

DEPARTMENT OF Surgery Newsletter

Winter 2018



Chair's Column

DRS. JULIE ANN VAN KOUGHNETT, ROB LEEPER, AND RYAN DEGEN RECEIVE AMOSO OPPORTUNITIES FUND AWARDS. DETAILS ON PAGE 8.

Dear colleagues:

I would like to wish everyone a happy new year! 2017 ended with a number of exciting announcements, including grant and award winners highlighted in this newsletter. I would especially like to take the time to highlight our success in the AMOSO grant competitions. Over the past ten years, we have had 18 AMOSO Opportunities Fund awards and 12 AMOSO Innovation Fund awards granted to Department members. This represents 17.2% of the total number of awards; which exceeds our proportion of members overall, currently at 14.5% of the Academic Health Sciences Centre.

This is an excellent achievement that recognizes our Department as a research leader in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. With recruitment and mentorship, we have developed a strong cadre of researchers in the Department. In addition, our Internal Research Grant and Scientist Competitions have garnered our competitive spirit and have allowed our researchers to hone their grant writing and research skills in a

collaborative and supportive environment.

In addition, I expect that our new Strategic Plan for Research will bring surgical research to the forefront by fostering inclusivity for scientists from across campus with common goals. We can leverage the strength and experience of our Department members with those from other disciplines; gain access to a wider range of competitions; and bring a valuable multi-disciplinary, team-based approach to scientific discovery and innovation. I would encourage everyone to sign up for at least



one Research Node and to attend one or more meetings this spring.

At the same time, I would like to encourage applications to the AMOSO Opportunities Fund competition this spring or to nominate a deserving individual for an award. These are excellent opportunities to recognize the outstanding research and achievements of our members. Details are included in our bi-weekly e-casts or you may contact the Department office for more information.

Finally, please remember to have your say in the Department of Surgery Strategic Planning Survey. Your input is key to developing our Strategic Plan for the next five years. I will look forward to presenting preliminary results of the survey early this spring.

Sincerely,

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

Surgery News

Division Highlights: Paediatric Surgery



DIVISION MEMBERS: DRS. TIM CAREY, ANDREANA BÜTTER, AND SUMIT DAVE WITH ARMANDO LORENZO, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (SECOND FROM LEFT).

NSQIP-Paediatric Coming to Children's Hospital, LHSC

After two years of persistent advocacy from our Division chair, Dr. Leslie Scott, the Division of Paediatric Surgery has officially enrolled in the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program - Paediatric. We were awarded a funding grant from Health Quality Ontario and are also receiving support for this initiative from the Children's Health Foundation.

This program will be a great asset to Paediatric Surgery and will improve data collection, analysis and reporting, and will also allow us to compare performance of key quality indicators against other academic paediatric health care centres across North America, including, the three other Ontario Children's Hospitals. The program will enable us to make informed decisions around the quality of care we offer our paediatric patients, decrease the morbidity rates, lower case costs, and develop best-practice guidelines for common paediatric procedures through quality improvement initiatives.

Paediatric Surgery Research Day 2018

The 3rd annual paediatric surgery research day was held on Monday, February 12th. Our guest speaker was Dr. Lily Nguyen, a paediatric otolaryngologist from McGill University who is an expert in simulation training and spoke to the operationalization of the simulation program involving paediatric patients in the emergency room, the operating room, and critical care areas. There were also oral presentations by residents, medical students, and physicians from many paediatric surgical subspecialties including, urology, otolaryngology, general surgery, and ophthalmology.

This event would not have been possible without the initiative and hard

work of Dr. Sarah Jones who developed the Paediatric Surgery Research Day event in 2016. Research Day has been an important part of bringing a diverse group of subspecialties together to increase knowledge translation and collaborative research opportunities.

Research and Award Highlights

Some of the exciting and innovative research that is ongoing within the Division of Paediatric Surgery includes a series of studies led by Dr. Julie Strychowsky, which aim to examine cost differences, patient efficiency, and patient satisfaction with undergoing a minor surgical procedure in the clinic-setting versus the operating room.

These studies are a collaborative effort between several sub-specialties within Paediatric Surgery (Orthopedics, Urology, ENT, and General Surgery), Anesthesiology, and the Patient Experience Office at London Health Sciences Centre. Once complete, these studies will provide evidence on the most cost and patient efficient location for surgery and further, they will help to ensure that patients are satisfied with the care they receive regardless of the location of their surgery.

The Division would like to congratulate Dr. Julie Strychowsky and Dr. Megan Cashin. Dr. Strychowsky, was not only accepted to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Masters in Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality program, but is also receiving a tuition scholarship in recognition of her excellent background and suitability for the program. Dr. Strychowsky will begin the program in August 2018. Dr. Cashin was the recipient of the HUMEC Award of Excellence, in recognition of the Year 2 MSK course in teaching and evaluations, commitment to improvement, and student centeredness; voted by the second year medical students.

SURGICAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Ontario's Surgical Quality Improvement Network is launching a provincial surgical infection reduction campaign. In early 2018 London Health Sciences Centre can select from three indicators to report on: surgical site infections (SSI), urinary tract infections (UTI), or pneumonia. This one year campaign comprised of up to 30 provincial peer hospitals commences in April 2018. Health Quality Ontario (HQO) recommends that Network hospitals include surgical quality improvement goals within corporate Quality Improvement Plans (QIP). We are excited to contribute to the provincial effort by sharing our ongoing efforts to reduce SSI. Additional Surgical Quality Improvement information is available on HQO's website at: www.hqontario.ca/Quality-Improvement/Quality-Improvement-in-Action/Ontario-Surgical-Quality-Improvement-Network.



Surgical Quality Council: January 12, 2018 was the fourth quarterly meeting of the Surgical Quality Council. Membership includes representatives from each surgical division, as well as administration and hospital site chiefs. Discussion pertained to ongoing quality improvement efforts, such as surgical site infection prevention, care transitions, and surgical preparation and normothermia.

NSQIP: Dr. Emil Schemitsch and Dr. Patrick Colquhoun are excited to announce that London Health Sciences Centre's Victoria Hospital will soon be a part of the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), for both adult and pediatrics. NSQIP hospital participants include more than 60 hospitals in Canada and more than 600 international and American hospitals. Please contact NSQIP Surgeon Champion Dr. Patrick.Colquhoun@lhsc.on.ca or Surgical Clinical Reviewers Celia.Dann@lhsc.on.ca and Joanna.Gaebel@lhsc.on.ca with any program questions. As of December 21, 2017 2,532 surgical cases have been entered into the LHSC University Hospital NSQIP data platform for quality improvement efforts.

A British Columbia National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) 2017 Report outlines that there have been reductions in adverse events on average between 2012 and 2015 for 23 participating hospitals. Please see the Report here: <https://bcpsqc.ca/blog/knowledge/20551/>

NSQIP research: As a NSQIP hospital participant, LHSC is able to access and use the Program's research database. Please find the Participant User File (PUF) and instructions at: www.facs.org/quality-programs/acs-nsqip/program-specifics/participant-use. The 2016 PUF contains 1,000,393 surgical cases submitted from 680 NSQIP-participating hospital sites. Data files are available back through 2005. LHSC researchers have begun to access and analyze datasets. Please contact Kathryn.Ellett@lhsc.on.ca Research Associate in Quality Improvement Department of Surgery, for further details and data usage.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety rounds: Monday, January 8 was the inaugural General Surgery Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Rounds. These meetings will be located at University Hospital with teleconference at Victoria campus. Meetings are Mondays at 1600 hours. The learning objectives are: review of division performance; review of ongoing quality improvement projects; literature based reviews to justify system changes in clinical practices division wide; and in depth review of case or case series to provide perspective for system based changes to clinical practice.

LHSC's Quality and Performance Office has monthly **Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Rounds** at noon hour. The next Rounds are **Monday February 26** where Surgical Quality Officer Dr Patrick Colquhoun will lead the discussion regarding NSQIP program work to date at University Hospital.

Surgery News

Dr. Richard Inculet honoured with the London Health Sciences Centre Medical Advisory Committee Award



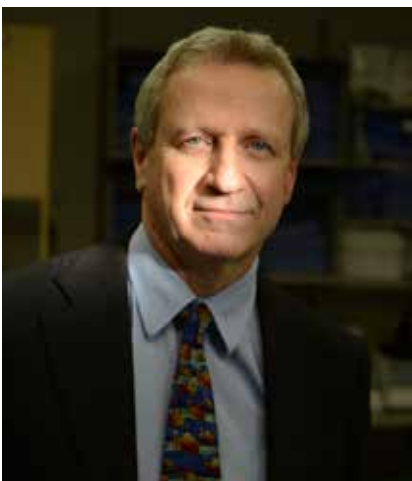
DR. RICHARD INCULET (LEFT) WITH DR. ANDREA LUM, CHAIR, LHSC MAC, AT THE MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AWARDS CEREMONY.

Congratulations to Dr. Richard Inculet on receiving the London Health Sciences Centre Medical Advisory Committee Award for 2017.

The MAC annually recognizes hospital and Professional Staff who go “above and beyond the call of duty.”

A full list of this year’s recipients and descriptions of each award are available in the January/February 2018 issue of St. Joseph’s Health Care London’s *Imprint* staff newsletter, and London Health Sciences Centre’s staff newsletter, *the Page*.

Dr. Doug Ross Reappointed Chair/Chief, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Congratulations to Dr. Doug Ross on his reappointment to the position of Chair/Chief, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.

Dr. Ross joined the Department of Surgery at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Western University in 1992 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002 and Professor in 2010. He was one of the first surgeons to join the world-renowned Hand and Upper Limb Centre. His academic and clinical interests include surgical education, upper extremity surgery, reconstructive microsurgery and peripheral nerve surgery. He has served as Chair/Chief of the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery since 2002.

Full announcement at: schulich.uwo.ca/surgery

Dr. Ken Leslie receives President’s Award for Physician Leadership



Congratulations to Dr. Ken Leslie, Chair/Chief, Division of General Surgery, on receiving the 2017 President’s Award for Physician Leadership.

Through his leadership, Dr. Leslie has strived to ensure the Division of General Surgery’s mission of training surgeons of the highest clinical and academic quality is met.

Full story available at:

lhsc.on.ca/About_Us/LHSC/Publications/Homepage/PresidentsAwards2017.htm

CSTAR Achieves ACS-AEI Reaccreditation

CSTAR (Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics) has attained full five-year reaccreditation from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as a Comprehensive Education Institute.

The ACS sets high standards on how surgical education and training should be offered at its Accredited Education Institutes. CSTAR was first accredited as an ACS-AEI in 2008. This is CSTAR’s third successful reaccreditation.

CSTAR staff and stakeholders, including several invested members of the Department of Surgery, worked diligently to attain this recognition of the exceptional scholarly work that is done at CSTAR. We thank you all for your contribution and continuing support and patronage.

Dr. Adam Power selected for *London Inc's* Top 20 Under 40

Congratulations to Dr. Adam Power, Division of Vascular Surgery, on being selected as one of London's Top 20 Under 40 recipients. Dr. Power was selected for combining his roles as a vascular surgeon, clinical professor, inventor, and entrepreneur into one.

As founder of Front Line Medical Technologies, Dr. Power has worked to develop and bring to market an all-in-one trauma device that first responders can use to control internal bleeding to the torso.

More details about Dr. Power's entrepreneurship and a full list of recipients are available in the November 2017 issue of *London Inc* magazine, or at: londonincmagazine.ca/back-issues/



AT RIGHT: PHOTO FROM NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE OF LONDON INC.

Multidisciplinary Perioperative Grand Rounds

Dr. Ronnie Rosenthal, Professor of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at VA Connecticut Healthcare System, presented her talk "Perioperative Assessment and Optimization of the Geriatric Patient" at Multidisciplinary Perioperative Grand Rounds on January 31, at London Health Sciences Centre's Victoria Hospital.

Dr. Rosenthal specializes in geriatric surgery, and is dedicated to helping older adult patients who have a variety of gastrointestinal and biliary diseases. She is the Chair of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Geriatric Surgery Taskforce and lead editor of the major textbook on this subject. She has led or participated in many national projects to improve the surgical care of older adults, including the current John A. Hartford Foundation/ ACS Coalition for Quality in Geriatric Surgery Project.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Peter Fowler inducted into the Order of Canada

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, recently announced 125 new appointments to the Order of Canada.

Dr. Peter Fowler, Professor Emeritus in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, was appointed "for his pioneering contributions to the development of sport medicine in Canada." Dr. Fowler was the co-founder and former medical director of the Fowler Kennedy Sports Medicine Clinic at Western and has served as Chief Medical Officer to Canadian National teams at Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Created in 1967, the Order of Canada is one of our country's highest civilian honours and recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation.

In Memoriam: Dr. James Patrick McAuley

We are saddened by the passing of Dr. James Patrick McAuley who passed away on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017 after a heroic and dignified battle against a brain tumour.

Dr. McAuley was a dedicated orthopaedic surgeon who joined the Division of Orthopaedic surgery in 2006 and practiced within the arthroplasty group at London Health Sciences Centre's University Hospital. Dr. McAuley was a highly accomplished surgeon, teacher, researcher and colleague. He was adored by both his patients and those that he mentored throughout an almost 30 year career that also spanned positions in Virginia and Ottawa. Dr. McAuley absolutely loved his role as a clinician, surgeon, and teacher and was tirelessly dedicated and passionate in those commitments.

Dr. McAuley was promoted to full Professor in the Department of Surgery, recognizing his significant academic contributions and international renown in the field of total hip and knee replacement surgery. Dr. McAuley, 61, is survived by his wife of 36 years, Diane. Father to Erin (Mark) and Alexander (Lauren) and grandfather of Patrick and Sebastian.



Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Bing Gan



DR. BING GAN, PROFESSOR IN THE DIVISION OF PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY, DURING HIS 6 WEEK MISSION WITH MEDECINS SAN FRONTIERES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

There is a growing interest and considerable experience among surgeons in providing humanitarian medical care and Canadian surgeons have long been involved in overseas surgical missions. Operation Smile, Mercy Ships, and many other surgical organizations provide much needed surgical care in places where normally access to advanced treatment is not available.

I was attracted to Doctors without Borders/Médecins sans Frontières, an association of medical and non-medical personnel established in 1971 in Paris. MSF provides medical care to populations in distress, to victims of natural and man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict. They do so irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions, while observing strict neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance. Members undertake to respect their professional code of ethics and to maintain complete independence from all political, economic, or religious powers. In addition to providing medical care, MSF's other main *raison d'être* is to bear witness. In 1999, MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work. Currently MSF operates in 70 countries worldwide and has 30+ thousand employees of which under 10% are internationals. At any point in time, MSF Canada has approximately 175-200 Canadians in the field, 2/3 of which are non-medical and half of which come from Quebec.

I recently returned from a 6-week mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, specifically in the northeastern province of North-Kivu near the borders with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. This area has seen almost non-stop conflict since independence in 1960, much originating in geopolitical and local issues related to colonization, independence, language, natural resources, corporate greed and world politics. Since 1960, in the Congo, millions of people have perished through armed conflict, civil strife and medical issues such as malnutrition, infectious diseases and the absence of medical care. I worked with several other surgeons in a small district hospital providing surgical care in the broadest sense of the word. We worked

on a one-in-three call schedule and were responsible for ward duties, the emergency room and the OR's.

In six weeks of work, I performed around 400 operative cases. The case mix included specific plastic surgery care like wound debridements, skin grafting for burns, infectious disease surgery, such as for soft tissue infections and osteomyelitis, and fracture care, including facial, hand and long bone fractures. In addition to those cases, we also took care of bowel obstructions and perforations, incarcerated hernias, inguinal hernias, pediatric surgery, gynecological and obstetrical emergencies and others. On a daily basis, we saw patients with gunshot wounds.

Surgery was done under comparatively primitive circumstances, sometimes without lights, with only marginal anesthesia, with few instruments, often not even a cautery and without modern techniques such as internal fixation or instruments such as staplers for bowel anastomoses. It was an eye-opening experience, with so many seemingly preventable deaths occurring, but also very gratifying when one could save a life. It is hard to imagine that, in fact, the overwhelming majority of people on this earth have access to only a fraction of the medical care that we consider completely normal here in Canada.

In the Congo, the average person lives on less than one dollar a day and more than 150 out of every 1000 children die before the age of five. Canadian surgeons can contribute tremendously to alleviate suffering in many places. In the words of James Orbinsky, a past Canadian president of MSF: "Humanitarianism is about more than medical efficiency or technical competence. In its first moment, in its sacred present, humanitarianism seeks to relieve the immediacy of suffering, and most especially of suffering alone."

Working for less fortunate people is very rewarding and can be done here in Canada, as in locations like the inner cities or in the North, or elsewhere in the world in poorer countries or countries ravaged by war and political turmoil. If anyone is interested in participating in overseas humanitarian missions with MSF, see the recruitment pages at www.msf.ca.

~Contributed by Dr. Bing Gan

Trainee Achievements

Dr. Armin Badre, Clinical Fellow in the Roth | McFarlane Hand and Upper Limb Centre, received a PSI Research Trainee Fellowship 2018 award in the amount of \$50,000 from the Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation. The primary aim of this fellowship is to provide highly qualified medical doctors with clinically applicable research training opportunities and support.

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic, Clinical Fellow in the Division of Urology, was selected for the Urology Care Foundation 2018 Research Scholar Award Program. Dr. Bjazevic's project "The Role of Osteopontin in the Relationship between Urinary Infection and Urolithiasis" aims to further investigate the relationship between calcium stone disease and the presence of urinary bacteria through proteins that are important to both human inflammation and stone disease including osteopontin and zinc transporters. Urinary stone disease is a very common condition that can have a large impact on an individual's wellbeing and represents a tremendous burden on the health care system. An improved understanding of the causes of stone disease will allow for the development of improved treatment and prevention strategies, potentially including new anti-microbial therapies focused on treating certain bacteria or the use of probiotics.

Dr. Patrick Murphy, PGY 5 resident in the Division of General Surgery, received a PSI Foundation Resident Research Grant of \$19,000 toward his project, "Impact of Surgeon Factors on the Management and Outcomes of Acute Appendicitis." Removal of the appendix is one of the most common surgical conditions and will affect 1 in 12 people worldwide and in Ontario. This study will provide the largest definitive report on the modern management of appendicitis and guide on-going management in Ontario and Canada. Full summary available at: psifoundation.org

Dr. Shane Smith, PGY 4 resident in the Division of General Surgery, won two American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) research prizes. The Royal Canadian Medical Services was invited to submit papers to the Excelsior group, which is a collaboration between military surgery and the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Smith was chosen to represent Canada, and presented work that was part of his Western Master of Science thesis that was supervised by Dr. Adam Power and Dr. Vivian McAlister. There was a lot of interest in the work being done at Western on Trauma Vascular Surgery. In addition to receiving a scholarship to attend the 2018 Trauma Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery Conference in Las Vegas, Dr. Smith's presentation won the resident research award for the ACS COT region 13.



DR. JENNIFER BJAZEVIC



DR. SHANE SMITH AT THE ACS 2017 CLINICAL CONGRESS. PHOTO BY M. OTT.

Academic Merit Award Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the inaugural merit competition for academic achievement in the Department of Surgery. These awards are in recognition of the outstanding achievements of faculty in either education or research.

Dr. Michael Chu, Division of Cardiac Surgery, Clinician Researcher

Dr. Aaron Grant, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Clinician Educator

Dr. Ruby Grewal, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Clinician Researcher

Dr. Linrui Guo, Division of Cardiac Surgery, Clinician Teacher

Dr. James Howard, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Clinician Researcher

Dr. Graham King, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Clinician Researcher

Dr. Marie-Eve LeBel, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Clinician Researcher

Dr. Michael Ott, Division of General Surgery, Clinician Educator

Dr. Neil Parry, Division of General Surgery, Clinician Teacher

Dr. Christopher Schlachta, Division of General Surgery, Clinician Teacher

Dr. Alp Sener, Division of Urology, Clinician Scientist

Funding Competition Results

Congratulations to all faculty members on their successes:

ACADEMIC MEDICAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO (AMOSO)

Dr. Julie Ann Van Koughnett Division of General Surgery, "Decreasing Hospital Readmissions Following Colorectal Surgery with Mobile Health Monitoring"

Dr. Ryan Degen, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Evaluating the Relative Contributions of the Capsule and Labrum to Hip Joint Stability Using a Novel Biomechanical Experimental Apparatus"

Dr. Rob Leeper, Division of General Surgery, "In Situ Simulation of Acute Resuscitation for Quality Improvement: Feasibility, Sustainability, and Outcome Assessment"

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY COMPETENCY-BASED MEDICAL EDUCATION (CBME) INNOVATION FUND

Dr. Julie Ann Van Koughnett, Education Research, Department of Surgery, "Development of Case-Based Assessments of Transition to Discipline Entrustable Professional Activities in Surgical Foundations"

Dr. Aaron Grant, "Developing an Assessment Tool for On-Call Experiences in Surgical Education"

LAWSON HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTES INTERNAL RESEARCH FUND

Dr. Andreana Bütter, Division of Paediatric Surgery, "Does Fetal Tracheal Occlusion Reverse Pulmonary Hypoplasia and Modify Wnt Signaling Pathway Markers in a Rabbit Model of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia?"

Dr. Brent Lanting, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "The Assessment of Oxidative and Mechanical Property Degradation of Retrieved Highly Cross-Linked Polyethylene Acetabular Liner Rims"

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY CLINICIAN SCIENTIST COMPETITION

These awards provide salary and benefit support for up to three years, to protect the time of Clinician Scientists for research.

Dr. Tina Mele, Division of General Surgery.

Dr. Ryan Degen, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. Luc Dubois, Division of Vascular Surgery.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY INTERNAL RESEARCH FUND AND RESIDENT RESEARCH COMPETITIONS

Dr. Alp Sener, Division of Urology, "The Effect of Sodium Thiosulfate on Graft Function in an ex vivo model of Human Donation after Cardiac Death Renal Transplantation"

Dr. Sarah Jones, Division of Paediatric Surgery, "Development of a Novel Multispecialty Morbidity/Mortality Score for Children"

Dr. Ryan Degen, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, "Efficacy of Multimodal Analgesia Following Hip Arthroscopy"

Dr. Tanya DeLyzer, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, "The Effect of Stapled Function-Blocking RHAMM Peptides in Attenuating the Development of Radiation-Induced Breast Capsular Contracture"

Dr. Kelly Vogt, Division of General Surgery, "Major Complications Following Surgery: A Validation Study"

WESTERN STRATEGIC SUPPORT FOR CIHR SUCCESS

Dr. David O'Gorman, Scientist, "Development of Novel Tissue Mimetic Models of Urethral Strictures"

The Western Surgery Newsletter is produced by:

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All members of the Department are invited to submit story ideas, articles, photos, or comments for the spring issue. Please send them to: Dinah.Frank@lhsc.on.ca, or call 519.633.3349 ext. 32361

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