An article recently in the *Lancet*, “Global Surgery 2030: evidence and solutions for achieving health welfare and economic development” reported that an astounding 5 billion people worldwide do not have access to safe and affordable surgical and anesthesia care in low and middle income countries. Despite substantial gains in global health over the last 25 years, basic surgical and anesthesia care for common easily treatable conditions such as appendicitis, hernia, fractures and malignancies has stagnated or regressed in LMIC’s. The associated consequences in terms of lives lost, morbidity and adverse economic consequences are immense. What might this mean for the Department of Surgery at Western and for Canadian academic surgery in general?

Contributing to needs overseas, however important, may be an afterthought in the context of many demanding daily challenges at home. Overwhelming clinical volumes; participation in hospital, university and subspecialty committees; educating our own trainees; advancing research; and perhaps even at the end of the day having time for ones own family limit the “gas in the tank” for addressing surgical care and training requirements internationally. Despite these challenges the Department of Surgery is contributing meaningfully on the global stage and two fine examples are included in this addition of the newsletter.

A joint surgical symposium between Western University surgeons and those at West China School of Medicine in Chengdu, China drew over 300 participating surgeons from across Sichuan Province (pop. 110M) to share knowledge across several surgical subspecialties. This successful event had a positive impact into the rural areas surrounding Chengdu and drew media attention from across China. The symposium has set the stage for further interaction and exchanges in both patient care and education. At an individual level, Assistant Professor Dr. Abdel Lawendy recently volunteered for a Doctors Without Borders assignment in one of the worlds most unstable countries—Yemen. In the midst of desperate conditions, there is no doubt that he had a momentous impact; along with many other Department members who contribute every year on medical missions overseas.

These are just two examples we have made towards global surgical challenges in care and education. We will need to consider how best to address the global surgical challenge as outlined in the *Lancet* report in an organized fashion while maintaining our excellent contributions to patient care, teaching and research at home. In addition to the overseas impact, I have always found participation in such activities to be highly gratifying and inspiring.

Canada has a long and proud history of taking up just such challenges and I believe it would be worthwhile for Canada’s Chairs of Surgery to begin a dialogue on a coordinated approach to the gap in global surgical care.


Sincerely,

John D. Denstedt, MD, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS
Richard Ivey Professor & Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery
Special Advisor to the Dean on Internationalization & Simulation
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University
The inaugural West China-Kilborn Surgical Symposium was a great success. A collaborative initiative of the West China School of Medicine, Sichuan University, and the Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, the joint event aims to enhance research and education related to multiple surgical subspecialties. The Symposium took place on April 10-12 at the West China Hospital in Chengdu, China.

Professor Hong Li, Executive Vice President of Sichuan University, opened the symposium, stating, “We fully believe that this symposium is sure to bring insights to the progress of surgical medicine and push forward the development of medical science in China. I sincerely hope our two universities can have a closer cooperative partnership, and work hand in hand for medical science and the welfare of human beings.”

With the support of Dr. Robert Kilborn, grandson of Drs. Omar and Retta Kilborn who were Canadian missionary pioneers in modernizing medicine and medical education in Chengdu, China, a century ago, Western University was pleased to establish the Kilborn Family Memorial Visiting Scholar Fund in 2014 to build an ongoing relationship between physicians at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry and the West China School of Medicine. This builds upon the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2009 to establish exchange programs and promote joint research and training activities for faculty and students.

Through this MOU, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry has hosted numerous graduate and medical students from the West China School of Medicine, and WCSM has hosted resident trainees from the Department of Surgery at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

Beginning with a tour of the West China Hospital for Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Western University faculty, the following day included presentations given by members from both medical schools on subspecialty topics in Paediatric Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Urology, Cardiac Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, and on medical education. The event concluded with a cultural day, where faculty visited the Giant Panda Base and the Great Wall of China. Receiving plenty of media coverage from numerous local and national Chinese outlets, the event was widely recognized.
DR. ABDEL-RAHMAN LAWENDY JOINS DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS IN YEMEN

Dr. Abdel-Rahman Lawendy recently returned from a month-long trip to Yemen. Dr. Lawendy was recruited through Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Canada to volunteer at a trauma hospital operated by MSF France.

Stationed in a hospital compound in Aden, a sea-port city of 800,000 located in the south of Yemen, Dr. Lawendy worked with staff from Canada, France, Germany, Norway and Italy. Surrounded by a wall topped with barbed wire, entry into the hospital compound was controlled by security staff. Travel was very limited and medical staff rarely left the grounds.

With 35 beds and 140 employees, the hospital is exclusively for victims of violence and provides all services free of charge. Serving as a trauma surgeon, Dr. Lawendy was joined by a local general surgeon in providing daily surgical care.

In addition to providing general patient care, Dr. Lawendy spent the majority of his time in the OR and teaching residents, surgeons, nurses, and other allied health professionals. Simulation training was utilized to improve on mass casualty response for the entire hospital. He also wrote a detailed road map for MSF on how to introduce a limb reconstruction unit, which will be implemented by MSF in Yemen.

“During busy weeks I performed more than 50 surgeries,” said Dr. Lawendy. He further explains that many patients were in critical condition and some had multiple gunshot wounds with military grade weapons, or sustained major trauma secondary to bomb explosions. “I gained significant experience in soft tissue and bone reconstruction with limited resources, as well the planning and execution of mass casualty protocols,” he added. The hospital’s OR was open every day and often ran through the night depending on the case load. Unfortunately the civil unrest and ensuing violence placed significant challenges to the available surgical resources requiring Dr. Lawendy to be available on-call for the entire month.

As for why he chose to be involved with Doctors Without Borders Dr. Lawendy explained, “I chose Doctors Without Borders because I support their values, they have significant experience in resource and logistics management, the ability to run a trauma center.” Having such a positive experience has led Dr. Lawendy to consider going on more missions with MSF in the future, if the opportunity presents itself.

DR. NEIL PARRY APPOINTED SITE CHIEF OF SURGERY, VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Congratulations to Dr. Neil Parry on being appointed Site Chief of Surgery at London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Hospital and the Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University effective April 1, 2015 until June 30, 2018.

Dr. Parry succeeds Dr. Guy DeRose, who has served in this role since 2005. Dr. Parry is also the Director of the Trauma Program at London Health Sciences Centre; one of 11 Trauma Centres in the Province and the Lead Trauma Hospital for Southwestern Ontario. He graduated from medical school and residency in general surgery at Western University, followed by a fellowship in Trauma Surgery and Critical Care at Grady Memorial Hospital, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery in 2003 and promoted to Associate Professor in 2010.

Dr. Parry is a strong contributor to educational and clinical activities in the Division of General Surgery and the Trauma Program. His service at the provincial and national levels is noteworthy, as Provincial Chair for Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons; Provincial Faculty for Advanced Trauma Life Support; Member of the Executive of the Trauma Association of Canada; and Chair of the Trauma Association’s Research Committee.

Dr. Parry is also active at the Royal College as a member of the General Surgery Examination Board and the Working Group for the Area of Focused Competence for Trauma.

Dr. Parry is an Associate Scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute and his research focuses on clinical outcomes in trauma.
PAEDIATRIC ROBOTIC SURGERY PROGRAM

The Paediatric Robotic Surgery program at Victoria Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre was initiated in July 2013, with the first robotic ureteric reimplantation in Canada.

Led by paediatric urologist, Dr. Sumit Dave, and paediatric general surgeon, Dr. Andreana Bütter, the program is the first of its kind in Canada. To date, 30 urological cases (pyeloplasties and ureteric reimplantations) and 11 paediatric general surgery cases (cholecystectomies and distal pancreatectomy) have been performed.

The program began as a Division of Paediatric Surgery initiative, with mentoring provided by Dr. Aseem Shukla, a paediatric urologist at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Dr. David Meehan from Seattle. The program is being extended to more complex urological reconstructive procedures with approximately three such surgeries being conducted monthly. The initial results are being presented at the 2015 Canadian Urological Association meeting in Ottawa.

SURGERY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT SCHULICH AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE EVENT

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Black, Division of General Surgery, Dr. Neil McKenzie, Division of Cardiac Surgery, and Dr. Heather Emmerton-Coughlin, PGY5, Division of General Surgery.

Dr. Black will be honoured with the Schulich Award for Excellence for Faculty in Distributed Sites, and Dr. McKenzie will be honoured with the Dean’s Award of Excellence for Lifetime Achievement. Dr. Emmerton-Coughlin will be honoured with the Dr. John D. Brown Memorial Resident Award.

All members were presented their awards during Schulich Medicine & Dentistry’s 2015 Celebration of Excellence, held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, Somerville House.

A complete list of this year’s Schulich Awards of Excellence recipients is available at: schulich.uwo.ca

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following faculty members who were recently promoted:

Dr. Michael Chu, Division of Cardiac Surgery, promoted to Associate Professor and granted a Continuing Appointment, Senate Stream

Dr. Bob Kiaii, Division of Cardiac Surgery, promoted to Professor, Senate Stream

Dr. Steven Latosinsky, Division of General Surgery, granted a Continuing Appointment, Provost Stream

Dr. Michael Ott, Division of General Surgery, promoted to Associate Professor and granted a Continuing Appointment, Provost Stream

Dr. Debra Bartley, Divisions of Paediatric Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery, promoted to Associate Professor and granted a Continuing Appointment, Provost Stream

Dr. Muriel Brackstone, Division of General Surgery, promoted to Associate Professor and granted a Continuing Appointment, Senate Stream

Dr. J. Robert Giffin, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, promoted to Professor, Senate Stream

Dr. James McAuley, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, promoted to Professor, Provost Stream
Western University has committed to investing $5 million in support of bone and joint research, through the new Western Cluster of Research Excellence in Musculoskeletal Health. A team of researchers from across five faculties will be provided with additional personnel, resources and infrastructure to attract, retain and mentor future leaders. As part of the Cluster initiative, Western is also strategically investing additional funds in the recruitment of up to three Western Research Chairs.

“Our team is motivated by the tremendous impact on quality of life and major economic burden associated with musculoskeletal conditions,” said David Holdsworth, PhD, Director of the new Western Cluster of Research Excellence in Musculoskeletal Health. “Being recognized as a research cluster at Western provides a tremendous boost to our ability to expand our research, enhance our training program and attract the best and brightest from around the world.”

Discoveries will lead to new preventive, rehabilitative, medical and surgical therapies, diagnostic techniques, and medical and assistive devices.

Source: Western University positions itself among world leaders in bone and joint research. Media Relations, Western University. November 3, 2014. communications.uwo.ca/media/

DR. J. ROBERT GIFFIN ELECTED TO WESTERN UNIVERSITY’S BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Congratulations to Dr. J. Robert Giffin on being elected as the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry’s Faculty Representative to Western University’s Board of Governors.

Dr. Giffin was elected to one of two representative positions for the entire faculty. He will serve for a four year term.

DR. WILLIAM WALL HONOURED BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE

Congratulations to Dr. William Wall on being selected as the recipient of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada 2015 James H. Graham Award.

Named in honour of Dr. James H. Graham, Secretary General of the Royal College from 1953 to 1979, and considered the most prestigious prize of the College, the award recognizes individuals with outstanding achievements that demonstrate the mission and goals of the College.

HONORARY APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHINESE UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Chin, Division of Urology, and Dr. John Denstedt, Division of Urology, on receiving honorary memberships to the Chinese Urological Association (CUA).

Dr. Chin is a founding member of the Norman Bethune Urological Friendship Society. Both members were honoured by the Chinese Urological Association in recognition of their contributions to fostering professional collaboration between the urological societies of Canada and China.
Jeremy Burton, PhD, Affiliated Institute Scientist and Assistant Professor in Urology, was appointed the Miriam Burnett Research Chair in Urology in 2013 and is the Deputy Director of the Canadian Centre for Human Microbiome and Probiotic Research at the Lawson Health Research Institute.

With a passion for translational research in probiotics, Dr. Burton leads a team of scientists in researching how microbes affect various human conditions, primarily concentrating on urological conditions. “We think that the microbiome plays a significant role in urology and not just infections, as microorganisms at sites distal to the kidney, bladder and urethra are likely to have a profound effect on urologic health, both positive and negative, owing to their metabolic output and other contributions. The microbiome is something surgeons don’t often think about, but has now been shown to influence every human body system from reproduction to the brain,” said Dr. Burton.

Dr. Burton completed his PhD training in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. An interest in investigating the urogenital microbiota with non-culture-based techniques led to a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University and the Lawson Health Research Institute. With an extensive background in probiotic and microbial ecological research, Dr. Burton has also investigated clinical studies of human microbiota of the intestinal, urogenital and upper respiratory tracts.

Having published over 75 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and holding several patents, Dr. Burton has been recognized with various awards for research and other activities throughout his career.

ICES WESTERN

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) provides access to over 50 administrative databases for the province of Ontario, and allows scientists to conduct high quality observational studies. Surgeons from all the divisions within the Department of Surgery have formed a collaborative research group in order to advance research on surgical topics. Over the last year, this group has utilized the two dedicated ICES analysts to conduct several collaborative studies.

• Dr. Vinden led a study measuring the impact of teaching on surgical duration and confirmed the perception that operative cases take significantly longer in an academic center compared to similar cases done in community hospitals.
• Dr. Welk assessed the burden of complications from mesh based stress incontinence procedures, and found that up to 1/30 women will undergo a secondary surgery for a mesh based complication.
• Dr. Jones successfully obtained two peer reviewed grants to support her ICES projects. Her most recent work demonstrated that pediatric cholecystectomy rates have risen significantly in Ontario over the last 20 years, mainly among adolescent females.
• Dr. Dubois studied the effect of the day of the week on vascular surgery outcomes, and Dr. Vogt further assessed the impact of general surgery procedures performed at academic centers.
• Several ICES surgery members are developing projects for the upcoming year, and plans are underway to increase involvement and collaboration with other investigators, and across departments here at Western and throughout the province.

The Department of Surgery had four successful applicants for the ICES Western Faculty Scholars program: Drs. Dubois, Frechette, Latosinsky, and Vogt will start the two year program in September. The ICES surgery group is also pleased to announce that Dr. Vinden has been appointed as an ICES scientist through the Cancer group.

~ Contributed by Dr. Blayne Welk, Assistant Professor, Division of Urology, and Dr. Chris Vinden, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FACULTY AND RESIDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

PSI FOUNDATION
Dr. Ranita Manocha, Dr. Graham King, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, “Rehabilitation of the Ligament-Deficient Elbow: A Biomechanical Study” $19,500

Dr. Patrick Luke, Division of Urology, Dr. Rabindra Bhattacharjee, “Immunological Impact of Carbon Monoxide Releasing Molecule in Renal Transplantation” $169,000

Dr. Victor McPherson, Dr. Jonathan Izawa, Division of Urology, “A Window of Opportunity Study to Evaluate the Role of the Combination of Metformin and Simvastatin as a Neoadjuvant Therapy in Invasive Bladder Cancer” $20,000

WESTERN STRATEGIC SUPPORT FOR CIHR SUCCESS
Dr. Sayra Cristancho, Education Research, Department of Surgery, “Re-Engineering the Notion of Complexity in Clinical Practice” $24,800

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY INTERNAL RESEARCH FUND
Dr. Ken Faber, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, “An In Vitro Model of P. Acnes Infections of Shoulder Tissues” $20,000

Dr. Abdel-Rahman Lawendy, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Department of Surgery, “Therapeutic Application of a Novel, Water-Soluble CO-Releasing Molecule (CORM-3) in the Rodent Model of Type 1 Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS-I)” $20,000

Dr. Stephen Pautler, “Water Jet Dissection of the Cavernous Nerves: A Comparative Study to Blunt Cavernous Nerve Injury in a Rat Model and its Implications on Erectile Function” $20,000

Dr. Andreana Bütter, “The Effects of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia and Tracheal Occlusion on the WNT Signaling Pathway in an Ovine Model” $20,000

Dr. Prateek Goyal, PGY3, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, “The Effect of Weight Bearing on RSA Measurements of Wear and How Acetabular Position Correlates with Wear” $2,500

Dr. Patrick Murphy, PGY2, Division of General Surgery, “Incidence of Intra-Abdominal Hypertension in the Critically Ill” $2,500

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SEED GRANTS, SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
Dr. Douglas Naudie, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, “Identifying Molecular Changes Specific to Subtype of Knee Osteoarthritis” $50,000

Dr. Hon Leong, Division of Urology, “Peptides Specific for Glypican-3 as Next-Generation Imaging Tools for Improved Noninvasive Imaging of Hepatocellular Carcinoma” $50,000

Dr. David O’Gorman, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, “Identifying biomarkers of prodomal fibrosis in Dupuytren’s disease and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy” $50,000

CANADIAN UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY GROUP
Dr. Jonathan Izawa, Division of Urology, “Achieving the Oligometastatic State in End-Stage Prostate Cancer by Pharmacologic and Genetic Manipulation of Invadopodia Formed by Tumor Cells” $50,000

Dr. Jonathan Izawa, Division of Urology, “PCA3 May be Superior to PSA in Detecting Prostate Cancer Using a Gold Standard Radical Cystoprostatectomy Pathological Model” $10,000

ST. JOSEPH’S HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION
Dr. Stephen Pautler, Division of Urology, “Canadian Kidney Cancer Information System” $24,980

Dr. Hassan Razvi, Division of Urology, “Determination of Microbiome and Metabolome Biomarkers of Kidney Stone Formation” $26,624

MUSCULOSKELETAL ORTHOPEDIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (MORE) FOUNDATION
Dr. Brent Lanting, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, “Design and Creation of a Novel Cadaveric Lower Extremity Simulator” $7,400

PROSTATE CANCER CANADA/ Movember Discovery Grant
Dr. Hon Leong, Division of Urology, “Developing a Liquid Biopsy Format of Gleason Scoring for Prostate Cancer Prognostication” $180,014

Dr. Mansour Haeryfar, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Dr. Alp Sener, Division of Urology, “NKT Cell-Based Adjuvant Immunotherapy of Prostate Cancer” $188,068

RICK HANSEN INSTITUTE, EMERGING INTERVENTIONS & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES GRANT
Dr. Blayne Welk, Division of Urology, “A Double Blind, Randomized Placebo Controlled Trial Evaluating the Urodynamic and Clinical Efficacy of Mirabegron Among Neurogenic Bladder Patients” $98,194

LRCP FALL 2014 CATALYST GRANTS COMPETITION
Dr. Xiufen Zheng, CSTAR, Dr. Joseph Chin, Division of Urology, “A New Diagnostic Biomarker in Prostate Cancer: Macrophage Inhibitory Cytokine 1 (MIC-1)” $30,000.00

CIHR
Dr. Patrick Murphy, MSc in Surgery’15, Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master’s (CGS M), $17,500
Dr. Brian Taylor completed medical school and residency training in general surgery at Western University. He subsequently completed a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Taylor joined the Department of Surgery at Western in 1983 as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1990 and full Professor in 2011. Dr. Taylor was granted a cross-appointment to the Department of Oncology in 1999.

Dr. Taylor served as Chair/Chief, Division of General Surgery for eight years and as Site Chief of Surgery for St. Joseph’s Health Care London for ten years. He has been the President of the Canadian Association of University Surgeons; the Southwestern Ontario Surgical Association; and the London & District Academy of Medicine. Dr. Taylor was the Chair of the Training Program Review Committee and a member of the Board of Examiners for general surgery for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

In addition to caring for thousands of patients, Dr. Taylor’s influence as a leader in surgical education has been significant and far-reaching. A long-standing and esteemed role model, Dr. Taylor is recognized in the top tier of surgical educators with 14 awards for his teaching including the nationally recognized John Provan Outstanding Canadian Surgical Educator Award from the Canadian Undergraduate Surgical Education Committee. Dr. Taylor was appointed Associate Director Surgical Education – Undergraduate Medical Education in 2010 concurrent with being awarded the Angus D. McLachlin Professorship.

Dr. Taylor’s retirement plan includes a second career as a musician, canoeing, spending time with family at the cottage in Georgian Bay, and making his own maple syrup.

Dr. William Wall completed medical school and general surgery residency training at Western University, followed by a fellowship in organ transplantation at Cambridge University. Dr. Wall joined the Department of Surgery with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University in 1977 as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982 and full Professor in 1993.

Dr. Wall served as the Director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program at London Health Sciences Centre for a decade and was instrumental in establishing it as a national leader. He is a pioneer in liver transplantation and now thanks to his compassionate and skilled care, his patients are among the longest living transplant recipients in the world. A tireless advocate for organ donation, Dr. Wall’s leadership and vision led to the creation of the award winning One Life...Many Gifts program that is distributed to all school boards in Ontario to educate secondary school students in the importance of organ donation. Dr. Wall has served on many provincial and national committees related to transplantation and as President of the International Liver Transplantation Society. Dr. Wall is a gifted teacher and stellar researcher. He has trained hundreds of surgeons from around the globe and has been recognized with seven teaching awards. His scholarly accomplishments include more than 150 publications in the peer-reviewed literature and he has presented his research around the world.

Dr. Wall is the recipient of the country’s highest honors, including the David Foster Foundation Medical Achievement Award; the National Medical Achievement Award (2013); the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award (2013); the Ontario Medical Association Life Membership Award (2011); the Canadian Society of Transplantation Lifetime Achievement Award (2009); and the Order of Canada (2009). Dr. Wall is an avid golfer and painter; and proud grandfather to Dexter.