dysfunction Following Open Juxtarenal Aneurysm Repair."



Dr. Luc Dubois, winner of Best Resident Paper.

**SAVE THE DATE - The 2013 Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day will be held at London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Hospital, in the Sumner Auditorium (B2-119) on Friday, June 21, 2013.**

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

### Drs. Robert McMurty and Joseph Chin Awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal



Drs. Robert McMurty and Joseph Chin are among 60,000 Canadians this year receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (pictured left). The medal honours Her Majesty for her service to this country as well as significant contributions and achievements made by Canadians.

The program is administered by the Office of the Governor General of Canada and recognizes individuals who have made a difference in their communities, dedicated their lives to the service of others and also have proudly represented Canada internationally.

Presentations of the medal began on February 6th, 2012 and will continue until February 28, 2013. Congratulations to Dr. McMurty and Dr. Chin on this latest accolade.

### CIHR Team Grant for Bone Health recipients announced

Congratulations to Dr. Joy MacDermid who's application entitled "Evidence-based fracture management supports to optimize fracture recovery, future bone health and optimal physical activity after distal radius fracture," has been approved by CIHR. The application was ranked 2nd within the competition, and funding will be granted for 5 years for a total of \$2,423,442.

Joined by Drs. Kevin Chung, Louis Ferreira, Ruby Grewal, Anthony Hodsman, James Johnson and Graham King, the team will develop a screening tool for distal radius fracture management to ensure that those at risk of complications get the right investigations and treatments.

### Peripheral Arterial Disease Advocate featured in Maclean's magazine.

Marge Lovell, Clinical Trials Research Coordinator in the Division of Vascular Surgery, has had her work with Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) featured in the article,

“Medicine’s deadly gender gap” in Maclean’s May 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 issue. The article covers the story of one of the participants in a 24-week international trial organized by Lovell. Currently Lovell co-chairs the international group Peripheral Arterial Disease Coalition, which promotes public and health care professional awareness of P.A.D. More information about the coalition can be found at <http://vascular-disease.org/padcoalition>.



**Dr. Alp Sener, Division of Urology**, received the Urology Residents Clinical Teaching Award for most outstanding teacher within the Division of Urology. He also received the 2013 ASTS Vanguard Prize for his paper entitled “Supplemental hydrogen sulphide protects transplant kidney function and prolongs recipient survival following prolonged cold ischemia-reperfusion injury by mitigating renal graft apoptosis and inflammation.”

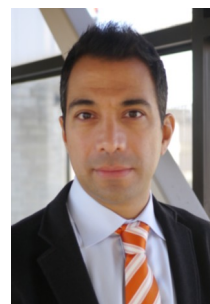


**Dr. Bing Siang Gan, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery**, has received the inaugural PSF Bernard G. Sarnat Excellence in Grant Writing Award for his application “IGFR1: a potential therapeutic target for Dupuytren’s disease.” The award recognizes investigators whose grants received the best scores for projects submitted to the Plastic Surgery Foundation’s research grant program.



**Dr. Michael Ott, Division of General Surgery**, received the David J. Hollomby Award for Outstanding Oral Abstract Presentation at the 2012 Centre for Education Research & Innovation Annual Research Symposium. Dr. Ott’s presentation was titled, “Validity and reliability of UWOSURG Assessment Tool: Combined global assessment scores from Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skills (OSATs) and Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NTSS) for the assessment of operating room competence in surgical trainees.”

**Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro, Division of General Surgery**, has been honoured with the 2011-2012 Resident Mentor Award in recognition of commitment and dedication to the training and mentoring of young surgeons.



Dr. Hernandez has also been voted Chair Elect of the Vanguard Committee of the International Liver Transplant Society.

## Orthopaedic Surgery resident receives PSI Foundation Resident Research Award

Dr. Andrew Glennie, PGY 5 in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, is one of the winners of the 2012 Physicians Services Incorporated (PSI) Foundation Resident Research Prize. The PSI Foundation awards five prizes of \$2000.00 for excellence in resident research.

Dr. Glennie’s research paper entitled, “The relationship between the duration of cauda equine compression and functional outcomes in a rat model” was recognized for its originality and the work completed to perform his study.

## PhD candidate at HULC receives Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship

Daniel Langohr, a PhD student in the Bioengineering Research Laboratory at the Hand and Upper Limb Centre (HULC), will receive a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship toward his research in wear testing of Reverse Total Shoulder Arthroplasty (RTSA) components. Recipients receive \$50,000 per year for three years.

Highly competitive, the scholarship was created to attract and retain world-class doctoral students and to establish Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning.

Please note that the Department of Surgery Office has moved. Our new mailing address is:  
Department of Surgery  
Room E3-117  
St. Joseph’s Health Care, London  
268 Grosvenor Street  
London, ON N6A 4V2



## GRADUATION 2011 - 2012

### Congratulations to the 2011 - 2012 graduates!

The Resident Celebration Dinner was held on Friday, June 22, 2012 at the London Hunt and Country Club. Attended by graduating residents, faculty members and program directors, the evening celebrated the hard work and success of this year's graduating class.

Graduating Resident Group (picture to the right). **Left to Right:** Michael Zhen-Yu Tong, Kathleen Lumb, Aarthi Rajagopalan, Maritza Swart, Izabela Apriasz, Melissa Nadeau, Kelly Vogt, Julie Ann Van Koughnett, Rob Leeper, and Jeffrey Shoebridge. **Missing:** Bashar Alolabi, Chris Chant, Brian Fraser, Parham Rasoulinejad, Nina Suh, Haemi Lee, and David Harrington.

Pictured Bottom Left: Dr. Maritza Swart with Dr. Brian Taylor. Pictured Bottom Right: Dr. Bill Wall with Dr. Brian Taylor.



### Department of Surgery 2011-2012 Surgery Clerkship Teaching Award Winners

Congratulations to the following faculty members who were voted most outstanding faculty teacher by the Clinical Clerks for the 2011-2012 academic year.

#### Overall Department Award Winners

Resident: Dr. Maritza Swart  
Faculty: Dr. Bill Wall

#### Overall Divisional Award Winners

##### Cardiac Surgery

Resident: Dr. Michael Zhen-Yu Tong  
Faculty: Dr. Bob Kiaii

##### Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Resident: Dr. Aaron Grant  
Faculty: Dr. Chris Scilley  
Dr. Bing Gan

##### General Surgery

Resident: Dr. Maritza Swart  
Faculty: Dr. Bill Wall

##### Urology

Resident: Dr. Peter Wang  
Faculty: Dr. Patrick Luke

##### Orthopaedic Surgery

Resident: Dr. Raghav Rajgopal  
Faculty: Dr. Ken Faber

##### Thoracic Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Richard Malthaner

##### Paediatric Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Neil Merritt

##### Vascular Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Jeremy Harris



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## ACUITY STAR NEWS

STAR 5.5b was released this past October. The new version includes formatting changes to the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Promotion CV and Teaching Dossier. Phase II of the Common CV project, which includes the exporting of publications, will become available with the release of STAR 5.6. Please check the Department of Surgery website for training sessions scheduled for December. Department of Surgery members who would like STAR support or to register for training classes please contact Melissa Serrano at [melissa.serrano@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:melissa.serrano@sjhc.london.on.ca) or phone ext. 34776.

Project Website: <http://web.schulich.uwo.ca/affiliates/star/>

Login to Acuity: <https://star.schulich.uwo.ca/>

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## Bust a Move for Breast Health!



Dinah and  
Melissa at the  
Bust-a-Move  
launch party,  
November 7th.

The Department of Surgery is proud to have four staff members participating in the Bust-a-Move for Breast Health fundraiser being held April 6, 2013 in support of the Breast Care Centre at St. Joseph's Health Care, London. Dinah Frank has taken on the role of Team Captain for the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry team, "Breast for Success". Terri MacDougall, Melissa Serrano and Rebecca Young have also joined the team and have many exciting fundraising ideas in store. Bust-a-Move is a pledge based fundraiser where each participant must raise a minimum of \$1,000 and our team hopes to raise more than \$20,000 in total - we are already in the lead individually - and in the top 3 as a team. Please continue to show your support by pledging a participant or the team at <http://bustamove.kintera.org/sjhcf>. Thank you very much for your generosity and support. The Department of Surgery is happy to support our affiliated partner in this important cause.

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The Western Surgery newsletter is produced by:

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All members of the Department are invited to submit story ideas, articles, photos, or comments for the spring issue.

Please send them to: [Dinah.Frank@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Dinah.Frank@lhsc.on.ca), or call ext. 32361

Moving? Know someone else who would like to receive this newsletter? Please let us know.

If you require information in an alternate format to make this publication accessible, please let us know.

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