This newsletter issue speaks to the human element of our activity: welcoming ten new faculty recruits; recognizing faculty promotions, awards, and appointments; the passage of our distinguished colleague Dr. Howard (Howie) Cameron; and the celebration of the Department of Surgery’s newest graduates. Our people are our strength and our guide for the future.

This fall also brought to fruition the undergraduate curriculum renewal which now includes competency-based medical education (CBME) and online assessments for our clinical clerks. This is a significant shift in process and content for medical education in Canada. Several of our programs including Surgical Foundations, Urology, and Cardiac Surgery have already transitioned to a CBME model.

Their experiences hold value and provide leadership for the next four programs on the horizon for July 1, 2020: General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, and Vascular Surgery. Based on the excellent work I have seen in preparation for the Royal College Accreditation site visit this November, I have confidence that this transition will be a positive experience for our programs, faculty, staff, and trainees. I would like to commend Drs. Andreana Bütter and Ken Faber for their leadership in surgical education during this challenging time of change.

I would also like to express my gratitude for everyone’s contributions to our success as an academic department in teaching, research, and service across the academic health sciences centre. As we move into the holiday season and new year, please accept my wishes for a happy and healthy time of celebration with family and friends.

Sincerely,

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

Chair’s Column

Dr. Alp Sener was appointed Chair/Chief, Division of Urology beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024.

Dr. Sener completed his MD and PhD at the University of Calgary followed by a residency in Urology at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. He subsequently completed a fellowship in multi-organ transplantation at the University of Maryland Medical Centre and was one of two recipients of the prestigious American Society of Transplant Surgeons/Novartis Fellowship in Transplantation in North America.

He was appointed as the first Schulich Clinician Scientist and as Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery in 2009 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2016.

Dr. Sener’s research focuses on the innate and adaptive immune responses in graft rejection, as well as in developing novel methods of mitigating transplant graft injury using endogenous small molecules. His laboratory has pioneered the use of hydrogen sulphide in minimizing ischemia-reperfusion injury associated with transplantation, as well as in discovering its therapeutic potential against renal cell carcinoma, and its role in diminishing tissue fibrosis following chronic urinary obstruction. He has more than 90 publications in the peer-reviewed literature and currently holds more than $500,000 in peer-reviewed grants as principal investigator.

Dr. Sener has received numerous awards for research and teaching, including the Dean’s Award of Excellence for Junior Faculty in 2014; the Vanguard Prize from the American Society of Transplant Surgeons; and a Research Excellence award from the Canadian Society of Transplantation.

Dr. Sener follows in the footsteps of another highly accomplished leader, Dr. Hassan Razvi, who has led the Division of Urology for the past 14 years and is responsible for the Division’s outstanding international reputation for research, education, and clinical care in Urology.
Dr. Bing Gan elected CSPS President

Dr. Bing Siang Gan became the new President of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons (CSPS) at the Society’s annual meeting in St. John’s Newfoundland in late June after serving on the Board of the Society for the past five years.

Dr. Gan completed his undergraduate studies and MD degree at the University of Rotterdam followed by a PhD at the University of Calgary. He then completed a rotating internship in Saskatchewan and Plastic Surgery residency training at Western.

Following two fellowship years in Toronto and Boston, he returned to Toronto General Hospital as a consultant for two years until joining the Division of Plastic Surgery and the Roth-McFarlane Hand & Upper Limb Centre (RMHULC) at Western where he has practiced since 1998.

He served as co-director of the RMHULC Cell Biology Laboratory for many years.

DR. GAN IS PICTURED AT THE CSPS MEETING WITH SCHULICH MEDICINE & DENTISTRY, WESTERN UNIVERSITY ALUMNA DR KRISTINA LUTZ.

Faculty awards and accolades

Congratulations to Drs. Fadi Hage, Joy MacDermid, Vivian McAlister, and Emil Schemitsch.

Dr. Fadi Hage, Cardiac Surgery resident, received the Dr. Richard Inculet Award in Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Joy MacDermid elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Vivian McAlister honoured by the Canadian Society of Transplantation with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Emil Schemitsch awarded the Canadian Orthopaedic Association’s Award of Merit.
Welcome to our new faculty members:

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic, Assistant Professor
Division of Urology, St. Joseph’s Hospital
Dr. Bjazevic received her medical degree at the University of Calgary, followed by a residency in urology at the University of Manitoba, and fellowship training in endourology at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Dr. Bjazevic recently graduated from the Master of Science in Surgery program at the School, where she successfully defended her thesis, “Examining the relationship between urinary pathogens, antibiotic exposure and urolithiasis.” She was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Scholar Award by the American Urological Association’s Urology Care Foundation and the Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Foundation’s Early Investigator Research Grant for her project entitled, “The Effect of a Bacterial Urinary Infection Isolate and Antibiotics on Calcium Urolithiasis: The Potential Role of Zinc and Reactive Oxygen Species as Immune Modulators.”

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell, Assistant Professor
Division of Urology, St. Joseph’s Hospital
Dr. Campbell graduated from medical school at Dalhousie University and returned to Western University, where he completed his undergraduate studies, for residency training in urology at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Fellowship training in Men’s Health and Reconstructive Urology at the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, followed before returning to London for an andrology and reconstructive urology fellowship. Currently, Dr. Campbell serves as a member of the Sexual Medicine Society of North American (SMSNA) Cancer Survivorship Committee and co-chair of the International Society of Sexual Medicine (ISSM) Early Career Investigator Committee.

Dr. Christopher Del Balso, Lecturer
Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Victoria Hospital
Dr. Del Balso received his medical degree at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia after completing a BSc in Kinesiology and Health Science, and a MSc in Neuromuscular Physiology at York University in Toronto. Upon graduation from the Orthopaedic Surgery training program at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, Dr. Del Balso received further sub-specialty training as a clinical fellow in foot and ankle reconstruction at the University of Toronto, and in orthopaedic trauma at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Dr. Del Balso has a special interest in ankle arthrosis, and total ankle replacement.

Dr. Sarah Knowles, Assistant Professor
Division of General Surgery, St. Joseph’s Hospital
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 Holliady Resident Award in Surgical Professionalism. Dr. Knowles also has a Master of Science degree in Health Research Methodology from McMaster University. Her research is on the treatment of breast disease, currently focusing on the use of oncoplastic breast surgery techniques and improved patient satisfaction.
Dr. Allison Maciver, Assistant Professor
Division of General Surgery, Victoria Hospital
Dr. Maciver received her medical degree from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University, followed by a general surgery residency and a MSc in Experimental Surgery from the University of Alberta. She completed a fellowship in complex general surgical oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, and is completing a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology from McMaster University’s Health Research Methodology Program. Specializing in general surgical oncology, Dr. Maciver has also received further training in oncoplastic breast surgery in Oxford, England, and London, Ontario. She was originally appointed to the Division of General Surgery as an Adjunct Professor in 2017.

Dr. Mehdi Qiabi, Assistant Professor
Division of Thoracic Surgery, Victoria Hospital
Dr. Qiabi completed his Royal College Accredited Thoracic Surgery program with the Department of Surgery at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Western University from July 2017 to June 2019. Prior to that, he completed a 5 years General Surgery residency program from the Université de Sherbrooke, and his medical education from the Université de Montréal where he graduated on the Dean’s Honour List. In the upcoming year, Dr. Qiabi will be undergoing additional training in advanced upper gastro-intestinal endoscopy and Interventional Thoracic Surgery in Japan and France. Dr. Qiabi’s academic interests include education and surgical simulation. He is the new Surgery Clerkship Specialty Coordinator for Thoracic Surgery and will assume the role of Program Director for Thoracic Surgery in the Department of Surgery in the upcoming year.

Dr. Andrew Simpson, Assistant Professor
Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Victoria Hospital
Dr. Simpson received his medical degree from Dalhousie University, Halifax, followed by a residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery. After graduation, Dr. Simpson attended the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, where he completed a plastic surgery clinical and basic science research fellowship and co-founded the engineering services firm 109 Therapeutics, Inc. Dr. Simpson then headed to North Bristol, UK, where he received further training in lower extremity reconstruction and microsurgery, as well as skin cancer surgery at Southmead Hospital, and returned to Canada this past spring.

Dr. Caitlin Symonette, Assistant Professor
Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Victoria Hospital
Dr. Symonette completed her medical training and residency in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. Prior to beginning medical school, Dr. Symonette received a MSc in Kinesiology. She is also a graduate of the MSc in Surgery program in the Department of Surgery. Upon completing her residency at the School, Dr. Symonette attended the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, for a hand and microsurgery fellowship and returned to London earlier this year.

Dr. Terry Zwiep, Assistant Professor
Division of General Surgery, Victoria Hospital
Dr. Zwiep received his medical degree from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, where he subsequently completed a general surgery residency and MSc in Surgery degree. During his residency, Dr. Zwiep received the D.M. Grace Award and R.L. Holliday Award. Upon finishing his residency training, Dr. Zwiep attended the University of Ottawa for a colorectal surgery fellowship, and most recently completed a MSc in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety from the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. Dr. Zwiep has also served as a combat medic in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves.
This past year the Department of Surgery had 10 faculty members successfully go forward for academic promotion, recognizing their excellent performance as clinical academics and their contributions to creating and disseminating knowledge through teaching and research, and providing leadership.

**Promoted to Full Professor:**
- Dr. Michael Chu
- Dr. Kenneth Faber
- Dr. Ray Guo
- Dr. Ken Leslie
- Dr. Douglas Naudie

**Promoted to Associate Professor:**
- Dr. Alan Getgood
- Dr. Brent Lanting
- Dr. Dave Nagpal
- Dr. Nicholas Power
- Dr. Edward Vasarhelyi

**Remembering Dr. Howie Cameron**

Dr. Howie Cameron was a special surgeon with an amazing bedside manner and always a joke on his lips. He was adored by his patients and was integral to the foundation of Western University’s Orthopaedics program. He remained forever supportive to the program, and at the age of 96 came to the Orthopaedic Surgery 50th anniversary celebration. He will be missed by all.

Dr. Cameron’s obituary is available online at the London Free Press website.

**PICTURED LEFT:** Dr. Howie Cameron in recent years at Department of Surgery events.
Surgical Quality Council Update

At September’s meeting of the Surgical Quality Council, members discussed the semiannual reports provided by the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP), developments in quality improvement, and high-quality discharge summaries.

ACS NSQIP Semiannual Report
The Semiannual Report is released twice a year, in the winter and summer, to hospital leaders and Quality Improvement (QI) representatives on the Surgical Quality Council for dissemination within their own department/division. The purpose of these reports is to help direct QI initiatives. If you require assistance with QI projects, please contact either Celia Dann (Celia.Dann@lhsc.on.ca) or Dr. Patrick Colquhoun (Patrick.Colquhoun@lhsc.on.ca).

ACS NSQIP Collaborative Participation
Collaborative participation allows for benchmarking of hospitals in common communities. London Health Sciences Centre belongs to the Canadian National Surgical Quality Improvement Collaborative, the HPB Collaborative (Hepatobiliary Pancreatic Surgery), and the ON-SQIN (Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network).

The Ontario NSQIP hospitals network is made up of 12 LHINs, 47 hospitals, all teaching hospitals, and all children’s hospitals, reflecting more than 85% of adult surgery in Ontario.

Launched April 1, 2019, the provincial campaign for this year’s SQIP (Surgical Quality Improvement Plan) is to reduce the amount of discharge opioid prescriptions by 30%. At LHSC the focus is on outpatient surgeries at both University Hospital and Victoria Hospital for ENT, General Surgery, Gynecology, Orthopaedics, Plastics, and Urology. For more information about this initiative, please contact Dr. Ken Leslie.

ACS NSQIP Participant Use Data File (PUF)
There are over 4.5 million cases compiled into the NSQIP PUF, with data for North America as far back as 2005. Access to the file is free and ethics approval has already been received. Data files are now available for adult NSQIP, paediatric NSQIP and adult TQIP. Dr. Kelly Vogt shared her experience at the recent Citywide Department of Surgery meeting on November 20. If you are interested in using the ACS NSQIP PUF, please contact Celia Dann for more information.

Discharge Summary
Efforts are underway to achieve expedited and effective discharge summaries. This is a mandated indicator in the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) submitted to Health Quality Ontario (HQO), with a target performance level of 50% for discharge summaries being completed within 48 hours of discharge.

Discharge Summary Auto-Authentication Guidelines
- With auto-authentication (passworded), once the discharge summary is edited and transmitted it is automatically distributed.
- It is the accountability of the Department Chair/Chief to ensure residents and junior physicians are reviewed and their discharge summaries reviewed before they are considered complete.
- Discharge summaries should be an important component of the residents’ competency variance process.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario updated their policy on completing and distributing discharge summaries. A complete list is available at: https://www.cpso.on.ca/Physicians/Policies-Guidance/Policies/Transitions-in-Care.

Discharge summary auto-authentication guidelines have been set to help improve this process.

Clinical documentation improvement (CDI) is also available to assist with improving the quality of discharge summary documentation. Resources are available on the LHSC intranet: https://intra.lhsc.on.ca/physician-documentation-enhancement-project

Patient Orientated Discharge Summaries (PODS)
PODS is currently being used by LHSC medicine programs at both sites to help patients manage their health after being discharged from hospital. PODS is a communication tool co-developed by patients and healthcare providers applying best practices in design and adult learning. It is currently being piloted in Vascular Surgery.
Congratulations to the class of 2019

The Annual Resident and MSc in Surgery Student Celebration Dinner is held on the evening of the same day as the Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day. This year, the event was held at Sunningdale Golf & Country Club, where graduating students were presented with their program graduation certificates. In addition to celebrating the academic achievements of students, faculty and residents were recognized for their teaching achievements in the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Dr. Andreana Büttner, Undergraduate Education Chair, announced the Faculty and Resident Undergraduate Teaching Award Recipients for the 2018-19 academic year, and Dr. Abdel-Rahman Lawendy, Graduate Program Chair, presented the awards for teaching in the MSc in Surgery program and best winning paper in the MSc in Surgery Student Colloquium Presentation.

Congratulations graduates. We wish you great success in your future endeavours.
Congratulations to all faculty, residents and graduate students on their success:

Dr. Murray Girotti Teaching Award
Dr. Shane Smith

London Surgery Clerkship Faculty Award for Excellence in Surgical Education
Dr. Aaron Grant

Windsor Surgery Clerkship Faculty Award for Excellence in Surgical Education
Dr. Tom Deklaj

MSc in Surgery Teaching Award
Dr. Luc Dubois

MSc in Surgery Student Colloquium Presentation
Dr. Spencer Chambers

Cardiac Surgery
Resident: Dr. Mohammed Tarabzoni
Faculty: Dr. Mackenzie Quantz

General Surgery
Resident: Dr. Shane Smith
Faculty: Dr. Rob Leeper

Orthopaedic Surgery
Resident: Dr. Clay Inculet
Faculty: Dr. Kenneth Faber

Paediatric Surgery
Faculty: Dr. Andreana Bütter

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Resident: Dr. Kitty Wu
Faculty: Dr. Aaron Grant

Urology
Resident: Dr. Rod Clark
Faculty: Dr. Jonathan Izawa

Thoracic Surgery
Faculty: Dr. Richard Malthaner

Vascular Surgery
Resident: Dr. Danielle Dion
Faculty: Dr. Adam Power

CBME in surgery clerkship well underway

Competency-based medical education in clerkship was officially launched on August 26 for the 2019-2020 academic year.

CBME involves workplace-based assessments of measurable skills called Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). Unlike the Postgraduate EPAs, the 12 clerkship EPAs span all four years of medical school and are not signed off on during rotations. Clerks are evaluated on what is expected from a graduating medical student, meaning an “entrustable” student is ready for indirect supervision of these competencies on day one of residency.

In addition to adding these EPAs, faculty continue to assess students using the seven CanMEDS roles of Medical Expert, Communicator, Collaborator, Leader, Health Advocate, Scholar, and Professional.

Surgical Foundations Boot Camp


The boot camp provides residents with essential knowledge and skills to transition into residency through interactive lectures, simulation sessions, and technical skills learning.

The Surgical Foundations program is now a competency-based curriculum, organized around the outcomes expected of a resident. Their advancement is dependent on having achieved those outcomes through regular, direct observations to confirm they are achieving Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in real-life situations. An EPA is a task in the clinical or work setting that may be delegated to a resident by their supervisor once sufficient competence has been demonstrated.
Since the inception of the Research Node structure in the Department of Surgery in July 2017 members from within and outside of the department joined the Fundamental Sciences & Surgical Innovation node. The Fundamental Sciences & Surgical Innovation node is led by the Chair of the node Dr. Jeremy Burton. There are currently 108 members in this node.

In the 2018 Department of Surgery Internal Research fund competition, five grants of a $10,000 value were awarded to five research projects that involved a new collaboration. The recipients of these grants were: Adam Power (Vascular Surgery) collaborated with Drs. Alp Sener and Patrick Luke (Urology) and with Drs. Neil Parry and Robert Leeper (General Surgery). Their study is “First-in-Human Study of Novel 4 French REBOA Device”.

Another new collaboration was between Dr. Alp Sener from the Division of Urology and Dr. Eva Turlay who are investigating “The effect of hydrogen sulphide cream on recovery from acute frostbite injury”. Dr. Turley is a basic scientist at the London Regional Cancer program.

Dr. Kevin Gurr from the Division of Orthopaedics received a grant for his study “Mechanical Testing of Interconnection Mechanisms and Subassemblies for a Novel Atlantoaxial Fusion Construct” which involved a new collaboration between Dr. Gurr and Drs. Rasoulinejad and Bailey.

Dr. Andreana Büttner from Paediatric Surgery received a grant for the study “The effects of congenital diaphragmatic hernia on epithelial-mesenchymal transition pathways during early lung development in a rabbit model” and her project is a collaboration with Dr. Timothy Regnault who is a basic scientist in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Gerald Brock received funding for his grant “Early intralesional interventions for Peyronie’s disease: A change in treatment paradigms” which involves a new collaboration with Dr. Jeffrey Campbell both Dr. Brock and Dr. Campbell are from the Division of Urology.
Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day

The Department of Surgery held its annual Research Day on June 24, 2019 at King’s University College. Beginning with an early morning poster session, attendees were treated to a variety of presentations from residents, fellows, and faculty members.

This year launched a new Surgical Dragon’s Den session where members from each research node had five minutes to pitch their idea for a research project. Winners were chosen by real time audience voting, and received $4,000 toward their project. Concluding the day was the keynote lecture given by Dr. Toni Zhong, Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery and the inaugural Belinda Stronach Chair in Breast Cancer Reconstruction at University Health Network (UHN), on “Quality Improvement in Breast Reconstruction to Optimize the Patient-Centred Experience.”

Award Winners

BEST POSTER PRESENTATION
Node 1: Big Data/ICES
  Dr. Jeffrey Law
Node 2: Surgical Education Research
  Dr. George Pang
Node 3: Fundamental Sciences and Surgical Innovation
  Dr. Supriya Singh
Node 4: Patient Centered Research
  Dr. Michaela Fernandes

BEST RESIDENT PAPER PRESENTATION
  Dr. Kitty Wu

SURGICAL DRAGON’S DEN WINNERS
Node 1: Big Data/ICES
  Dr. Chris Bailey
Node 2: Surgical Education Research
  Dr. Peter Wang
Node 3: Fundamental Sciences and Surgical Innovation
  Dr. Nicholas Power
Node 4: Patient Centered Research
  Dr. Parham Rasoulinejad

SAVE THE DATE:
The next Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day will be on
Friday, June 19, 2020
Funding competition results

Congratulations to all faculty members whose research applications were funded:

BRIDGE TO LIFE
Dr. Alp Sener, “UW Plus: a novel hydrogen sulphide based organ preservation solution.” $223,980

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL SURGEONS
Dr. Kelly Vogt, “The demand for emergency general surgery in Canada: A public health crisis.” $10,000

CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH
Drs. Tina Mele and John McCormick, “Staphylococcus aureus at the commensal-pathogen interface: the superantigen paradox.” $1,090,126

Dr. Joy MacDermid, “Innovations in assessment and management of musculoskeletal injury, pain and Arthritis” $1,383,358

CANADIAN UROLOGIC ASSOCIATION - ASTELLAS GRANT
Dr. Sumit Dave, “New delivery of botox for neurogenic bladder.” $50,000

CANADIAN UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY GROUP
Dr. Jonathan Izawa, “Development of diagnostic and epigenetic tools in prostate cancer.” $10,000

GLYCONET
Dr. Hassan Razvi, “Safety evaluation of B-arbutin in health human subjects.” $126,310

LAWSON HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTES INTERNAL RESEARCH FUND
Dr. Relka Bihari, “Compartment Syndrome-Associated Inflammation: Development of Translocator Protein 18kDa (TSPO)-Based Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Imaging for Non-Invasive Diagnosis of Acute Limb Compartment Syndrome” $15,000

LONDON HEALTH SCIENCES FOUNDATION
Dr. Anton Skaro, “Utilizing abdominal regional perfusion to recondition donation after cardiac death livers.” $25,000

ONTARIO NEUROTRAUMA FOUNDATION
Dr. Blayne Welk, “The ability of a structured urologic surveillance program to minimize complications after spinal cord injury.” $145,950

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
Dr. Peter Wang, “YouTube video surgical preparation.” $4,000

WESTERN UNIVERSITY BONE AND JOINT INSTITUTION

WESTON FAMILY MICROBIOME INITIATIVE
Dr. Jeremy Burton, “Use of novel human milk prebiotics to improve the quality of life for neurogenic bladder patients.” $150,000

Dr. Alp Sener, “Use of novel prebiotics to improve kidney transplant outcomes.” $150,000

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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