



# DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Department of Surgery gratefully acknowledges the following partners and affiliates:



# Department of Surgery Annual Report 2012

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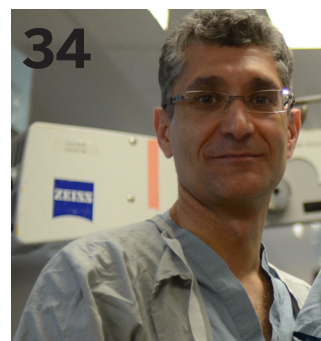
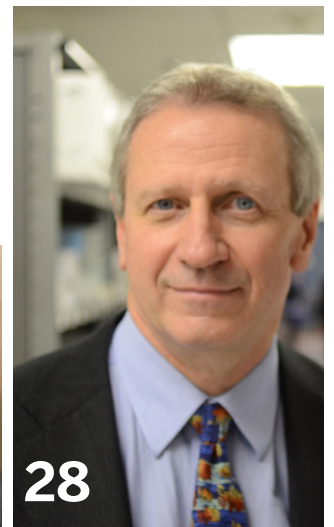
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## Message from the Department Chair, Dr. John Denstedt



**Dr. John Denstedt, Chair/Chief,  
Department of Surgery**

The theme of this year's Annual Report is internationalization. Both Western University and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry have internationalization as core aspects of their current strategic plans. Western University's update to its strategic plan, *Engaging the Future* (September 2010), specifically articulates the means by which Western will endeavour to raise its international profile, including expanding the number of partnerships with international research and teaching institutions, study abroad initiatives, and faculty exchanges<sup>1</sup>. Likewise, the Schulich School aspires to have an impact through international engagement. The 2011 Strategic Plan has as one of its strategic directions to "develop sustainable partnerships, networks, and global initiatives."<sup>2</sup> The Schulich plan explains, "Universities are looking strategically at their roles and contributions at the global or international stage. A number of trends are evident: greater international collaboration in research, increased international partnerships around education attracting international students and supporting local students in international settings, heightened focus on social responsibility and contributing to discovering and solving issues of social importance around the world."<sup>3</sup>

This is a dynamic moment in higher education with universities throughout the world actively pursuing international academic partnerships. For many colleges and universities, such partnerships are no longer a single component of internationalization; but rather a core strategic philosophy. There are many benefits to internationalization, of which some immediately come to mind including:

- Providing international learning experiences for students and encouraging them to become citizens of the world.
- Recruitment and retention of high quality faculty who are interested and energized by international opportunities.
- Advancing research by connecting institutions and researchers with those who have similar strengths and interests.
- Supporting the international ties and interests of our community.
- Promoting the overall mission of our institution and enhancing its reputation in international positioning.
- Diversity.
- Generating revenue in a time of constraint at home.



The sharing of knowledge and experience internationally are core values deeply embedded in the culture and history of medicine. In 2012, Canada's Governor General, David Johnston, coined the term "diplomacy of knowledge"; an expression that succinctly captures the concept of the power of knowledge sharing. The Governor General defined the "diplomacy of knowledge" as "our ability and willingness to work together and share the knowledge we uncover and refine across disciplines and across borders to improve the human condition together."<sup>4</sup> Innovation is escalated when individuals or groups begin to work across disciplines and the diplomacy of knowledge becomes immensely powerful when one crosses international borders and cultivates close contacts and interactions amongst students, teachers, and researchers. "When people research, teach, operate, and socialize together, the power of the diplomacy of knowledge is realized and unleashed."<sup>5</sup> There is a growing sense internationally that institutions can do more together than they can do alone; coupled with the understanding that learning, research, and community and social engagement are now global endeavours.

Recently the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Government of Canada formed a panel of experts to advise on developing and implementing an international education strategy. The panel, Chaired by Western University's President Dr. Amit Chakma, defines steps the Government must take to attract the best and brightest international students to Canada; strengthen Canada's engagement with emerging nations; expand the delivery of Canadian expertise from a knowledge and education services abroad; and promote partnerships between Canadian and international education institutions<sup>6</sup>. The panel defined international education as a key driver of Canada's future prosperity, particularly in the areas of innovation, trade, human capital development, and the labour market. Similar to the Governor General, the Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education

Strategy, believes that "international education in all its facets brings tremendous value to every community in Canada, whether urban or rural, Eastern or Western, Francophone or Anglophone."<sup>7</sup>

Department of Surgery members have increasingly contributed to this outward looking vision by being involved in a variety of internationalization initiatives. This includes many international collaborations in basic and clinical research; over 200 engagements as lecturer or guest professor in 36 countries in 2012; promoting two-way education exchange of students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels; and contributing to the establishment of robust international partnerships. The multi-faceted engagement of Department of Surgery members in the Schulich internationalization effort at the West China School of Medicine in Chengdu, China represent a prime example of a tangible and successful academic internationalization achievement. Highlighted in this annual report are many examples of the Department's extensive international engagements.

The Department of Surgery has benefited tremendously from its international involvement while still actively tending to our responsibilities at home. The Department continues to provide outstanding patient care to those from Southwest Ontario and beyond who rely on our services. Likewise, we remain focused on the core educational needs of our own students and residents. Our patients and students at home benefit as well from our international engagement as our faculty bring home new ideas and concepts and a global view of the world to our constituents. Forming strategic international partnerships is a complex and demanding enterprise but brings great potential benefits to our institutions, faculty and community. I am proud of all of the contributions made by Department of Surgery members throughout our history and over the course of the last year.

<sup>1</sup>Engaging the Future: Update on the Strategic Plan (September 2010) is available online at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/strategic\\_plan/index.htm](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/strategic_plan/index.htm), p. 1

<sup>2</sup>The Strategic Plan of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is available at <http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/schulichhome/articles/2011/10/11/schulich-s-vision-and-strategic-plan>, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid, p. 4.

<sup>4</sup>Address by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor at the University of Malaysia, November 14, 2011 is available at <http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=14313&lan=eng>.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>The report of the Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy is available at <http://www.international.gc.ca/education/advisory-consultation.aspx>.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.



Tesfay Behr, Operating Room Nurse



## Division of Cardiac Surgery

### Developing New Technologies and Treatments in a Multi-Faceted Global Role



**Dr. Bob Kiaii, Chair/Chief,  
Division of Cardiac Surgery**

Internationalization is embedded in nearly every aspect of the Division of Cardiac Surgery's endeavours. From resident and faculty exchanges to China and Latin America, to medical missions, to robotic training, to international conference organization, Dr. Kiaii, Chair/Chief, Division of Cardiac Surgery is quick to emphasize the importance of a global presence. "Internationalization is the engine that strengthens our research and teaching collaborations and which will significantly improve global health."

Division member and Program Director Dr. Ray Guo is a longstanding participant in medical missions to China, Mongolia, and Peru together with Dr. Chu and faculty from the ICU and Cardiology. "These individuals provide life-saving treatment to patients in developing nations that would never have access to these procedures," says Dr. Kiaii. "In addition, Division members have taken a lead role in training physicians from Columbia, China, Japan and Germany to learn advanced skills in minimally invasive sur-



gery and procedures such as sutureless valves and transcatheter aortic valve replacement.”

The Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics (CSTAR) facility has been at the centre of several international efforts. Its technology has enabled peer-to-peer training; live surgical demonstrations broadcast from London, Ontario to South America; and now will operate as the North American surgical training centre for use of the DaVinci robot. “This will open doors for institutions across the world for robotic surgery training,” adds Dr. Kiaii. The new DaVinci robot also features a surgical simulation attachment that provides an outstanding training experience. Two consoles work in tandem to allow a trainee to be directly supervised by a faculty instructor. “This will bring minimally invasive surgical training to the next level of excellence and ultimately improve patient outcomes,” explains Dr. Kiaii.

International linkages have been crucial to advancing the Division’s research efforts. Dr. Chu received the 2012 Robert Emery Young Investigator Award from the International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (ISMICS) and Dr. Kiaii Co-Chairs the Scientific Program Committee for the 2013 ISMICS annual meeting. “These types of roles will enable us to bring international talent to London for our Research Day as well as to facilitate building research relationships among all our faculty,” observes Dr. Kiaii.

Dr. Kiaii is also pleased with a new first in 2012 for the Division: the creation of the assistive device program. “The recruitment of Dr. Dave Nagpal in 2012 was instrumental in provincial approval of this program at LHSC,” notes Dr. Kiaii. “This will strengthen our transplant program and our collaboration with the Cardiac

Surgery Recovery Unit (CSRU) and Cardiology.” While the use of short-term assistive devices has been possible at LHSC, this is the start of a new frontier in long-term assistive devices that are aimed to improve patient quality of life and health status before moving to the next stage of cardiac surgical intervention.

“Internationalization is a part of our everyday experience in the Division of Cardiac Surgery.”

- Dr. Bob Kiaii

Dr. Kiaii credits Dr. John Denstedt, Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery, with providing the support and infrastructure to reach a high international stature. “The minimally invasive cardiac surgical program and the development of innovative technology is a credit to Dr. Denstedt’s leadership,” observes Dr. Kiaii. “Recruitment, industry partnership, and international exchange opportunities have come to fruition thanks to his involvement.”

“Internationalization is a part of our everyday experience in the Division of Cardiac Surgery,” states Dr. Kiaii. “It is our vision to continue to advance the technology and treatment of cardiac disease in a multi-faceted global role.”

**Awards and Achievements**

Nagpal, Dave. McMaster / UWO Critical Care Research Day 2011, Fellow's Competition – first place for "Starch or Saline After Cardiac Surgery: A randomized controlled trial"

Chu, Michael. International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (ISMICS), 2012 ISMICS Robert Emery Young Investigator Award

Kiaii, Bob. Most Outstanding Faculty Teacher, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of Cardiac Surgery.

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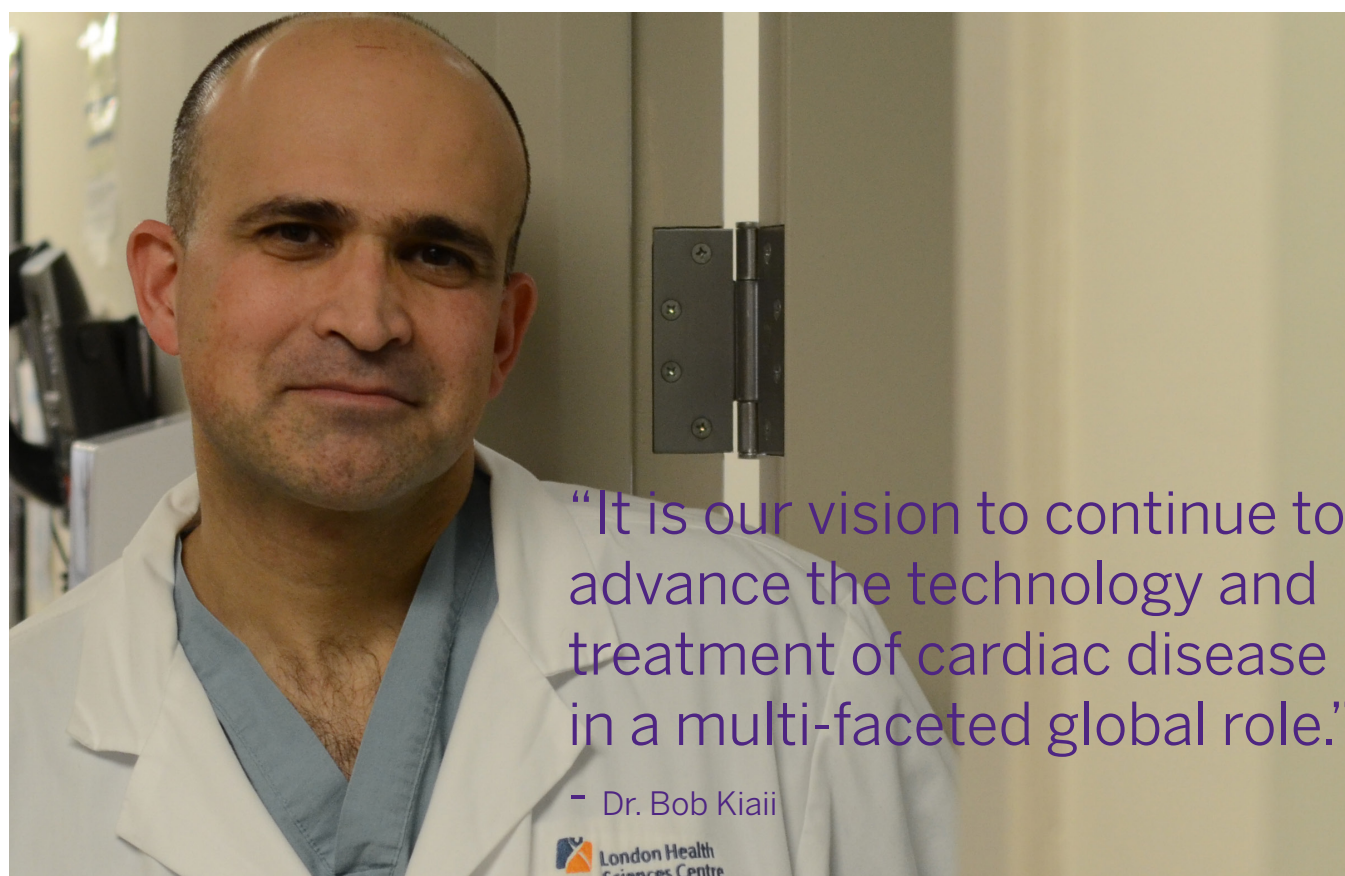
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Currie ME, Greer-Bayramoglu RJ, Fortin AJ, Chu MW. Is it Feasible to Use the Internal Thoracic Artery for both Coronary Bypass Surgery and Breast Reconstruction? *Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg.* in revisions.

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- Kiefer P, Seeburger J, Ender J, Vollroth M, Noack T, Chu MW, Mohr FW, Holzhey DM. Reoperative transapical aortic valve implantation for early structural valve deterioration of a Sapien XT valve. Submitted to *ATS*.
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### Book Chapters

- Chu MWA. Total arch replacement in patients with aortic dissection with the isolated left vertebral artery. *ATS review*: Mar 2012.
- Chu MWA. A simple method of left ventricular reconstruction without cardiopulmonary bypass for anteroapical aneurysm. *CJS review*: Oct 2011.
- Influences of Secondary Hyperparathyroidism on Myocardial Hypertrophy in Dialysis-dependent Patients Undergoing Aortic Valve Replacement for Aortic Valve Stenosis. *ATS review*. 2011 Aug.



## Division of General Surgery

### Innovators in Patient Care, Teaching and Research at Local, National and International Levels

The Division of General Surgery ended 2012 and began 2013 with a stunning international development in the surgical treatment of liver cancer. “Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro has introduced a novel two-staged hepatectomy, referred to as the ALPPS procedure,” explains Dr. Ken Leslie, Chair/Chief, Division of General Surgery. “This was a surgical first in Canada and his early and significant success has resulted in national media coverage and international consultative calls.”

Dr. Roberto Hernandez is the Surgical Director of the Liver Transplant Unit at London Health Sciences Centre and was elected to the Education Committee of the International Liver Transplantation Society in 2012. He sits on the Grants and Awards Committee of the Canadian Society of Transplantation and is a board member of the Trillium Gift of Life. “Dr. Hernandez’s contributions exemplify the Division’s commitment to patient care, teaching, and research at the local, national and international levels,” notes Dr. Leslie.

Dr. Leslie also lauded three members of the Division of General Surgery who were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 in recognition of outstanding Canadians in the Queen’s 60th Year as Monarch. Dr. Christopher Schlachta was awarded a Medal based on his research in simulation-based training for laparoscopic and robotic surgery; Dr. William Wall received a Medal for his work in transplant surgery throughout his career; and Dr. Vivian McAlister received the Medal from Surgeon General

Brigadier-General Bernier for his outstanding commitment and performance in both his military and civilian career.

“Dr. McAlister was appointed the Co-Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Surgery in 2012. However, he is also well known for his great service to our country through multiple deployments to Afghanistan”, adds Dr. Leslie. “He is now working with local surgeons in Afghanistan to develop training programs and curriculum – internationalization at a greatly needed, sustainability-oriented level.” Dr. McAlister’s nomination for the Teasdale-Cordy Humanitarian Award from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is certainly well deserved.

In July 2012, the Minister of Health, the Honorable Leona Aglukkaq, highlighted the success of a CIHR-funded project carried out by Dr. Muriel Brackstone. Working with Pamela Zabel, Lawson Research Institute, the researchers developed a new imaging agent that dramatically reduces the amount of the isotope Technetium-99m used in the imaging of breast cancer tumors. Dr. Brackstone is also the Medical Director of the Breast Care Centre at St. Joseph’s Health Care, London. “Dr. Brackstone is another visionary in the Division of General Surgery whose research has a direct and immediate positive impact on patient care,” observes Dr. Leslie.

The Division of General Surgery’s reputation for excellence in teaching was reinforced with full accreditation of the residency program by the Roy-



**Dr. Ken Leslie, Chair/Chief,  
Division of General Surgery**

“Members of the Division of General Surgery have an incredible impact on our subspecialty in patient care, teaching, research, and service throughout the world.”

- Dr. Ken Leslie

al College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2012. The Foundations of Surgery Program, led by Dr. Michael Ott, was also granted full accreditation. “We were very pleased not only with this outstanding achievement but with comments from our external reviewers that we have the best General Surgery training program in Canada,” clarifies Dr. Leslie. “It was especially noteworthy that our two key leaders in Surgical Education also received awards in 2012. Dr. Michael Ott was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Medical Education Certificate of Merit for outstanding contribution to surgical education; and Dr. Brian Taylor, Associate Director of Surgical Education – UGE, was awarded the National John Provan Outstanding Canadian Surgical Educator Award by the Canadian Undergraduate Surgery Education Committee in 2012.”

Members of the Division of General Surgery additionally serve in leadership positions in many local, national and international societies and associations. Dr. Schlachta is on the Board of Governors for the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgery (SAGES), the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and the International

Federation of Societies of Endoscopic Surgery (IFSES); Dr. Steven Latosinsky is the Vice-President of the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology; Dr. Ward Davies is the Vice-Chair of the Exam Board of General Surgery; Dr. Patrick Colquhoun leads the GI Disease Site Team at London Health Sciences Centre; and Dr. Chris Vinden is President of the Ontario Association of General Surgeons.

“Members of the Division of General Surgery have an incredible impact on our subspecialty in patient care, teaching, research, and service throughout the world,” explains Dr. Leslie. “We are looking forward to building on our achievements throughout 2013 and beyond.”

“In my short time as the leader of General Surgery, Dr. Denstedt has provided great mentorship and support for my role. His advice and guidance is invaluable,” concludes Dr. Leslie. “Dr. Denstedt has provided excellent mentorship to all Chairs and to all the recruits to the Department over his tenure. This mentorship will provide the basis for continued excellence in the Division and Department of surgery.”

#### Resident Accomplishments

Farouq Manji is the Junior Resident recipient and Maritza Swart is the Senior Resident recipient of the Class of Meds '49 Award for Excellence in Teaching by residents for 2011-2012.

This award was established by the Class of Meds '49 to recognize and reward residents with exceptional teaching ability and who have made significant contributions to the undergraduate medical education of clinical

clerks.

Maritza Swart is the resident recipient of the Department of Surgery Resident Teaching Award for 2011-2012.

#### Awards and Achievements

Taylor, Brian. John Provan Outstanding Canadian Surgical Educator Award. Recognizing outstanding contributions to undergraduate surgical education in Canada. Canadian Un-

dergraduate Surgical Education Committee, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Gray, Daryl. Division of Surgical Oncology Award for Academic Excellence, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Hernandez-Alejandro, Roberto. CST Clinical Trainee Award, For abstract, "Should the Worst Organ Go to the Least Sick Patient?: MELD and Donor Risk Index as Predictors of Early Allograft Dysfunction." Canadian Society of Transplantation, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

Hernandez-Alejandro, Roberto. Resident Mentor Award, In recognition of commitment and dedication to the training and mentoring of young surgeons, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, London, Ontario, Canada

Brackstone, Muriel. Excellence in Oncology - Academics, University of Western Ontario, Surgical Oncology, London, Ontario, Canada

Ott, Michael. JH Duff Teacher of the Year, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, London, Ontario, Canada

McAlister, Vivian. Surgeon General's Commendation, Award for Excellence, Canadian Forces, Department of National Defence, Canada

McAlister, Vivian. General Campaign Star – SOUTH-WEST ASIA (GCS-SWA), Service in operations in the presence of an armed enemy. Government of Canada.

Wall, William. Ontario Medical Association Life Membership Award, Lifetime Member - OMA, General Surgery, London, Ontario, Canada

Wall, William. Clerkship Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award. Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, Ontario, Canada

## Publications

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Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro performs the ALPPS procedure.





**Dr. Christopher Schlachta**



**The Ontario Minister of Health, the Honorable Deb Matthews and Dr. Muriel Brackstone**

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## Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

World-Renowned for Surgical Excellence and International Collaboration



Dr. James Roth

“International relationships enlighten and strengthen our own systems and practices locally; while directly impacting orthopaedic surgery as a subspecialty in teaching, research and clinical care.”

- Dr. James Roth

The Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Western University, has an international reputation for excellence. “This is a crucial element to our success,” describes Dr. James Roth, Chair/Chief, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery. “International relationships enlighten and strengthen our own systems and practices locally; while directly impacting orthopaedic surgery as a subspecialty in teaching, research and clinical care.”

The Division is well-known for a large number of international fellows who compete for coveted spaces in Arthroplasty, the Hand and Upper Limb Centre, Paediatrics, Sports Medicine, Trauma, and Spine. Recent fellows have come from the UK, China, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. In addition, the Division hosts Travelling Fellows from around the world for advanced research and training oppor-



tunities. The most recent Travelling Fellows came from Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa. "Our global network of trainees, researchers, and clinicians often starts with our strong training programs." Dr. Roth adds, "This had led to many fruitful international research relationships and recruitment of outstanding faculty."

Dr. Roth is very pleased with the Division's newest members recruited in 2012: Dr. Brent Lanting (Arthroplasty), Dr. Ted Vasarhelyi (Arthroplasty), and Dr. Alan Getgood (Sports Medicine). "These stellar individuals complement our existing strengths with expanded expertise in biomechanics, computer-assisted surgery, and cartilage biology," explains Dr. Roth. "The opening of the new Mechatronics Lab – a shared effort by Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, the Lawson Health Research Institute and the Depart-

ment of Surgery – will also provide an outstanding facility for our clinicians and researchers to work collaboratively on exciting research coming forward in 2013."

The Division's impressive results in research in 2012 include a \$2.5M award from CIHR to Drs. Joy MacDermid and Ruby Grewal for their work on distal radius fracture management; and \$649,806 to Dr. David Holdsworth from CIHR for his work on real-time microscopy during high-frequency mechanostimulation of living cells. The total grant funds awarded to Division members in 2012 approached \$3.4M.

Among national highlights of 2012 include Dr. Robert Bourne being invested as a Member of the Order of Canada and Dr. Cecil Rorabeck being invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada in November 2012. Dr. Bourne, the former Divi-



**Dr. Steven MacDonald, Acting Chair/Chief,  
Division of Orthopaedic Surgery**

*Dr. James Roth passed away unexpectedly on February 1, 2013. As his statements show, he was extremely proud of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at Western University and worked tirelessly on its behalf. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and had the pleasure of working with him. The entire faculty of the Orthopaedics Division is committed to the success of our program, and maintaining our national and international reputation of excellence.*

*~ Dr. Steven MacDonald, Acting Chair/Chief, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery*

sion Chair/Chief was appointed in recognition of his work that improved the quality of hip and knee prosthetics; and Dr. Rorabeck was named in recognition for the field of orthopaedic medicine, particularly in the area of joint replacement, and for his leadership within his professional community. Dr. Rorabeck takes the reigns of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in early 2013. "Division members have a longstanding tradition of national leadership," observes Dr. Roth. "We are thrilled at this high level of recognition for Drs. Bourne and Rorabeck in 2012-13."

Many faculty in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery are also involved with national and international societies. Division members provided more than 300 national and international presentations in 2012. Dr. Marie-Eve LeBel was awarded the Canadian-French-Belgian-Swiss Travelling Fellowship from the Canadian Orthopaedic Association and Dr. George Athwal was awarded the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons European Exchange Fellowship from the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons. "These exchanges are incredible opportunities for learning and teaching and it is an honour to have so many of our faculty awarded travelling fellowships on a regular basis," remarks Dr. Roth.

Dr. Roth also recognized Dr. John Denstedt for his tremendous contributions as Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery that were instrumental in the Division's growth and development over the past eleven years. "Dr. Denstedt's leadership has been essential in all of our endeavours," adds Dr. Roth. "From his international initiatives to his support of our new Graduate Program in Surgery, Dr. Denstedt has advanced the Department immeasurably in his role as Chair/Chief."

*It is a privilege to share these words with you taken from an interview with Dr. Roth in late December 2012. His unexpected passing has left an enormous void in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery and the Department of Surgery. Truly an exceptional leader himself, Dr. Roth published in the peer-reviewed literature widely; established the internationally renowned Hand and Upper Limb Centre at St. Joseph's Health Care London; cared for thousands of patients; taught and mentored a generation of surgeons; and was a cherished friend to all who knew him. He will be profoundly missed.*

*~ Dinah Frank, Administrative Officer,  
Department of Surgery*

**"Our global network of trainees, researchers, and clinicians often starts with our strong training programs."** - Dr. James Roth

**Awards and Achievements**

Athwal, George. Clinical Scientist Award, Department of Surgery, University of Western Ontario

Athwal, George. Dean's Award of Excellence, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Western Ontario

Athwal, George. American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons European Exchange Fellowship, American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons

Bailey, Christopher. Clinical Scientist, Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Clinical Scientist, University of Western Ontario

Faber, Kenneth. Surgery Clerkship Teaching Award, UWO, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

Howard, James. Howie Cameron Award for Excellence in Resident Education, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

King, Graham. Achievement Award, For Educational Service to American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS)

MacDonald, Steven. CH Rorabeck Award, Awarded by residents to the consultant for best intraoperative teaching in the Orthopaedics program

Willits, Kevin. UWO Students' Council Teaching Honour Roll Award of Excellence, University of Western Ontario Student Council, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

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Orthopaedic Surgeons, Dr. George Athwal  
and Dr. David Chess





“Serving our patients,  
whether locally or  
globally, builds  
strength into each  
community.”

- Dr. Leslie Scott



## Division of Paediatric Surgery

### Leaders in Paediatric Surgical Care Locally and Globally

Like the Division itself, internationalization is a growing aspect of the Division of Paediatric Surgery. With 14 Division members from seven subspecialties, Dr. Leslie Scott, Chair/Chief, Division of Paediatric Surgery, leads a strong and cohesive team in the surgical care and treatment of children from across southwestern Ontario. "Serving our patients, whether locally or globally, builds strength into each community," Dr. Scott explains.

In many developing countries, children represent over 50% of the population but often lack adequate medical care. Dr. Timothy Carey has participated for three years on a medical mission to Ecuador with the Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad (CAMTA) to provide surgical treatment for club feet and dislocated hips. This year he will be joined by Dr. Megan Cashin. On the other side of the globe, Dr. Sumit Dave has established linkages with paediatric urologists in Ranchi, India. Visiting at least annually, Dr. Dave provides consultations, visiting lectures, and surgical

treatment to children with urological disorders. These physicians are eager to acquire pediatric urological skills and Dr. Dave plans to continue his outreach efforts in India with the hopes of creating opportunities for other paediatric surgeons and subspecialties to participate.

Dr. Scott expects international activities to expand in the Division of Paediatric Surgery, with Division members taking a leadership role. Dr. Neil Merritt is a member of the Committee for Global Paediatric Initiatives as part of the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons. "Our successful recruitment of new surgeons to the Division has allowed for more faculty participation in international conferences and there certainly is a great deal of interest in the Department and the University's worldwide initiatives," explains Dr. Scott. "This is an excellent opportunity to showcase our success and also to learn from centres where the volume and complexity of paediatric surgical cases is much higher than in Canada."

**"Our successful recruitment of new surgeons to the Division has allowed for more faculty participation in international conferences and there certainly is a great deal of interest in the Department and the University's worldwide initiatives." - Dr. Leslie Scott**





**Dr. Leslie Scott, Chair/Chief,  
Division of Paediatric Surgery**

Dr. Scott is pleased to report on the Division's newest recruit, Dr. Sarah Jones. An experienced paediatric general surgeon and clinical and academic leader, Dr. Jones shares the Division members' passion for paediatric surgery. "Dr. Jones is a stellar complement to our team," Dr. Scott remarks. "She has a great deal of research experience in outcome analysis, practice guidelines, and benchmarking, which will be key to the Division's resource strategy for the future." Dr. Jones has also been working on research into paediatric surgical training and manpower implications. Dr. Scott believes this has stimulated an interesting and important national conversation about the allocation of resources to training programs.

The reconstruction of the operating rooms at Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre, is another success Dr. Scott highlights this year.

"This has enabled the creation of a paediatric OR within the regular OR with specialized paediatric pre- and post-operative care," she describes. "Division members have also worked collaboratively to establish dedicated paediatric OR time during the day for urgent and emergent cases. This has improved the care and outcome for our most critically ill patients – especially babies and small children."

Dr. Scott thanks Dr. Denstedt in his last year as Chair/Chief, Department of Surgery. She notes, "Dr. Denstedt's leadership has raised the awareness and profile of paediatric surgery as an important surgical subspecialty, which has allowed us to flourish and function at a higher level both clinically and academically. This is reflected every day in each surgeon's practice."

**Awards and Achievements**

Matic, Damir. Award for best teacher within the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as judged by the Plastic surgery residents, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

Matic, Damir. Waldo Stavsky Teaching Award, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, London, Ontario, Canada

Merritt, Neil. Surgery Clerkship Teaching Award, In recognition of being voted the most outstanding faculty teacher in the Division of Paediatric Surgery by the Clinical Clerks, University of Western Ontario, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division

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**Publications**

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**Book Chapters**

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Carey T. Management of Premature Physeal Arrest. *AAOS Monograph: Management of Limb Length Discrepancies.* R. Hardy, J. McCarthy. Ch 17, pp 137-148.











## Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

### At the Forefront of Global Health and Knowledge Translation

As a subspecialty, Plastic Surgery in Canada has been at the forefront of Global Health; and the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Western has been a leader in multiple aspects. Dr. Douglas Ross, Chair/Chief, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and Director, Surgical Education, sees international endeavours as crucial learning and teaching opportunities for trainees and faculty at all levels. “Resident exchanges, fellowships, medical missions, and international meetings help broaden surgical skills on a global level which ultimately improves both training and patient care.”

Dr. Ross has been a leader in the Department of Surgery in establishing a relationship with the West China Hospital in Chengdu, China. Dr. Rebecca Greer-Bayramoglu (PGY5) spent a month in Chengdu on a resident exchange, where she learned new techniques and was able to impart Canadian knowledge and skills. Dr. Greer-Bayramoglu also spent time in Cambodia with Operation Rainbow – a Canadian plastic surgical team – to train local surgeons and to repair cleft lips and palates in developing countries.

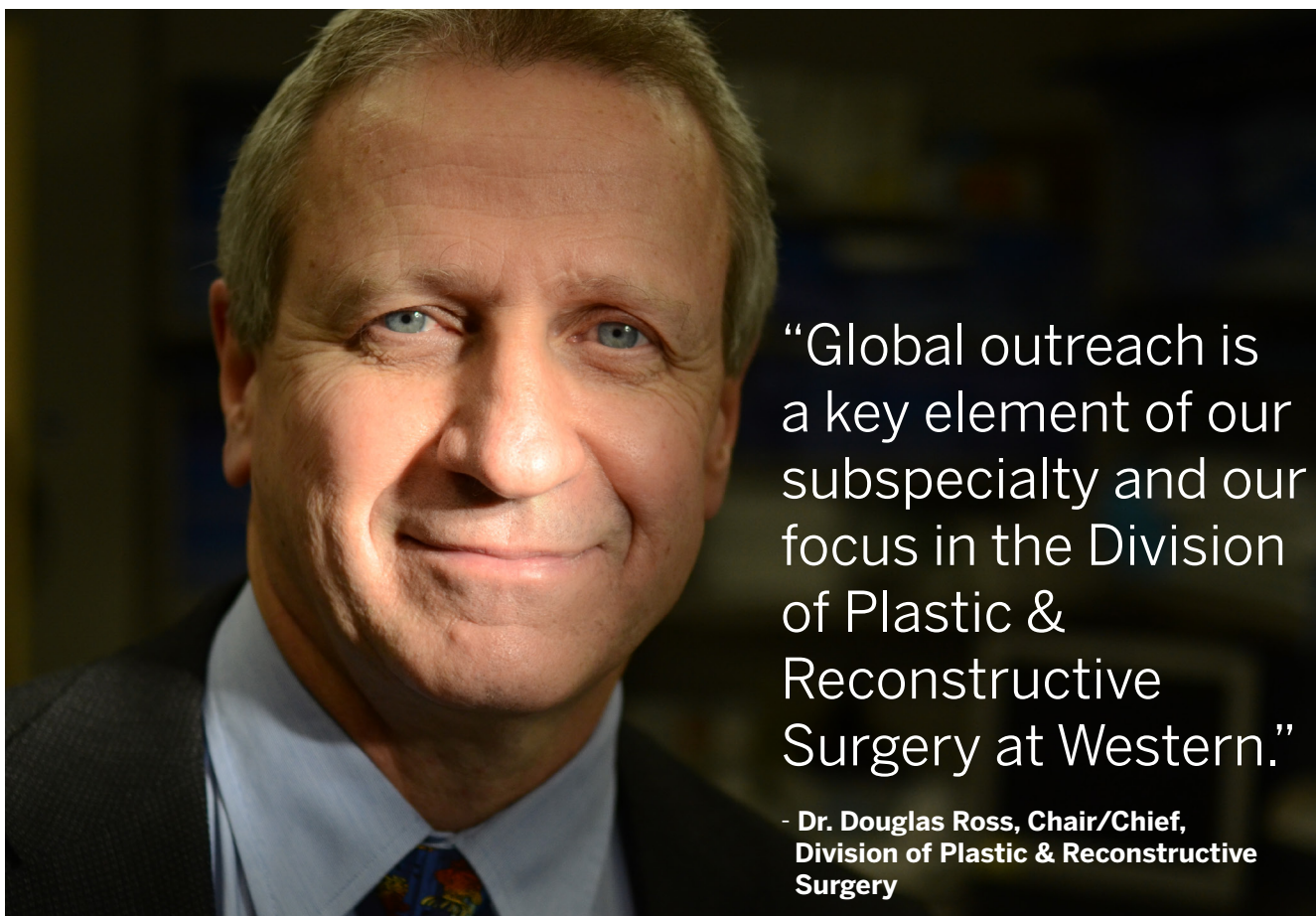
Western’s plastic surgeons continue to be active in the formal education of international trainees.

At the Hand & Upper Limb Centre, trainees from Israel, New Zealand, Australia and many other countries are common. Surgeons from the United States and the Philippines will be working with Dr. Damir Matic as clinical fellows in 2013 and 2014.

As President of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons (CSPS), Dr. Ross has been working to bring surgeons from overseas to attend the Society’s annual meeting and stay in Canada for a few weeks to study new techniques. In 2013, Sister Justina Najjuka, a Catholic nun and plastic surgeon from Uganda will attend the CSPS meeting in Calgary. In addition, the Society is also looking to establish an International Surgery Committee to coordinate and facilitate Canadian Plastic Surgery Global Health Initiatives. “These international roles are an incredible leadership opportunity,” explains Dr. Ross. “The skills and networks our faculty build globally are an invaluable enhancement to research and teaching extending down to the local level.”

Dr. Ross was delighted when Dr. Matic was elected to a three-year term as the North American representative on the AO Technical Commission in 2012. This is a Research & Development com-





“Global outreach is a key element of our subspecialty and our focus in the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Western.”

- Dr. Douglas Ross, Chair/Chief,  
Division of Plastic & Reconstructive  
Surgery

mission that approves and directs research in the development and implementation of equipment used in all forms of facial reconstruction and has representatives from Latin America, Asia, and Europe.

Faculty have been noteworthy speakers at conferences around the world in 2012. Dr. Chris Scilley was an invited guest speaker in family physician conferences in Mexico, Vietnam, and Cambodia on topics such as melanoma and common hand injuries.

Dr. Damir Matic served as an invited international faculty member for an AO Principles course in craniomaxillofacial trauma in October 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya. His lectures focused on management of Naso-orbital ethmoid fractures and on secondary orbital reconstruction. In November

2012, he participated in an international retreat in Johannesburg, South Africa looking at improving the teaching of the management of craniofacial trauma around the world particularly in challenging places such as the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. He was also an invited international faculty member for a real-time webcast educational program on “Paediatric Craniofacial Surgery” held in Davos, Switzerland and broadcast to more than 500 participants around the world in Africa, India, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

With respect to Basic Science, the Division’s Cell and Molecular Biology Laboratory of the Hand and Upper Limb Centre and colleagues at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia, have established a collaborative effort focused on the molecular biology of connective tissue disease development in patients with type-2 dia-



“The skills and networks our faculty build globally are an invaluable enhancement to research and teaching extending down to the local level.” - Dr. Douglas Ross

betes. Dr. David O’Gorman accepted an initiation to join the scientific panel of the International Dupuytren’s Society as its only Canadian representative.

Dr. Arjang Yazdani’s research on the biomechanics of the craniofacial skeleton has expanded in partnership with Dr. Tom Jenkyn from the Faculty of Engineering. They are investigating different mechanisms for facial fractures and their early work has shown a correlation between brain injuries and facial fractures. It is hoped that work will lead to innovations in safety such as reducing concussions. Dr. Yazdani is also working with Dr. Eva Turley on a number of grants assessing the use of a novel hyaluronic acid molecule as a novel drug delivery system. They have recently received a commercialization grant to start a phase 1 trial on the use of hyaluronic acid in the treatment of radiation dermatitis and have been invited to submit a CIHR international grant on the use of hyaluronan in chronic inflammatory conditions.

Dr. Ross extends his congratulations to Dr. Bing Siang Gan, who was awarded the American Soci-

ety of Plastic Surgeons/Plastic Surgery Foundation of the USA PSF Bernard Sarnat Excellence in Grant Writing Award for 2012.

The Division of Plastic Surgery is very appreciative of the leadership of Dr. John Denstedt over the past decade. “During a period in which financial pressures continuously constrained hospitals and the University, John was able to foster remarkable growth in both faculty and programs. During his tenure, the reputation of Surgery at Western has strengthened to become a leading Department across the country,” explains Dr. Ross. Speaking as a division leader, Dr. Ross noted that John was always open to new ideas, always supportive and particularly encouraging for new, young faculty. As the recent Department of Surgery external review noted, these will be big shoes to fill.

“Global outreach is a key element of our subspecialty and our focus in the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Western,” concludes Dr. Ross. “There is no question that internationalization expands our horizons and enriches our experiences as learners, teachers, and leaders.”

**Awards and Achievements**

Gan, Bing. Surgery Clerkship Faculty Teaching Award, For Outstanding Faculty Teacher, Scope: Department, UWO Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, London, Ontario, Canada

**Publications**

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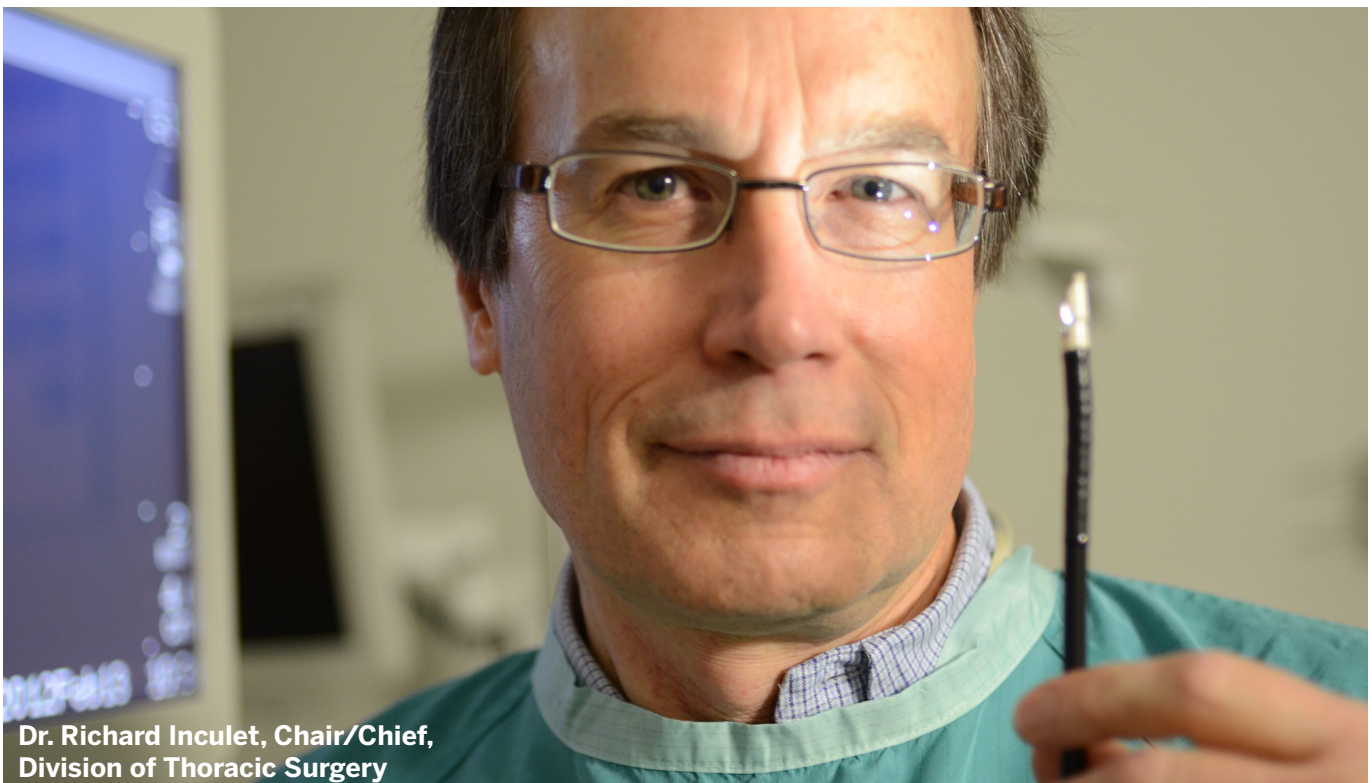
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## Division of Thoracic Surgery

Advancing Innovative Research and Providing Cutting-Edge Clinical Care



**Dr. Richard Inculet, Chair/Chief,  
Division of Thoracic Surgery**

Two thousand and twelve was a year of growth and exciting optimism for Western's Division of Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Eric Fréchette was successfully recruited from Laval University in Quebec. He brings international expertise with training in MIS Surgery (Pittsburgh), and Surgical Oncology (Ulm Germany and Virginia USA), as well as Endoscopic

Ultrasound training (Montreal). Dr. Fréchette has trained Thoracic Surgery Fellows from Romania, Argentina, and Greece. It is hoped to be able to utilize his international connections and offer similar Thoracic Surgical fellowships at Western in the future.



Presently, a general surgeon from Saudi Arabia is enrolled in Western's two-year Thoracic Surgery Residency training program. The Division is pleased to have previously successfully trained in our RCPSC Resident Program surgeons from Kuwait (presently Dean Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait), and from the USA.

The new state of the art, MIS equipped Thoracic Operating room at Victoria Hospital, set to open in May 2013, will now allow Thoracic Surgery members to communicate their surgical expertise worldwide.

The Division of Thoracic Surgery continued its valuable contributions to International Research Trials. Members participate actively in the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, through their long-standing membership in the Alliance Legacy Group ACSOG.

Other noteworthy accomplishments include the appointment of Dr. Richard Inculet as President of the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons, and Dr. Dalilah Fortin to the Executive. As the Division Program Director, Dr. Fortin was instrumental in leading the Division through a successful Program training review by the RCPSC.

Dr. Richard Malthaner, who has been productive in the research of Robotic applications to Thoracic Surgery, will lead the Division in Robotic technology assessment, as they move forward with the recent LHSC acquisition of DaVinci Robots.

The Western Division of Thoracic Surgery looks forward to developing, researching and sharing, the amazing opportunities afforded to them for 2013.

#### Awards and Achievements

Fortin, Dalilah. University Students' Council Teaching Honour Roll, Excellence in teaching in undergraduate medical education, University of Western Ontario, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, London, Ontario, Canada

Malthaner, Richard. Clinical Clerkship Faculty Teaching Award, Best Thoracic Surgery teacher during clinical clerkship, The University of Western Ontario, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Surgery, Division of Thoracic Surgery, London, Ontario, Canada

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## Division of Urology

### Committed to Exceptional Research, Teaching and Clinical Care

The Division of Urology at Western University has an outstanding international reputation for excellence in research, teaching, and clinical care. Working with colleagues around the world, Division members collaborate in clinical trials and basic science research that continue to improve the lives of patients with a variety of urologic diseases. Dr. Hassan Razvi, Chair/Chief, Division of Urology, notes the importance of internationalization in the everyday work of the Division. "From involvement in multi-centre clinical trials, international research symposia, guest speakerships, to world-renowned fellowship training programs, the reach of our Division members extends world-wide on a continual basis."

As a result of the international influence of the program, The Division of Urology at Western is a sought after destination for fellowship positions in four subspecialty areas: Urologic Oncology, Transplant, Endourology, and Andrology. "These programs provide a basis for an exchange of ideas that will continue throughout the careers of our faculty and trainees," remarks Dr. Razvi. Fellows most recently have come from Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the Philippines. There are many more educational initiatives in store for the Division. Dr. Razvi adds, "Dr. Denstedt has been a key leader in promoting telemedicine and telesurgery as a viable form of continuing medical education in our specialty. This is a perfect example of globalization in teaching new techniques in urology."

Dr. Gregor Reid, Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and cross-appointed to the Division of Urology, is an international scholar whose initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa focus on the use of probiotics to reduce urinary infections and to enhance the quality of life for women and infants. Dr. Reid's work was recognized in 2012 with a Grand Challenges Exploration Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Other Division members have provided an essential service to developing nations as well, with lectureships and surgical demonstrations of new techniques in urology. Members including Drs. Brock, Chin, Dave, Denstedt, Luke, Pautler and Razvi have participated in such trips in the last five years, to a number of nations including Peru, China, Ecuador, the Gulf States and Mexico.

The Division continued to achieve significant success in funding in 2012. A few examples include: The Canada Foundation for Innovation awarded \$575,140 to Dr. Lakshman Gunaratnam (cross-appointed to the Division of Urology), and Dr. Alp Sener for their research on ischemia reperfusion injury and inflammation in transplantation. Dr. Jeremy Burton was appointed the Miriam Burnett Chair in Urological Research in 2012 and received start up grant support from the Weston Foundation of \$100,000 to explore novel therapies to treat urinary infections. The total amount of research funding received by Division members in 2012 was approximately \$1.4M with a total of 114

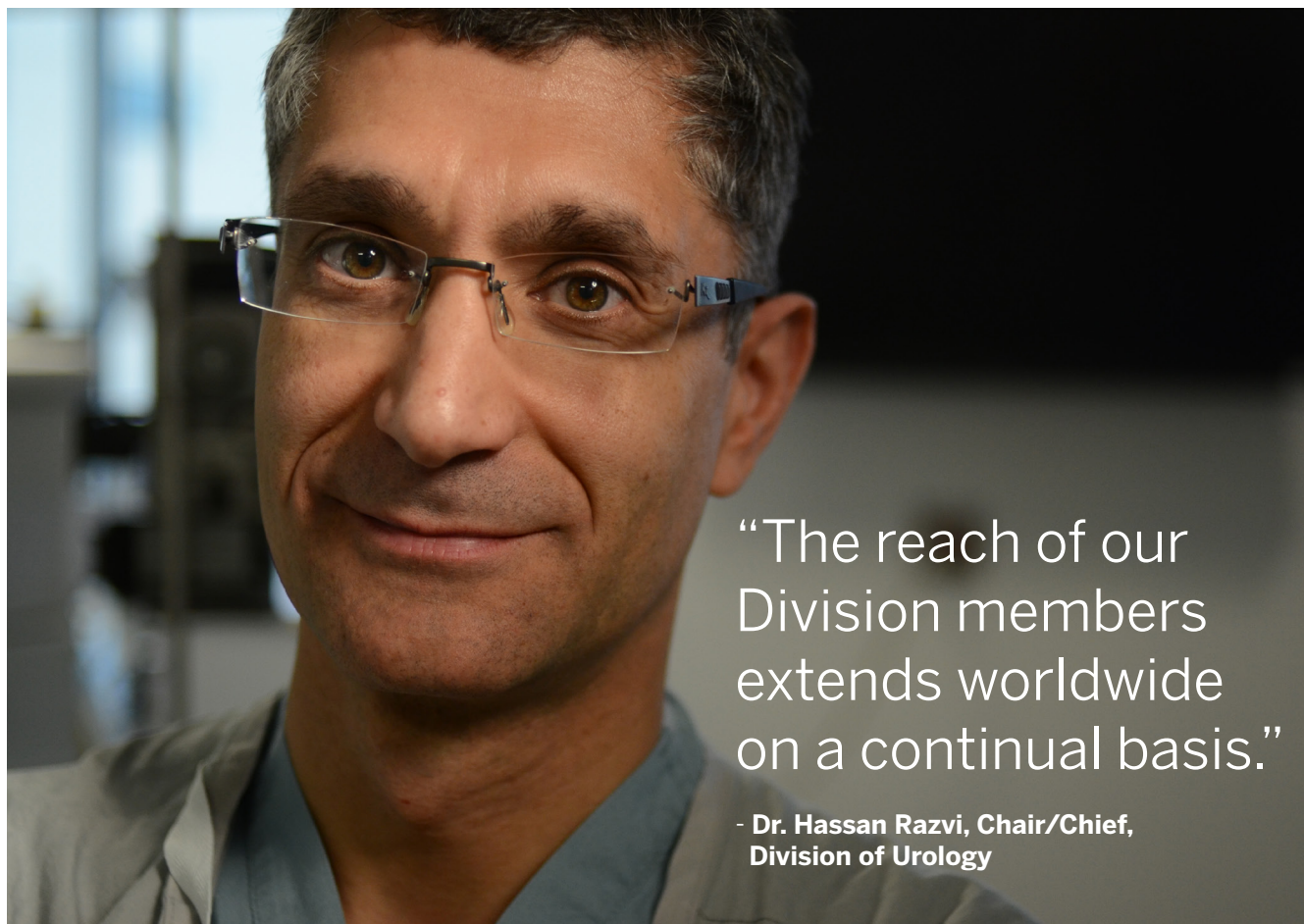
peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters published by Division members.

Several Division members were recognized with provincial, national, and international roles and awards in 2012. Dr. John Denstedt presently serves on the Endourological Society Board of Directors. Dr. Denstedt also joins the Board of Directors of the American Urological Association (AUA) in 2013. Dr. Razvi is the Immediate Past-President of the Northeastern Section of the American Urological Association and also serves on the organization's Nominating Committee. Dr. Razvi also sits on the AUA Practice Guidelines Committee, a group that develops guidelines to assist practicing urologists throughout the world.

Dr. Joseph Chin was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to the areas of innovation in prostate cancer care. Dr. Chin presently serves as the President of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA). Dr. Alp Sener was awarded the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) Vanguard Prize for the second time. This award was established

by the ASTS to recognize and honor outstanding contributions by its junior members for best papers published within the preceding eighteen months. Dr. Stephen Pautler presently holds the role of Southwest Surgical Lead for Oncology with Cancer Care Ontario. Dr. Patrick Luke completed his tour with the European Association of Urology (EAU) International Academic Exchange Program a collaborative effort between the CUA and the EAU, the program promotes the international exchange of urological medical skills, expertise and knowledge.

Dr. Razvi also recognizes Dr. Denstedt not only for his outstanding achievements in urology, but as an international leader for the Department of Surgery. "Dr. Denstedt's vision and motivation to raise the profile of the Department as a global leader have guided our recruitment success and promoted a culture of academic productivity." Dr. Razvi concludes, "The Division of Urology and the entire Department of Surgery have been the beneficiaries of Dr. Denstedt's leadership and it is a legacy that will endure beyond his tenure."



"The reach of our Division members extends worldwide on a continual basis."

- Dr. Hassan Razvi, Chair/Chief,  
Division of Urology



**Awards and Achievements**

Brock, Gerald. USC Teaching Honor Role, Western University  
Chin, Joseph. Order of Ontario, Province of Ontario

Chin, Joseph. Canadian Who's Who, University of Toronto Press

Chin, Joseph. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, Government of Canada

Izawa, Jonathan. Top Journal Article Reviewer for 2011-2012, Canadian Urologic Association Journal, Canadian Urologic Association

Luke, Patrick. Surgery Clerkship Teaching Award, Department of Surgery, Division of Urology, University of Western Ontario

Luke, Patrick. CUA EAU Traveling Scholarship Award, Canadian Urological Association and European Association of Urology

Pautler, Stephen. University Student's Council Teaching Honour Roll Award of Excellence, The University of Western Ontario

Sener, Alp. Urology Residents Clinical Teaching Award, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University

Sener, Alp. Hippocratic Undergraduate Medical Education Committee Award of Excellence, Dean's Office, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University

Sener, Alp. University Students' Council Teaching Honor Roll, Award of Excellence, The University of Western Ontario

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## Division of Vascular Surgery

### Worldwide Collaboration in Research, Education and Clinical Initiatives

The Division of Vascular Surgery, Western University, has an impressive international presence on six of seven continents. This small but mighty Division boasts collaborative research, educational, and clinical initiatives in North and South America, Australia, Asia, Africa, and Europe. "We are supportive of international endeavours because they have a real impact on the development of the subspecialty and global patient health," explains Dr. Forbes. "For example we are working closely with two former clinical fellows in the establishment of Vascular Surgery programs in Sudan and Columbia which bridge a clinical and educational gap in these countries."

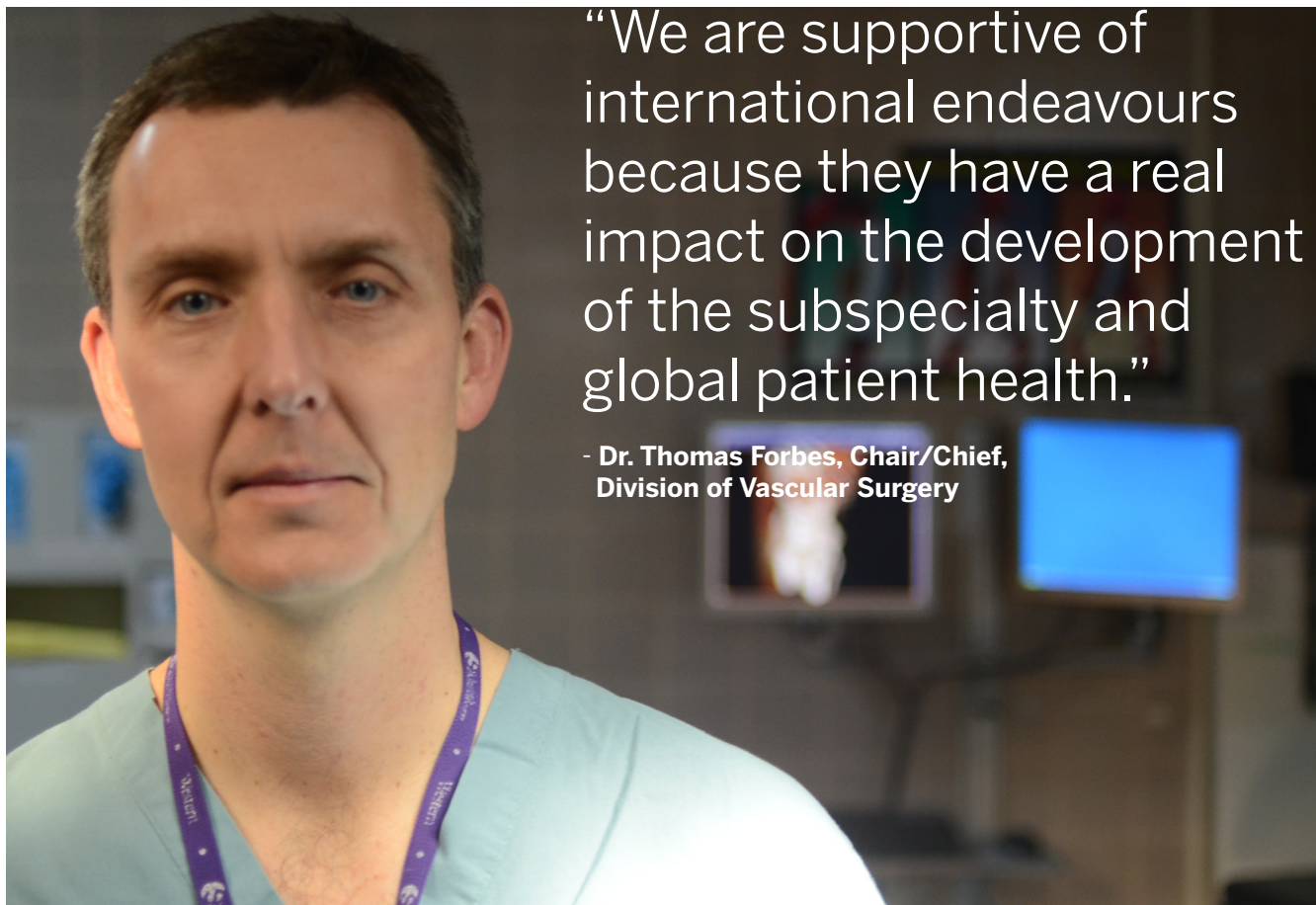
The Division of Vascular Surgery continues as a global leader in research. "We are working on research initiatives with colleagues at the University of Adelaide, South Australia and have recently set up research and educational exchanges with Bangalore, India," Dr. Forbes notes. "As well, we are the only non-United Kingdom site in the pivotal randomized controlled trial IMPROVE, which is determining the effectiveness of endovascular repair of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms."

Members of the Division hold important leader-

ship positions locally, nationally, and internationally. They lead the TransAtlantic Debate section between the Society for Vascular Surgery and European Society for Vascular Society while Dr. Forbes serves as Associate Editor, Journal of Vascular Surgery; is a member of the Editorial Board of the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Vascular journals; Chairs the Research Committee of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery; Chairs the Vascular Care Working Group of the Cardiac Care Network of the Ontario Ministry of Health; and is Chair of the Graduate Program Committee of the newly developed MSc in Surgery program within the Department of Surgery, Western University.

Dr. Forbes is especially pleased that the Masters of Science in Surgery degree has received provincial approval and becomes a reality this year. "This innovative program will undoubtedly attract interest from extremely qualified applicants from around the globe," he remarks. "The Department of Surgery is at the forefront of advanced educational opportunities for future Academic Health Science leaders."

Dr. Guy De Rose was named the Senior Medical



“We are supportive of international endeavours because they have a real impact on the development of the subspecialty and global patient health.”

- Dr. Thomas Forbes, Chair/Chief,  
Division of Vascular Surgery

Director for London Health Sciences Centre in 2012. “Dr. De Rose provides essential and strategic leadership across the surgical subspecialties in London.” Dr. Forbes adds, “He is a skilled administrator in this complex and demanding portfolio.”

Dr. Jeremy Harris took the reigns as Program Director and is overseeing the new Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada direct entry program for the Vascular Surgery Residency. Dr. Harris is also expanding his education skillset as a student in the Masters in Health Professions Education program from the University of Maastricht (Netherlands), which was established at Western in collaboration with the Centre for Edu-

cation Research and Innovation.

Dr. Forbes is also delighted with the Division's newest recruit, Dr. Adam Power. Dr. Power comes to the Division with a Masters in BioScience Enterprise from Cambridge, UK. Having completed a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, Dr. Power's top-notch clinical skills are matched with an award-winning entrepreneurial background. He will undoubtedly bring new skills to Western and will open new opportunities for international collaboration and initiatives especially in the biomedical device development field.

The Division of Vascular Surgery would like to give special thanks to Dr. Denstedt for his lead-



ership of the Department over the last 11 years. He has truly been a visionary leader who has advanced Western's surgical footprint around the globe in all clinical, educational and academic aspects. "As a Division we have tried to align our strategic goals with his and the Department and feel that we've been successful because of his leadership and direction. Our Division would not have been able to grow in productivity and stature without Dr. Denstedt's support, advice and strategic initiatives. We could not have asked for

a better leader during the last decade," explains Dr. Forbes.

Dr. Forbes is excited about the Division's future locally, nationally, and internationally. With strong leadership, exciting education and research linkages, and world-class faculty, there is no telling where they will go next. "We've been to Everest so maybe we'll hit Antarctica next!" says Dr. Forbes.

#### Awards and Achievements

Forbes, Thomas. UWO Student's Council Teaching Honour Role - Award of Excellence, University of Western Ontario

Forbes, Thomas. James IV Association of Surgeons Traveling Fellowship. James IV Association of Surgeons

Forbes, Thomas. Vicky Blair Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Harris, Jeremy. 2011-2012 Surgery Clerkship Teaching Award, Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Western Ontario

Harris, Jeremy. Vicky Blair Fellowship in Vascular Surgery

#### Publications

Chadi SA, Rowe BW, Vogt KN, Novick TV, Harris JR, DeRose G, Forbes TL. Single centre review of trends in management of abdominal aortic aneurysms over the last decade. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. Accepted / In Press. 2011 Oct.

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#### Book Chapters

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