

# DEPARTMENT OF Surgery Newsletter

Spring 2021



## Chair's Column

Dear colleagues:

Now in the third wave of COVID-19, and perhaps the worst thus far, I recognize the toll this has taken on our members, both personally and professionally. Though exhausted and fearful for ourselves and our families, our leaders and members have continued to work tirelessly to support clinical care, education, and research. This last leg of the journey will no doubt be the most challenging. I ask each of you to recognize your humanity – in an environment we hope never again to see in our lifetimes – and let it be a compass to guide your connection with others: be kind, be understanding, and ask for help when you need it.

It is with this in mind that I would like to spend a moment to recognize Dr. Leslie Scott. Dr. Scott retires from Western and the Hospitals after 12 years

of service as the Division Chair/Chief of Paediatric Surgery. She broke new ground for this young Division, unifying clinical resources, guiding recruitment, and building cohesion among a diverse group of surgeons. More recently, Dr. Scott has led the Department's efforts in wellness in collaboration with the Schulich Faculty Wellness team. This has come at a critical time in the life of the Department. I know her personal recruitment of faculty wellbeing leads as well as her own thoughtful



contributions to wellness have been instrumental in supporting many people. Dr. Scott's legacy is the strength she has built in the functioning of her Division academically and clinically; but perhaps more importantly, in the relationships she has helped forge across the Academic Health Sciences Centre.

Please join me in wishing Dr. Scott a happy, healthy retirement and to congratulate Dr. Andreana Bütter on her appointment as Division Chair/Chief, Paediatric Surgery, effective May 1, 2021. The full announcement can be seen on page two.

Sincerely,

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

## Surgery News

### Dr. Andreanna Bütter appointed Chair/Chief, Division of Paediatric Surgery



Dr. Andreanna Bütter was appointed Chair/Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, effective May 1, 2021 for a five-year term.

Dr. Bütter completed medical school at the University of Ottawa and General Surgery residency at Western University. During residency, she also pursued a year of research at the Montreal Children's Hospital in fetal surgery and congenital diaphragmatic hernia, which culminated in a Master of Science degree from McGill University in 2001. After residency, she returned to Montreal for a Pediatric Surgery

fellowship at Sainte Justine Hospital (Université de Montréal). In 2005, she joined the Division of Pediatric Surgery and the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital (LHSC) as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery. In 2012, she was promoted to Associate Professor, and in 2020 to full Professor, becoming one of the first female Professors of Surgery at Western University.

In 2018, Dr. Bütter was elected Chair of the Canadian Undergraduate Surgical Education Committee (CUSEC) and became Chair and founding member of the Canadian Conference for the Advancement of Surgical Education (C-CASE). She has been the Vice-Chair of the Pediatric Surgery Board Examination Committee at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada since 2019 and was previously member of the Pediatric Surgery Specialty Committee. She also serves as the faculty lead for numerous Schulich Medicine & Dentistry groups. Dr. Bütter has received funding from the AMOSO Innovation Fund, the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons, and most recently received a Collaborative Research Seed Grant from Schulich Medicine & Dentistry. Her clinical and research areas of interest include congenital diaphragmatic hernia, bracing for pectus carinatum, nonoperative management of appendicitis and minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Bütter helped to develop the first Canadian Robotic Pediatric Surgery Program and she is a member of the Canadian Consortium for Research in Pediatric Surgery (CanCORPS) and the Pediatric Surgical Oncology Research Collaborative (PSORC).

Dr. Bütter succeeds Dr. Leslie Scott, who has led the Division of Pediatric Surgery for more than 10 years. Under Dr. Scott's leadership, the Division has grown substantially since its early beginnings. Bringing together a group of 20 members from eight sub-specialties, Dr. Scott fostered an inclusive, collaborative and diverse membership which has been instrumental to its success. The Division is proud to provide high quality surgical care to the children in our community as well as being leaders in surgical education and research.

Spring 2021

### UME Leadership Appointments effective May 1, 2021

#### **Dr. Debra Bartley appointed Associate Director of Surgical Education – UGE**

Reporting to the Chair of the Department of Surgery, this is a key leadership role to oversee undergraduate education activities in the Department. Dr. Bartley completed medical school at the University of Toronto and an orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Manitoba. Upon completing her residency training, she received further training in paediatric orthopaedic surgery and orthopaedic sports medicine through fellowships at Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre and the Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic. She joined the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor in 2006, and was promoted to Associate Professor in July 2015.

#### **Dr. Sarah Knowles appointed Clerkship Coordinator, Victoria Hospital**

Teaching is a key element in our success as national and global leaders in surgical training, and this role will continue to develop under Dr. Knowles' leadership. Dr. Knowles completed her medical degree and general surgery residency at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, where she received the Dr. Ron Holliday Resident Award in Surgical Professionalism. She has a Master of Science degree in Health Research Methodology from McMaster University. She is Chair of the Breast MDT Board and is involved in several research projects focusing on the treatment of breast disease and improved patient satisfaction. She joined the Division of General Surgery in 2019 as an Assistant Professor, and holds a cross-appointment in the Department of Oncology's Division of Surgical Oncology.

## Dr. Vivian McAlister gives virtual Charter Day lecture for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Dr. Vivian McAlister, Professor, Division of General Surgery, gave the Charter Day Lecture, an annual lecture commemorating the foundation of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). More than 2,000 surgeons from around the world joined the virtual meeting of the RCSI, celebrating the granting of Royal Charter to the College in 1784 ([RCSI, February 5, 2021](#)).

Dr. McAlister served in the Canadian Forces Health Services (CFHS) as a combat surgeon, receiving the John McCrae Memorial Award in 2019 from the [Canadian Medical Association](#) in recognition of his service and contributions.

For his video lecture entitled, “Kandahar to Canada”, Lieutenant Colonel McAlister reflected on how his training as a transplant surgeon shaped his experiences in treating a multitude of traumatic injuries encountered in warzones and disaster zones such as the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.



Dr. McAlister's moving and thoughtful lecture is available to watch on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/4H0HUow9-2w>.

## Research in 90sec's

Dr. Sayra Cristancho, Associate Professor and Scientist, Department of Surgery and CERI, recently launched *Research in 90sec* (<https://researchin90sec.podbean.com/>), a podcast that explores the “so what?” of research.

In each episode Dr. Cristancho unpacks research on health care, patient stories, hospital admissions, chronic pain and more in just 90 seconds. In addition to Podbean, the podcast is also available in Apple Podcast and Spotify.

## HMS Surgical Leadership Program

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Ott, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, on being selected as a top 10 finalist in Harvard Medical School's Surgical Leadership Program's Top 10 Capstones list. For the capstone project, candidates are required to develop a proposal based on original research and then give a three-minute pitch to Harvard faculty.

## OTA 2020 Highlight Papers

Congratulations to Dr. Emil Schemitsch, Professor and Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery, on having four papers selected by the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA) Annual Program Committee as top papers presented at the 2020 OTA Virtual Annual Meeting. The four Highlight Papers were:

- *Simple Decompression Versus Anterior Transposition of the Ulnar Nerve for Distal Humerus Fractures Treated With Plate Fixation: Secondary Outcomes of a Randomized Trial*
- *Venous Thromboembolism in Hip Fracture Patients: A Subanalysis of the FAITH and HEALTH Trials*
- *What Factors Increase Revision Surgery Risk When Treating Displaced Femoral Neck Fractures With Arthroplasty: A Secondary Analysis of the HEALTH Trial*
- *General Health Outcomes for Operative Versus Nonoperative Treatment of Acute, Unstable Chest Wall Injuries: Results from a Previous Randomized Controlled Trial*



# Surgery News

## Study finds gender roles affect learning experiences of surgery clerks

### ORIGINAL REPORTS

## Gender Disparities in Medical Student Surgical Skills Education

Joanna F. Ryan, MD,\* Alexandra C. Istl, MD, MPH,\* Jacqueline A. Luhoway, MD,\* Jacob Davidson, MSc,<sup>†</sup> Nicole Christakis\*, Andreana Bütter, MD, MSc,<sup>†</sup> and Tina S. Mele, MD, PhD\*

\*Division of General Surgery, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada; and <sup>†</sup>Division of Pediatric Surgery, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Members from the Department of Surgery recently conducted a study on gender equity in medical training. “Gender Disparities in Medical Student Surgical Skills Education” was published last fall in the *Journal of Surgical Education* (2020 Oct 2;S1931-7204(20)30363-9. doi: [10.1016/j.jsurg.2020.09.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsurg.2020.09.013).) by Dr. Tina Mele, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, Dr. Andreana Bütter, Professor, Division of Paediatric Surgery, General Surgery residents Drs. Joanna Ryan, Alexandra Istl, Jacqueline Luhoway, Paediatric Surgery Research Coordinator Jacob Davidson, and Nicole Christakis.

The findings of the study revealed that female students faced more barriers, such as fewer learning opportunities, time constraints, and lower confidence levels in surgical skills performance compared to male students. Taking place throughout two years, the authors found that, “female students expressed an increased interest in a surgical career compared to their male peers at the end of surgical clerkship, with a significant increase in the number of women interested in a surgical career between the beginning and end of clerkship.” As women are still underrepresented in many surgical specialties, this interest in pursuing a career in surgery underlines the importance of promoting equitable learning opportunities for female trainees.

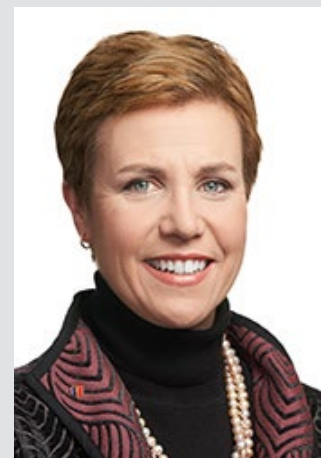
Dr. Mele is also involved in a multi-centre three-phase study, “Improving gender equity in critical care medicine: a protocol to establish priorities and strategies for implementation” (BMJ Open. 2020 Jun 11;10(6):e037090. doi: [10.1136/bmjopen-2020-037090](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-037090)). She and colleagues at Dalhousie University, University of Calgary, University of Toronto, and McMaster University will explore possible solutions for improving gender equity and the experiences of women in critical care medicine, a specialty which has one of the lowest numbers in female representation.

## Women in Surgery Keynote Lecture

The Department of Surgery’s Gender, Equity, and Diversity Committee held the inaugural Women in Surgery Keynote Lecture earlier this year, featuring Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, Professor of Surgery and CEO of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada.

Dr. Moffatt-Bruce’s talk entitled, “Thriving in Surgery: is Grit Enough?” focused on the challenges surgeons face in providing high quality care amidst a changing landscape and greater expectations. Reflecting on her more than two-decades long career as a cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Moffatt-Bruce discussed strategies and concepts for moving forward in providing high quality care in the constantly evolving world of surgery.

On June 2, Dr. Lorelei Lingard, Professor and Senior Scientist, Centre for Education Research & Innovation (CERI) will present her talk entitled, “Clinical Supervision: Five Reasons That It’s Harder Than We Think.”



## 2019-2020 Surgery Clerkship Teaching Award Winners

Congratulations to all faculty members and residents on being recognized for their exceptional teaching and congratulations to all graduates. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual celebration dinner was cancelled last year and will not proceed as an in-person event this year.

### **London Surgery Clerkship Faculty Award for Excellence in Surgical Education**

Dr. Rob Leeper

### **Dr. Murray Girotti Teaching Award**

Dr. George Pang

### **Windsor Surgery Clerkship Faculty Award for Excellence in Surgical Education**

Dr. Tom Deklaj (Urology)

### **Overall Divisional Award Winners**

#### **Cardiac Surgery**

Residents: Dr. Fadi Hage

Faculty: Dr. Michael Chu

#### **General Surgery**

Resident: Dr. George Pang

Faculty: Dr. Rob Leeper

#### **Orthopaedic Surgery**

Resident: Dr. Lukas Hashem

Faculty: Dr. Ken Faber

#### **Paediatric Surgery**

Faculty: Dr. Debra Bartley

#### **Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery**

Resident: Dr. Spencer Chambers

Faculty: Dr. Aaron Grant

#### **Urology**

Resident: Dr. Adam Forster

Faculty: Dr. Alp Sener

#### **Thoracic Surgery**

Resident: Dr. Alexander Ednie

Faculty: Dr. Richard Malthaner

#### **Vascular Surgery**

Resident: Dr. Shane Smith

Faculty: Dr. Adam Power

## Retirement announcements: Dr. Leslie Scott and Dr. Chris Vinden



After more than 20 years of service, Dr. Leslie Scott, Associate Professor, Divisions of General Surgery and Paediatric Surgery, and Dr. Chris Vinden, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, have retired. Dr. Scott joined the Department in 1999 and Dr. Vinden joined the following year.

The Department of Surgery would like to thank both Drs. Scott and Vinden for their dedication and contributions to advancing surgical care and education in our community. We wish you the very best in your retirements.



## Dr. Audra Duncan elected for Fellowship of the ASA

Congratulations to Dr. Audra Duncan on being elected a Fellow of the American Surgical Association, recognizing her contributions as a practitioner, teacher, author, and investigator.

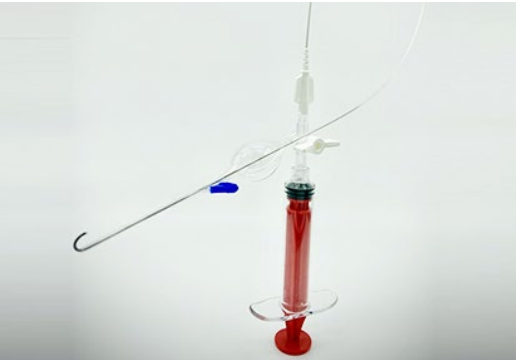
This is a very prestigious honour. Candidates must be recommended by the ASA Council and the application process can take a minimum of 13 months.



# Surgery News

Health Canada approval for a new medical device, spinal implants, wearable technology, and alternate types of knee surgery

## Device to manage blood loss gets federal approval



Dr. Adam Power, Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, and Western Alumna Asha Parekh, PhD'15, developed the COBRA-OS (Control of Bleeding, Resuscitation, Arterial Occlusion System). The team founded the medical device company Front Line Medical Technologies Inc. and after more than three years of research and development, have received approval from Health Canada

for the COBRA-OS device. Less than two millimetres wide, once inserted to the femoral artery the device is inflated with saline solution to block blood flow.

Full story available at: <https://news.westernu.ca/2021/03/medical-device-to-manage-blood-loss-approved-health-canada/>

## London startup raises the bar on spinal implants

Dr. Parham Rasoulinejad, Assistant Professor, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, and engineer Tim Lasswell co-founded the London-based startup A-Line Orthopaedics. With funding support from Western's Bone & Joint Institute Catalyst Grants Program, the team developed a safer, faster, and less invasive spinal implant called the Edge Upper Cervical System. Support from the Bone & Joint Institute's MSK Innovation Competition provided an opportunity to put together a pre-submission package for review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The team's product was acquired by an international medical device company, and FDA approval is expected later this year.

Full story available at: <https://news.westernu.ca/2021/03/london-startup-spinal-implants/>

## Combined forces help combat the pain and disability of arthritis

Dr. Joy MacDermid, Professor & Scientist, co-director of the clinical research lab at the Roth | McFarlane Hand and Upper Limb Centre, and her colleagues, including Orthopaedic Surgery members Dr. Louis Ferreira, Associate Professor & Scientist and Dr. Emily Lalone, Assistant Professor & Scientist, are working on improving outcomes for patients suffering with hand osteoarthritis through the development of new joint protection programs, receiving recognition from the Arthritis Society as one of its Top 10 Research Advances of 2020.

Full story available at: <https://news.westernu.ca/2021/01/wearable-technology-bone-and-joint-arthritis/>

## Alternate type of surgery may prevent knee replacement

A study by the team at Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic has found that the under-used knee surgery procedure high tibial osteotomy may delay or prevent the need for total knee replacement. The study was recently published in the February issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

Full story available at: <https://news.westernu.ca/2021/02/knee-surgery-not-replacement/>

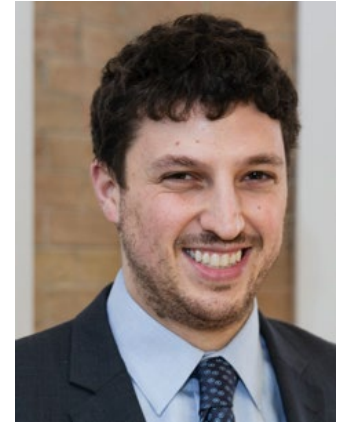
## Welcome to our new faculty members

### **Ryan Katchky, MD, FRCSC**

#### **Assistant Professor, Divisions of Orthopaedic Surgery and Paediatric Surgery, Victoria Hospital**

Dr. Ryan Katchky joined the Divisions of Orthopaedic Surgery and Paediatric Surgery on February 1, 2021. An alumnus of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University, Dr. Katchky completed his residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Toronto, followed by a fellowship in Paediatric Orthopaedics at the Hospital for Sick Children. Recently, Dr. Katchky received a Master of Science degree in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety from the University of Toronto.

He has worked on a number of quality improvement projects focused on improving access to subspecialty care and development of virtual care pathways. His research interests include improving perioperative safety and process improvements in the outpatient clinic setting. Dr. Katchky is excited for the opportunity to provide orthopaedic care for children in Southwestern Ontario, and to be a part of the the Department of Surgery at Western University. When he is not at the hospital, Dr. Katchky can be found spending time with his amazing wife Alison, and his beautiful daughters Stella and Bridgette.



### **Jennifer Lam, MD, FRCSC**

#### **Assistant Professor, Divisions of General Surgery and Paediatric Surgery, Victoria Hospital**

Dr. Jennifer Lam joined the Divisions of General Surgery and Paediatric Surgery on March 1, 2021. Prior to her appointment as an Assistant Professor, Dr. Lam was appointed as a Locum at Children's Hospital in London Health Sciences Centre. Dr. Lam received her medical degree at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry. Following her residency in general surgery at the University of Calgary, Dr. Lam completed fellowships in paediatric surgery and EQUIS (Efficiency, Quality, Innovation and Safety) research. She is completing a Master of Science in Health Care Quality from the George Washington University and has taken on the role of Co-Surgeon Champion for the Paediatric Surgery NSQIP program.

Currently, Dr. Lam is working on a couple of projects on the subject of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS®). One is a ERAS guideline for neonatal intestinal surgery and another is a multicenter data registry on pediatric abdominal and retroperitoneal oncologic resections. She is also investigating the perceptions and experiences of the surgical safety checklist in a paediatric setting.





# Research News

## AMOSO Innovation Fund Results



**Dr. Muriel Brackstone**, Professor, Division of General Surgery  
*Building a Provincial Platform for Pan-Cancer Window of Opportunity Trials Using Preop Immune Priming*  
\$129,813

**Dr. Sumit Dave**, Associate Professor, Divisions of Paediatric Surgery and Urology, and **Dr. Blayne Welk**, Associate Professor, Division of Urology  
*Investigating the risk of long-term complication after pediatric surgery to propose a standard for follow-up duration*  
\$80,100

**Dr. Emil Schemitsch**, Professor and Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery  
*The WHERE: Waiting for Hip or Knee Replacement - A Prospective Cohort*  
\$293,888

### UPCOMING AMOSO COMPETITIONS:

#### Opportunities Fund Competition

Held twice a year this fund was established by AMOSO to support teaching and research projects. The fund provides one-time startup funding to compensate newly recruited AFP Physicians or existing AFP Physicians for new academic roles.

Deadline dates: April 15, 2021 and September 30, 2021.

#### Innovation Fund Competition

Held annually this fund was established to support the development of new and innovative practices in health care delivery (both quality initiatives and research projects) and to support leadership and the dissemination of knowledge across the healthcare system.

Deadline date: end of October 31, 2021.



## Lawson IRF Fall 2020 Competition Results

**Dr. Kevin Gurr**, Associate Professor, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery  
*A Randomized Trial of Cervical orthosis versus no orthosis following multi-level posterior cervical fusion*  
\$15,000

**Dr. Jeffrey Hawel**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery  
*The Effect of Naloxegol on Adequacy of Colonoscopy Bowel Preparation in Patients with Opioid-Induced Constipation: A Prospective Cohort Study*  
\$14,654

**Dr. Daniel Langohr**, Assistant Professor and Scientist, Cross-Appointed to Division of Orthopaedic Surgery  
*Magnetic Augmentation of Total Wrist Arthroplasty Implants to Eliminate Articular Wear, Reduce Shock Loading, and Improve Joint Stability*  
\$15,000

**Dr. Ephraim Tang**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery  
*Continuous Local Anesthetic Infusion via Transversus Abdominus Plane and Posterior Rectus Sheath Catheters Following Kidney Transplantation*  
\$14,000

**Dr. Matthew Teeter**, Associate Professor and Scientist, Cross-Appointed to Division of Orthopaedic Surgery  
*PET/MRI of joint stiffness in total knee arthroplasty*  
\$15,000

Next Lawson IRF Competition Deadline: April 6, 2021

## CIHR Project Grant Fall 2020 Competition Results

**Dr. Tina Mele**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, and Dr. Mansour Haeryfar, Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology  
*Mobilizing the Antiviral Capacities of MAIT Cells to Combat COVID-19: From Fundamental Immunology to Vaccine Optimization and Immunotherapy*  
\$1,032,750

Dr. Alexandra Papaioannou (PI), Professor and Geriatrician at McMaster University and **Dr. Emil Schemitsch**, Professor & Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery  
*Getting Fit for Hip or Knee Replacement: The Fit Joints Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of a Multimodal Intervention in Frail Patients with Osteoarthritis*  
\$704,564

## Collaborative Research Seed Grant (CRSG)

**Dr. Andreana Bütter**, Professor, Divisions of Paediatric Surgery and General Surgery  
*Molecular profiling of congenital diaphragmatic hernia: in utero and postnatal transcriptomic and metabolomic patterns to aid in prognosis and treatment*  
\$50,000

**Dr. Jeffrey Campbell**, Assistant Professor, Division of Urology  
*A multidisciplinary initiative for transgender health care in Southwestern Ontario.*  
\$37,500

The CRSG program provides seed funding to foster interdisciplinary collaborative research teams.

The intent is to:

1. encourage collaborations that build on different scientific and scholarly backgrounds;
2. facilitate breakthroughs in solving research questions in a collaborative manner; and
3. position Schulich researchers to successfully apply to Tri-Council or other external funding agencies.

Next deadline: December 2021  
Further details available at:  
<https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/research/funding/internal.html>

## Coming Events

### Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Residents' Research Day

May 7, 2021

Visiting Professor: Dr. Michel Saint-Cyr, Professor, Texas A&M College of Medicine

[Register](#)

### Division of Paediatric Surgery Virtual Research Day

May 19, 2021

In Collaboration with Child Health Research Day

[Register](#)

### Clinical Supervision: Five Reasons That It's Harder Than We Think

June 2, 2021

### JK Wyatt Urology Residents Research Day

June 4, 2021

[Register](#)

### C-CASE (Canadian Conference for the Advancement of Surgical Education)

September 30 and October 1, 2021

### Department of Surgery Dr. Robert Zhong Research Day

November 11, 2021

The Western Surgery  
Newsletter is produced by:

The Department of Surgery  
Room E3-117  
Schulich School of Medicine &  
Dentistry, Western University  
St. Joseph's Health Care London  
268 Grosvenor Street  
London, ON N6A 4V2

 **519.663.3349**

 **519.646.6347**

 **[schulich.uwo.ca/surgery](http://schulich.uwo.ca/surgery)**

All members of the Department are invited to submit story ideas, articles, photos, or comments for the summer 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**

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