



The Department of Surgery



WESTERN SURGERY

CHAIR'S COLUMN:

Spring and summer are a time of renewal, and we certainly see that unfolding in the Department of Surgery with five new faculty recruits starting from July to September 2012: three in Orthopaedic Surgery, one in Paediatric Surgery, and one in Vascular Surgery. These stellar clinical academics will add strength to our Divisions in areas ranging from cartilage biology to adult hip and knee reconstruction to surgical device innovation and will be featured in our Fall Newsletter – so stay tuned! In addition, Dr. Nicholas Power was appointed in the Division of Urology in February and is featured in this Newsletter. Since our last newsletter was published, we would also like to acknowledge the immense contributions of two faculty members as they move on to a wonderful phase in life: retirement. Dr. Robert Bourne and Dr. Robert McMurtry are featured on page 5.



The Department of Surgery continues to advance locally, nationally and internationally in our academic and clinical endeavours. I am delighted to share stories of our travels, research achievements, and appointments. In addition, I would like to recognize Dr. Guy DeRose, who has been appointed Senior Medical Director for Surgery Services, LHSC. Dr. DeRose will be a key leader in our Hospital system as we embark on the transformation of patient care services in alignment with our strategic goals and the impact of the Provincial Government's new funding formula. While there are certain to be challenging times ahead, the Department of Surgery is fortunate to have a highly capable and dedicated cadre of leaders who will continue to participate in the evolution of an efficient and effective academic health science network that advances patient care, research, and education.

As one academic year comes to a close and another begins, I would like to thank all our members for their contributions that position our clinical and academic enterprise for success. All the best for a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely,

John D. Denstedt, MD, FRCSC, FACS
Richard Ivey Professor & Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery

Spring/Summer 2012

In This Issue:			
Department News	pg. 1 - 5	Research News	pg. 6 - 7
Retirements	pg. 5	Awards and Accolades	pg. 7
		Acuity STAR	pg. 8

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Successful Humanitarian Mission in Taiyuan, China

Dr. Ray Guo, Division of Cardiac Surgery, completed another mission with the London Cardiac Outreach Team, this past October. The team of 26 individuals, consisting of surgeons, surgical residents, anaesthetists, perfusionists, OR staff and ICU staff, went to City Center Hospital in Taiyuan, the capital city of the province of Shanxi in China.



Dr. Ray Guo tending to a young patient.

In collaboration with the Taiyuan Charity Federation, London Cardiac Outreach Team members were able to offer free medical treatment to local individuals in need but who are not able to afford it. In order to ensure that the free medical services are provided to individuals who do not normally have access to medical care, candidates

are pre-selected by the charity.

The team worked at the City Center Hospital for a week, successfully completing seven surgical cases, including coronary heart disease, congenital heart disease, and valve heart disease. “Through joint efforts by our group and their group, things went well and we had a good result,” adds Dr. Guo. Missions such as these also provide opportunities for interaction with the local community as well as a collaborative education opportunity for the local medical staff. “We have organized several talks and seminars, but education is also delivered through working together,” states Dr. Guo.

Dr. Guo has been involved with the London Cardiac Outreach Team for five years now and travelled with the group to Mongolia and Peru on previous missions. Dr. Guo has a personal connection to Taiyuan and plans on going back this fall to complete another mission, “I have always been involved in this type of charity activity, it’s important to help when you are able to.” The London Cardiac Outreach Team is a volunteer organization and headed by Peter Allen, a perfusionist at LHSC. Further information about the organization can be found at the group’s website <http://cardiacoutreach.com/>.

Successful Trip to China for Western Surgeons

Drs. John Denstedt and Stephen Pautler recently returned from a very successful trip to China. Western University, under Dr. Denstedt’s leadership, has partnered with West China Hospital, Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. This relationship involves knowledge exchange, professional training opportunities, and a newly developed dual degree program (Sichuan U and Western U). In the past two years, three of UWO surgery residents (Cardiac, General, and Plastic Surgery) have spent several months training in Chengdu. There are plans for more Western residents to take advantage of this great opportunity in the near future.

On this occasion, Drs. Denstedt and Pautler were invited guest professors for the West China Hospital Minimally Invasive Technology Forum. This was Dr. Pautler’s first trip to China. “I was amazed at the high quality of specialist care in Chengdu. The lectures and live surgeries were excellent. The hospital is absolutely massive with



Dr. Stephen Pautler (second from left) and Dr. John Denstedt (far right) with nurses from West China Hospital.

over 5000 beds.” Both Drs. Denstedt and Pautler delivered two state-of-the-art lectures on the first day of the meeting, which was attended by over 250 Urologists from Sichuan province and around the country. The second day of the forum involved multiple simultaneous live surgeries and hands on experience for the participants.

During the live surgeries, Dr. Denstedt performed a complex stone case and Dr. Pautler completed a laparoscopic partial nephrectomy for a kidney cancer. These surgeries were broadcast live to both the meeting hall and a peripheral community hospital in Sichuan province using In Touch technology from California. This was the first time this technology has been used in China and worked flawlessly.



Dr. Stephen Pautler performing surgical procedure.

Following travel to Beijing, Drs. Denstedt and Pautler went to the Canadian Embassy and met with Dr. Felix Li, Minister Counsellor (Health) for our Federal government. Discussions included the work being done between Western and Sichuan Universities, as well as, on going development of action items from the Canada - China Policy Dialogue in Healthcare signed on September 27, 2011, in Toronto by Ministers Aglukkaq (Canada) and Chen (China). This meeting reaffirmed that the Western/Sichuan collaborations are consistent with interests of both of our governments.

More collaborative events will be upcoming over the next year. Dr. Pautler summarized the trip, "It was an excellent experience and the knowledge gap between Canada and China is narrowing. I think there are many benefits to both the Chinese and to us."

Cardiac Care Team Performs New Method of Minimally Invasive Aortic Valve Replacement

Dr. Bob Kiaii, Chair/Chief, Division of Cardiac Surgery tells LHSC's The Page, "This is very exciting non-invasive technology for heart valve replacement. The procedure opens doors to high risk patients who would not be served well by current therapies for open-heart surgery."

A small catheter is inserted into an artery of the heart. Once the heart is accessed, the aortic valve is replaced. The transcatheter valve procedure takes about 90 minutes to complete and allows the patient to experience less pain and a faster recovery.

Dr. Daniel Bainbridge, anesthesiologist and Director of Cardiac Anesthesia, adds, "This procedure is an excellent example of team work, with each specialty including cardiology, anesthesiology, surgery, nurses and clinical perfusionists, all providing their unique expertise to patient care."

"The work being undertaken at LHSC is innovative and offers state-of-the-art care for our patients," says Dr. Patrick Teefy, cardiologist and Director, Cardiac Catheter Lab.

With support from the London Health Sciences Foundation, the team has performed this new procedure 13 times, with high-risk cases approved by Health Canada.



Left to Right: Drs. Bob Kiaii, Patrick Teefy, Michael Chu, Jaffer Syed and Philip Jones (photo from LHSC the Page, <http://www.lhsc.on.ca>).

Dr. Cecil Rorabeck Elected as Royal College President



Dr. Cecil Rorabeck, professor emeritus in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, will assume the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons presidency in February 2013.

"At the risk of using a cliché, it really is a great honour to be selected as the next president," Dr. Rorabeck said to Western News. "My active involvement with the Royal College began over a decade ago and the work I've been a part of has been a great source of

pride, fulfillment and personal and professional development. I look forward to continuing these same efforts in a new and enhanced capacity."

Dr. Rorabeck is one of the world's leading experts on hip and knee replacement surgery. He received an honorary degree from Western (MD '68), recognizing the global impact he has made in medicine and his commitment to the community. Supporters of the endowed chairs program, Dr. Rorabeck and his wife Linda donated \$1 mil-

lion to Western's matching funds program. He is a founding member of the Canadian chapter of Operation Walk, a volunteer-run, not-for-profit, non-governmental medical services organization that offer locals in Guatemala free hip and knee replacements and trains in-country resident-volunteers.

Having practiced total joint replacement surgery in London for over 30 years, Dr. Rorabeck served as Chair of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery at Western and London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and also as interim Robarts CEO and scientific director.

Dr. Vivian McAlister Participates in Remembrance Day Ceremony



Dr. Vivian McAlister (Photo from Royal College Newsroom <http://www.royalcollege.ca>).

On Friday, November 11, 2011, in Ottawa, Ontario, Dr. Vivian McAlister, Division of General Surgery, took part in Canada's largest Remembrance Day event, where he celebrated the service of all military men and women, including Fellows of the Royal College, who have served in military conflicts.

Dr. Mackenzie Quantz Appointed Chair of the Specialty Committee in Cardiac Surgery

The Surgery Department would like to congratulate Dr. Mackenzie Quantz, Division of Cardiac Surgery, on being invited to become the new Chair of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Specialty Committee in Cardiac Surgery. Dr. Quantz's term as Chair began on November 22, 2011, and will continue until June 30, 2014.



Dr. Mackenzie Quantz

Surgery Welcomes Dr. Nicholas Power to Division of Urology

Assistant Professor, Dr. Nicholas Power joined the Division of Urology on February 6th, 2012. After receiving a BSc at the University of New Brunswick, Dr. Power went to the University of Bristol in England, where he studied Medical Genetics and Clinical Pharmacology and travelled across Europe.

Upon his return to Canada, Dr. Power received his medical degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax, followed by a residency in urology. He then completed a three year fellowship in New York City in urologic oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Power enjoys travelling and is interested in international urology opportunities and medical humanitarian efforts. He also

plans to complete a Masters of Education through Western's Centre for Education, Research & Innovation (CERI) as well as work on translational research in oncology with Dr. Hon Sing Leong at LHSC's Cancer Research Laboratory Program.

After Dr. Philip Hayman's retirement, Dr. Power recognizes he has a big pair of shoes to fill, noting Dr. Hayman's tremendous impact and how much he's meant to the community. Dr. Power is based out of Victoria Hospital and is currently focused on getting his family settled into London and building his new practice.



Dr. Nicholas Power

New Educational Resource Available for Prostate Cancer Patients



A grant from the St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation is making it possible for prostate cancer patients preparing for a robotic radical prostatectomy to be provided with an education DVD to take home.

cancer patients are dealing with a very stressful situation and are usually scared out of their wits. Studies done in the U.S. show patients only retain 10 per cent of the information they are told during their consultation with a doctor/surgeon and they don't always understand the information discussed."

The video will be available this summer to give to patients at the time they book their surgery, aiming to relieve patients of any concerns they may have.

The video will recount a former patient's experience and review the preadmission visit, expectations for the day of surgery, home care support, catheters, specialized physiotherapy and follow-up. Brief video clips of the operations will also be included.

Dr. Stephen Pautler, Division of Urology, says "Prostate

Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Residents' Research Day 2012

On Friday, May 4th, the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery held its annual Residents' Research Day at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre with Dr. Peter Lennox from the University of British Columbia as the Visiting Professor and keynote speaker. Dr. Lennox, who is on staff at Vancouver Hospital and Providence Health, has special interests in breast reconstruction and microsurgery, as well as cosmetic surgery. His lectures on "Collaboration in Breast Reconstruction" and "Non-autologous Breast Reconstruction and Radiotherapy" were both fascinating and informative.

Various topics were presented by residents and Dr. Stephanie Power was the recipient of the Dr. R.M. McFarlane Resident Research Award for Best Research Presentation for her paper on *Critical Analysis of Consecutive Unilateral Cleft Lip Repairs by Parents Versus Surgeons: Determining Ideal Sample Size*.

The day was a great success, enjoyed by all. Planning is underway for next year's event which will be held on Friday, May 3, 2013.

Residents and Alumni present on Research Day



First row left to right: Dr. Romy Ahluwalia, Dr. Buki Ayeni, Dr. Aaron Grant, Dr. Kristina Lutz, Dr. Stephanie Power, Dr. Peter Lennox, Dr. Rebecca Greer-Bayramoglu, Dr. Haemi Lee, Dr. Lawrence Hurst, Dr. Tanya DeLyzer, Dr. Jacqueline Piggott
Second row left to right: Dr. Chris Scilley, Dr. Brian Evans, Dr. Robert Richards, Dr. Brian Hasegawa, Dr. Graham Heaton, Dr. Omodele Ayeni, Dr. Doug Ross, Dr. Sharon Kim, Dr. Arjang Yazdani, Dr. Damir Matic, Dr. Andre Nimigan, Dr. Rasha Baaqeel

RETIREMENTS

Dr. Robert McMurtry, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery



After twenty years of service as an orthopaedic consultant in the Hand & Upper Limb Centre at St. Joseph's Hospital, Bob McMurtry will be doing his last clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital in June 2012.

Bob has had a very distinguished career. He became a Member of the Order of Canada in the fall of 2011. He is a Professor of Surgery (Emeritus) at Western. He is the Chair of the Medical Advisory Board of the Society for Wind Vigilance. Bob was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry from 1992 to 1999. He was Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Calgary from 1988 to 1992. Bob was the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Population and Public Health Branch of Health Canada from 2000 to 2002. Bob received the 2008 James H. Graham Award from the RCPSC recognizing significant career achievements. Bob has more than 80 peer-reviewed publications, 20 book chapters and more than 50 visiting professorships.

We are forever grateful for Bob's very significant contribution to the HULC unit, Western and to the well-being of all Canadians. He will continue to do clinics in Picton, Ontario. We wish Bob all of the best in the future.

Dr. Robert Bourne, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

After thirty-three years in practice at University Hospital, Bob Bourne retired in September 2011.

Bob graduated from Western's medical school in 1971 and completed Western's Orthopaedic Surgery residency in 1976. He did fellowships at Oxford University and Harvard University. His practice was dedicated to hip and knee replacements. He was the Professor and Chair of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery from 2000 to 2007. He was President of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association in 2005, President of the Hip Society in 1998 and President of the Knee Society in 2011. He has more than 220 peer-reviewed publications and has had an outstanding and sustained research record that has had an international impact in the field of lower limb arthroplasty.

Dr. Bourne has had a long track record of meritorious service to the Canadian orthopaedic community, Western University, the Department of Surgery and the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery. We wish him all the best in his very deserved retirement and congratulate him on an outstanding academic career.

~ Contributed by Dr. James Roth

RESEARCH NEWS

Dr. Jim Johnson appointed as the Graham King Musculoskeletal Research Chair

Dr. Jim Johnson, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, began his five year term as the Graham King Musculoskeletal Research Chair on January 1, 2012.



Drs. James Roth and Graham King present Dr. Jim Johnson (centre) with the inaugural Graham King Musculoskeletal Research Chair.

Dr. Johnson's research addresses clinical problems in orthopaedic surgery with the application of engineering-based studies. Currently, Dr. Johnson is the Director of

Biomedical Engineering at Western University as well as the Co-director of the Bioengineering Research Laboratory of the Hand and Upper Limb Centre of St. Joseph's Health Care, where he and his colleagues lead a research team that includes engineering and medical undergraduate and graduate students, and surgical residents and fellows. The team focuses on novel and applied hand and upper limb biomechanics aimed at improving patient-care.

Having published more than a 100 papers in peer reviewed journals, Dr. Johnson is a Core Member of the Canadian Orthopedic Research Society, where he held the role of President in 2007. He is also a member of the Editorial Boards of The Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery, The Journal of Biomechanical Engineering and The Journal of Hand Surgery.

Doctoral Students Receive Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships

Congratulations to both Daniel Langohr and Josh Giles on receiving Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for their respective research projects "Biomechanics of Reverse Shoulder Implants with Special Interest in Impingement and Wear" and "Design and Development of a Shoulder Simulator for the Assessment of Stability and Unconstrained Motion."

Both doctoral students are in the Department of Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program and work under the supervision of Drs. Jim Johnson and George Athwal, with

Drs. Graham King and John Medley (University of Waterloo) also supervising Langohr.

These scholarships are highly competitive and are offered to top-ranked applicants. The financial support provided, \$35,000 per year for two to three years, allows scholars the opportunity to focus on their studies and work with the best research mentors in their fields.

Candidates are selected according to a variety of criteria in three categories: academic excellence; research ability or potential; and communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities.

Lawson Internal Research Fund Fall 2011 Competition Results

Congratulations to the following Department of Surgery faculty members whose applications were funded:

Dr. Sumit Dave, Division of Paediatric Surgery,
"Investigating the role of 3-dimensional ultrasound in improving success rates following endoscopic injection for vesicoureteral reflux" \$14,640

Dr. Louis Ferreira, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery,
"Development and validation of virtual models for upper extremity motion simulations" \$14,938

Dr. Douglas Naudie, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "A randomized controlled trial comparing arthroscopic surgery to conservative management of femoroacetabular impingement" \$14,986

Dr. Alp Sener, Division of Urology, "The role of hydrogen sulphide on hypoxia-induced erythropoietin production" \$14,400

Recent Grant Funding Awarded

Dr. Christopher Bailey, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, received \$20,000 from the PSI Foundation for his project, "The importance of soft tissue restraints following type II odontoid fractures in the elderly - a biomechanical study." Dr. Bailey is also a Department of Surgery Clinician Scientist award winner.

Dr. Alp Sener, Division of Urology, has received \$230,056 from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation toward the project, "Simulation and Imaging Laboratory for the Study of Ischemia Reperfusion Injury and Inflammation in Transplantation"



Dr. Steven MacDonald, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, has been awarded the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Legacy Grant for 2011 for his proposal "A randomized controlled trial to establish patient expectations of total knee arthroplasty." Established in 2006, the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Legacy (CORL) fund aims to ensure Canada's world-class status in orthopaedic research.



Dr. Marie-Eve LeBel, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, received \$48,000 from the Physician Services Incorporated (PSI) Foundation for her project, "Observational learning strategies in simulation-based arthroscopic surgical training."



Dr. Robert Giffin, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, is the winner of the 2011 American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) Sandy Kirkley Clinical Research Outcome Grant for his study, "Does Usual Rehab Result in Better Outcomes than Staged Rehab Post ACL Surgery?"

Dr. Christopher Schlachta, Division of General Surgery, has received \$140,500 from the PSI Foundation for his project, "Evaluation of a Hands-Free Pointer for Surgical Instruction in Minimally Invasive Surgery."



Dr. Peter Cadieux, Division of Urology, received \$24,975 from the Ontario Centres of Excellence for his project, "Assessment of therapeutic potential of a novel dental probiotic in pediatric patients affected by gingivitis." Dr. Cadieux, holder of the Miriam Burnett Research Chair in Urological Sciences, has also received a \$200,000 gift from The Garfield Weston Foundation to further support the work conducted at his lab.



Dr. George Athwal, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, is a recipient of the Department of Surgery Clinician Scientist award.



AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Dr. Joseph Chin, Division of Urology, was selected for the 2011 edition of Canadian Who's Who. Distributed by the University of Toronto Press, Canadian Who's Who recognizes the achievements of Canadians who have made significant contributions to life in Canada.



Dr. Patrick Luke, Division of Urology, has been selected for the European Association of Urology - Canadian Urological Association (EAU-CUA) International Academic Exchange Programme, which promotes the international exchange of urological medical skills, expertise and knowledge.



Dr. Christopher Bailey, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, has been awarded the North American Spine Society's Best Basic Science Paper Award for his paper, "No orthosis is equivalent to TLSO for the treatment of thoracolumbar burst fractures without neurologic injury: Results from a multi-centred RCT."

Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro, Division of General Surgery, has been awarded the Canadian Society of Transplantation Clinical Trainee Award for his abstract, "Should the Worst Organ Go to the Least Sick Patient? MELD and Donor Risk Index as Predictors of Early Allograft Dysfunction."





ACUITY STAR NEWS

Common CV is changing their website to better accommodate STAR uploading and to eliminate the need for adding attachments. More information is found on the CCV transition website. http://www.commoncv.net/renewal_e.html

STAR Promotion Documents are being reviewed and several key areas have been targeted for improvement. If you have any specific suggestions you would like considered please send them to Melissa Serrano. The changes will be available Sept 2012.

STAR Standard CV is being reviewed and several key areas have been targeted for improvement. If you have any specific suggestions you would like considered please send them to Melissa Serrano. The changes will be available Sept 2012.

Conferences Attended were recently removed from the UWO Standard CV, because the document owner believed that these activities do not belong on a professional CV. We have received much feed back on this point and are considering making the printing of these activities on the Standard CV optional.

Department of Surgery users who would like STAR support or training please contact Melissa Serrano, STAR Coordinator for the Department of Surgery, at Melissa.Serrano@sjhc.london.on.ca or ext. 34776.

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

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

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 fall issue.

Please send them to: Dinah.Frank@lhsc.on.ca, or call ext. 32361

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