

DEPARTMENT OF Surgery Newsletter

Spring 2020

THE DEPARTMENT
OF SURGERY NAMES
DRS. ADAM POWER
AND ANDREANA
BÜTTER AS
MCLACHLIN
CO-PROFESSORS.
DETAILS ON PAGE 3.

Chair's Column

This is not the newsletter message I would have written a few weeks ago, or even a few days ago. We are now in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic with the impacts felt far and wide, from institutional and recreational closures to the move to online classes to the cancellation of elective surgeries. There are many unknowns but we all hope that our government's efforts to promote social distancing and hand hygiene will slow the spread of the illness so that we can care for those who need our help the most. These enormous and unprecedented changes affect every one of us, both personally and professionally. I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing dedication to the health of our patients and our communities.

I had originally planned to announce some exciting speakers related to women in surgery. Dr. Muriel Brackstone is leading our Women in Surgery group, which has held a number of well received events over the past year. This network has stimulated outreach and collaboration across the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Along with our

new Department Committee on Gender and Equity, these initiatives highlight our commitment to widespread engagement in the advancement of women in surgery. We are stronger when we work together and I have no doubt we will make meaningful progress. Our guest speakers will be postponed to the fall and winter and I hope once we emerge from this crisis they will be a source of motivation and encouragement.

On a related note, it makes me very proud to announce that three women have had their promotion dossiers successfully endorsed by the Schulich School of



Medicine & Dentistry. With Provost approval this spring, these pioneers will be the first women promoted to the rank of Professor in the history of the Department of Surgery. Along with our Vascular Division Chair/Chief, Dr. Audra Duncan, who was recruited at the rank of Professor, each individual is outstanding in her own right and exemplifies the accomplished profile of an academic surgeon. We will be featuring these stellar surgeons in our fall newsletter. Stay tuned to be awed, inspired, and energized for the future of women in surgery.

Spring is often thought of as a time for renewal. Let us think of it now as the time to renew our support for each other through adversity, as we hope, pray, and care for the well-being of our nation.

Sincerely,

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

Surgery News

Dr. M. Lee Myers receives Order of Canada



Dr. M. Lee Myers was elected to the Order of Canada for her dedication to both her career as a cardiac surgeon and for her leadership roles as a volunteer and philanthropist for the Stratford Festival and London Community Foundation among other organizations. Dr. Myers is a former Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Victoria Hospital, a former President of the medical staff, and former Chair of the LHSC Medical Advisory Committee. She is currently serving as Program Director for the Cardiac Surgery Residency program. "I am a hugely patriotic Canadian and so am thrilled to have received this honour."

Her first significant role as a volunteer was as Chair of the Grants Committee at LCF. "As physicians we learn about the social determinants of health. Part of our role on the Grants Committee was to visit a range of organizations and it was a real

education for me to learn about the many problems and challenges in our community". She remained involved with LCF for a number of years including two years as Board Chair.

She joined the Board of Governors at the Stratford Festival in 2002, where she has chaired a number of committees, the first being Education. She went on to become Board Chair in 2010-11. She subsequently became Chair of the Foundation Board and now chairs the Steering Committee for the new Tom Patterson Theatre project. She also co-Chairs the \$100 million fundraising campaign for the new theatre which will open at the end of May.

"I have developed a huge respect for people working at Stratford and in the arts in general. They are incredibly dedicated and passionate professionals. The arts are so important to our society, and theatre in particular helps us develop much greater awareness and empathy, and also encourages us to ask significant questions about ourselves and our world." She also thinks, "This is important for everyone, but perhaps particularly for surgeons who spend their careers helping people, and also functioning as leaders in many capacities. I hope that I am able to pass some of the lessons I have learned on to my residents. I am also hoping to at least plant a seed of interest in the theatre: last year we all went to see Billy Elliot at Stratford which was fabulous, but this year I am thinking - it might be ... Shakespeare!"

Dr. Audra Duncan elected Chair, of the American College of Surgeons Vascular Surgery Advisory Council

Congratulations to Dr. Audra Duncan, Chair/Chief and Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, on being elected to Chair the American College of Surgeons Vascular Surgery Advisory Council. Dr. Duncan's two-year term began last fall.

Serving as a liaison between various specialty organizations and the College, Advisory Councils communicate and bring forward matters relating to their specialties, as well as provide specialty input into the development of specialty sessions and courses for the annual ACS Clinical Congress, and advise on policy matters relating to their specialties.



Drs. Andreana Bütter and Adam Power appointed McLachlin Co-Professors

The Department of Surgery is pleased to announce that Drs. Andreana Bütter and Adam Power have been appointed McLachlin Co-Professors, effective January 1, 2020. Earlier this year, the Department of Surgery Executive Committee, the Financial Management Committee, and the McLachlin Professorship Committee endorsed the realignment of the McLachlin Professor Fund in order to provide strategic support of our education goals; as well as to elevate the importance of our existing education leadership roles with a named Professorship.

Dr. Bütter has held the role of Associate Director of Surgical Education-UGE since 2014. Since that time, she has revamped undergraduate surgical education for the Department to ensure an ideal experience for clerks and to bring the content and delivery into alignment with the competency based medical education system. Dr. Bütter leads the Canadian Undergraduate Surgical Education Committee and her education research targets the perceived barriers to technical proficiency. She is a highly acclaimed teacher and has won multiple teaching awards as well as a Schulich Educator Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Education.

Dr. Adam Power will be taking on the role of Chair, Postgraduate Surgical Education Committee, effective January 1, 2020; succeeding Dr. Ken Faber, who capably has led the Committee since 2012. The Department achieved full accreditation for all surgical subspecialties this past fall. Currently, three of our surgical training programs have transitioned to CBME, with four more expected to transition in the next year. Dr. Power has already been at the forefront in guiding trainees through a fundamental change in surgical training, having led Vascular Surgery through the transition from a secondary-entry program to a primary entry program in 2012. Dr. Power's research is in medical device development. He is a prolific inventor and outstanding educator. Dr. Power has won multiple teaching awards as well as a Dean's Award of Excellence for Junior Faculty.



Dr. John Denstedt receives Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Alliance for Urolithiasis

Congratulations to Dr. John Denstedt, Division of Urology, on being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Alliance for Urolithiasis (IAU).

The IAU was founded in 2012 and holds promoting international academic exchange in the field of urolithiasis and facilitating the advancement of research, education, and training in all aspects of urinary stone disease as its mission.

Dr. Denstedt will receive his award at the IAU's annual conference in 2020



Surgery News

Dr. Steven MacDonald re-appointed as Chair/Chief, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery and as the J.C. Kennedy Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery



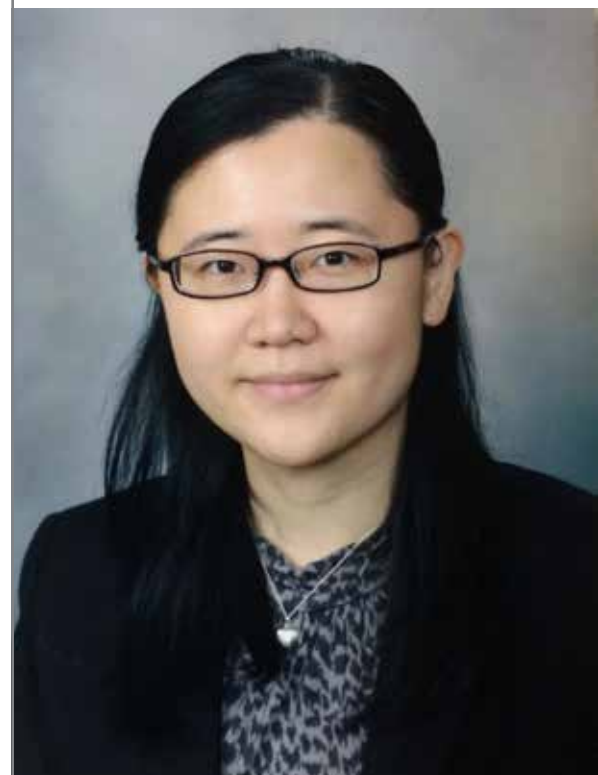
Dr. Steven MacDonald has been re-appointed as Chair/Chief, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery and as the J.C. Kennedy Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery effective January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024. Dr. MacDonald has served as the Chair/Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery since February 2013. Dr. MacDonald completed his medical degree at the University of Toronto and his residency at Western University. He completed fellowships in adult joint reconstructive surgery at Western University and in Chicago, Illinois, as well as in adult hip reconstructive surgery in Bern, Switzerland. He joined the Department of Surgery in 1996 as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002 and to full Professor in 2008. Dr. MacDonald served as the Site Chief of Surgery at University Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre from 2005-2014 and as Site Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at University Hospital from 2001-2014. He is internationally recognized for his research in adult hip and knee surgery. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and has presented his research at more than 350 meetings around the globe. Dr. MacDonald has been the recipient of many prestigious awards. He is a two-time recipient of the John Charnley Award from the Hip Society, and has been honoured with the Frank Stinchfield Award from the Hip Society, the Insall Award from the Knee Society, the Coventry Award from the Knee Society and the Founders Medal from the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society.

Dr. MacDonald is a member and leader of multiple orthopaedic organizations including the North American Hip Society, the International Hip Society and the North American Knee Society. Dr MacDonald has served as President of the North American Knee Society and the Canadian Arthroplasty Society.

Dr. Nina Suh selected for AAHS, ASPN, ASRM Joint Outstanding Podium Presentation

Congratulations to Division of Orthopaedic Surgery members Drs. Nina Suh, Stacy Fan, Ruby Grewal, and Joy Macdermid on having their abstract, "Use of vascularized and non-vascularized bone grafting in scaphoid non-union: A prospective randomized control trial," selected for presentation in the AAHS/ASPN/ASRM Joint Outstanding Paper Session at the American Association for Hand Surgery's annual meeting. The paper was presented at the Association's annual meeting held in January.

Earlier this year Dr. Suh was also awarded with a Leadership Development Award from the Professional Staff Organization.



Scilley Scholar Award established at Western University

The Christopher G. Scilley award is a newly created award at Western University, established with funds generously donated by Dr. Scilley. The award, known as the Scilley Scholar Award, will support junior faculty in their scholarly pursuits in the areas of post-traumatic lower limb reconstruction, breast reconstruction, microsurgery, or skin cancer treatment. It is hoped this award will be the first of more to come, inspiring Scholar support across many surgical specialties.

Dr. Scilley is a Professor Emeritus in the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery and an alumnus from the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery program at Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. He served as Medical Director of the Thompson Regional Burn Unit at London Health Sciences Centre, and twice-received the W.K. Stavaky Teaching Award during his time as an Associate Professor.

Having given many talks locally and nationally, Dr. Scilley's clinical interests included complex wound management, lower extremity trauma, skin cancer, and breast reconstruction. "I chose to establish this award in appreciation for the privilege of having been a member of the Department of Surgery's Division of Plastic Surgery at Western."

"My membership allowed me to work with many great surgeons and physicians to provide high quality patient care. It has also provided me with the opportunity to pursue many experiences that I could only have imagined at the beginning of my career," says Dr. Scilley. He believes it is important to try and support young investigators early on to help them establish research interests that they will continue throughout their careers at Western. He adds, "My hope is that this award will enable younger staff in the Division of Plastic Surgery specifically and the Department of Surgery in general to access funding to help jump start their academic pursuits at Western."



Division of Cardiac Surgery welcomes Dr. Matthew Valdis

Assistant Professor Dr. Matthew Valdis joined the Division of Cardiac Surgery at University Hospital earlier this month.

A graduate of the Schulich School Medicine & Dentistry, Dr. Valdis completed medical school and a cardiac surgery residency at Western University. He subsequently completed a fellowship in advanced aortic cardiac surgery at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. During his residency training, Dr. Valdis obtained a MSc in Surgery and successfully defended his thesis, "Completion of the first prospective randomized

controlled trial evaluating different simulation-based training modalities in robotic surgery."

Dr. Valdis has received several research awards throughout his training, and is currently co-authoring a textbook chapter on aortic arch surgery. He serves as a reviewer for various journals across disciplines and had ten articles published in the peer-reviewed literature while completing his surgical training. His clinical interests include transcatheter aortic valve and complex aortic reconstructive surgeries.



Research News

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Grants



Dr. Louis Ferreira, Scientist, cross-appointed to Orthopaedic Surgery, and his team will receive \$100,000 toward his project entitled, "A multi-level mechanical assessment of osteoarthritic bone and its interaction with joint arthroplasty. Understanding how microstructure influences trabecular-level strain progression within patient excised arthritic/osteoarthritic bone cores with supplemented organ-level analyses of whole joints from patients treated with arthroplasty. Towards improving and ensuring the longevity of joint replacements."

Dr. Joy MacDermid, Scientist, cross-appointed to Orthopaedic Surgery, and her team at the Canadian MSK Rehab Research Network have been awarded a CIHR Network Catalyst grant in the amount of roughly \$2 million through five years. The Network brings together researchers, collaborators and valued partner groups to develop new rehab solutions to address the large pain and disability burden caused by MSK diseases.



Bone and Joint Institute (BJI) Catalyst Grant Competition Fall 2019



Drs. David O'Gorman, Scientist, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, and Orthopaedic Surgery members David Holdsworth, Scientist, George Athwal, Professor, and Kenneth Faber, Professor, were awarded \$30,000 toward their study, "Detecting periprosthetic joint infection in mimetics by mass spectrometry"

Drs. Emily Lalone, Scientist, and Daniel Langohr, Scientist, both cross-appointed to Orthopaedic Surgery, and Orthopaedic Surgery members, Nina Suh, Assistant Professor, and Graham King, Professor, were awarded \$30,000 toward their study, "Development of a Total Wrist Arthroplasty System to Improve Patient Outcome"



AMOSO Opportunities Fund



Dr. Peter Wang, Assistant Professor, Paediatric Surgery and Urology, was recently awarded an AMOSO Opportunities Fund award. Dr. Wang will receive \$65,000 toward his project titled, "Investigating the relationship between psychological and physiological factors on surgical trainability: A surgical simulation study."

Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation

Orthopaedic Surgery members Drs. Brent Lanting, Associate Professor, and Kristen Barton, PGY 1, have been awarded the Carroll A. Laurin Award, which recognizes excellence in clinical research, for their study, "The role of knee joint synovitis in dissatisfied total knee arthroplasty patients".



Funding competition results

Congratulations to all faculty members whose research applications were funded:

CANADIAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic, Division of Urology, "The Effect of a Bacterial Urinary Infection Isolate and Antibiotics on Calcium Urolithiasis: The Potential Role of Zinc and Reactive Oxygen Species as Immune Modulators" \$40,000

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY INTERNAL RESEARCH FUND

Dr. Chris Bailey, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "10 Year Re-operation Rates for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis" \$10,000

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic, Division of Urology, "Screening of Natural Health Products (NHP) for Enhanced Antioxidant Properties Important for Preventing Urinary Stone Disease Using a Calcium Oxalate Drosophila Melanogaster Model" \$10,000

Dr. Muriel Brackstone, Division of General Surgery, "The Impact of Adjuvant Radiotherapy after Mastectomy with Immediate Breast Reconstruction" \$9,950

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell, Division of Urology, "Prospective Evaluation of Postoperative Pain and Opioid use After Minor Urologic Surgery" \$10,000

Dr. Christopher Del Balso, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "A Biomechanical Analysis of Ankle Stability Following Deltoid Ligament Repair" \$10,000

Dr. Ruby Grewal, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "The Scaphoid Microbiome and its Potential Role in Non-Unions" \$10,000

Dr. Jonathan Izawa, Division of Urology, "Using DNA Methylation Profiling to Differentiate Good from Poor Prognosis Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer Patients" \$10,000

Dr. Brent Lanting, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Potential Effects of Chronic Metal Ion Exposure from Total Hip Arthroplasty on the Brain" \$10,000

Dr. Marie-Eve LeBel, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Active Retrieval Effect on Long Term Learning of Procedural Skills" \$4,840

Dr. Patrick Luke, Division of Urology, "Evaluation of Oxygenated Perfusion with Hemopure and Carbon Monoxide for Optimal Storage of Donor Kidneys ex vivo" \$10,000

Dr. Tina Mele, Division of General Surgery, "Mortality, Short and Long-term Patient Centered Outcomes Following Tracheostomy Placement in Critically Ill Patients" \$10,000

Dr. Blayne Welk, Division of Urology, "The Risk of Dementia Associated with Anticholinergic Medication Utilization in Overactive Bladder Patients" \$7,500

LAWSON HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTES INTERNAL RESEARCH FUND

Dr. Chris Bailey, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Biomechanical comparison of the amounts of subsidence between patient-specific and non-patient-specific PLIF cages." \$14,998

Dr. Tanya DeLyzer, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, "Novel peptide for attenuating radiotherapy and implant capsular contractures in Breast Cancer Patients" \$15,000

Dr. Ruby Grewal, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Does the Microbiome Contribute to Scaphoid Non-union? A Pilot Study" \$15,000

Dr. Jim Johnson, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Design and Validation of an Instrumented Shoulder Implant System for Load Measurement in Patients" \$15,000

LIMA ORTHOPEDICS

Dr. Darren Drosdowech, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, (Site PI) "Prospective Clinical Outcome of a Novel Convertible Modular Glenoid Component in Total Shoulder Arthroplasty" \$80,000

LONDON REGIONAL CANCER PROGRAM CATALYST GRANTS FOR TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH

Dr. Armen Parsyan, "Division of General Surgery, "Anticancer Effects of Radiation Therapy Combined with PLK4 Inhibitor CFI-400945 in Breast Cancer" \$25,000

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

Dr. Kamran Siddiqui, Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, and **Dr. Alp Sener**, Division of Urology, "Development of a Thermal Regulator for Bio-organisms" \$124,400

ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA ASSOCIATION

Dr. Aaron Nauth, University of Toronto, and **Dr. Emil Schemitsch**, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Infected Nonunions: Single-Stage Treatment with Endothelial Progenitor Cell Therapy +/- Local Vancomycin in a Small Animal Model" \$50,000

WESTERN INNOVATION FUND

Dr. Kamran Siddiqui, Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, and **Dr. Alp Sener**, Division of Urology, "Passive Thermal Regulator for Bio-organisms and Vaccines Transportation" \$100,000

Coming Events

Women in Surgery Keynote Lecture - Thriving in Surgery: Is Grit Enough?

April 29, 2020 — **POSTPONED**

E7-002, Victoria Hospital

Guest speaker: Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce

This event will be rescheduled for later in the year. More information will be available in September at: www.schulich.uwo.ca/surgery

Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day

June 19, 2020 — **POSTPONED**

King's University College, London

A tentative date for a shortened version of the Dr. Robert Zhong Department of Surgery Research Day has been set for the afternoon of November 11, 2020. Closer to the date, further details will be available at: www.schulich.uwo.ca/surgery

The 37th Annual Western Homecoming Sport Medicine Symposium

October 16, 2020

Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, London ON

Presented by the Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic, the theme for this year's event is, "2020 Vision on Sport Medicine." For more information please visit <http://www.fowlerkennedy.com/>

Canadian Conference for the Advancement of Surgical Education (C-CASE)

October 29 & 30, 2020

Centre Mont-Royal, Montreal, Quebec

Calling all Surgical Educators and everyone interested in Surgical Education. Building on last year's successful inaugural conference, current topics in surgical education will be further explored through plenary sessions, guest speakers, panels and scientific sessions as well as a banquet dinner; all is included in your registration.

For registration please visit www.cusec-cccep.com/cusec

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

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