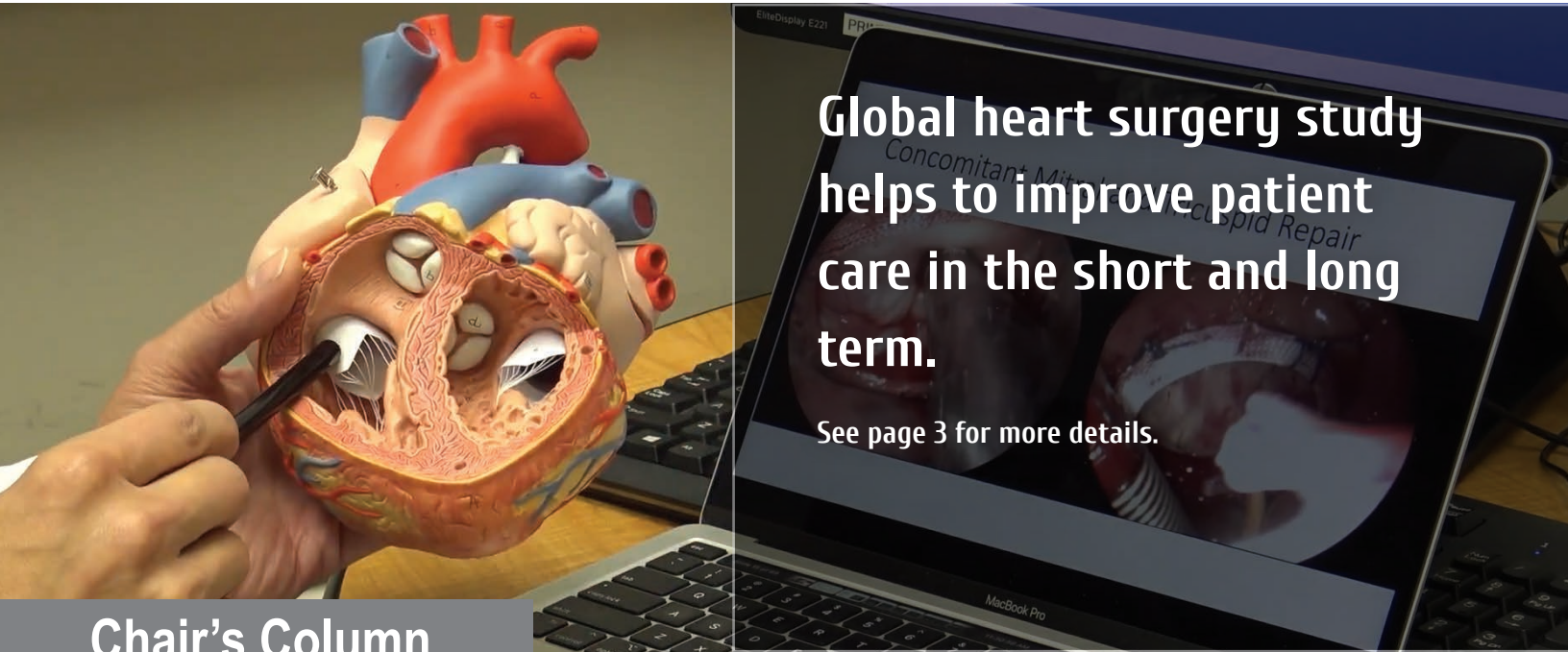


DEPARTMENT OF Surgery Newsletter

Spring 2022



Chair's Column

Dear colleagues:

As spring approaches, I would like to highlight an opportunity for growth for all Department members in the area of mentorship. Mentorship is recognized across academia and medicine for its critical role in supporting the career progression and achievements of both junior and mid-career faculty members. This activity also provides value and satisfaction to those participating as mentors, in terms of having a long-term and direct impact on colleagues, as well as in the success of the Department as a whole. Mentorship activities may include setting standards, providing guidance and opportunities for collaboration, and assisting with problem solving. This is not an onerous time commitment; however, it certainly carries a great deal

of weight and meaning for all of those involved.

Dr. Julie Ann Van Koughnett has been at the forefront for the Department of Surgery in assessing and enhancing mentorship activities in the Department as well as in promoting opportunities for mentorship training for both mentors and mentees. In addition, she is our link with the Schulich School Committee that is working to establish a database of mentors by research area. I would like



to encourage everyone to access the training course and to register with the Schulich School's online matching program. Please see page 10 for links to these important activities.

As the outdoor environment comes to life, I hope you will join me in bringing new energy and enthusiasm for mentorship and other opportunities that sustain well-being and enhance performance in the Department of Surgery.

Sincerely,

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

Surgery News

Dr. Muriel Brackstone receives St. Joseph's MAC Award



Dr. Muriel Brackstone, Professor, Division of General Surgery, was awarded the St. Joseph's Medical Advisory Committee Award for her outstanding contributions and leadership.

The award is in recognition of Dr. Brackstone's leadership qualities and outstanding contributions to the success of St. Joseph's Health Care London. Dr. Brackstone created and serves as Medical Director of London's Multidisciplinary Breast Care Clinic and founded the London Tumour Biobank.

Dr. Steven MacDonald elected Third VP of the Hip Society



Dr. Steven MacDonald, Professor & Chair/Chief, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, was elected incoming Third Vice President of the The Hip Society.

Founded in 1968, The Hip Society is an academic by-invitation-only membership organization dedicated to advancing the knowledge and treatment of hip disorders.

Dr. John Denstedt made an honorary member of the EAU, JUA, and BSU



Dr. John Denstedt, Professor, Division of Urology has been named an honorary member of the European Association of Urology, the Japanese Urology Association, and the Brazilian Society of Urology, recognizing his remarkable contributions to the advancement of urology. Dr. Denstedt was also appointed Director of the Southwest Ontario Lithotripsy Program effective November 1, 2021.

Dr. Richard Malthaner elected Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons



Dr. Richard Malthaner, Professor & Chair/Chief, Division of Thoracic Surgery, was elected to the role of Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons.

Dr. Audra Duncan inducted into the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators



Dr. Audra Duncan, Professor & Chair/Chief, Vascular Surgery, was inducted to the American College of Surgeons' Master Surgeon Educators program.

Dr. Dalilah Fortin selected Deputy Chair of the Internal Review Subcommittee



Dr. Dalilah Fortin, Associate Professor, Division of Thoracic Surgery, was selected as the Deputy Chair of the Internal Review Subcommittee in the department of Postgraduate Medical Education, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, effective May 1, 2022 for three years.

Dr. Michael Ott appointed Interim Chair/Chief of Oncology



Dr. Michael Ott, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, was appointed Interim Chair/Chief of the Department of Oncology effective Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2022.

Cardiac surgery study sheds light on heart valve surgery

Dr. Michael Chu, Professor & Chair/Chief of Cardiac Surgery, and his team took part in a multi-centre, randomized trial run by the Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials Network, a clinical trials network from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in the United States, to explore an alternative method for treating leaky heart valves. Researchers were concerned with the outcomes of treating both the mitral and tricuspid valves at once, in order to reduce progression of a leaky tricuspid valve in patients already suffering from a leaky mitral valve. Usually only the mitral valve is repaired first, hoping that this will lead to improvements in the tricuspid valve. The results of the study were published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) early this year, with Dr. Chu as the joint lead author, and received widespread media attention.

The study took place in 39 hospitals worldwide with more than 400 cardiac patients. Patients at London Health Sciences Centre were randomized, with half receiving mitral valve repair alone and the other half receiving both mitral and tricuspid repair surgery.

"Two years post-surgery, we found that the group that had both mitral and tricuspid repair had significantly less severe residual leak of the tricuspid valve," Chu explained to Western News. "These findings suggest that concomitant



tricuspid repair is extremely effective, and those patients who present with a tricuspid leak, should have both valves repaired at the same time."

To determine long-term clinical benefits, study participants will be followed for five years.

Read the full story at [Western News](#).

Surgery News

Dr. Stahs Pripotnev, Assistant Professor, joins Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital



Dr. Stahs Pripotnev joined the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, at Western University this past February.

A graduate of Western University, he received his Bachelor of Medical Sciences degree and Medical Doctorate at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry before heading to the University of British Columbia to complete his Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery residency. Following his residency training, Dr. Pripotnev gained further training at Washington University where he completed a fellowship in hand, nerve, and microsurgery.

Dr. Pripotnev has received several awards in recognition of his academic and research contributions, publishing and presenting consistently on the topics of skin grafting, surgical flaps, and nerve injury.

His clinical practice is based at St. Joseph's Health Care London's Roth McFarlane Hand and Upper Limb Centre in St. Joseph's Hospital.

DOS Academic Merit Awards 2021 recipients

Congratulations to all recipients of this year's Academic Merit Award competition.

Teacher/Educator Merit Award

Dr. Debra Bartley

Divisions of Orthopaedic Surgery and Paediatric Surgery

Dr. Sumit Dave

Divisions of Urology and Paediatric Surgery

Dr. Rob Leeper

Division of General Surgery

Researcher/Scientist Merit Award

Dr. Muriel Brackstone

Division of General Surgery

Dr. Ruby Grewal

Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. Ted Vasarhelyi

Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. Kelly Vogt

Division of General Surgery

Service Merit Award

Dr. John Denstedt

Division of Urology

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (EDID) Merit Award

Dr. Tina Mele

Division of General Surgery

Surgery News

The Representation of Women in Orthopedic Surgery



LEFT TO RIGHT:

DR. MIRANDA STEWART, 1795-1865

Impersonated a man in order to learn medicine and practice surgery

DR. ELIZABETH BLACKWELL, Graduated in 1849 but not

recognized as MD until 1889, First female physician in the US

DR. EMILY JENNINGS STOWE, 1831-1903

First female physician in Canada

DR. RUTH JACKSON, First Female Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon in the US (AAOS), 1937

LEFT TO RIGHT:

DR. MARY EDWARDS WALKER, 1832-1919

First female surgeon in the US

DR. JENNIE SMILLIE ROBERTSON, 1878-1981

First female surgeon in Canada

DR. JESSIE GRAY, 1910-1978

First female general surgeon in Canada

DR. ALEXANDRA KIRKLEY, First woman to be inducted into American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine Hall of Fame

Dr. Supriya Singh, Assistant Professor, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, gave a presentation in 2018 on the topic of "The History of Women in Orthopaedic Surgery". Dr. Singh's presentation reviewed the history of women in the fields of medicine and surgery, highlighted key figures, and noted the barriers women have faced and continued to face in their aspirations of becoming surgeons. Dr. Miranda Stewart impersonated a man in order to practice surgery; Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell was denied entry into medical school purely because of being a woman and then denied recognition of her MD status for 40 years after graduating medical school; and Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, the first female surgeon in the US, had her congressional medal of honor for her work as US army surgeon revoked in 1917 by US congress as they considered her to not be a front line man. Today's barriers for women physicians and surgeons may not be the same yet perceived barriers continue to exist. Studies have shown a lack of exposure to orthopaedic surgery and a lack of female mentorship, in addition to the perception of the specialty being a boy's club, along with concerns about physical strength and a healthy work-life balance have all had an impact in women not pursuing a career in orthopaedic surgery.

Fortunately, initiatives are being developed to remove these barriers and increase the representation of women in orthopaedic surgery. Dr. Ruby Grewal, Professor, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, and colleagues at the University of Toronto and University of British

Columbia examined the representation of women faculty members in academic orthopedic divisions and departments across Canada. Their paper titled, "Gender disparity in academic orthopedic programs in Canada: a cross-sectional study" was recently published in the Canadian Journal of Surgery. Findings of the study showed that the number of women having attained full professorship was significantly less than what was seen in men, and that leadership positions were still dominantly held by men. It is hoped that through the investigation of gender parity in surgical specialties, action can be taken to encourage more diverse and equitable hiring and promotion practices, increased female mentorship, and more opportunities for female learners to be exposed to orthopaedic surgery.

Bias, lack of transparency, and fee disparity contribute to gender inequity in medicine

Dr. Asra Toobaie, PGY4, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, presented at the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds in February on the topic of Gender Inequality and Pay Gap in Medicine.

Dr. Toobaie noted that in order to provide appropriate care for Canada's increasingly diverse population, our healthcare workforce needs to reflect that diversity so as to improve interpersonal relationships between patients and providers; to reduce health disparities among equity-deserving groups; and to increase patient satisfaction, compliance, and care outcome (Berthold et al., 2006; Greenwood et al., 2018; Hall et al. 1995, LaVeist and Pierre, 2014; Sugawa et al., 2017). Data from the Canadian Medical Association demonstrates that while women in medical specialties has improved in the last decade, women are still vastly underrepresented in specific subspecialties. Studies also show that women continue to be underrepresented in leadership positions in healthcare and as faculty and leaders at Academic Health Science Centres (Glauser, 2018, Hunter et al., 2021, Jena et al., 2014).

While women make up an increasing percentage of physicians in Ontario, the pay gap they experience is only partially explained by working fewer hours (Hadden et al, 2017). Women are more likely to practice in lower paying subspecialties. In surgery, women surgeons performed less complex or more common procedures, particularly on women, that attract lower billings (Dossa et al., 2019). Studies also find that women surgeons are affected by a referral bias from male physicians (Dossa, et al., 2021), which is further exacerbated following a poor patient outcome (Sarsons, 2017).

Dr. Toobaie concluded her presentation with recommendations to address the gender gap in surgery: have medical leaders address bias and the hidden curriculum; encourage women to enter all subspecialties regardless of perceptions of "family friendliness" and career demands; provide women students with women mentors in surgery; report regularly on physician payments, stratified by gender; collect data to understand how multiple forms of discrimination intersect and perpetuate pay and career inequality; advocate with medical associations to eliminate the fee disparities between



surgical procedures performed in male vs. female patients, even if that crosses subspecialty boundaries; advocate for alternative payment models; conduct transparent hiring processes and ensure there is fair representation of women on appointments committees; ensure salary information is standardized and transparent; and finally, report at the organizational level on the gender pay gap locally.

Working to make healthcare more inclusive for patients and clinicians

Read more about efforts being made at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry to improve equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization in the 2021 issue of *Rapport*.

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell, Assistant Professor, Division of Urology, and colleagues are [working to improve](#) clinical training and access to care for trans people, and Dr. Tina Mele, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, [is working on a](#) three-phase study to develop and implement strategies to improve the experiences of women in critical care medicine in Canada.

Research News

Department of Surgery IRF Fall 2021 competition results

2021 Faculty IRF Funded Studies

Big Data/ICES

Dr. **Terry Zwiap** - Re-admission rates for surgical patients during the COVID-19 pandemic: a retrospective review. \$10,000.00

Fundamental Sciences & Surgical Innovation

Dr. **Caitlin Symonette** - "DIGITS"- smart phone augmented reality application for hand tele-rehabilitation and remote patient monitoring \$9,975.00

Dr. **Alp Sener** - Effect of AP39 treatment during cold preservation and reperfusion of human discarded kidneys \$10,000.00

QI & Patient Centered Research

Dr. **Mehdi Qiabi** - Nutritional support in patients undergoing induction therapy for esophageal cancer: a feasibility randomized controlled trial. \$6,885.70

Dr. **Jennifer Bjazevic** - Evaluation of a new citrate containing dietary supplement for the prevention of urinary stone disease \$6,500.00

Dr. **Melissa Huynh** - Comparison of [18F] PSMA-1007 PET/CT and Conventional Imaging in the Detection of Metastatic Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma \$10,000.00

Dr. **Brad Moffat** - Treatment Modalities for Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury: A Canadian Perspective \$9,575.00

Dr. **Douglas Naudie** - PET/MRI Evaluation of Joint Inflammation in Dissatisfied Total Knee Arthroplasty Patients \$10,000.00

Dr. **Douglas Ross** - The Role of Tranexamic Acid in Reducing Postoperative Hand Edema After Hand and Wrist Surgery (THAW): A Prospective, Randomized Controlled, Double-Blinded Pilot Study \$10,000.00

2021 RRG Funded Studies

Big Data/ICES

Dr. **Abigail Frazer** - Identifying the Gap: Comparing post operative outcomes following total knee arthroplasty between Indigenous and non-Indigenous patients \$5,000.00

Fundamental Sciences & Surgical Innovation

Dr. **Asra Toobaie** - Biomechanical properties of a novel morselized bone graft cage \$5,000.00

QI & Patient Centered Research

Dr. **Stephanie Kim** - Using ultrasonography in assessing abdominal lymphedema \$4,212.64

Surgical Education

Dr. **Regina Leung** - Development of an AR Assistive Tool for Intraoperative Guidance of Closed Reduction and Percutaneous Pinning Procedures (CRPP) \$5,000.00

2021 MRRG Funded Studies

Dr. **Eric Mitchell** - Development of an On-Call Assessment Tool for Surgical Residents \$4,438.30

Dr. **Rhiannon Tracey** - Assessing Feasibility and Patient Satisfaction with a Virtual-First Model for Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultations \$4,995.00

Representing the Thoracic Surgery team on the national stage

Congratulations to Dr. Ge Shi, PGY 2, and the team for her exciting presentation on "The Development and Validation of a Mixed Reality Thoracic Surgical Anatomy Atlas Mixed Reality" at the 58th Annual Meeting of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons on January 29-30, 2022.

Congratulations to Alexandra McDonald, Medical Student, and her team for her publication in the *Canadian Journal of Surgery* on "[Surgery crisis simulation during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)". Our simulation of an intraoperative crisis involving a patient with COVID-19 revealed gaps in PPE adherence.

Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation 2022 CSES Research Grant

Division of Orthopaedic Surgery members Dr. **Ken Faber**, Professor, and Dr. **Kristen Barton**, PGY 3, are the recipients of the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation's 2022 CSES Research Grant. Drs. Faber and Barton will receive \$20,000 for their project entitled: "Perioperative Pain Management for Total Shoulder Arthroplasty: A Pilot Non-Inferiority Trial".

Lawson IRF Fall 2021 Competition results announced

Dr. **Alp Sener**, Associate Professor & Chair/Chief, Division of Urology, on his successful grant application to the Lawson IRF Fall 2021 competition. Dr. Sener's project entitled, "Effect of AP39 treatment during cold preservation and reperfusion of human discarded kidneys" was selected to be funded \$15,000

2021 CSCI Resident Research Award

Dr. **Eric Walser**, PGY 5, Division of General Surgery, was selected for the 2021 Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CSCI/CIHR) Resident Research Award for his project entitled, "Standardization of opioid prescription after trauma (STOP-Trauma): a prospective intervention to reduce excessive opioid prescription". This award comes with a monetary value of \$1000, a diploma signed by the CSCI president and a complimentary CSCI 2-year membership.

CTA-UWO Faculty Development Fund

Dr. **Andreana Bütter**, Professor & Chair/Chief, Division of Paediatric Surgery, received a CTA-UWO Faculty Development Fund award. Dr. Bütter received funding toward the online course Career Advancement and Leadership Skills for Women in Healthcare at Harvard Medical School.

AMOSO Opportunities Fund Fall 2021 competition

Dr. **Matthew Valdis**, Assistant Professor, Cardiac Surgery, has received an AMOSO Opportunities Fund award. Dr. Valdis will receive a total of \$97,500 over 3 years toward his project, "Intravascular Ultrasound for the evaluation of malperfusion syndrome in the setting of Acute Aortic Dissection (AAD)."

AMOSO Innovation Fund Fall 2021 Competition Results

Dr. Abhijit Biswas, Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine, and Dr. **Richard Malthaner**, Professor & Chair/Chief, Thoracic Surgery
QORVATS study. A randomized controlled, triple blinded study to compare the quality of recovery (QoR 40) between intercostal block and a combination of intercostal nerve block with serratus plane catheter for patients undergoing VATS procedures.
 \$77,875

Dr. Geoff Pickering, Department of Medicine, and Dr. **Michael Chu**, Professor & Chair/Chief, Cardiac Surgery
Medication Determinants of Ascending Aortic Aneurysm Structural Risk
 \$149,510

Dr. **Andreana Bütter**, Professor & Chair/Chief, Paediatric Surgery
Molecular profiling of congenital diaphragmatic hernia: in utero and postnatal transcriptomic and metabolomic patterns to aid in prognosis and treatment
 \$149,974

Dr. **Jonathan Izawa**, Professor, Urology
Using DNA Methylation Profiling to Differentiate Good from Poor Prognosis Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer Patients
 \$36,000

Research News

LHSC Academic Realignment Initiative

London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), London Health Sciences Foundation (LHSF) and Children's Health Foundation recently announced the recipients of LHSC's Academic Realignment Initiative Awards. A total of 22 awards were given, including funding for eight clinical fellowships. Out of those eight clinical fellowships, half were awarded to Department of Surgery members.

ADVANCED GI MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY FELLOWSHIP

Supervisor: Dr **Christopher Schlachta**

Clinical Program Area: Department of Surgery / Division of General Surgery

FELLOWSHIP IN UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY

Fellow: Dr. Jesus Cendejas

Supervisor: Dr. **Nicholas Power**

Clinical Program Area: Department of Surgery, Division of Urology

FELLOWSHIP IN KIDNEY AND PANCREAS TRANSPLANTATION

Fellow: Dr. Jirong Lu

Supervisor: Dr. **Alp Sener**

Clinical Program Area: Department of Surgery, Division of Urology

A RETROSPECTIVE POPULATION-BASED

COHORT STUDY TO IDENTIFY THE TIME PERIOD WHEN COMPLICATIONS OCCUR AFTER A PAEDIATRIC SURGICAL PROCEDURE: PROPOSING A NEW DEFINITION OF IDEAL FOLLOW-UP DURATION

Fellow: Noam Bar-Yaakov

Supervisors: Dr. **Sumit Dave** and Dr. **Peter Wang**

Clinical Program Area: Surgery and Pediatrics/ Pediatric Surgery and Urology

Dr. Joseph Chin receives Schulich Award of Excellence



Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Chin, Professor, Division of Urology, on being awarded the Dean's Award of Excellence for Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award. The Schulich Awards of Excellence are in recognition of faculty members' commitment to the School's mission, their innovative approaches to their work,

and their leadership. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to individuals who have excelled in multiple areas throughout their career, and have a record of distinguished service to Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

CIHR Fall 2021 Project Grant Recipients

"Smooth muscle cell diversity and thoracic aorta vulnerability"

Drs. Geoffrey Pickering (Biochemistry), Christina Castellani (Pathology), Bryan Heit (Microbiology & Immunology), **Michael Chu**, Professor & Chair/Chief, Cardiac Surgery, \$852,975 for five years

"Targeting the Protease Activated Receptor (PAR) - Transient Receptor Potential Vanilloid-4 (TRPV4) signalling axis in osteoarthritis"

Drs. Rithwik Ramachandran (Physiology & Pharmacology), Thomas Appleton (Medicine), Frank Beier (Physiology & Pharmacology), **Alan Getgood**, Associate Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, \$711,450 for five years

"Harnessing adipose-derived stromal cells for subcutaneous soft tissue regeneration: targeting regenerative and immunomodulatory functionality"

Drs. Lauren Flynn (Anatomy & Cell Biology), Gregory Dekaban (Microbiology & Immunology), Maria Drangova (Medical Biophysics), Giles Lajoie (Biochemistry), John Ronald (Medical Biophysics), **Aaron Grant**, Assistant Professor, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, \$100,000 for one year

"WHERE Study: Waiting for Hip or knEe REplacement: A prospective cohort"

Dr. **Emil Schemitsch**, Professor & Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery, \$382,500 for two years

Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day 2021 Highlights

AWARD WINNERS

Best Resident/Fellow Research Oral Poster Presentation

Dr. **Ge Shi**, PGY 2, Division of General Surgery, —The Development and Validation of a Mixed Reality Thoracic Surgery Anatomy Atlas

Walker Research Day Award

Dr. **Noah Stern**, PGY 4, Division of Urology — A CUSUM Analysis of Operative Times and Complications for a Surgeon Initiating Robot Assisted Pyeloplasty- a Predictable Decrease in Operative Time is Possible by Case 30

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. **Chad Ball**, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS
Finding Efficiency and Yourself, in the Process of Eliminating Unproductive Behaviour in an Academic Surgical Career



Dr. Ball is an associate professor of surgery and oncology at the University of Calgary. He currently practices Hepatobiliary, Pancreas, Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at the Foothills Medical Centre (quaternary care regional referral facility).

Save the Date:

The 2022 Dr. Robert Zhong Surgery Research Day will be held in person on June 24 at the Kenny Theatre in King's University College. with guest speaker, Dr. Najma Ahmed, Vice Chair of Education, Department of Surgery at University of Toronto and Professor of Surgery.

Registration will be available online on the [Research Day website](#) closer to the date.

Schulich Mentorship Training and Database Registration Links

Please visit the following links:

[Mentorship Workshop](#)

[Course Access](#)

[Self Enrollment](#)

[Faculty Affairs Mentorship Program web page](#)

Coming Events

London Health Research Day

May 31, 2022

Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day and Celebration Dinner

June 24, 2022

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

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