

# DEPARTMENT OF Surgery Newsletter

Fall 2019

THE DEPARTMENT  
OF SURGERY  
WELCOMED  
WESTERN  
UNIVERSITY  
DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI, DR.  
TONI ZHONG,  
AS THIS YEAR'S  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
AT THE DR.  
ROBERT ZHONG  
DEPARTMENT  
OF SURGERY  
RESEARCH DAY.  
MORE DETAILS ON  
PAGE 11.

## Chair's Column

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, FRCS**  
Richard Ivey Professor & Chair/Chief  
Department of Surgery  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry  
Western University

## Surgery News

### Dr. Alp Sener appointed Chair/Chief of Urology



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. Michael Chu appointed Acting Chair/Chief of Cardiac Surgery

Dr. Michael Chu was appointed Acting Chair/Chief, Division of Cardiac Surgery, effective November 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Dr. Chu graduated from medical school at the University of Saskatchewan, followed by a cardiac surgery residency at Schulich School Medicine & Dentistry, Western University and a Master of Education, concentrating on medical education, from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Chu is an active researcher with a focus on minimally invasive mitral repair, augmented imaging in minimally invasive valve surgery, transcatheter valve technology, and complex aortic reconstruction. His clinical interests include minimally invasive mitral valve reconstruction, transcatheter valve technology, and complex aortic reconstruction techniques such as hybrid arch repair and the Ross procedure. Dr. Chu is a founding member and leader of the Canadian Thoracic Aortic Collaborative, has published more than 170 papers throughout the past 10 years, and given more than 200 talks nationally and internationally on his research.

Dr. Chu succeeds Dr. Bob Kiaii who has led the Division of Cardiac Surgery for the past nine years. Under Dr. Kiaii's leadership, the Division has accomplished many national and international firsts in the field of cardiac surgery.



## Dr. Bing Gan elected CSPA President

Dr. Bing Siang Gan became the new President of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons (CSPA) 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.

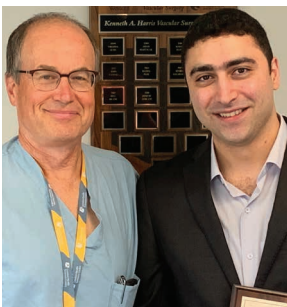
He served as co-director of the RMHULC Cell Biology Laboratory for many years.

**DR. GAN IS PICTURED AT THE CSPA 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.



# Surgery News

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 Holliday 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.



# Surgery News

## Dr. Armen Parsyan

Division of General Surgery, St. Joseph's Hospital



Dr. Armen Parsyan is an American and Canadian board-certified General Surgeon (McGill University) with subspecialty training in Breast Surgical Oncology (University of Toronto). He was trained in clinical and basic research at the University of Cambridge, UK (PhD), Boston (MPH) and Harvard Universities, USA. He completed two postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research with Canadian scientists, Nahum Sonenberg (McGill University, Montreal)

and Tak W. Mak (Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto). He further gained unique experience in Translational Breast Cancer models and studied mechanisms of chemo- and radio-sensitivity and resistance in breast cancer. Having received numerous national and international awards and grants from the US, UK, Ireland, and Canada, Dr. Parsyan has published in highly ranked journals such as *Nature*, *Science*, *Cancer Cell*, *PNAS*; contributed numerous book chapters; chief-edited a book on translation and breast cancer; and was actively involved in introducing the first robotic nipple-sparing mastectomy to Canada. Dr. Parsyan joined the Department as a surgeon-scientist to focus on Breast Surgical Oncology practice and lead the Translational Breast Cancer Research laboratory at the London Regional Cancer Program.

## Faculty Promotions

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](mailto:Celia.Dann@lhsc.on.ca)) or Dr. Patrick Colquhoun ([Patrick.Colquhoun@lhsc.on.ca](mailto: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.

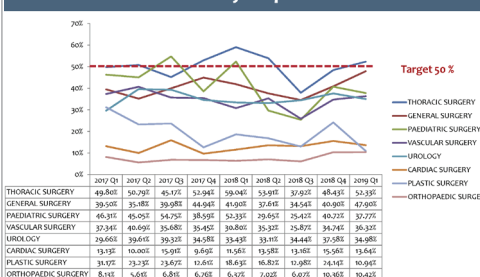
### ACS NSQIP Participant Use Data File (PUF)

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 (HQP), with a target performance level of 50% for discharge summaries being completed within 48 hours of discharge.

#### Current Performance by Department



London Health Sciences Centre

#### Discharge Summary Auto-Authentication Guidelines

- With auto-authentication (code 10), once the discharge summary is dictated and transcribed it is automatically distributed.
- It is the accountability of the department Chair-Chief to ensure residents and junior residents are coached and their discharge summaries reviewed before they can use code 10.
- Discharge summaries should be an important component of the residents' competency-based education.
- The department should have a process to document which residents have been approved to use code 10.

London Health Sciences Centre

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 health care providers applying best practices in design and adult learning. It is currently being piloted in Vascular Surgery.

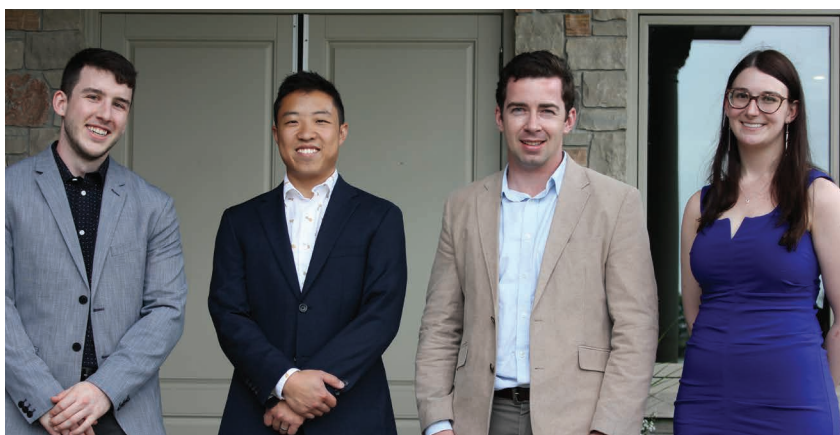
# Education News

## Annual Resident and MSc in Surgery Student Celebration Dinner



**SURGERY RESIDENCY GRADUATES (L-R):** DRS. JUSTIN KWONG, TROY NG, SAJJID HOSSAIN, CHRIS TAROLA, MEHDI QIABI, ANNIE DUCAS, WEN YAN XIE, NATHALIE SELA, ESTHER LAU, KYLA HUEBNER, ZAID KHOT, SHANE SMITH, SUPRIYA SINGH, NAHID PUNJANI, JACALYN THOREN. **NOT PICTURED:** JASON AKINDOLIRE, KAJEANDRA RAVICHANDIRAN, CHRISTINE NICHOLAS.

**MSc IN SURGERY GRADUATES (L-R):** DRS. SPENCER CHAMBERS, MICHAEL CHING, LUKE HARTFORD, JENNIFER BJAZEVIC. **NOT PICTURED:** DRS. TANYA DELYZER, SANTIAGO IGLESIAS, TANYA KUPER, BENJAMIN VAN DER WOERD



## 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 Bütter, 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.



## Teaching awards for 2018-19 academic year

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.

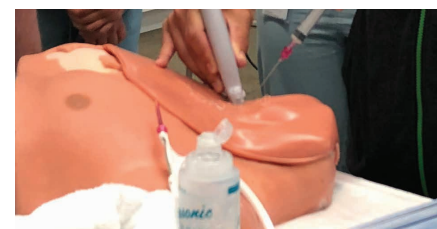
## Surgical Foundations Boot Camp

The Surgical Foundations Boot Camp was held in early July for 31 incoming surgical residents from the specialties of Cardiac Surgery, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Urology, Vascular Surgery, Neurosurgery, OB/GYN, Otolaryngology – Head & Neck, and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. The boot camp provides residents with essential knowledge and skills to transition into residency through interactive lectures, simulation sessions, and technical skills learning.

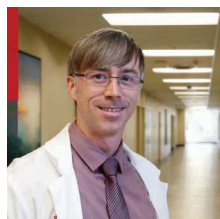
The Surgical Foundations program is now a competency-based curriculum, organized around the outcomes expected of a resident. Their



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.



# FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCES & SURGICAL INNOVATION NODE



## Research node leads to increased collaborations

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 Turley 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 Bütter 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.

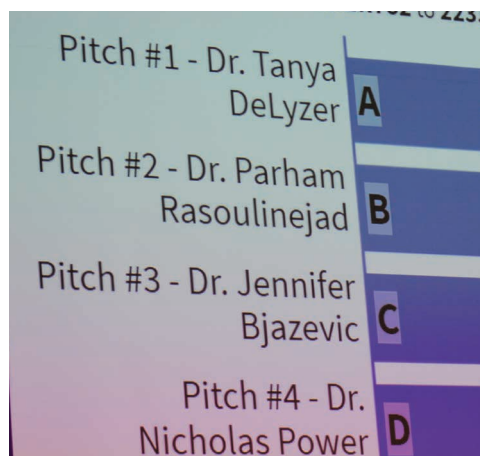
This year launched a new Surgical Dragon's Den session where members from each research node had five minutes to pitch their idea for a research project. Winners were chosen by real time audience voting, and received \$4,000 toward their project. Concluding the day was the keynote lecture given by Dr. 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."



**TOP RIGHT: DRS. EMIL SCHEMITSCH, TONI ZHONG, AND ALP SENER.**

**ABOVE: DR. SUPRIYA SINGH PRESENTS HER POSTER TO DR. CHRIS SCILLEY.**

**BELOW: DRS. NEIL PARRY AND ROB LEEPER MODERATE THE FIRST OF THE SURGICAL DRAGON'S DEN RESEARCH PITCHES.**



## 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

**Drs. Ryan Degen** and Jacquelyn Marsh, "Current trends in hip arthroscopy utilization and long-term cost-efficacy." \$29,625

#### 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

The Western Surgery Newsletter is produced by:

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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](mailto:Surgery_E-CAST@lhsc.on.ca), or call 519.646.6100 ext. 34776

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