

# DEPARTMENT OF Surgery Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2020

Announcing  
the inaugural  
recipient of the  
Scilley Scholar  
Award

SEE PAGE TEN  
FOR DETAILS.

## Chair's Column

Dear colleagues:

Amidst the second wave of COVID-19, in some respects, we have acclimated to new standards and protocols in our clinical and academic enterprise. However, at the forefront of our minds during a challenging outbreak situation is the necessity to adhere stringently to public health measures both within the Academic Health Sciences Centre and in the community. Although vaccines do appear to be on the horizon for 2021, it may be many months before they can be distributed widely across Canada. As we enter a period traditionally filled with holiday celebrations, I implore you to make wise choices and to continue to protect and preserve everyone's health and well-being.

This newsletter brings to the fore the many ways in which the Department continues to advance in

these unparalleled times. We are pleased to showcase the achievements of our faculty members; initiatives of our Quality Council that have been recognized for excellence; and our Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day, held virtually on November 11th, which was a great success. Our newest Committee, the Gender, Equity, and Diversity Committee, has ramped up plans for an exciting speaker series for 2021. This will start with a keynote



lecture on February 19, 2021 by Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, CEO of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This promises to be an outstanding talk that is open to all members of our Academic Health Sciences Centre. Please be sure to mark your calendars and attend this virtual presentation.

This will be a holiday and New Year unlike any we have experienced before. Nevertheless, I wish for you and your families to experience the same joy, comfort, and contentment that steadfastly remain the hallmarks of the season. All the best for 2021!

Sincerely,

**Emil H. Schemitsch, MD, FRCS**  
Richard Ivey Professor  
Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry  
Western University

# Surgery News

## Congratulations to all faculty members on their recent appointments



Dr. Jeremy Burton, Scientist and Associate Professor, Division of Urology, has been appointed as Research Chair in Human Microbiome and Probiotics at Lawson Health Research Institute for a five-year term. As part of the Chair's responsibilities, Dr. Burton will also assume the title of Director for the Canadian Centre for Human Microbiome and Probiotics Research, which is located at Lawson. Read the full article on Lawson's website at:

[www.lawsonresearch.ca/news/golden-age-microbiome-research](http://www.lawsonresearch.ca/news/golden-age-microbiome-research)



Dr. Michael Chu, Professor, was appointed Chair/Chief of the Division of Cardiac Surgery for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2020.



Dr. Luc Dubois, Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery in the role of President Elect.



Dr. Audra Duncan, Professor and Chair/Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery, was chosen to be Assistant Editor of Reviews for the Journal of Vascular Surgery.



Dr. Arjang Yazdani, Associate Professor, was appointed Chair/Chief of the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery for a five-year term effective August 1, 2020.

## Dr. Hassan Razvi appointed President-Elect of the Canadian Urological Association.

Dr. Hassan Razvi, Professor, Division of Urology, was recently appointed President-Elect of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA), with his term as President to begin in July 2021.

During his career, Dr. Razvi has held several leadership positions with the CUA including Chair of the Scholarship Foundation, Chair of the Guidelines Committee and is also currently Secretary of the organization.



## Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to all faculty members who successfully went forward for academic promotion this past year, recognizing their excellent performance as clinical academics and their contributions to creating and disseminating knowledge through teaching and research, and providing leadership.

### **Dr. Muriel Brackstone**

Promoted to Full Professor, Division of General Surgery

### **Dr. Andreana Bütter**

Promoted to Full Professor, Division of Paediatric Surgery

### **Dr. Luc Dubois**

Promoted to Associate Professor and granting of a Continuing Appointment, Division of Vascular Surgery

### **Dr. Ruby Grewal**

Promoted to Full Professor, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

### **Dr. Neil Parry**

Promoted to Full Professor, Division of General Surgery



## Surgery News

Welcome to our new faculty members: Drs. Sarah Appleton, Jeff Hawel, Melissa Huynh, John Landau, Rahul Nayak, Natasha Seemann, and Ephraim Tang.



**Sarah Appleton, MD, MSc, FRCSC**

**Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, University Hospital**

Dr. Sarah Appleton received her medical degree at Queen's University at Kingston and completed her residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Subsequent to her residency Dr. Appleton completed an oncology and microvascular reconstruction fellowship at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, followed by a graduate diploma in clinical epidemiology from McMaster University in Hamilton. In addition to her medical training, Dr. Appleton also has a Master of Science degree in Immunology and Microbiology from Dalhousie University.

Prior to joining the Department of Surgery at Western University, Dr. Appleton was appointed at McMaster University as an Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery and held the role of Burn Unit Director at Hamilton General Hospital. Her research interests include breast reconstruction, melanoma, soft tissue trauma reconstruction, and lower extremity trauma reconstruction.



**Jeffrey Hawel, MD, MSc, FRCSC**

**Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, University Hospital**

Dr. Jeffrey Hawel received his medical degree and residency training at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, followed by a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Surgical Endoscopy at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He also has a MSc in Medical Biophysics, successfully defending his thesis, "Force Application During Colonoscopy as a Marker of Competence: Development of a Novel Training Device" this past summer.

Dr. Hawel joined the Department of Surgery in 2017 as an Adjunct Professor/MD and Locum in the Division of General Surgery at University Hospital and received the Resident Mentor Award from the 2018 General Surgery graduating class. His clinical interests include therapeutic gastrointestinal and biliary endoscopy, and minimally invasive surgical approaches to foregut diseases. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons, chairing the Association's Endoscopy Taskforce Committee, and a Steering Committee Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons.

**Melissa Huynh, MD, MPH, FRCSC**

**Assistant Professor, Division of Urology, Victoria Hospital**

Dr. Melissa Huynh completed both her medical degree and urology residency at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, heading to Harvard University to receive her Master of Public Health degree in Clinical Effectiveness. While completing her graduate studies, Dr. Huynh obtained further medical training through a fellowship in urologic oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. She also spent a year on developing renal cell carcinoma organoid models at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Having presented at various conferences, Dr. Huynh has received several awards in recognition of her research projects, as well as co-authored a book chapter on the topic of using robot-assisted surgery for radical prostatectomy. Dr. Huynh's research interests include cancer survivorship and outcomes, as well as clinical trials.



**John Landau, MD, MSc, FRCSC**

**Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, Victoria Hospital**

Dr. John Landau received his medical degree at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. An alumnus of the vascular surgery residency program at the School, Dr. Landau also completed a fellowship in critical care medicine and successfully defended his MSc in Surgery thesis this fall. During his time at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Dr. Landau was selected for the School's Honour Society, the Robert K. Annett Award, the Kenneth A. Harris Vascular Surgery Award, and received research awards from the Canadian Society of Vascular Surgery and the Society for Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Landau's clinical and research interests include the use of point of care ultrasound in the care of perioperative patients, surgical education and competency based medical education, as well as advanced endovascular procedures.



# Surgery News

## New Faculty - continued



**Rahul Nayak, MD, FRCSC**

**Lecturer, Division of Thoracic Surgery, Victoria Hospital**

Dr. Rahul Nayak attended McMaster university completing his Honours Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Biotechnology. He obtained his MD from Queen's University and was awarded the Queen's Medal in Surgery. He subsequently went on to complete his general surgery residency at Queen's University. He then returned to McMaster University to complete his thoracic surgery residency. During this time at McMaster, Dr. Nayak harmonized the U.S, McMaster and French thoracic databases to pursue outcomes research in minimally invasive thoracic surgery. He was awarded the Society of Thoracic Surgeons/Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons travel scholarship to further his collaborative work between the organizations.

Dr. Nayak's research interests lie in the introduction of technological augmentation in thoracic surgery as well as population based outcomes research in thoracic diseases. He has published and presented nationally and internationally with ICES at Queen's University and looks forward to contributing to the group at Western University. He currently serves as a reviewer for the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* and the *Journal of Public Health and Disease Prevention*. Dr. Nayak is currently pursuing a MSc in Clinical Trials from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of London. His clinical interests include minimally invasive lung and esophageal surgery including robotic surgery and endoluminal interventions.



**Natashia Seemann, MD, MSc, FRCSC**

**Assistant Professor, Division of Paediatric Surgery, Victoria Hospital**

Dr. Natasha Seemann received her medical degree from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and completed her general surgery residency at the University of Toronto. A graduate of U of T's Surgeon Scientist Training Program and Clinician Investigator Program, she also received her Master of Science degree, with a specialization in surgical education.

Prior to joining the Department of Surgery, Dr. Seemann completed a pediatric surgery fellowship at IWK Children's Hospital, Dalhousie University. She received the Canadian Association of General Surgeons' Resident Award for Teaching Excellence, and was recognized for her research by the Association of Women Surgeons, the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Wilson Centre for Research in Healthcare Education, among others. Dr. Seemann has several articles published in the peer reviewed literature and has given nearly 30 presentations. Her research and clinical interests include pediatric surgical oncology, inflammatory bowel disease, and sociocultural issues in surgery.

**Ephraim Tang, MD, MSc, FRCSC**

**Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, University Hospital**

Dr. Ephraim Tang completed his medical degree and general surgery residency at Queen's University in Kingston, followed by a MSc in Clinical Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, and fellowships in hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery at Providence Portland Medical Center and abdominal transplant and hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery at London Health Sciences Centre. Dr. Tang also has a MSc in Immunology from the University of Toronto, has published several articles in the peer reviewed literature, and received various awards in recognition of his research efforts.

He is currently involved in two ongoing quality improvement projects, which focus on updating and streamlining care pathways for patients having major liver resection and patients undergoing pancreaticoduodenectomy. Since his arrival at LHSC, Dr. Tang has been spearheading the development of a minimally invasive Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary surgery program including laparoscopic major hepatectomy and pancreaticoduodenectomy.



## Academic Merit Awards recipients announced

Congratulations to this year's Merit Award recipients. The Department of Surgery's annual Academic Merit competition recognizes the outstanding achievements of faculty members throughout the past year in education, research, and service.

The awards also acknowledge each member's contributions to advancing the Department's mission and vision of elevating the health and well-being of patients regionally and globally through discovery, education and innovation, and providing leadership in forming the future of surgical care, research, and education.

### Teacher/Educator Merit Award

**Dr. James Howard**, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery  
**Dr. Rob Leeper**, Division of General Surgery  
**Dr. Christopher Schlachta**, Division of General Surgery  
**Dr. Julie Ann Van Koughnett**, Division of General Surgery  
**Dr. Peter Wang**, Division of Urology

### Researcher/Scientist Merit Award

**Dr. George Athwal**, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery  
**Dr. Brent Lanting**, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery  
**Dr. Kelly Vogt**, Division of General Surgery

### Service Merit Award

**Dr. Douglas Naudie**, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery  
**Dr. Hassan Razvi**, Division of Urology

## MSc in Surgery students successfully defend theses

Congratulations to the following MSc in Surgery students who successfully defended their MSc in Surgery thesis this fall!

**Dr. Joseph Cavanagh** – “Navigation and Patient Specific Instrumentation in Shoulder Arthroplasty”

**Dr. Katie Garland** – “Growth and Development Analysis of Unilateral Cleft Palate Patients at One, Five, and Ten Years”

**Dr. John Landau** – “Ultrasound-Guided Resuscitation in Open Aortic Surgery - The AORTUS Trial”

**Dr. Jance McGale** – “Biomechanical Analysis of Total Knee Arthroplasty Performed on a 6 Degree of Freedom Joint Motion Simulator Linked to a Virtual Ligament Model in Mechanical and Kinematic Alignments”

**Dr. Michael Pignanelli** – “The Effect of the mTOR Inhibitor Rapamycin on Calcium Oxalate Nephrolithiasis Formation in a Dietary Drosophila Melanogaster Model of Nephrolithiasis”

**Dr. Sahil Sidhu** – “Lateral Subvastus Lateralis Versus Medial Parapatellar Approach for Total Knee Arthroplasty”

**Dr. Patrick Wang** – “Potential Use of Carbon Monoxide as a Non-Surgical Intervention in a Rat Model of Acute Compartment Syndrome”

**Dr. Tishara Wijayanayaka** – “The Examination of Expectations in Day-Surgery Patients and the Development of a Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire for Day-Surgery Patients”

## Applications to the MSc in Surgery Program

Further details about the program are available on the Department of Surgery website at:

[https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/surgery/education/msc\\_in\\_surgery/index.html](https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/surgery/education/msc_in_surgery/index.html)

If you are interested in applying to the MSc in Surgery program, please see below for application deadlines and term start dates:

- Term Start: May 1, 2021  
Application deadline: January 15, 2021
- Term Start: September 1, 2021  
Application deadline: April 15, 2021.

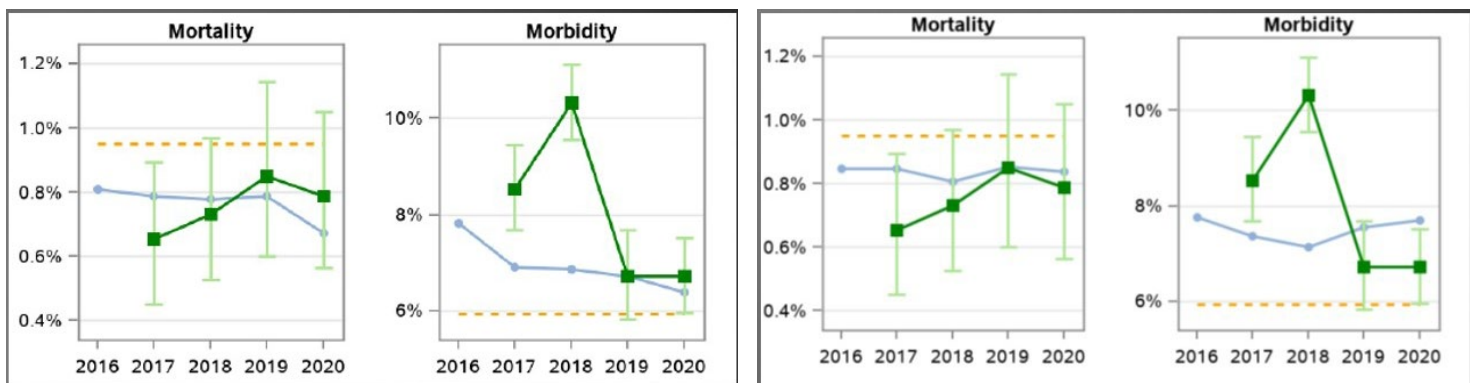
## Surgery Quality Council Update

The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®) has recognized London Health Sciences Centre's University Hospital as one of 89 ACS NSQIP® participating hospitals that have achieved meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care out of 719 hospitals. As a participant in ACS NSQIP®, University Hospital is required to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and collect data that assess patient safety and can be used to direct improvement in the quality of surgical care. Risk-adjusted data from the July 2020 ACS NSQIP Seminannual Report, which represents data from the 2019 calendar year, were used to determine which hospitals demonstrated meritorious outcomes. University Hospital has been recognized on both the "All Cases" and "High Risk" Meritorious lists. The 89 commended hospitals achieved the distinction based on their outstanding composite quality score across eight areas: mortality, unplanned intubation, ventilator > 48 hours, renal failure, cardiac incidents (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction), respiratory (pneumonia), surgical site infection, or urinary tract infection. This recognition demonstrates the efforts of the Surgery Quality Council and hospital staff in improving surgical patient care.

### UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S PROGRESSION SINCE 2016: MORTALITY REMAINING STABLE AND MORBIDITY DECREASING

UH vs Ontario

UH vs Canada



At the last Quality Council meeting, members discussed the new Perioperative Antimicrobial Prophylaxis guideline to provide consistency on agent, dosing, timing and duration of antibiotic prophylaxis. The full version of the guideline is available through the [LHSC Intranet, Programs & Services: Antimicrobial Stewardship, Clinical Pathways](#). This guideline is a part of an initiative to reduce surgical site infections.

The Quality Council is also focused on decreasing the use of Catheter Acquired Urinary Tract Infections hospital-wide with the "Bladder Matters Campaign". In addition to decreasing the number of occasions when catheterization is used, Quality Council members hope to decrease the duration of required catheterization, improve catheterization, improve catheter maintenance, and improve the approach to managing UTIs.

Work on reducing the prescription of opioids continues, known as the Cut the Count campaign, with London Health Sciences Centre's Children's Hospital achieving a reduction in opioid prescriptions for children of more than 75%. In the New Year, Dr. Jennifer Lam and Dr. Julie Strychowsky will be co-chairing the role of Surgeon Champion for Paediatric Surgery.

ACS NSQIP Semiannual Reports are reviewed biannually through Quality Council Representatives per each division, and summary reports are sent to the Chair/Chief of Surgery and hospital leaders. Reports should then be reviewed with respective members looking for opportunities for improvement. The general timeline for quality improvement projects begins in late summer when annual plans are developed, followed by project implementation in the fall, and a review of results in July. For access to SAR data and project support, please contact [Celia Dann](#).

# Research News

## Dr. Andrew Simpson named Scilley Scholar



Dr. Andrew Simpson, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, was announced as the inaugural recipient of the Scilley Scholar Award.

Established with funds donated by Dr. Christopher G. Scilley, Professor Emeritus, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, the award is in support of the scholarly pursuits of junior faculty in the areas of post-traumatic lower limb reconstruction, breast

reconstruction, microsurgery, or skin cancer treatment.

Dr. Simpson is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon with a subspecialty interest in complex lower extremity reconstruction. The generous funds from this award will be used to support a comprehensive population-based analysis of open fracture treatment in Ontario. The work will evaluate disparities in treatment for rural patients and the role of multidisciplinary care and early referral to trauma centres. It is the hope that this work will form the foundation for coordinated management of patients with devastating lower limb trauma.

## Surgery Research Day 2020 Highlights

The Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day was held on November 11, 2020, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and concluding at 6:45 p.m.

Due to the current circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held virtually with 227 people joining the webinar. Surgery residents from nearly all department divisions and representing each of the four research nodes gave five minute presentations discussing their research papers.

The second half of the event included faculty speakers from each research node (Surgical Education, ICES, Quality Improvement & Patient Centered, Fundamental Sciences & Surgical Innovation) providing updates on ongoing research projects. The evening concluded with the interactive Faculty & Resident Dragon's Den Sessions.

### RESEARCH DAY AWARD WINNERS

#### Walker Resident Research Day Award

**Dr. Farhad Ghasemi**, "High Levels of Class I Major Histocompatibility Complex mRNA are Present in Epstein-Barr Virus Associated Gastric Adenocarcinomas"

#### Resident Dragon's Den

**Dr. Kitty Wu**, "Trapezius Function After Spinal Accessory to Suprascapular Nerve Transfer"

**Dr. Jeremy Cepek**, "Surgeons-Eye View: Development of an Eye-Tracking System to Enhance Surgical Education"

#### Faculty Dragon's Den

**Drs. Andreanna Butter & Peter Wang**, "Consent: The Use of Animated Videos as Adjuncts for Pediatric Surgeries"

**Dr. Parham Rasoulinejad**, "A Novel 3D-Printed Design of the Spine"

## CERI team receives funding of \$150,000 from SSHRC

Dr. Mark Goldszmidt (CERI scientist) and team recently received a tri-council funding of \$150 000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for the grant titled: *A Study of What Time-Space Reveals About How Different Configurations of Practice Shape Learning*. His team, that includes Drs. **Sayra Cristancho** (CERI/DOS), Sandy DeLuca (CERI/Fanshaw Nursing), **Michael Ott** (DOS), Erin Spicer (DOS) and PhD(c) Alena Tarasavich, will be exploring how similar teams configure their practices differently to achieve educational and clinical priorities. By focusing on Time-Space as a unit of analysis, they hope to uncover differences in practice configurations that can lead to meaningful debate around how we use time and space and the challenges faced by teams as they navigate academic practice and the, at times, inherent tensions that arise between clinical practice and education. The study, which will take place over 2 years, will include both surgical and medical contexts so as to seek opportunities for learning from each other.

## Funding competitions and scholarship awards

### CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)

**Matthew Teeter**, Scientist and Assistant Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Richard Tremblay, "Evaluation of cementless fixation for total knee replacement using radiostereometric analysis and magnetic resonance imaging" \$100,000

### CTA-UWO FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

**Vivian McAlister**, Professor, General Surgery  
**Tina Mele**, Associate Professor, General Surgery  
**Julie Ann Van Koughnett**, Assistant Professor, General Surgery

This funding opportunity is provided to members of the Clinical Teachers Association (CTA) at Western University, to support their professional development. This contest is open to CTA Members for development courses, projects or other interests, that will enhance the member's or their department's ability in teaching, administration or other proven professional development.

### INTUITIVE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT

**Jeffrey Hawel**, Assistant Professor, General Surgery  
"Colonoscopy Force Sensing Sleeve (CSTAR)" \$60,000

### ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA ASSOCIATION (OTA)

**Emil Schemitsch**, Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery,  
"Primary Ankle Arthrodesis versus Open Reduction and Internal Fixation for Fragility Fractures Around the Ankle in the Frail Elderly: A Prospective, Randomized, Multi-Center, Clinical Trial" \$79,890

**Abdel Rahman-Lawendy**, Associate Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, "Possible Therapeutic Application of CORM-3-Derived Carbon Monoxide (CO) In Acute Limb Compartment Syndrome" \$20,000

### OTA/SMITH & NEPHEW

**Emil Schemitsch** and Michael McKee, "The Development and Preliminary Assessment of a Patient-Reported Functional Outcome Measure for Proximal Humerus Fracture Patients" \$ 79,917

### SCOLIOSIS RESEARCH SOCIETY

**Parham Rasoulinejad**, Assistant Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, "Effect of Mixing Dissimilar Metals On Serum Metal Ion Levels And Spinal Implant Performance In Adolescent Idio-pathic Scoliosis And Neuromuscular Scoliosis." \$50,000

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (NIH)

**Alan Getgood**, Associate Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, James J Irrgang, **Dianne Bryant**, Associate Professor, cross-appointed to Orthopaedic Surgery, and Volker Musahl, "Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction Using Bone Patellar Bone or Quad Tendon Autograft With or Without Lateral Extra-Articular Tenodesis in Individuals Who Are at High Risk of Graft Failure (STABILITY 2)" \$3,200,000

### SOCIETY OF AMERICAN GASTROINTESTINAL AND ENDOSCOPIC SURGEONS (SAGES) BRANDEIS AWARD

**Christopher Schlachta**, Professor, General Surgery  
The purpose of this scholarship is to promote individuals as leaders in medicine. The Brandeis course trains clinical leaders in healthcare policy and management, and provides healthcare professionals with the skills essential to creating innovative and sustainable solutions to improve the quality, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of healthcare service delivery.

### WESTERN RESEARCH CATALYST GRANT

**David Holdsworth**, Scientist and Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, "Emergency Ventilator System Using Additive Manufacturing" \$49,700

## Education News

CONFÉRENCE CANADIENNE POUR L'AVANCEMENT DE L'ÉDUCATION CHIRURGICALE



CANADIAN CONFERENCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SURGICAL EDUCATION

### C-CASE update

The second annual Canadian Conference for the Advancement of Surgical Education (C-CASE) occurred virtually on October 29 and 30, 2020. The conference was well attended with over 160 participants from all surgical specialties across the country. Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, CEO of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, provided an informative opening address entitled "Learning Amidst Chaos: A Tale of Resilience and Grit". Additional guest speakers such as Dr. Dimick (University of Michigan) reviewed video analysis and peer coaching improving surgical performance, Dr. Talarico (University of Toronto) discussed virtual teaching and learning while Dr. Rudzicz (University of Toronto) provided an excellent overview of machine learning in the operating room. Surgeons and trainees presented original research on various UGE and PGE topics, such as simulation, innovative surgical education, surgeon well-being and mentorship, and CBME. Finally, award winning surgical resident research presentations from each centre in Canada occurred during the Golden Scalpel session. Plan to attend C-CASE 2021 on September 30 and October 1, 2021!

### Congratulations to the class of 2020

#### General Surgery

Alexandra Istl  
Martina Mudri  
Elaine Tang  
Lucy Yang

#### Thoracic Surgery

Jessica Coffey

#### Urology

Harmenjit Brar  
Roderick Clark

#### Orthopaedic Surgery

Charles Dion  
Clayton Inculet  
Alicia Kerrigan  
Adam Ropchan

#### Vascular Surgery

Danielle Dion

#### Plastic Surgery & Reconstructive Surgery

Jessica Truong

### Western Surgery Interest Group

The Undergraduate Surgery Interest Group, led by Meds 2023 student Ma Burke and his executive team, are providing year 1 and 2 medical students with teaching and information sessions online with our faculty and residents this year, in the hopes to still connect pre-clerkship students with our faculty and residents who are interested in a career in Surgery.

Various "Why Surgery?" information sessions were provided by faculty from most specialties this fall, as well as skills sessions with residents via Zoom.

The resident-student mentorship program will also be re-started over the next couple of months.

In the spring, they will be coordinating a speed meeting event where residents answer questions from pre-clerkship students on their surgery specialties.

## Meds 49 Award Winners



Congratulations to General Surgery residents, Dr. Nathalie Carey and Dr. Ge Shil. Dr. Carey, PGY 5, is the recipient of the Meds 49 Award for undergraduate teaching by a

senior resident for 2019-2020, and Dr. Shi, PGY 1, is the recipient of the Meds 49 Award by a junior resident. This is an award that recognizes the top resident teacher in all Departments of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

## Supporting gender equity in surgery

Dr. Leandra Stringer, PGY 4, Division of Urology, presented at the Surgical Ethics Fall Session on the topic of Gender Disparity in Surgery, highlighting efforts within the Department of Surgery to encourage a supportive and equitable environment. Dr. Stringer's work is one of a number of projects being carried out on this subject in the Department by several residents and faculty members in various divisions.

At the Department level, efforts are being carried out by the Department of Surgery Gender, Equity, and Diversity Committee. Chaired by Drs. Muriel Brackstone, Professor, Division of General Surgery, and Dr. Douglas Ross, Professor, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, the Committee aims to assist undergraduate students, residents, and faculty in ensuring positive and supportive personal, academic, and work environments.

Seeking to establish the Department of Surgery at Western as a national leader in this area, the Committee will focus on identifying structural and systemic barriers and collaborate with members at all levels of the university and hospital to modify these barriers and enhance equity and fairness for all.

Another priority for the Committee is to provide opportunities for encouraging scholarship in the field of gender & equity studies through guest lectures, Master's of Surgery thesis projects, collaboration with other groups such as the Centre for Research & Innovation, Canadian national surgical societies, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The first event will take place on February 19, 2021 with a keynote lecture to be given by Royal College CEO Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, and another event is being planned for later in the spring.

## Cold Steel Podcast

With topics ranging from surgical education to burn care, HPB surgery, the surgery - anesthesia relationship, career development and more, the *Canadian Journal of Surgery's* podcast, *Cold Steel*, highlights the best research Canadian surgeons of all specialties are working on.

Past episodes have featured Canadian Undergraduate Surgical Education Committee (CUSEC) Chair Dr. Andreana Bütter, Associate Professor in the Division of Paediatric Surgery, discussing undergraduate surgical education with former CUSEC Chair Dr. Geoffrey Blair; Dr. Neil Parry, Site Chief of Surgery at Victoria Hospital, Professor in the Division of General Surgery, discussing trauma care in one episode and the impact of COVID-19 on surgeons in another episode, and Dr. Kelly Vogt, Department of Surge Research Committee Chair, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, discussing acute care surgery service.

For a full list of episodes and more information, please visit:  
<https://canjsurg.ca/podcasts>

## Coming Events

### Women in Surgery Keynote Lecture

February 19, 2021

7:00 A.M.

Zoom Webinar

Topic: Thriving in Surgery — Is Grit Enough?

Guest speaker: Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS, FRCSC

Professor of Surgery, Chief Executive Officer / Directrice Générale

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

[Register online](#)

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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: **[Surgery\\_E-CAST@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Surgery_E-CAST@lhsc.on.ca)**, or call **519.646.6100 ext. 34776**

**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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