

Western Urology

2025

From the Chair: Dr. Alp Sener

Dear friends and colleagues,

Wow, what a year this has been!! The achievements and successes of our residents, fellows and faculty highlighted in this newsletter continue to distinguish our Division as a premiere program. I could not be more proud to be part of this group. In reading this newsletter, I hope that you will see that our Division has excelled in all aspects of education, clinical excellence, and academic productivity. We passed two external reviews (residency program and the clinical service) with flying colors and continue to push clinical care forward with our newly developing biobank, led by Drs. Power and Pautler, and the expansion of the robotics program, which will propel us in the forefront of oncological, reconstructive and transplantation surgery. For another consecutive year, two of our faculty (Dr. Huynh and Dr. Welk) were awarded the coveted Department of Surgery Merit awards for research, and Dr. Campbell was honored with being listed in the Top 40 under 40 in London and we were delighted to award the inaugural Laverne Faculty Development Grant to Dr. Power. Over the past year, our faculty travelled across the globe giving over 45 invited lectures, shining the light on the excellence, growth, sustainability and success of our Division.



Divisional research productivity has continued along an outstanding trajectory with our faculty being awarded numerous high-profile awards, competitive provincial and national grants, and an outstanding 103 peer-reviewed original works and a staggering \$2.2 million dollars of new grant funding—a fantastic achievement that we should all be proud of! This performance underscores our strong commitment to academic excellence in education and research that is recognized not only nationally but internationally.

Our residency program, led by Dr. Wang and Dr. Campbell, has continued to demonstrate excellence. The residency program has continued to achieve new heights under their leadership, not only in competency based medical education, but also in other facets of training including resident wellness, simulation based surgical training and student advocacy. This has led to us matching our top ranked applicants, Dr. Taha Ismail (Western), Dr. Ashwin Rao (Queens) and Dr. Cathy Wang (Western), to our Western Urology family; we are all looking forward to working with them over the next five years. Our fellowships spanning SJHC and LHSC are equally as robust and successful as our residency training program and give us great pride. That being said, I would like to welcome our incoming fellows Dr. Ali Bozaci (Turkey), Dr. Ibrahim Asiri (Saudi Arabia), and Dr. Tarique Sabah (United Kingdom) all in kidney/pancreas transplantation; Dr. Lorraine Scanlon (Ireland) in uro-oncology, Dr. Hussain AlRashed (Kuwait) in endourology, Dr. Abdullah AlTurki (Saudi Arabia) in MIS/endourology, and Dr. Hussain Al-Modhi (Saudi Arabi) in pediatric urology—it is a pleasure to have you all join our group.

On behalf of the Division, I would like to thank our graduates, Dr. Haider Abed (Endourology fellowship at McKenzie Health in Toronto, followed by position in Windsor), Dr. Matthew Playfair (MIS fellowship at Credit Valley in Toronto), Dr. Carolyn MacLeod (Functional Urology fellowship at Dalhousie in Halifax), and Dr. William Luke (SUO fellowship at Emory in Atlanta). Thank you all for your hard-work and commitment to our patients and to our program. We wish you a bright future in your fellowships and look forward to hearing about your accomplishments in years to come.

Thank you as always to Kim Nitz, our Residency Program Administrator, and to Tricia Laughlin, our Divisional Administrator who have kept us on track despite the constantly changing schedules and thousands of zoom meetings—you truly have been exceptional. I hope that you all enjoy reading this year's newsletter, and for those alumni who were not able to join us this year for research day, please reach out anytime, I look forward to hearing from you.

- Dr. Alp Sener



From the Program Director

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." – Winston Churchill

This past year has been a testament to the power of change. With every challenge, we have adapted. With every success, we have grown. And with every transition, we have strengthened the foundation of our program.

First, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to **Will, Haider, Matt, and Carolyn** on successfully passing their Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada exams. Their dedication, resilience, and hard work have paid off, and we wish them nothing but success as they embark on the next steps of their careers. They leave behind a legacy of excellence, and I have no doubt they will continue to make a positive impact in the field of urology and to their patients.

One of the highlights of the year was our **Resident Olympics**, where we welcomed our new PGY1s with a Squid Games-themed event (and where I may have showcased some hidden grilling and bartending skills). These moments remind us that while education and patient care are our primary focus, the bonds we form as a team are just as crucial.



Transitions & Gratitude:



With change comes the bittersweet moment of saying thank you to those who have shaped our program. **Dr. Jeffrey Campbell** has been an unwavering pillar of support and dedication in his role as Assistant Program Director for the past 3 years. As a team, we've developed a 2.5-year recurrent curriculum where we integrated an anatomy lab, led numerous wellness initiatives, created a transition -to-practice rotation, developed and will soon implement a brand-new rotation schedule for our residents. He has opened his home, given his time, and devoted his energy to ensuring the success of our residents. On behalf of the entire program, thank you for your extraordinary contributions.

At the same time, we warmly welcome **Dr. Jennifer Bzajevic** as our new Assistant Program Director. With a Master's in Medical Education and a reputation for being an exceptional teacher, she brings expertise, enthusiasm, and a commitment to resident education that will continue to elevate our program. We are excited for her leadership and look forward to the impact she will have.



A special thank you goes to **Kim Nitz**, who came out of retirement to fill an administrative gap this year. Your support was invaluable, and we truly appreciate you.

To our **residents**, your dedication to patient care, your relentless pursuit of knowledge, and your commitment to excellence in urology do not go unnoticed. Today, as we showcase your scholarly endeavors, we recognize the incredible effort you put into not only learning and providing exceptional patient care but also contributing to the advancement of our field.

To our **faculty**, your guidance, mentorship, and passion for teaching the next generation of urologists are what make this program extraordinary. In a year of change, your support has been unwavering, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Welcome to Our New PGY1s: Finally, it is with great excitement that we welcome our new PGY1s—Taha Ismail, Ashwin Rao and Cathy Wang—into the program. Your journey in urology is just beginning, and we are thrilled to have you as part of this community. We look forward to watching you grow, learn, and develop into the skilled urologists of the future.

Change is inevitable, but with it comes the opportunity to innovate, improve, and push the boundaries of what is possible. This past year has demonstrated our ability to rise to the occasion, and I have no doubt that we will continue to do so in the year ahead.

Let's embrace change, celebrate our achievements, and keep moving forward together.

Congratulations to this year's Lavergne Catalyst Grant Winners!



A feasibility randomized controlled trial evaluating early vs late stent removal following radical cystectomy and ileal conduit formation for bladder cancer (STENT-OPT)

The Lavergne grant will be used in a randomized study evaluating early (< 1week) vs late stent (4-6 weeks) removal during radical cystectomy. To date, there are no randomized studies in this space, which is surprising considering that 10-12,000 radical cystectomy's are performed each year in America alone (Canadian data unknown). We expect the trial to be completed within 2 years and hope to publish some findings at the JK Wyatt Urology Residents Day in April 2026. I am incredibly grateful for the support provided to conduct this trial. **Mithun Kailavasan, Fellow Research Grant**

Prostate Cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment disparities amongst immigrant and non-immigrant men in Ontario

Our objective in this Urology Resident and SUO Fellowship combined study is to investigate whether health disparities are present in prostate cancer diagnostics or treatment received in immigrant compared to non-immigrant men living in Ontario, Canada. Our primary outcome is to evaluate the proportion of patients by immigration status and race/ethnicity who underwent radical treatment vs. ADT alone vs. no treatment {includes surveillance and watchful waiting} for stage I-IV prostate cancer. Our secondary outcomes will evaluate the proportion of patients by immigration status and race/ethnicity with stage I-IV prostate cancer and who underwent prostate imaging before and after histological diagnosis and to evaluate the proportion of patients by immigration status and race undergoing PSA screening before diagnosis. It is our goal to identify any disparities in PSA screening and subsequent care for men in Ontario so we may take steps to intervene and minimize any disparities that exist. **Dr. Jonathan Izawa, Faculty Catalyst Grant**



Patient Reported Outcomes for Bladder Management Strategies in Young Adults with Spina Bifida

The Lavergne Catalyst Grant will support a groundbreaking multi-center study on bladder management strategies in young adults with spina bifida, aiming to improve patient-centered care. By collecting patient-reported outcomes across diverse institutions in North America, this research will provide valuable insights into how different management methods impact quality of life, health outcomes, and personal priorities. The findings will help urologists tailor treatment approaches to better align with patient needs, ultimately enhancing clinical decision-making, promoting equity in care, and improving long-term health and well-being for adults living with spina bifida. **Dr. Blayne Welk, Faculty Catalyst Grant**



Advanced Robotic Radical Prostatectomy Course

The Lavergne Faculty Development Grant will support advanced training in robotic-assisted surgery, enabling the refinement of surgical techniques that directly enhance patient care. This grant will fund participation in an intensive training program, led by international experts, to expand expertise in nerve-sparing techniques and vesico-urethral anastomosis reconstruction. By completing this program, faculty at Western University will establish a structured robotic surgery curriculum, improving training for urology residents and SUO fellows. The initiative aims to bridge current educational gaps and ensure the optimal use of the new da Vinci Robotic System recently introduced at Victoria Hospital. Enhanced faculty expertise will contribute to better surgical outcomes, reduced complications, and increased procedural efficiency for patients undergoing robotic prostatectomy. Ultimately, this investment strengthens Western University's role as a leader in robotic surgical education and innovation, benefiting both learners and patients. **Dr. Nicholas Power, Faculty Development Grant**

Partial Endovascular Balloon Occlusion in an Acute and Chronic Renal Failure Large Animal Model

The Lavergne Catalyst Grant provides funding to support this research project which aims to explore innovative techniques for managing renal failure, potentially improving treatment options for patients with acute and chronic kidney disease. By investigating the effects of partial endovascular balloon occlusion, this research could contribute to the development of new strategies to optimize renal perfusion and minimize kidney injury. This grant ensures the project is well-resourced, advancing both scientific discovery and clinical applications in urologic care. Ultimately, the study's outcomes could lead to enhanced patient management and improved renal function preservation strategies. It continues Western University's legacy in technological innovation.

Dr. Nicholas Power, Faculty Catalyst Grant



THROUGH THE RETROSPECTOSCOPE

For now we see through a glass darkly – then....(St. Paul)

Long ago, but not very far away, stood a hospital housing a suite of operating rooms. One of these had an adjustable table upon which patients were positioned for the excision of tumors, reconstruction of structural defects, and even cutting for stone with the approval of Hippocrates.

There was another room, dark and quiet, where life was more like a SCUBA adventure. Here the realm was entered via a long metallic tube with an incandescent bulb on the end and a lens system to transmit the image to an eyepiece. Was Shakespeare prescient when he wrote “deserving this man’s art and that man’s scope”?

At both sites, the matter of illumination was important. In the first instance, it was the duty of the circulating nurse to aim the OR light between the heads of the surgical team onto the operating field. The admonition “light travels in straight lines” suggested that visibility was suboptimal and the surgeon’s head was not translucent. What could be done? If only light could be bent.

Sending beams from a circular array of sources allowed a part of the output to reach the field. The addition of sterilized handles allowing the team to adjust the beam to their preference no doubt brought relief to nursing staff. Still waiting on the future were the head lamp and loupes.

Systems evolve in parallel. In those early years, the art of retrograde pyelography relied on images captured on photographic film which were developed by hand in a classic darkroom. There was no instant gratification and no calculation of radiation dosage. Fluoroscopy was yet to come and stone manipulation and extraction relied on a blind basket technique.

In the 1940’s, the notion of “guiding” light by refraction was described by Jean-Daniel Colladon and Jacques Babinet. Over the following century, progressive refinements of fibre composition, sheaths, and light sources brought us into the present-day world of fibre optics. This has offered clarity of image and rapid transmission of data, but not necessarily filtering for truth.

Practical fibre optic endoscopy began with gastroscopy around 1958. Progress was slow and required the persistence of pioneers, and justification by economic analysis. By 1984 Clayman, Reddy and Lange demonstrated that a flexible choledochoscope was equal in performance to a rigid rod lens system. At the 1984 BAUS Annual Meeting, a dedicated fibre optic cystoscope was presented by Olympus. Acceptance may have been delayed by issues of cost, poor image quality and fragility as well as inertia. We are beneficiaries of the persistence of visionaries.

Those of us who walked four miles to and from school, up hill both ways, now stand, if able, in amazement at the advances in imaging, miniaturization, visibility, lasers and other devices associated with endourology. We now add to that the frontier of genetic characterization of tumors, the prospect of management by gene editing, refined chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

As all of the foregoing offer hope, we are now faced with increased expectations. We are as yet unable to provide alchemy, perpetual motion or utopia. Still, in every corner of our world of urology, we see the results of curiosity, collaboration and the creation of an academic milieu where ideas can form, refine and face scrutiny. Long may it continue.

*But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep
(Robert Frost)*

Dr. Eric Shepherd



Community Partners....

The Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, at Brightshores Health System in Owen Sound is pleased to welcome medical learners. We encourage medical students and residents to join us for clinical rotations and promise an incredible experience. During your rotation you will be given autonomy to run the Urology service, independence to develop surgical skills, and the support you need to excel. A rotation at Brightshores gives residents a bit of a breather away from the city while continuing their education and surgical development in a relaxed and supportive environment.

We have three active full time Urologists currently; Dr Danielle Jenkins, Dr Geoffrey Wignall and Dr Todd Webster. In addition we are looking forward to Dr Leandra Stringer joining us in summer 2025.

Dr Danielle Jenkins;

"Hi! I'm Danielle - the newest addition to the Owen Sound Urology crew. I finished my residency training at Queen's University in 2024, and starting working in Owen Sound in August. I have a practice that includes bread-and-butter Urology with BPH, OAB, stones, ED, and Oncology making up the bulk of my practice. Owen Sound is a beautiful place to live with unlimited outdoor activities available within a short drive. I love it here and am sure you will too!"

Dr Geoff Wignall;

"I truly enjoy teaching. It's great to be able to discuss cases and clinical scenarios with residents. Often we learn from them as they learn from us. I believe that we provide an excellent experience where trainees can be involved with a broad spectrum of clinical scenarios and opportunities. I have trained in prostate enucleation and residents are given a chance to do various parts of the Thulep procedure, a truly unique experience!"

Dr. Todd Webster:

"I have been here the longest and am still loving it! I came after fellowship at Vanderbilt in 2004 and enjoy the breadth of practise here, from major oncology cases to slings and vasectomies. I am sure you will have a great experience here no matter what your level of training. We love having students and residents and truly appreciate you."

Dr. Leandra Stringer;

"I am really looking forward to joining the team and the community in Owen Sound after I complete my fellowship in Paediatric Urology. I visited as a resident and decided this was the community for me so my family and I will be settling in to Owen Sound in the summer of 2025. In addition to working with you all as I develop my practice I look forward to taking you to my favourite coffee shop, the European Bakery!"

We are all committed to enhancing your learning experience and look forward to seeing you soon. While Owen Sound is a bit of a drive we assure you it will be worth the trip! We are happy to have residents join us and learn about a career in community urology!

Best,

- Dr Danielle Jenkins
- Dr Geoffrey Wignall
- Dr Todd Webster
- Dr Leandra Stringer



Dash 4 Dad Walk/Run for Prostate Cancer

On June 15, 2025 the 27th Dash 4 Dad walk/run for prostate cancer will be held at Springbank Gardens. Over the past 26 years, we have raised more than 1.6 million dollars for prostate cancer research and treatment at LHSC. We are the longest running fundraising event at for LHSF and the third top in fundraising amounts. We have done this with an entirely volunteer committee, with the help of participants and sponsors. As well as a great walk in the park, Dash 4 Dad is a great family affair with face painting, balloon animals, pizza, snacks and a fantastic silent auction.

Join us on Father's Day 2025 to support the men you love!



DASH 4DAD

**WALK/RUN FOR
PROSTATE CANCER**

**SCAN TO
REGISTER / DONATE**



**FATHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025**

📍 **SPRINGBANK GARDENS**



DASH4DAD.CA

Research Updates from Cross-Appointed Faculty

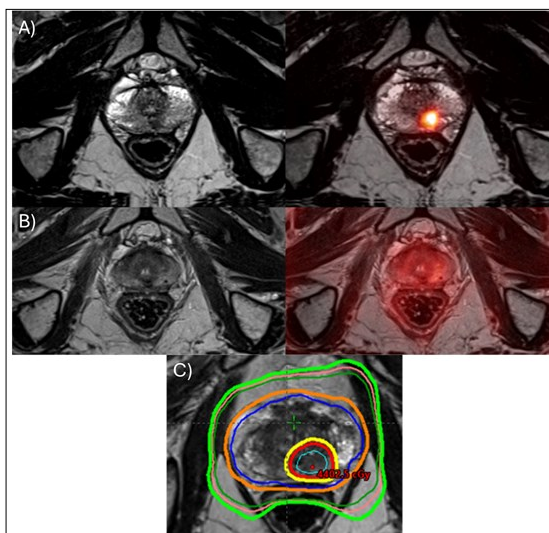
Dr. Glenn Bauman:

Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology and cross-appointment in the Division of Urology

My recent research activities have focused heavily on prostate cancer imaging, treatment, and outcomes. I've been involved in several key studies examining the use of PSMA-PET imaging (specifically 18F-DCFPyL) for detecting and managing prostate cancer, including its role in guiding salvage radiotherapy. Work has also explored novel treatment approaches, including stereotactic ablative radiation therapy (SABR) for high-risk prostate cancer and ultra-hypofractionated whole pelvis radiation therapy. Additionally, I've contributed to research investigating innovative imaging techniques like sodium MRI for prostate cancer detection and participated in studies examining radiation therapy for polymetastatic disease. These contributions are in the process of publication or have been published in the last year as outlined below:

A prospective provincial registry of PSMA PET CT for recurrent prostate cancer (PREP): Results for 4135 men. **Glenn Bauman**, Mohammed Rashid, Deanna L Langer, Pamela MacCrostie, Bo Green, Victor Mak, Girish S. Kulkarni, Bobby Shayegan, Laurence Klotz, Stephen E. Pautler, Antonio Finelli, Marlon Hagerty, William Luke, Andres Kohan, Vivian S Tan, Luke Lavalley, Katherine Zukotynski, Joseph Chin, Ur Metser; GU ASCO, San Francisco, manuscript in preparation.

PSMA MRI Guided Prostate SBRT ARGOS-CLIMBER Phase I/II Trial: A Primary Endpoint Analysis Sherif Ramadan¹, Andrew Loblaw², Aneesh Dhar¹, Hatim Fakir³, Lucas C. Mendez¹, Andrew Warner¹, Matt Wronski⁴, John Conyngham⁵, Zahra Kassam⁶, Vibhuti Kalia⁶, Vivian S. Tan¹, Priscila Crivellaro⁶, Aaron D. Ward⁷, Jonathan Thiessen⁷, Ting-Yim Lee⁷, David Laidley⁸, **Glenn S. Bauman¹** International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics (submitted)



Dr. Jessica Prodger

Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology and cross-appointment in the Division of Urology, Canada Research Chair in Genital Immunology and STI Prevention

Characterization of the pediatric penile microbiota in pathological phimosis

Rachel Penney, Lane Buchanan, Jeff Lin, Yazan Khan, Kait F. Al, Sumit Dave, Peter Wang, Jacob Davidson, Claire Parent, Jorge Vargas, Hannah Wilcox, Bern Monari, Jacques Ravel, Jeremy P. Burton and **Jessica L. Prodger**



The penile microbiota consists of all microorganisms living on the penis and is associated with penile inflammation in adults. The pediatric penile microbiota has only been characterized in healthy males and its associations to penile pathologies such as pathological phimosis are unknown. Pathological phimosis is the inability to retract the foreskin accompanied by inflammation and scar tissue. While removal of the foreskin by circumcision is the standard treatment for this condition, the mechanism by which circumcision relieves the inflammation associated with pathological phimosis remains unknown. Knowing this, we wanted to see if pathological phimosis patients have a distinct penile microbiota compared to healthy pediatric males and determine how the pediatric penile microbiota changes after circumcision. We found that there was no difference in the microbiota composition between the pathological phimosis patients and healthy controls meaning that the penile microbiota is not driving the inflammation seen in pathological phimosis. Additionally, we saw a drastic change in the pediatric penile microbiota after circumcision. After circumcision, the penile microbiota is dominated by bacteria known to colonize the skin which are associated with lower levels of inflammation. This suggests that before circumcision, it is not the types of bacteria present that contribute to inflammation in pathological phimosis but rather other factors yet to be discovered. This project increases the understanding of the role of penile bacteria and gets us one step closer in determining the cause of inflammation in pathological phimosis.

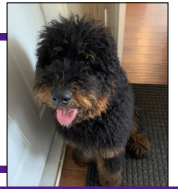


What's Up Alumni?



A couple years into practice now and things are going well out in Oshawa. We have expanded our robotic program to radical prostatectomies and partial nephrectomies. We continue to welcome anyone who has an interest in community practice. More importantly, Cheryl and I are doing well and we are busier than ever with the kids. Chloe told me she wants to be a brain doctor, so retirement may be farther away than I had anticipated... Hope everyone in London is doing well and look forward to seeing you around! **-Ernest Chan**

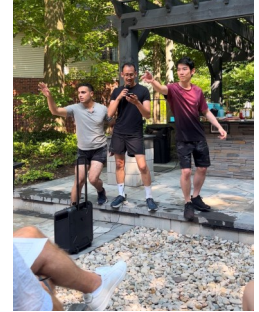
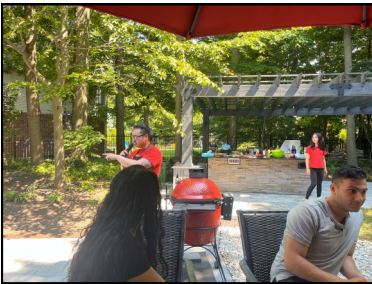
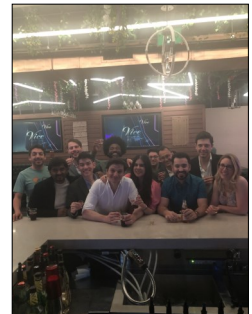
Got a BernaDoodle—meet Teddy!
-Paul Martin



We believe we are the largest group of Western urology alumni practicing together outside of Ontario and potentially outside of London

**Dr. Garson Chan, Dr. Varun Bathini,
Dr. Bonnie Liu, Dr. Trustin Domes**

Fun Times...



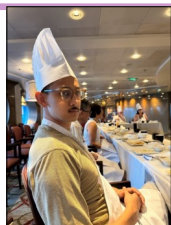
2024-2025 Urology Resident Roles

Chief Residents: Haider Abed, William Luke, Carolyn MacLeod, Matthew Playfair
 RPC Resident Representative: Haider Abed
 CaRMS Representatives: Bruce Li, Danny Matti
 Resident Wellness Representative: Victoria Turnbull
 Bootcamp Representatives: Bruce Li, Danny Matti

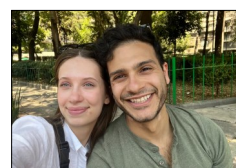
Goodbye and Best Wishes!



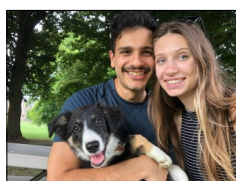
As I complete my residency and look back on my time at Western, I want to take a moment to thank my mentors, the staff and my fellow residents. Special thank you to Dr Power for his operative mentorship, Dr. Pautler for his career guidance, Dr Welk for his help with my research projects and Dr Dave for taking that chance on me when I applied to transfer. The training and mentorship I have received here has been instrumental in shaping my skills and perspective as a urologist. It has been a privilege to operate with some truly gifted surgeons, whose approach to surgery and techniques will follow me for life. This marks the culmination of 9 years of post-graduate training, which has brought me to 3 countries, spread across a couple specialities, and resulted in far too many sleepless nights cursing a pager. I will be ever thankful to my girlfriend Carolyn for being by my side through it all, keeping me well fed and my spirits up. Looking forward, I am off to Credit Valley for a minimally invasive surgery fellowship, and then wherever urology takes me! It's been a great ride; I'll miss my time at Western but look forward to the journey ahead. *Matthew Playfair*



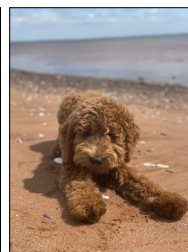
Goodbye goodbye! It's been a lovely few trips around the sun with all of you — what a wild stream it's been. I wish it could last a little longer, but as we all know, time, like urine, waits for no man. Thank you to each and every one of you that supported me through all of my triumphs and tribulations. From winning the first and only "annual" Dash vs Dad (truly a bladder-busting feat) to being squirreled out like a rogue kidney stone from an unfortunate living situation by my co-residents in the middle of the night. I feel incredibly privileged to have been able to spend time in this program and hope to be remembered every time something a little unusual pops up. Stay golden, keep it renal, may your catheters always be curved. *Will "tsi'kwilá" Luke*



An honour and a privilege to have spent the last 5 years here at Western for my urological training, a program that propelled the field forward on both the national and international stage. Like Simba in the first installment of the Lion King, I look up at the wall in St. Joseph's and feel a connectedness to all the alumni that have come before me; let their spirits guide me and their legacy overshadow me. I am lucky to be going back to my home town in Windsor after some additional training in PCNL at McKenzie Health where I will be joining a phenomenal group of mentors and friends. I will be accompanied by my smarter and better-looking partner, Faith, who will be starting Law School in Windsor at the same time, a devastating weapon if I don't follow Dr. Gerald Brock's advice upon his retirement of, "Don't get divorced, and don't get sued." I will also be accompanied by my smarter and better-looking dog, Layla, who will continue to impress her new community of Windsor with her impressive bag of tricks, despite no formal education. A genuine thank you to all the incredible faculty who have embraced me and molded me along on this journey to becoming a urologist. While I regretfully may not have shown the proper gratitude along the way, I am beyond thankful for all you have done. *Haider Abed*



It's hard to believe that my time as a resident has come to an end and it's time to say goodbye to all of you. I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has been a part of this journey. As I prepare to move back east to Halifax for fellowship, I find myself reflecting on all the moments and memories I've shared with you here in London. This place has been mine and my family's home for the past five years, and you have been a big part of what made it so special. We've grown our family from a family of 3 to a family of 5 with the addition of our dog Arako and more recently our daughter Leni. We will be sad to leave the friends we have made in London, however we are looking forward to moving back to the east coast. Ian is especially excited to be closer to his grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Over the past five years, I have had the privilege of working alongside incredibly talented and passionate individuals who have shaped not only my professional development but also my personal growth. To the faculty and attending physicians—your expertise, patience, and guidance have been invaluable. I am incredibly grateful for the mentorship and education I have received. And to my fellow residents—thank you for your unwavering support and friendship. We shared experiences that will forever bond us, and I will always cherish the memories we've created together. With sincere gratitude and best wishes, *Carolyn MacLeod*



Follow the Fellows

As my fellowship comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to all of you. These past 2 years have been an incredible journey, and I am truly thankful for the opportunity to have worked alongside such passionate, talented, and dedicated individuals. This fellowship has not only been a chance to learn and grow professionally but also a time to forge lasting connections. I have gained invaluable knowledge, skills, and experiences, and I am forever grateful for the support, guidance, and camaraderie that each of you has offered me.
Tariq Alotaibi



The last 2 years of fellowship in the Kidney and Pancreatic Transplant Surgical Unit have been transformative for me as a Surgeon. I was privileged to train under two of the finest surgeons and gentlemen (Dr Patrick Luke and Dr Alp Sener). These two not only taught me excellence in transplant surgery, but also about teamwork, scholarship, and a lot more. I will remain grateful to them for a fulfilling fellowship program. I was also impacted by wonderful residents, fellows, and staff Urologists during this period. I must say that I have learned significantly from every one of you. This is an amazing institution!
Martin Igboke

As my time here with all of you in the Urology Department (kidney and pancreas transplant) comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude. It has truly been a pleasure working alongside such dedicated, passionate, and talented individuals. The experiences I've had and the lessons I've learned will stay with me for a lifetime. Dr Luke and Dr Sener, Thank you for your support, collaboration, and friendship throughout my time here. I will always cherish the memories, and the knowledge shared within this incredible team. Although I am moving on to my hospital in Saudi Arabia, I will certainly miss the daily interactions and the positive work environment we've cultivated together. Wishing you all continued success, and I hope our paths cross again in the future.
Abdullah Alfaifi



As a bit of a lifer here at Western Urology, I am sad to say that my time here is finally coming to an end. In the many years I have spent here, this place has become like family to me. Every one of you has taught me concepts and lessons that I will take with me to my future practice. I am so thankful to all the staff who have mentored, trained and supported me. I will forever be grateful to have trained, and become friends with the incredible group of residents here as well. Working with you folks has been an absolute pleasure. Dr Dave and Dr Wang, there are not enough words to tell you how thankful I am for everything that you have done for me. Your belief and support, in me as a person and as a surgeon has been invaluable. Your patience, lessons and encouragement have shaped me into the urologist I am today. I will really miss our laughs and chats. Marco and Leo, thank you for being my rock and my happy place. As my next chapter begins, my family and I will be heading to Owen Sound where I will be practicing pediatric and adult community urology. Please stop by if you are ever in the area! Thank you for everything!
Leandra Stringer



Having previously had the opportunity to live and work in many countries, I can honestly say living in Canada has been one of the best experiences of my life. I would like to express my gratitude to the supervisors who selected me to pursue the Society of Urology Oncology (SUO) fellowship program and for teaching me over the past two years. I still remember the excitement of the day I matched into the program at Western University, which was my first preference, and I have since gained a lot of invaluable knowledge from the experience. Thank you very much for allowing me to fulfil my passion for medical education by providing me with the support of the Western Graduate Research Scholarship (WGRS) and Surgery Tuition Award to complete my MSc in Surgery. I also have to thank Western for selecting all the smart and lovely residents and fellows to be here together. I am very fortunate to have worked with everybody, who not only became colleagues but also good friends. I will take the knowledge that I gained here to further develop my practice and help people.
Pocharapong (Pete) Jenjitrant

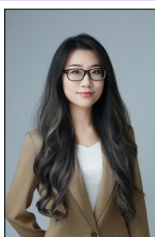


As my endourology fellowship comes to an end, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of this incredible journey. First and foremost, I am immensely thankful to my mentors - Dr Denstedt and Dr Pautler, whose guidance, patience and dedication have shaped me not only as a surgeon but also as a person. Your expertise and passion for this specialty have been truly inspiring, and I will carry your lessons with me throughout my career. I would also like to extend my appreciation to my fellow fellows and ever-so helpful residents, whose camaraderie and collaboration made the experience even more meaningful. Also, the unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement from the nurses and department staff helped me tide through an entirely foreign environment, especially the harsh cold bitter winter! This fellowship has not only provided me with invaluable knowledge and skills but has also fostered a passion for the field that I will carry throughout my career. I am excited to apply what I have learned, and I will always cherish the memories and relationships built during this transformative year. Thank you all for your mentorship and friendship.
Alvin Low

CATHY WANG

Hometown: Qingdao, China
Undergrad: Western University
MD: Western University

Hi everyone, it's Cathy. I grew up in Qingdao, China, and moved to Markham in high school. Nonetheless, given how long I've been (and will be) at Western, I think it's time to start saying I'm from London. I love food and cooking, and I always keep snacks in my scrubs in case anyone gets hungry. I have a cat, Ozzie, named after Dr. William Osler, but his passion lies more so in birdwatching. It's very exciting to be joining the best urology team and I'm looking forward to meeting everyone soon!



Getting to know the PGY1s:

TAHA ISMAIL

Hometown: Windsor, ON
Undergrad: University of Windsor: Biol & Biochem
MD: Western University

My name is Taha, I was born and raised in Windsor Ontario and I'm excited to be joining the Western Urology team, where my passion all started. I'm looking forward to learning from incredible mentors and training with a great team. Outside of medicine I'm a graphic designer, I love cooking, and playing tennis/basketball. Can't wait to work with everyone and see you all soon!



ASHWIN RAO

Hometown: London, Ontario
Undergrad: Western University
MD: Queen's University

Born and raised in Oman, but of South Indian heritage, Ashwin moved to Canada at a young age and has since been proud to be call London home. Although Ashwin was sure he would be surgery-bound from the start of medical school, he discovered the wonderful world of Urology late during clerkship and has since never looked back. He is ecstatic to be able to return home to train with such a renowned and warm group. In his spare time, Ashwin enjoys playing the guitar, staying active whether it's the gym, playing sports, or hikes, and spending quality time with his family and friends! His current favourite show that he pretends to understand is Severance. He's looking forward to this next chapter, and (re-)meeting all of you!



Division Productivity 2024 (Jan. -Dec.)

Honours and Awards

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic:

- Third Place Best Poster Award, AUA Early Career Investigators Showcase, American Urological Association
- Best Poster Fundamental Sciences and Innovation Node, Western University Department of Surgery Research Day, (D. Liu, supervised undergraduate student)
- Collip Medal Award, Top Doctoral Graduate at Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry (J. Chmiel, supervised doctoral student)

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell:

- Course Director AUA Course of Choice, American urology association chooses the top, best received courses at the annual meeting and this course get presented at subspecialty meetings across the AUA. American Urological Association
- Best Fellow Presentation (McMartin C, Campbell JD), JK Wyatt Urology Resident Research Day for In Clinic Verapamil Injection for Peyronie's Disease: A retrospective study on patient sexual satisfaction

Dr. John Denstedt:

Honorary Member, American Urological Association

Dr. Melissa Huynh:

- Best Presentation JK Wyatt Urology Resident Research Day (1st Prize, Resident Dr. Bruce Li won first prize for his project titled "Comparison of [18F] PSMA-1007 PET/CT and Conventional Imaging in the Detection of Metastatic Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma) Supervisor: Huynh M

Dr. Jessica Prodger:

- School of Medicine and Dentistry nominee for the Western Research Excellence Award – Outstanding Emerging Scholar

Dr. Hassan Razvi:

- 2024 Outstanding Graduate Scholar Award, AUA Urology Care Foundation, Mentorship (Kait Al)

Dr. Blayne Welk:

- Editor's choice, Continence Journal, for "Lower urinary tract dysfunction in uncommon neurological diseases: A report of the neurourology promotion committee of the International probiotic to prevent penile HIV transmission
- Second place, (Heather Rotz, Resident, Supervisor Dr Blayne Welk), Outcomes of the artificial urinary sphincter among men with prior pelvic radiation: device survival and impact of time since radiation. JK Wyatt Urology Residents Research Day 2024
- Division of Urology Residents' Teaching Award, Western University, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

Grants

Academic Medical Organization of Southwestern Ontario (AMOSO):

- Exploring the role of Akkermansia muciniphila in combating the metabolic effects of androgen deprivation therapy in men with metastatic prostate cancer PI: **Huynh M**, Co-Investigators: **Burton J**, Fernandes F, Joy T, Teeter M \$65,000
- Small endogenous molecules in the protection of human donor kidneys from ischemia reperfusion injury Co-PIs: **Sener A, Luke P** \$219,300

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):

- Prostate-targeted PET/TRUS dual-modality imaging system for diagnosis and image-guided biopsy. PI: **Bauman G**, Co-Investigators: Fenster A, **Pautler S** \$965,000
- Canada-wide Implementation of a Virtual Sexual Health and Rehabilitation eClinic (SHAReClinic) for Prostate Cancer Patients and their Partners. PI: Matthew A, Co-Investigator: **Campbell J** \$523,678

Cook Medical:

- Support of the Endourology Fellowship Program PI: **Razvi H**, Co-Investigator: **Bjazevic J** \$35,000

Dash 4 Dad:

- Characterization of highly aggressive prostate cancer cell populations in early stage prostate cancer PI: **Inman B**, Co-Investigator: **Power N** \$35,000

Karl Storz Endoscopy Lithotripsy America Inc:

- Support of the UW O Endourology Fellowship Program PI: **Razvi H**, Co-Investigator: **Bjazevic J** \$30,000

Lavergne Catalyst Grant – Division of Urology:

- Do alpha-blockers cause cognitive decline in people with normal or abnormal cognition? PI: Playfair M, Supervising PI: **Welk B**. \$5,000
- Early versus late surgery for traumatic spinal cord injury: Impact on voiding and sexual function. PI: **Playfair M**, Supervising PI: **Welk B**. \$5,000
- Spectrochemical Analysis of Urinary Stones PI: **Bjazevic J**, Co-Investigator: Basulto Martinez M \$5,000
- The development of two- and three-dimensional cellular model for Peyronie's Disease PI: **Campbell J** \$5,000
- Evaluating a novel augmented reality platform for open surgery assessment: A pilot study. PI: **Wang P**. \$25,000

National Cancer Institute:

- Elucidating alternative polyadenylation regulation during prostate cancer progression to castration-resistance PI: Wang Q, Co-Investigators: Li W, **Inman B**. 90,905.00

NWHRI: Innovation Fund – Biomedical Discovery Grants:

- Identifying causes of neovaginal malodour in transfeminine people. PI: **Prodger J**. CoInvestigator: **Burton J** \$149,115 /1yr

Schulich Infrastructure Support Grant. Western University:

- Cell culture equipment to support a 3D bioprinting core at Schulich. PI: **Prodger J**, Co-Investigator **Burton J** \$24,777

SMSNA Scholars in Sexuality Research Grant:

- Development of a Refined Two-dimensional and a Novel Three-dimension Cellular Models for Peyronie's Disease. PI: **Campbell J**, CoInvestigator: Kiattiburut W. \$7,500

Publications

- Abou Taka M, Dugbartey GJ, Richard-Mohamed M, McLeod P, Jiang J, Major S, Arp J, O'Neil C, Liu W, Gabril M, Moussa M, **Luke P**, **Sener A**. Evaluating the Effects of Kidney Preservation at 10 °C with Hemopure and Sodium Thiosulfate in a Rat Model of Syngeneic Orthotopic Kidney Transplantation. Int J Mol Sci, 2024 Feb 12; 25 (4), DOI: 10.3390/ijms25042210
- Akouris PP, Stuijvenberg GA, Chmiel JA, Kiattiburut W, Poon A, Reid G, **Burton JP**. Ethanolamine modulates the adhesion capabilities of *Levilactobacillus brevis* ATCC 14869. Gut Microbes 2024;16(1)
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- outcomes after radiation therapy for muscle-invasive bladder cancer.: Transurethral resection in radiation therapy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. Online ahead of print. 2024 Aug 24, DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2024.08.036
10. Berto FG, McClure JA, **Campbell J**, **Welk B**. Use of alpha-adrenergic antagonists for lower urinary tract symptoms is not associated with worsening cognitive function. *Neurourol Urodyn* 2024;43(7):1574-1581, DOI: 10.1002/nau.25514
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