

# Surgery Update

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## Chair's Column: The Importance of Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Interdisciplinary work takes place at the junction of two or more disciplines combining theories, methods and tools to address new problems and create new ways of doing things that cannot be solved by one single discipline alone. In the Department of Surgery, we have seen this through the success of programs like the Hand and Upper Limb Centre, the Multi-Organ Transplant Program and now CSTAR, all of whom, rely on the expertise of multidisciplinary members from various sub-specialties.

Advances in technology have driven unprecedented breakthroughs in various multidisciplinary areas, particularly in minimally invasive surgery, surgical simulation and team learning. The collaboration of surgeons, engineers, scientists and even psychologists is revolutionizing the way we think about and approach surgical care, research and education.

More and more, we are seeing a hybridization of surgical specialties coming together to provide treatment. For instance, the work of cardiac surgeons and cardiologists is coming together here as a result of the drive of new technology, interdisciplinary teamwork, and cross-collaboration between departments, and we now have the capabilities to perform hybrid cardiac proce-

dures in the same OR.

The multidisciplinary use of new technology will also have an impact on our surgical training program, and we must stay current with the latest in technology-based surgical simulation. The Kelman Centre will of course provide the infrastructure to develop training in this area but I also very much see the need for scholarly work in the area of surgical education, simulation and team learning processes. The type of students entering and graduating from our programs will be vastly different to those of the past and in order to remain competitive we must consistently innovate and develop the best ways to train them for their future careers.

Most importantly, we cannot afford to be reactive to these changes. We must charge ahead and be proactive and involved in leading the way.

As I start my second term as Chair/Chief of the Department of Surgery, two of my main goals will be advancing minimally invasive technologies and developing scholarly work in the area of surgical educa-



tion and simulation. Both of these strategic goals will require the expertise of surgeons in the department, as well as researchers from Robarts Research Institute, Lawson Health Research Institute, the Faculty of Engineering at Western and many of our industry partners.

I look forward with great excitement as we all begin planning for the year ahead.

Sincerely,

John D. Denstedt  
MD, FRCS, FACS  
Richard Ivey Chair/Chief  
Department of Surgery  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

## Research Shows Popular Surgery Provides No Relief for Osteoarthritis of the Knee

A landmark study conducted by Dr. Bob Litchfield and colleagues from Lawson Health Research Institute shows that a routinely practiced knee surgery is ineffective at reducing joint pain or improving joint function for sufferers of osteoarthritis. The study appeared in the September 11th New England Journal of Medicine.

“This study provides definitive evidence that arthroscopic surgery provides no additional therapeutic value when added to physical therapy and medication for patients with moderate osteoarthritis of the knee,” says study co-author Dr. Brian Feagan, Clinical Trials Director at the Robarts Research Institute at Western, and a professor in the Departments of Medicine, and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Arthroscopic surgery is widely accepted as an effective treatment for osteoarthritis of the knee. Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis affecting one in ten Canadians, and 27 million Americans.

The study was designed by the late

Dr. Sandy Kirkley, who specialized in arthroscopic surgery. It was coordinated by the Clinical Trials Group of Robarts Research Institute and conducted by orthopaedic surgeons at the Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic. The research team also included rheumatologists and physiotherapists.

Running from 1999 to 2007, the study treated 178 London-area men and women with an average age of 60. All study participants received physical therapy as well as medications such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen, but 86 of the patients also received surgery consisting of lavage and arthroscopic debridement. At several time intervals post-treatment, the researchers found both patient groups experienced comparable improvements in joint pain, stiffness, and function, but surgery provided no additional benefit.

Orthopaedic surgeon and study co-author Dr. Bob Litchfield emphasizes this study addresses only arthritis-related knee problems. “Although this study did not show a significant therapeutic benefit of arthroscopic debridement in this patient population, knee arthro-

scopy is still beneficial in many other conditions affecting the knee, such as meniscal repair and resection, and ligament reconstruction. As surgeons, we need to know when things are working and when they’re not. If this particular technique is not working for this subgroup of patients, we better come up with something else that does.”

A 2002 study demonstrating similar results to this study was broadly dismissed by the medical community, and arthroscopic surgery of the knee remains a common treatment for joint pain and stiffness. But in this latest study the researchers conclude “based on the available evidence, we believe that the resources currently allocated towards arthroscopic surgery for osteoarthritis would be better directed elsewhere.” In 2006/2007, Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) spent \$7.9 million on this procedure alone.

Funding for this study was provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

## Lindros Legacy Research Building Unveiled

Last November, Eric Lindros announced his retirement from NHL ice with a flourish, punctuating it with a \$5-million donation to London Health Sciences Centre. The gift, the largest known one-time charitable donation from a Canadian sport figure, was recognized with the unveiling of the Lindros name atop of the building at University Hospital last month.

The Lindros Legacy Research building will house CSTAR, the Brent

and Marilyn Kelman Centre for Advanced Learning, the Dr. Sandy Kirkley Centre in Musculoskeletal Research, the Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies, and the Centre for Clinical Investigation and Therapeutics.

The person who inspired the unprecedented donation, Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Peter Fowler, sent greetings by video from Qatar, where he has been setting up

and running that country's sport - medicine program.



## Department of Surgery Research Day Highlights Expertise in a Growing Number of Areas

Faculty and residents in the Department of Surgery at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry took part in The Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day this summer.

Presentations were made by new department recruits, recent research award winners, as well as outstanding researchers in the department.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Satava, a world-renowned expert in minimally invasive surgery. A Professor of Surgery at the University of Washington Medical Center, and Senior Science Advisor at the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Dr. Satava gave the audience a glimpse into the future of modern surgery.

Presentations by faculty within the Department of Surgery were impressive and included:

- Dr. Claire Temple, Plastic Surgery, presented research about new treatments in reconstructive surgery following melanoma, in her talk, *Oncology and the Plastic Surgeon: Improving Quality of Life*
- Dr. John Lewis, Urology, presented promising research on cancer metastasis, in his talk, *Using Nanotechnology to Visualize the Critical Steps of Tumour Progression In Vivo*
- Dr. Muriel Brackstone, General Surgery, presented research on treating advanced breast cancer, in her talk, *Randomized Trial To Evaluate Concurrent Neoadjuvant Chemo/Radiation for Locally Advanced Breast Cancer - Translational Cancer Stem Cell Research Opportunities*
- Dr. Doug Naudie, Orthopaedic Surgery, presented research on joint replacement therapy, in his talk, *In vivo performance of new orthopaedic*

*implants and materials using radiostereometric analysis (RSA)*

- Dr. Guy DeRose, Vascular Surgery, presented research on endovascular aneurysm therapy, in his talk, *Endovascular Aneurysm Therapy: Surgical Innovation or Disruptive Technology?*

In addition to this, Dr. Vivian McAlister, General Surgery delivered a riveting presentation about his work as a civilian general surgeon in Afghanistan with the Canadian Armed Forces in the summer of 2007. Dr. McAlister has since enlisted with the Armed Forces and will return to Afghanistan this winter for a two month tour.

The Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day was named in honour of Dr. Robert Zhong, a brilliant scientist and colleague who passed away in 2006

## General Surgery Resident takes top Prize in Resident Best Paper Award

Five residents in the Department of Surgery competed for the Best Paper Award at the Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day.

Dr. Kaveer Chatoorgoon, from the Division of General Surgery took home the prize for Best Resident Research Paper for his study "Inhalation of Carbon Monoxide Provides Ischemic Tolerance in Ischemia Reperfusion Injury". Dr. Chatoorgoon received the award at the Resident Graduation Dinner held at the London Hunt & Country Club.



Photo: Graduating Resident Dr. Eric Davenport (L) and Dr. Ken Leslie, Program Director, General Surgery (R) pose with Dr. Kaveer Chatoorgoon (Centre), winner of the Best Resident Research Paper Award

## Dr. Graham King Receives NSERC Grant for Research in Biomechanics

Dr. Graham King has been awarded an NSERC grant for his project “Design and Biomechanical Analyses of Radial Head Elbow Implants.” The grant is worth \$95,000 over 5 years and is a testament to his impressive research career in biomechanics that spans the disciplines.

Dr. King joined the Department of Surgery in 1992 and subsequently established the Bioengineering Laboratory at the Hand and Upper Limb Centre at St. Joseph’s Health Centre. He and his colleagues, Drs. David Chess and James Johnson have developed linkages with the Departments of Medical Biophysics and Mechanical Engineering. Over the past 15 years the laboratory has been successful in attracting extensive peer review funding including CIHR, CAS, CAN and NSERC, and has numerous industry collaborations.

Dr. King’s current research interests focus on the biomechanics of the wrist and elbow, as well as computer and image guided surgery. He has received the Premier’s Research Excellence Award from the Government of Ontario and the J. Edouard Samson Research Award from the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society. He has also represented the Canadian Orthopaedic Association as a North American Traveling Fellow and an American, British and Canadian Traveling Fellow. He has also served as the president of the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society. He is currently the Chief of Orthopaedics at St. Joseph’s Health Centre.

NSERC supports some 25,000 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies and promotes discov-

ery by funding more than 11,000 university professors every year.



## Dr. Hao Wang Receives New Investigator Award

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada recently announced Dr. Hao Wang was a winner of the New Investigator Award.

The award provides salary support for Canada's best young researchers – located in universities, hospitals and research institutes across Canada and abroad. Only 10 scientists were selected to receive the investigator award this year.

Dr. Wang is Director of the Experimental Microsurgery Program at University Hospital. Through his work, various experimental

transplant models have been developed to bridge basic research and clinical application. Wang’s research focus is aimed at understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of organ rejection as well as identifying effective and safe strategies to prevent it.

Dr. Wang’s group is also researching cross-species transplantation in the pig-to-baboon model, which provides the foundation for future clinical xenotransplantation, among other research initiatives.



# Surgery Awards and Recognition

**Dr. Jim Roth, Chair/Chief Orthopaedic Surgery**, received the 2007 Prix d'Excellence of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This award of excellence recognizes Fellows of the Royal College who have made significant contributions as medical educators or provided outstanding service to their community and to the College.

**The Multi-Organ Transplant Team** received the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry's Dean's Award of Excellence – Team Award, for their outstanding performance this year at the award ceremony at the Great Hall.

The award was based on academic excellence, with particular emphasis on exceptional performance in research, education, administration, innovation and public service. The winning team was selected from nominations put forward by department chairs and/or peer groups.

The Transplant Program is truly a multi-disciplinary endeavor comprised of physicians and scientists from numerous departments including those from Surgery, Medicine, Microbiology & Immunology, and Pathology. The unique requirements of the transplant population also touch many other departments such as Psychiatry, Dentistry, and Imaging, along with other staff in Nursing, Social Work and Psychology.

**Sports medicine pioneer Dr. Peter Fowler** received an honorary Doctor of Science at convocation on June 10th, recognizing his tremendous career in sports medicine. Fowler addressed graduates in Health Sciences and Graduate Studies and spoke about the importance of honesty.

Dr. Fowler has a long record of achievement in orthopaedic surgery. In 1974, he and Dr. Jack Kennedy, established an athletic injuries clinic in the basement of Thames Hall at Western. This small clinic would ultimately become the leading sport medicine operation in North America, The Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic.

Fowler is a pioneer in the treatment of sport-related injuries and has received the Sport Medicine Council of Canada Lifetime Achievement Award; was the first recipient of the Western Alumni Professional Achievement Award; and has served as Chief Medical Officer to Canadian National teams at Commonwealth and Olympic Games. Dr. Fowler is currently Chief Medical Officer at the Qatar-Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Clinic and Hospital.

**Dr. Ian Cunningham and Dr. John Denstedt** recently won the Lawson Innovation Award Prize for their kidney stone imaging project.

Kidney stones affect approximately

13% of the general population in North America and this rate has been increasing over the past 25 years resulting in significant morbidity, and, particularly in older patients, mortality resulting from complications including sepsis.

Although clinical care strategies for kidney stones have been established over the course of decades, recurrence rates can be very high - up to 70% without follow-up care. Using a unique imaging method of *in vivo* and *ex vivo* compositional (atomic) analysis developed in their laboratory, Cunningham, Denstedt and colleagues will imply coherent-scatter x-ray computed tomography to non-destructively provide cross-sectional maps of elemental distributions in intact specimens. Their goal is to translate this capacity to routine clinical use of specimens and diagnostic use in patients. The Innovation funds provided by Lawson will allow the team the opportunity to optimize the design of the imaging system, design and construct a clinical-research-dedicated unit that will be located within the hospital and used daily for stone analysis and they will conduct clinical trials to compare this new method with the existing standard of care.

**Photo: The Multi-Organ Transplant Team** poses with Dean Carol Herbert



# Cardiac Surgery Team Praised for Excellent Teaching Atmosphere and Interdisciplinary Team Respect

A cardiac surgery team led by Dr. Bob Kiaii was recently praised by a student observing in the OR.

Below is the letter she wrote, praising the group's seamless interdisciplinary teamwork, flexibility and mutual respect.

My name is Colleen Wright. I am a second-year nursing student at McMaster University and am employed in the LHSC summer nursing student program wherein I am involved in project work for professional practice.

As a part of my employment program, I have the opportunity to participate in 12 hours of observation time. I chose the OR at University Hospital as one of my observations because I wanted to see the dynamics of the interprofessional team as well as the nurses' specific scope of practice. I had heard many rumours from my peers about how the team members interact in the OR and I was very eager to see this dynamic for myself.

From my peers who have observed in the OR (not necessarily at LHSC), I heard that interdisciplinary staff members of the OR team do not work constructively and respectfully together. I heard that the surgeons use a derogatory tone with nurses and neglect to call upon them as a resource in expertise and skill. Students also reported that the nurses sometimes quietly express a lack of confidence in the abilities of the less-experienced surgeons.

In July, 2008, I observed a Da Vinci single cardiac bypass surgery that took 4.5 hours. Part way through, the team reverted to a minimally invasive approach via mediasternal incision because the occluded vessel was buried in the heart muscle and thus was inaccessible to the robotic

instruments. The moment I entered the department, I was warmly welcomed and orientated by the floor nurses and ward clerk. Within the operating room, I noticed two nurses (one sterile and one clean), one principal and two other surgeons, two anesthesiologists, and various other professionals who came and went, as needed, throughout the operation.

As I observed, it became increasingly apparent that this was a highly coordinated, competent, and well-rounded team. Many aspects of each member's concerted efforts impressed me:

First, reciprocal respect was expressed across disciplines. The surgeons verbally showed sincere appreciation for the nurses' skills and attention to detail. Nurses and anesthesiologists expressed encouragement and confidence in the surgeons. The surgeon even praised my understanding of the concepts he covered with me. This meant a lot to me because I was hoping to make it obvious that I had prepared for and thus felt grateful for having this experience.

I also noticed seamless teamwork and a collective flexibility to adapt in response to issues that arose. Nurses anticipated and quickly assisted surgeons into their sterile gowns and efficiently prepared and provided equipment, as needed. Troubleshooting and problem solving was a collective team effort. For example, the surgeons consulted amongst themselves as well as with all other staff involved when making the decision to switch from a robotic to minimally-invasive approach.

The team humanized the procedure by talking about the patient as they worked. They discussed his occupa-

tion, his family dynamics, and how this surgery may impact both. More importantly, they communicated their concerns about the anxiety the patient experienced prior to surgery and the comfort measures that may help him afterward. To me, this demonstrated a true empathy for the patient that I did not expect to see.

Finally, I appreciated that I felt I was a part of an eager teaching atmosphere. Surgeons, nurses, and anesthesiologists all took opportunities to show me the what, how, and why of what they were doing, and went out of their way to ensure that I was in a position to see everything. The surgeon allowed me to look in the robotic 3D scope portal, the anesthesiologists made room for me to observe the open-heart portion of the operation by the patient's head, and the nurses came over to describe to me their preparation and counting techniques. I could not have asked for a richer learning experience!

Overall, this OR observational experience has had a profound impact on my understanding of the structure, interacting roles, and group dynamics required to have a successful operating room. I discovered that the rumours I had heard from my peers were definitely not the rule. I can see that when an interprofessional team operates with mutual respect, an eager teaching attitude, and a collective capitalization upon every member's skills and expertise, that team is able to deliver superior care to its patients. I am so grateful for having observed this OR team in action. What an unexpected, yet phenomenal gift! I came into the experience unsure of whether OR nursing might be a good fit for me and left thoroughly inspired! Thank you!

## Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2008



Front Row (Left to right): Andrew Ray, Abdel Lawendy, John Stein, Eric Davenport, Shona Smith, Kevan Saidi, Tony Cervinka, Naji Touma

Back Row (Left to right): Jeffrey Walker, Kaveer Chatoorgoon, Riley Campbell, Ben Shore, Vai Rajgopal

Missing: Robin Varghese and Basel Ramlawi

The Department of Surgery Resident Graduation Dinner was held on June 17th at the London Hunt and Country Club. All residents were successful in passing their Royal College exams.

This year's event was held on the same day as the Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day, which had its biggest turnout to date.

This year's dinner was attended by

graduating residents, spouses, program directors, faculty and Research Day Keynote Speaker Dr. Richard Satava, an expert in minimally invasive and robotic surgery.

## Surgery Teaching Award Winners

Congratulations to the following department members who won teaching awards this past year. Winners include:

**Dr. Joseph Chin** for Urology

**Dr. Patrick Colquhoun** for General Surgery

**Dr. David Chess** for Orthopaedic Surgery

**Dr. Damir Matic** for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

**Dr. Linrui Ray Guo** for Cardiac Surgery

The overall faculty teaching award winner for the 2006-2007 London Surgery Clerkship was **Dr. Daryl Gray**

The overall resident teaching award winner for the 2006-2007 Surgery Clerkship was **Dr. Kevan Saidi**.

## Resident Graduation Dinner Highlights from the London Hunt & Country Club



**Photo:** Dr. Bing Gan, Dr. Kirsty Boyd (Plastic Surgery Resident) and Dr. Damir Matic, at the Resident Graduation Dinner

**Photo:** Dr. Richard Satava, Keynote Speaker from Research Day with Dr. Christopher Schlachta and Dr. Murray Girotti



**Graduate** Dr. Jeffrey Walker and his wife (left) with Dr. Ward Davies and Dr. Daryl Gray, both from General Surgery



# Welcome to our newest faculty members

## **Dr. Michael Chu, Cardiac Surgery**

Dr. Michael Chu studied medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, where he graduated with distinction in 2000. He then undertook a cardiac surgery residency at the University of Western Ontario and successfully completed his Royal College Examinations in June 2006. He also completed a Master's degree in Medical Education from the University of Toronto in November 2004, with his thesis work focusing on the quality of cardiac surgery training in Canada, USA, UK and Germany. Following his residency, he undertook a fellowship with Dr. W.R. Chitwood, Jr. at East Carolina University in minimally invasive and robotic cardiac surgery, with a focus on mitral valve reconstruction. He then completed a fellowship in transcatheter valve technology at the Herzzentrum in Leipzig, Germany with Professors F.W. Mohr and T. Walther.

Michael enjoys all aspects of cardiac surgery but has particular interests in minimally invasive and robotic valve surgery, transcatheter valve technology and valve reconstruction. Although early in his career, he is an active researcher and has investigated bleeding problems with cardiac surgery, renal failure after cardiopulmonary bypass, thoracic aortic endografting, minimally invasive and robotic mitral surgery and most recently, experimental transcatheter technology. He was a lead investigator of an important randomized controlled trial investigating renal prophylaxis during cardiac surgery, which was published in JAMA. Michael has also been awarded the MacEachern Award and prestigious international Francis Fontan Award for his research endeavours. He has 20 peer reviewed publications, 3 textbook chapters and has delivered presentations at meetings nationally and internationally. He currently reviews papers for the Annals of Tho-

racic Surgery and Innovations.

He is delighted to be practicing as a Consultant Cardiac Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Surgery at the London Health Sciences Centre and The University of Western Ontario.



## **Dr. Sumit Dave, Paediatric Urology**

Dr. Sumit Dave is a medical graduate from Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Pondicherry, India. After completing Pediatric Surgery residency from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi he moved on to Sydney, Australia. There he worked as a Pediatric General Surgery fellow at the Sydney Childrens Hospital, University of New South Wales. A strong desire to pursue a career in Pediatric Urology led to another transcontinental move for a two year Pediatric Urology fellowship at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. The academic excellence of the Department of Surgery and the Division of Urol-

ogy at the University of Western Ontario attracted him to his present position as a pediatric urologist in the Division of Urology.

Dr. Dave has several contributions to the pediatric urology literature in numerous peer-reviewed journals. His primary areas of research interest include neurogenic bladder, vesicoureteric reflux and minimally invasive reconstructive pediatric urology. He is currently undertaking a Master's in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Western Ontario. He has a four-year old daughter and his wife is an ophthalmologist.



### **Dr. Arjang Yazdani, Plastic Surgery**

Dr Arjang Yazdani is a Plastic Surgeon at LHSC's Victoria Campus. His area of interest is in craniofacial and pediatric plastic surgery.

Dr. Yazdani completed his undergraduate and medical education at McMaster University in Hamilton. He then came to London, where he finished his residency training in Plastic Surgery at The University of Western Ontario. Following his residency, he finished a Fellowship in Craniofacial Surgery at The University of Texas, Southwestern in Dallas, Texas. His Fellowship mentors were some of the world's most renowned Plastic Surgeons. Following his Fellowship, he returned to London to join the Division of Plas-

tic Surgery at the Victoria Campus site.

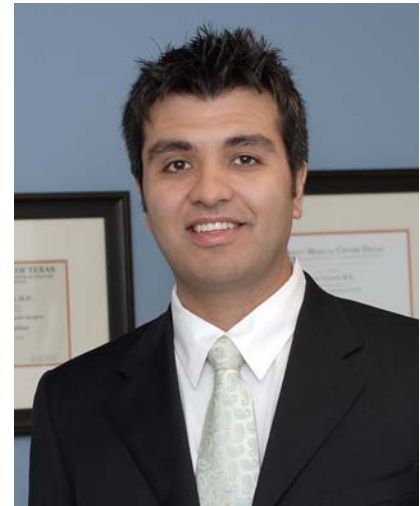
His practice is focused on facial reconstruction in adults and children after trauma. From a pediatrics perspective, he is developing a multi-disciplinary vascular anomalies clinic that will feature a cutaneous laser medicine service.

Dr. Yazdani is originally from the Toronto area, but has lived and traveled extensively. His family is scattered all over the world, and has most recently moved back to Canada from Israel. He has operated overseas.

He and his wife, Alexandra are expecting their first child. His wife is also an alum of UWO—she graduated from the Ivey School of Busi-

ness.

They both enjoy living in Southwestern Ontario.



### **Dr. James L. Howard, Orthopaedic Surgery**

Dr. James L. Howard was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. His undergraduate training was completed at the University of Calgary in Biological Sciences. He then received his MD degree at the University of Calgary in 2000. After graduating from medical school, he proceeded to the University of Western Ontario for residency training in Or-

thopaedic Surgery. He completed a Masters of Science degree in Medical Biophysics in 2003 focusing on the use of computed tomography to evaluate bone support around cementless total hip replacements. He qualified as an orthopaedic surgeon in 2005, and travelled to the United States for fellowship training. First, he completed the Advanced Clinical Experience in Orthopaedic Traumatology at Harbor

view Medical Centre in Seattle, Washington. He then travelled to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota for subspecialty training in adult hip and knee reconstruction. Dr. Howard returned to London in 2007 to join the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery. His clinical practice focuses on both adult reconstruction and orthopaedic traumatology.

## **Drs. Christopher Schlachta and Andreana Bütter Perform World's First Robotically-sewn, Intestinal Bypass**

**Drs. Christopher Schlachta and Andreana Bütter** performed the world's first da Vinci assisted, robotically-sewn, intestinal bypass for a young woman with superior mesenteric artery syndrome (SMA).

A traditional intestinal bypass for patients with SMA syndrome requires a one-week hospital stay and involves significant postoperative pain. The patient is typically left with a six-inch scar on the upper belly.

"This is a very exciting example of

how new technology can be adapted to a patient's unique needs," said Dr. Christopher Schlachta

"When I approached Dr. Schlachta about exploring options for this patient, one of my main concerns was to minimize scarring which was very important to the patient who is a girl of only 16 years of age," said Dr. Andreana Bütter. "By using minimally invasive techniques, we were able to reduce the scar to only five one-centimeter incisions and she was able to return to normal activity within 1 week. Traditional laparoscopic instruments do not

possess the same range of motion and ease of use for intestinal anastomoses like their robotic counterparts. It would have been unlikely that we could have achieved the same result with laparoscopy alone."

SMA syndrome is a rare, life-threatening gastrointestinal disorder characterized by the compression of the third portion of the duodenum by the abdominal aorta and the overlying superior mesenteric artery. This causes patients to have great difficulty eating and, therefore, digesting food.

## Other Surgery News

On October 8th, a team of surgeons from Sacre Cour Hospital in Montreal visited LHSC and CSTAR to observe **Dr. Bob Kiaii** and his team perform robotic mitral valve surgery. Montreal surgeons are interested in performing this procedure and chose to come to London to learn how.

On September 18 the Ontario government announced an investment of \$21 million into advanced health technology and pharmaceutical research through the Ontario Research Fund. Ten Western and Schulich faculty received grants. **Dr. John Lewis** received funding of

\$205,418 for his study *Using nanotechnology to detect early-stage cancer*.

### Uro-Oncology Fall Review

The 12th annual Uro-Oncology Fall Review was held September 12-14, 2008 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Guest speakers included Paul Lange, Professor of the Department of Urology at the University of Washington and David Bostwick, Medical Director of Bostwick Laboratories in Richmond Virginia. This annual event proved very popular amongst the 70 attendees which included Community Urologists, Radiation Oncologists and Medical Oncologists from around Southwestern On-

tario. For more information or to be added to the Fall Review mailing list, contact [gail.evraire@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:gail.evraire@sjhc.london.on.ca)

On Father's Day, Sunday June 15, over 800 participants joined the **Division of Urology** at TD Waterhouse Stadium for "**Do It For Dad**" and raised in excess of \$75,000 in support of Prostate Cancer Research & Education.

On June 2, 2008, 160 golfers raised \$100,000 in support of Prostate Cancer Research at the **Lexus of London Charity Golf Classic**.

## Surgery Spotlight: The Spine Group at Victoria Hospital

Growing up with a surgeon father, Dr. Chris Bailey always knew he wanted to follow in his dad's footsteps to become one. But it wasn't until his residency that he decided to focus on spine surgery like his father, Dr. Stewart Bailey.

Joining the department in April of 2004, he's now part of a team alongside Dr. Kevin Gurr, Dr. David Taylor, Dr. Tim Carey, and his father.

"I always had an interest in orthopaedics, and I crossed other areas off my list as I went through school," says Dr. Bailey, who went to medical school at McMaster University, completed his residency here at Western, and completed a spine fellowship at the University of British Columbia. "I always knew I wanted to be a surgeon and as is typical with most kids, I had an inclination to want to go into the area my father was in."

The Spine group performs surgery on patients with a number of various health challenges including

spine trauma, deformity, tumours, and those with degenerative disorders of the spine that come with an aging population. The group also has an active research team as well, which has developed significantly in the past few years.

"Our clinical research has two focuses – one on the degenerative population, and the other on the trauma population."

"We are also conducting spinal cord injury research lead by Jennifer Flemming, a post doctoral student in neurosciences. We've teamed up with Surgery Researcher Amit Badhwar, who has a novel approach to studying systemic inflammation following trauma which we are applying to study the effect of spinal cord injury on the systemic inflammatory response. And in yet another area of biomechanics research, we are collaborating with Cynthia Dunning from the Faculty of Engineering."

One of their current biomechanics research projects uses a newly created spine simulator to move a cadaver spine to simulate various spine problems so researchers can do various biomechanical tests.

The group is also branching out to do work with Dr. David Holdsworth, who holds the Kirkley Chair in Musculoskeletal Research.

Dr. Bailey notes residents are also becoming more interested in spine surgery and as an aging population of active baby boomers continues, they will be in high demand.

The spine group usually has between two and three Fellows per year, with the majority of them coming from international locations. Currently they have Fellows from England, Saudi Arabia, and Canada, and last year, they welcomed people from Australia, Palestine and the Philippines.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Save the date!

- **Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day**— Friday, June 26th, 2009 at the Shuttleworth Auditorium, St. Joseph's Health Care
- **Resident Recognition Event:** Friday, June 26, 2009 at the London Hunt and Country Club (evening event)
- On November 7<sup>th</sup> the 2008 **DeRose-Kribs Visiting Professor**, Dr. Jean Panneton, Associate Professor, Program Director and Chief of Vascular Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School will lecture on his experience with less invasive lower extremity interventions for peripheral arterial disease in the CSTAR multimedia theatre

## Surgery in the News

Research by **Dr. Hao Wang** regarding the healing power of stem cells harvested from menstrual blood was featured in the Globe and Mail, Canadian Press, and Hamilton Spectator

**Dr. Hassan Razvi** was quoted in the London Free Press in an article "Prostate study seeks subjects to test botox"

**Dr. Gerry Brock** was quoted in the London Free Press in an article "New drug may ease test worries."

**Dr. Bob Litchfield** and colleagues were featured in over 400 media outlets all over the world for their study about the effectiveness of arthroscopic surgery on

arthritic knees. Some media hits included: BBC News, The Wall Street Journal (blog), Globe and Mail, National Post, USA Today, NBC Nightly News, Telegraph (UK), Washington Post, and CBC — to name a few

The Department of Surgery Administrative Office is moving out of the basement at UH to St. Joseph's Health Care on October 23rd and 24th. **Please update our new address:**

**Department of Surgery  
Room A2-007  
St. Joseph's Health Care, London  
268 Grosvenor Street  
London, ON  
N6A 4V2**

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