

DEPARTMENT OF Surgery Newsletter

Fall 2021

PHYSICIAN WELLNESS: LET'S ACT NOW

SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE
CANADIAN UROLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION JOURNAL,
EDITED BY DR. ALP SENER,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
CHAIR/CHIEF, DIVISION OF
UROLOGY. DETAILS ON PAGE 2.

Chair's Column

Dear Colleagues:

After a summer of shocking events, I would like to reflect on our connections and ideals as an academic and clinical community in London, Ontario. The heartbreak of the Salman-Afzaal family's murder brought thousands together, committed to eliminating hatred and Islamophobia in our community. The shock and grief of the discovery of unmarked graves at Residential School sites – now over 1,300 and counting – brought thousands more to stand with our Indigenous brethren, to demand truth, justice, and reconciliation. And most recently, the appalling revelations of gender and sexual violence brought loud calls for action in supporting survivors and to create a safe and inclusive university culture.

While these gatherings speak loudly in reaction to a specific time, place, and circumstance, they also tell me that the London of today refuses to be complacent. We turn our heads towards correcting injustice; we turn our hearts towards supporting each other; and we open our eyes to recognition of prejudice and bias, in academia, health care, and society. However, social justice does not occur only in crowds. It is also in each person's everyday choices, actions,

and words. For that reason, I encourage everyone to participate in our Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion events and educational opportunities. Seek out wellness supports. Speak up when you face or witness oppression and injustice. Live our values. We all have something to gain personally and professionally when we listen, learn, and connect.

As the weather starts to cool and the leaves turn towards brilliant autumn colours, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

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



Surgery News

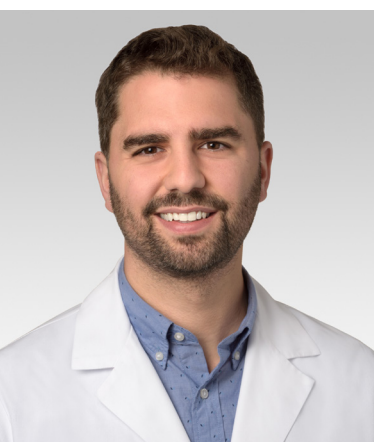
Dr. Supriya Singh joins the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at Victoria Hospital



Dr. Supriya Singh joined the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at London Health Sciences Centre's Victoria Hospital earlier this month as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Singh is an alumni of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, having completed her Doctor of Medicine degree and Orthopaedic Surgery residency training at the School. After graduating Dr. Singh attended the University of British Columbia, where she received a graduate certificate in Global Surgical Care and completed fellowships in Adult and Paediatric Spine Surgery.

She has received numerous awards in recognition of her contributions to research, community service, and resident education. Most recently, Dr. Singh was honoured with the Alumni of Distinction Award for Community Service by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry for her tremendous academic achievements and global humanitarian work.

Dr. David Drullinsky joins the Division of Cardiac Surgery at University Hospital



Dr. David Drullinsky, Lecturer, joined the Division of Cardiac Surgery, Department of Surgery, at Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University, on August 1, 2021. Dr. Drullinsky graduated with his MD from Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile in 2010. He then completed his cardiac surgery residency training at McGill University in Montreal, QC in June 2019. He went on to complete a 2-year fellowship in mechanical circulatory support and heart transplantation at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois in June 2021.

Dr. Drullinsky's practice is based at London Health Sciences Centre's University Hospital and will encompass all areas of general cardiac surgery, specializing in advanced heart failure surgery, specifically mechanical support, including temporary and durable ventricular assist devices, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and heart transplantation. His research interests include mechanical circulatory support and heart transplantation.

Special CUAJ issue — Physician Wellness: Let's Act Now

A special issue on physician burnout was recently published in the [Canadian Journal of Urology](#). Edited by Dr. Alp Sener, Associate Professor and Chair/Chief of the Division of Urology, this special issue covers several themes around physician burnout with contributions from a wide range of international authors (MBAs, academic surgeons, residents, community consultants) and Schulich's Peers for Peers program team led by Dr. Leslie Scott, Professor Emeritus, Division of Paediatric Surgery.

Dr. Audra Duncan receives Presidential Citation from the Society for Vascular Surgery

Dr. Audra Duncan, Professor and Chair/Chief, Vascular Surgery, was selected to receive the Presidential Citation award from the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS). The Presidential Citation is an honor bestowed on individuals who have made significant contributions to the SVS, and each individual is personally selected by the current SVS President.

Canadian Orthopaedic Association's Gender Diversity Task Force

Orthopaedic surgery has the lowest percentage of female surgeons among surgical disciplines in Canada. In 1968, the percentage of practicing female orthopaedic surgeons was a mere 0.9%. By 2018 this percentage grew to 11.2%. Considering that at least half of medical school graduates are female, this remains far below the expected number of women entering orthopaedics. Many barriers have been identified that account for the difficulty in attracting women into orthopaedics as well as in advancing women into leadership roles. Implicit bias negatively affects all aspects of women's orthopaedic surgery careers and has been implicated in the challenge of attracting women to orthopaedic surgery, optimizing career development for women, gender pay inequities, and the lack of leadership opportunities.

Drs. Chloe Cadieux and Kristen Barton (PGY3 orthopaedic surgery residents at Western University) are two members of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association's Gender Diversity Task Force. The key strategies of the task force for ensuring diversity in the Canadian Orthopaedic Association and within Canadian orthopaedics include the following:

1. Build and maintain a diverse workforce through recruitment, increasing opportunities, and strategic initiatives to increase diversity
2. Cultivate and support an inclusive culture and environment in orthopaedics
3. Increase diversity in leadership positions within the organisation
4. Expand infrastructure and support for diversity initiatives
5. Develop partnerships and reputation by aligning with similar organisations
6. Respond to the needs of members
7. Communicate and disseminate information specific to diversity
8. Support quality research into diversity development and challenges
9. Encourage the collection of research data that includes diverse groups
10. Establish accountability within COA and subspecialty groups to implement diversity strategies
11. Measure the progress of the strategic initiatives that have been implemented, at regular intervals



**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: DRs. KRISTEN BARTON AND CHLOE CADIEUX
BELOW: DRs. CADIEUX (LEFT) AND BARTON (RIGHT) IN THE OPERATING ROOM.**



Under the supervision of Dr. Laurie Hiemstra (Canadian Orthopaedic Association President-Elect), the Canadian Orthopaedic Association's Gender-Diversity Strategic Plan provides key strategies and practical actions to promote and advance gender equity within Canadian orthopaedics. Drs. Cadieux and Barton have been involved in developing position statements to support the task force and contributing to qualitative studies to identify barriers to women applying and obtaining travelling fellowship positions. This research will be used to help create a more inclusive application process and increase diversity in these elite opportunities.

Education News

Division of General Surgery Awards

The Division of General Surgery held their virtual graduation ceremony on June 19, 2021. Congratulations to all graduates and the following award winners:

FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS

Dr. Brad Moffat, JH Duff Award

Dr. Daryl Gray, Faculty Mentorship Award

RESIDENT AWARDS

Dr. Tanya Kuper, George Edgar Meads Teaching Award for: Excellence in Technical Ability and Teaching

Dr. Robin Ralph-Edwards, David Michael Grace Award: Excellence in Clinical Care

Dr. Jennifer Koichopolos, Ron Holliday Award

Division of Urology Awards

The Division of Urology held their annual JK Wyatt Urology Residents Research Day on June 4, 2021 and the following awards were presented:

FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS

Dr. Hassan Razvi, Division of Urology Residents' Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Karim Marzouk, Division of Urology Residents' Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award

RESIDENT AWARDS

Dr. Carolyn MacLeod, PGY1, Best Resident Presentation, JK Wyatt Urology Residents Research Day

Dr. Dor Golomb, Best Fellow Presentation, JK Wyatt Urology Residents Research Day

Dr. Jeffrey Law, Most Valuable Resident

FELLOW AWARDS

Dr. Fernanda Gabrigna-Berto, Most Valuable Fellow Award

Mother, Surgeon, and Scientist: Choosing All Three

Dr. Kristen Barton is currently an Adjunct Professor at both Western University and the University of Calgary, in addition to completing her orthopaedic surgery residency at Western University. Dr. Barton is also currently completing a post-graduate surgical leadership certificate through Harvard University. She was invited to write a chapter in a book from the best-selling series *You've Got This, Mama* called *You've Got This, Boss Mama* that was published April 2020 (available on Amazon and at Chapters/Indigo). The book is a collaboration of individual stories from 18 co-authors that focuses on nuances of career and merit in motherhood. Dr. Barton's chapter details intentionally choosing to become a mother, surgeon, and scientist. She talks about becoming a mother during medical school, the demands of the medical/surgical culture, both mom-guilt and partner-guilt, and work-life integration. To find out more about Dr. Barton, *You've Got This, Boss Mama*, or her most recently published book chapter in *You've Got This, Modern Mama* (September 2020), please click here:

kristenbarton.com/books/



Dr. Mehdi Qiabi successfully defends MSc in Surgery thesis

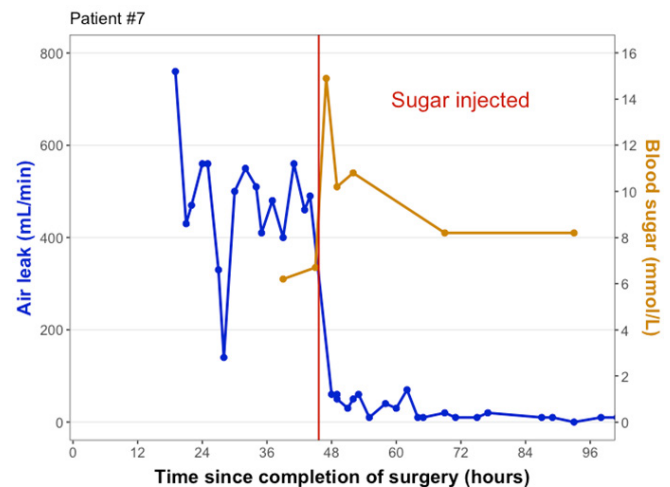


Dr. Mehdi Qiabi successfully defended his Master's thesis entitled PLeurodesis Using hypertonic Glucose administration to treat post-operative air leaks following lung resection surgery (PLUG): Phase I trial on March 16, 2021 under the supervision of Dr. Richard Malthaner. His thesis was published in the Western Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Repository, which can be accessed here: <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/7773/>. Dr. Qiabi will be awarded his MSc in Surgery at Western University at Spring Convocation.

His study, performed at LHSC throughout the past year, consisted of injecting a sugar solution into the chest of patients who had not fully healed after surgery for cancer. The goal was to decrease air leak from the

surgical site enabling patients to go home sooner. This novel method was well tolerated and showed promise as a safe and effective future management of air leaks. The next step will be to continue the work on a larger scale. Dr. Qiabi's work will be presented at the European Society of Thoracic Surgeon's annual meeting in June 2021.

The graph on the right shows the decrease in the air leak (blue line) after the sugar was injected on a patient. The blood sugar increased and went back to normal within a few hours with no consequence.



Dr. Jeffrey Campbell receives MPH and Clinical Trials certificate



Congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Campbell, Assistant Professor, Division of Urology, on recently graduating from the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

For his capstone project titled, "Postoperative use of opioids after minor urologic surgery", Dr. Campbell focused on opioid reduction after urologic surgery. Additionally, Dr. Campbell also completed the Clinical Trials Certificate Program at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Campbell is also a recipient of the Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Fund. His application, "The evolving role of botulinum neurotoxin as a treatment for erectile dysfunction" was approved for funding in the CUASF Early Investigator Research Scholarship Grant competition. The award is in the amount of \$50,000.

Education News

2020-21 Surgery Clerkship Teaching Awards

At the end of their surgery clerkship, clerks have the opportunity to nominate the faculty and resident teachers who have made a positive impact on their learning.

The Surgery Clerkship Teaching Awards are voted by the clinical clerks in recognition of outstanding faculty and resident teaching at both the London and Windsor sites. Congratulations to all recipients!



Overall Division Award Winners

Cardiac Surgery

Residents: Dr. Mohammed Tarabzoni

Faculty: Dr. Michael Chu

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Resident: Dr. Spencer Chambers

Faculty: Dr. Caitlin Symonette

General Surgery

Resident: Dr. Muneeb Mohammed

Faculty: Dr. Julie Ann Van Koughnett

Thoracic Surgery

Resident: Dr. Alexander Ednie

Faculty: Dr. Richard Malthaner

Orthopaedic Surgery

Resident: Dr. Lukas Hashem

Faculty: Dr. Ken Faber

Urology

Resident: Dr. Haider Abed

Faculty: Dr. Alp Sener

Paediatric Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Natasha Seemann

Vascular Surgery

Resident: Dr. Shane Smith

Faculty: Dr. Adam Power

London Surgery Clerkship Faculty Award for Excellence in Surgical Education

Dr. Julie Ann Van Koughnett

Dr. Murray Girotti Teaching Award

Dr. Muneeb Mohammed

Community General Surgery Faculty Award for Excellence in Surgical Education

Dr. Rob Black, St. Thomas

Overall Selective Departmental Winners

Paediatric Neurosurgery

Faculty: Dr. Adrianna Ranger

Ophthalmology

Resident: Dr. Fady Sedarous

Faculty: Dr. Yiannis Iordanous

Neurosurgery

Resident: Dr. Burnett Johnston

Faculty: Dr. Mel Boulton

Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

Resident: Dr. James Fowler

Faculty: Dr. Kathryn Roth

Windsor Surgery Clerkship Faculty Award for Excellence in Surgical Education

Dr. Maher Sabalbal, Vascular Surgeon

Overall Division Award Winners Per Windsor Service

General Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Vladislav Khokhotva

Plastic Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Kristina Lutz

Neurosurgery

Faculty: Dr. Abdurrahim Elashaal

Thoracic Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Abdusalam Elalem

Ophthalmology

Faculty: Dr. Barry Emara

Urology

Faculty: Dr. Tom Deklaj

Orthopaedic Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Stuart Bisland

Vascular Surgery

Faculty: Dr. Maher Sabalbal

Otolaryngology

Faculty: Dr. Ali Hilal

Research News

Node 4: Quality Improvement & Patient Centered Research



E. O. Wilson, in his 1998 tome, “Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge,” decried modern science as a sense of unity gradually was lost in the increasing fragmentation and specialization of knowledge. Surgeon scientists looking to make a positive impact in their field must keep this silo-ization phenomenon in mind. Collaborations forged across disciplines often research topics in new, innovative, and interesting ways.

It is an honour to introduce a collaborator and friend to the Department of Surgery. Dr. Michael Haan, a demographer in the faculty of Sociology, is the Director of Western’s Research Data Center (RDC). The RDC houses all the Statistics Canada databases. Up until recently, the databases were too fragmented and difficult to link to make any significant inroads into health research. Fortunately, there is a massive ongoing effort by Statistic Canada to link many different and interesting databases to make them more useful to researchers. As an introduction to the types of data that can be accessed and analyzed, Dr. Haan and I have collaborated on a few different projects. These have been both rewarding and surprisingly easy to conceive and carry out, utilizing Dr. Haan’s varied expertise. Due to the initial success, Dr. Haan is willing to work with members of our department to explore new ways of using the datasets.

The data dictionaries and explanations of the datasets are mind boggling. The following link listing only the health databases will give an idea of the depth and vast potential opportunities: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/type/data?subject_levels=13. In order to demonstrate the types of projects that can be completed, I am listing the publications our collaboration has produced in a very short time frame:

- Tajzler C, Tanguay S, Mallick R, Ahrens B, Ly TL, Breau RH, Basappa NS, Kapoor A, Heng DY, Pouliot F, Finelli A, Lavallée LT, So AI, Drachenberg DE, Soulières D, Bjarnason GA, Richard PO, Maloni R, Power NE, Haan M, Wood LA. Determining generalizability of the Canadian Kidney Cancer information

system (CKCis) to the entire Canadian kidney cancer population. *Can Urol Assoc J.* 2020 Oct;14(10):E499-E506. doi: 10.5489/cuaj.6716. PMID: 33275557; PMCID: PMC7716824.

- Stringer L, Ly TL, Moreno NV, Hewitt C, Haan M, Power N. Assessing geographic and industry-related trends in bladder cancer in Ontario: A population-based study. *Can Urol Assoc J.* 2021 Sep 24. doi: 10.5489/cuaj.7263. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34582334.
- Lavi A, Clark R, Ly TL, Nair SM, Hetou K, Haan M, Power NE. Long-term Testis Cancer Survivors in Canada-Mortality Risks in a Large Population-based Cohort. *Eur Urol Open Sci.* 2020 Nov 20;22:54-60. doi: 10.1016/j.euros.2020.10.005. PMID: 34337478; PMCID: PMC8317812.
- Noah Stern, Tina Luu Ly, Blayne Welk, Joseph Chin, Dale Ballucci, Michael Haan, Nicholas Power. The impact of ethnicity on prostate cancer in Canada. Submitted to *JAMA Open* Sept 2021.

Any surgeon researchers who would like to explore how these data might be useful for your specialty, please do not hesitate to reach out to me (Nicholas.power@lhsc.on.ca) or Dr. Michael Haan (mhaan2@uwo.ca).

~Contributed by Node Co-Chair, Dr. Nicholas Power

Lawson Internal Research Fund Spring 2021



Congratulations to Drs. Jennifer Bjazevic and Rahul Nayak on their success in the Lawson IRF Spring 2021 competition:

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic, Assistant Professor, Division of Urology, "Relationship of microbiota menaquinone (Vitamin K2) production and urolithiasis" \$14,885.



Dr. Rahul Nayak, Lecturer, Division of Thoracic Surgery, "The Development of a Novel Same Day Discharge Program after Pulmonary Resection: A Safety and Feasibility Pilot Study" \$14,027

Drs. George Athwal and Matthew Teeter receive Charles S. Neer Award



Congratulations to Drs. George Athwal, Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Matthew Teeter, Associate Professor & Scientist, cross-appointed to Orthopaedic Surgery, on receiving the Charles S. Neer award from the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES) Foundation in recognition of their outstanding clinical research project titled, "BIO-RSA versus Metal Augments in Reverse Shoulder Arthroplasty: A Prospective, Randomized Clinical Trial with Two-year Follow-up." Dr. Teeter also received funding from the Canadian Foundation for

Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) for his project, "Optical coordinate measuring device to quantify wear of orthopaedic implants."

Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation Research Awards

Congratulations to Orthopaedic Surgery members Drs. Brent Lanting, Associate Professor, Matthew Teeter, Associate Professor, Cross-Appointed to Orthopaedic Surgery, and Alan Getgood, Associate Professor.

Drs. Lanting and Teeter received a Canadian Orthopaedic Research Legacy (CORL) Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for their project, "Hybrid PET/MRI imaging of joint stiffness in total knee arthroplasty". Orthopaedic Research Legacy (CORL) Award.

Dr. Getgood received the J. Édouard Samson Award (\$30,000 in funding) for his project, "Anterolateral augmentation of ACL Reconstruction".



Coming Events

Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day

November 11, 2021 (afternoon)

Virtual Event

Guest speaker: Chad Ball, MD, FRCSC

Department of Surgery Virtual Grand Rounds

December 15, 2021

Grand Rounds presentation at 5:00 p.m.

Resident session TBC

Guest speaker: Nadine Caron, BSc, MD, MPh, FRCSC

The Western Surgery
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All members of the Department are invited to submit story ideas, articles, photos, or comments for the winter issue. Please send them to: **Surgery_E-CAST@lhsc.on.ca**, or call **519.646.6100 ext. 34776**

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