

Western Urology News

2026

From the Chair



Dear friends and colleagues,

Wow, another stellar year for Western Urology!! 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.

Our clinical program continues to grow and serve our region with the highest level of urological care demonstrating improved patient throughput and patient satisfaction in the management of both benign and oncological disease processes. Over the past year, several of our Division members have taken on significant administrative leadership positions across the university and hospital networks-- Dr. Peter Wang (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education), Dr. Glenn Bauman (Vice Dean, Clinical Academic Affairs), Dr. Stephen Pautler (Site Chief of Surgery, SJHC) and Dr. Jeremy Burton (Interim VP, Lawson Research Institute)—congratulations gentlemen, we are all very proud of your accomplishments! For another consecutive year, two of our faculty (Dr. Inman and Dr. Welk) were awarded the coveted Department of Surgery Merit awards for research and Dr. Denstedt was awarded the Schulich Alumni of Distinction Award for Medicine for his longstanding contributions to the discipline of urology across the world and at Western! Over the past year, our faculty have travelled across the globe giving over 40 invited lectures, shining 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 107 peer-reviewed original works and a staggering 26 new grants received by our group as either PI or Co-PI with a total funding amount of \$7.2 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. Bjazevic, has continued to demonstrate excellence. Under her leadership the program will achieve new heights, not only in competency based medical education, but also in other facets of training including resident wellness and simulation based surgical training. This has led to us matching our top ranked applicants, Dr. Grant Sweeny (McMaster University), Dr. Lucas Rempel (University of British Columbia) 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. I would like to welcome our incoming new fellows Dr. Sultan Tawfiq (Saudi Arabia) in kidney/pancreas transplantation, Dr. Alberto Eduardo Fuentes Espinoza (Chile) in uro-oncology, Dr. Renato Ignacio Navarro Capone (Chile) in endourology and Dr. Awnallah Alotaibi (Saudi Arabia) in MIS/endourology – it is a pleasure to have you all join our group.

On behalf of the Division, I would like to thank our graduates who are off to their fellowships, Dr. Jennifer Wong (Endourology fellowship at McKenzie Health in Toronto), Dr. Heather Rotz (endourology/MIS fellowship in Toronto), and Dr. Bruce Li (SUO fellowship at Memorial Sloane-Kettering in New York). 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.

I want to thank Dr. Pautler for his years of dedicated service to the Division as our Director of Research. Dr. Inman will be taking over this important role starting July 2026 and we look forward to his leadership in organizing our future resident research days. Thank you as always to Kim Nitz, our Divisional Administrator, and to Shelley Paolini, our Program Administrator who have kept us on track throughout the year -- you truly have been exceptional. I hope that you all enjoy reading this year's newsletter, and for those alumni who couldn't join us this year for research day, please reach out anytime, I'm always happy to hear from you.

- Dr. Alp Sener, Chair and City-wide Head of Urology



From the Program Director

As I reflect on this past year, I can say with confidence that stepping into the role of Program Director has been both incredibly rewarding and, at times, a steep learning curve. I am very grateful for everyone's patience and support as I have navigated this new role. It has truly reinforced what a strong and supportive community we have within our program.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Dr. Peter Wang for his endless support, guidance, and for always being available to answer my never-ending questions. I am also very grateful to Dr. Alp Sener for his ongoing leadership and support of the residency program and our Division as a whole. A special thank you as well to Dr. Jeff Campbell for his outstanding work as Chair of the Competence Committee and for his continued support and mentorship.

None of this work would be possible without the incredible efforts of Shelley Paolini, whose organization keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes. Thank you also to all of our faculty for your unwavering commitment to teaching and for always stepping up to support our learners.

Most importantly, I would like to recognize our residents. It is truly a privilege to work with such a talented and engaged group. You make me proud every day with your commitment to patient care, your dedication to learning, and perhaps most importantly, the genuine collegiality and kindness you show one another. It does not go unnoticed and is a defining strength of our program.

This has been an incredible year, and I have genuinely enjoyed working closely with the residents. Beyond the clinical and academic work, it has been especially nice to share some lighter moments together, whether that was re-discovering our bowling skills or our take-out fueled fireside chats. These moments of connection are such an important part of our program, and I look forward to continuing to build on this next year by creating even more opportunities for wellness and team-building.

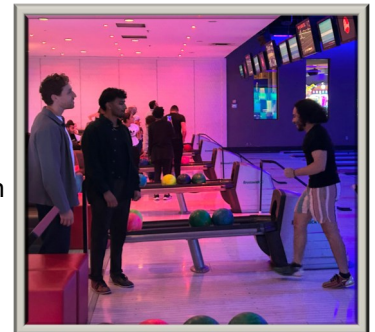


A heartfelt congratulations to our graduating residents, Jenn Wong, Heather Rotz, and Bruce Li. You have each contributed so much to the program over the past five years, and we are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished. We wish you every success in the next stage of your careers.

We are also excited to welcome our incoming residents, Dr. Grant Sweeny from McMaster University and Dr. Lucas Rempel from the University of British Columbia. We are very much looking forward to having you join the program and getting to know you in the coming months.

Thank you again to everyone for making this such a positive and fulfilling year. I am looking forward to making next year even better!

- Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic, Program Director, Urology, Western University



From the Research Directors

It is with mixed emotions that I write my final submission in the role of Director of Research for the Division of Urology. Having done this role over the last seven years, it has been very rewarding and makes me very proud of the work done in our division. As a moderate sized division within the Department of Surgery, we hit very high standards for productivity. The number of peer reviewed grants and publications along with presence at the national and international level meetings is the result of a lot of sweat equity and hard work. I



have enjoyed watching the residents fellows grow in their capacity as young researchers. I firmly believe the Jack Wyatt Research Day remains the gold standard across the entire department. I pass the torch to Dr. Brant Inman, who I am confident will take us to a higher level. I want to thank the administrative staff and my colleagues for the support in this role.

- Dr. Stephen Pautler, Outgoing Research Director, Western Urology

Think Big

Western Urology has long been one of the most academically productive urology groups in Canada. Despite our small size, we have been active across the entire research spectrum from observational research, to health services research, to translational laboratory research, to clinical trials. The impact has been noticeable, both nationally and internationally.

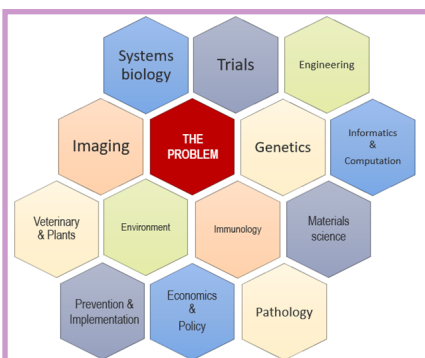
It is my feeling, however, that we have much more to contribute. As the medical field has evolved, research is shifting from a traditional emphasis on *volume-of-output* towards a focus on *quality-of-output*. Simply put, we need to do more research that is impactful and moving urology forward and less that is not. This means that our translational research must be informing clinically important questions and that our observational

research must be geared towards finding actionable outcomes. It also means that we need to do more clinical trials, especially home-grown ones testing novel ideas, since practice-changing innovation is largely driven by prospective and structured evaluation. Opening and *accruing* to clinical trials has got to be a divisional priority.

We are not alone in our desire to move the needle. Collaborators of all types want to work with us. In the hospital we can collaborate with other surgeons and physicians on big-picture things that affect the local patient journey. We have nascent technologies and discoveries to validate and develop with our colleagues from Western University. And nationally we have a vibrant and highly collaborative community of urologists with whom we can tackle the larger problems in our field.

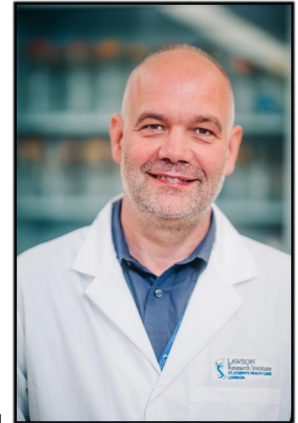
My challenge to Western Urology is this: **THINK BIG**. What are the biggest outstanding issues in the field of urology that need solving? How can we address them? We need a divisional brainstorm. It is time for convergence science.

- Dr. Brant Inman, Incoming Research Director, Western Urology



Reflections on Urology, Research and Looking Forward

In 2013, I was appointed as the Chair of Urology Sciences. Coming from an industry background, this was one of the most defining opportunities of my career. While I was well-trained in microbiology, my understanding of urology at that time was limited. What followed over the next decade or so was an education that fundamentally shaped how I think about research. From the outset, I was welcomed into a division that truly integrated science and clinical care. We developed a microbiome research program fully embedded within urology, collaborating widely across the Division. Together, we have secured grants, published extensively, and co-supervised fellow projects, Masters of Surgery trainees, and graduate students. Importantly, this partnership has provided unparalleled access to clinical questions, patient samples, and real-world challenges.



I still remember being told during my recruitment that I would serve as a “divisional resource.” That expectation has shaped my approach ever since. I was also advised that the strongest research occurs when scientists and surgeons collaborate closely. This has proven completely true and remains my guiding principle. Our trainees have moved effortlessly between the laboratory, clinic, and operating theatre, gaining a depth of experience that is difficult to replicate in more traditional basic science laboratories. Urology has shown me what impactful, translational research truly looks like within a hospital environment. It has also given me a clear understanding of the barriers faced by clinicians engaging in research. In my current role as Interim Vice President of Research and Scientific Director at Lawson, I carry these lessons with me. I understand how frustrating it can be to navigate research processes, especially when projects that should be straightforward become unnecessarily complex. One of my main priorities is to simplify these pathways, remove barriers, and enable clinicians and scientists to move more efficiently from idea to impact.

Urology continues to exceed expectations in both productivity and influence. The Division has consistently demonstrated the strength of genuine collaboration, where clinicians offer insight and access, and scientists contribute complementary tools and perspectives. This approach benefits not only research output but also the training of the next generation. In the new role, I look forward to building on our achievements and supporting Urology and the wider research community as we continue to pursue meaningful, patient-centred research.

- Dr. Jeremy P. Burton, Interim Vice President, Research & Scientific Director, St. Joseph's Healthcare

The Lavergne Faculty and Catalyst Grants



Dr. Brant Inman, Faculty Catalyst Grant

Anti-tumor immunity on PROGNOSIS (Prostate RadiOliGaNd Window of Opportunity DOSImetry Study) trial

The purpose of this Lavergne catalyst grant is to fund the critical immune function analyses that we would like to do on the PROGNOSIS trial. We **hypothesize** that the neoadjuvant targeted radiotherapy delivered with [¹⁷⁷Lu]-PSMA-I&T will result in an important anti-prostate cancer immune responses. To prove our hypothesis, we will pursue the following aims: 1) Determine the extent of PSMA radioligand-induced DNA damage in prostate cancers; 2) Determine the anti-prostate cancer immune response following neoadjuvant PSMA radioligand therapy.

Dr. Patrick Luke, Faculty Development Grant

Development of HOLEP Prostatectomy Procedure Course

This increases the repertoire of BPH surgery and may reduce hospitalization requirements by turning BPH surgery into an outpatient procedure. This has important implications with regards to finances, patient care and residency training.



Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic, Faculty Development Grant

Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons course (NOTSS)

I am very grateful for the support of the Lavergne Grant in allowing me to participate in the Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) course, developed by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and supported by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This program provides structured training in the assessment of surgeons' cognitive and interpersonal performance and aligns with a Department of Surgery initiative to develop trained NOTSS leaders within each surgical division. I am excited to develop these skills and bring them back to enhance resident education within the urology program, particularly by improving the quality of feedback and coaching in non-technical domains that are critical to operative performance and patient safety. As well as contributing to broader efforts within the Department of Surgery in providing this essential training to our surgical residents.



The Lavergne Faculty and Catalyst Grants

Hussain AlRashed, Fellow Research Grant (Faculty Supervisor: Dr. John Denstedt)



Cost Comparison of Flexible Ureteroscopy with FANS versus Mini-Percutaneous Nephrolithotripsy (mini-PCNL)

The Lavergne grant will support a prospective study comparing flexible ureteroscopy with the Flexible and Navigable Suction Access Sheath (FANS) to miniaturized percutaneous nephrolithotripsy (mini-PCNL) in the management of renal stones measuring 1–3 cm. While both techniques are widely adopted and demonstrate comparable stone-free rates, there remains a paucity of prospective data evaluating their relative cost-effectiveness, particularly within a Canadian healthcare setting. This study will collect detailed perioperative and postoperative data, including operative time, disposable equipment costs, hospital stay, and complication-related expenses, to provide a comprehensive assessment of total cost of care. Secondary outcomes will include stone-free rates, complications, and need for re-intervention. We plan to enroll approximately 80 patients and anticipate study completion within 2 years, with the goal of presenting findings at national, international meetings and publishing in a peer-reviewed journal. I am extremely grateful for the support that has made this work possible.



Edem Afenu, Resident Research Grant (Faculty Supervisor: Dr. John Denstedt)

Incident Kidney Stone Formation in chronic kidney disease (CKD)

Our objective in this urology resident–led multicenter study is to investigate the incidence and determinants of incident kidney stone formation among adults with established chronic kidney disease (CKD) using large-scale, linked electronic health record, medical claims, radiology, and pharmacy data. Our primary outcome is to estimate the stage-stratified incidence of first symptomatic upper tract kidney stones (kidney or ureter) following a confirmed 24-month stone-free lookback period among adults meeting KDIGO CKD criteria. Our secondary outcomes will evaluate risk factors associated with incident stone formation, including demographics, comorbidities, and medication exposures. We also hope to assess recurrence rates and stone composition, where available, and also heterogeneity in stone risk by CKD stage, albuminuria, and diabetes status. It is our goal to define stage-specific risks and modifiable determinants of nephrolithiasis in CKD populations so that targeted surveillance strategies and preventive interventions (e.g., hydration, alkali therapy, thiazide use) can be developed to reduce stone burden and improve renal outcomes in this high-risk population.

International Liaison Endourological Society

It was an honour for me to be asked recently to serve as the first international liaison for the Endourological Society. The ES is the organization that, in many ways, has transformed our specialty of urology and been in the vanguard of the introduction of minimally invasive techniques across the spectrum of clinical conditions. All major urologic associations have come to understand that growth in any measurable parameter including membership, profile, creative advancement and impact will come from international engagement. This makes the international space a competitive arena and I am excited to take on this challenge on behalf of the Endourological Society.

My personal involvement internationally, particularly in the realm of education, began in the early 1990's when I was junior faculty at Western. Soon after the fall of communism in eastern Europe, the AUA launched an educational program to assist in bringing the skills and techniques in that corner of the world into the 20th century. This was spearheaded by Dr's. Logan Holtgrewe and Gene Carleton both of whom served as Presidents of the AUA. I offered to go, was accepted and travelled to Romania in 1994. I had never been out of North America before and frankly was shell shocked by what I saw. Draining TB fistulae, malignancies well advanced beyond anything I had previously seen and approaches for some conditions that I had only read about in history books. But the doctors were dedicated, enthusiastic to learn and wonderful in their hospitality to a young Canadian urologist. I performed the first ureteroscopy in the country and amongst the first PCNL procedures for stones. I have good friends in Romania still today. This experience opened the world for me and over the years since, I have travelled and been involved in various educational programs in over 80 countries on more than 450 occasions. And operated on many occasions in countries from Khazakhstan to China, Argentina, France, Haiti and everywhere in between. It is often said that it is the people you meet and the experiences you have along the way that really matter and I can attest it is true. My view of the world has expanded far beyond the boundaries of the small town I grew up in outside of Toronto. Doctors have the same motivations and aspirations no matter where you are in this world. They wish for a successful career, a safe and successful family, a good working environment, keeping up with change and caring for patients. I also learned that some of the most important changes and innovations can come from anywhere in the world and increasingly so from locations you might not expect. There are dedicated and creative people everywhere. I have also been fortunate to have worked and trained numerous great fellows over the last 30 years, many from across Canada but the majority from internationally. All have gone on to have a tremendous positive impact in their own communities around the world. I also, as much as possible, tried to take one or both of my daughters on these adventures and can soundly say that I turned my children into citizens of the world by hanging out with urologists at medical meetings. It's true!

My international experience in other organizations, including the American Urological Association and our own medical school here at Western, will serve me well as I take on this new role. The network of urology colleagues and friends I have developed over the years in virtually every corner of the world will also be a great resource. We have already put in place an excellent team at the Endourological Society to advance the international initiatives with regional leaders based in India, Korea, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the US. I look forward to leading this group of outstanding individuals over the next three years.

John Denstedt, MD, FRCSC
Professor of Urology, Western University



(Photos cont'd on page 9)



Gerald Brock Travel Grant Award Winner

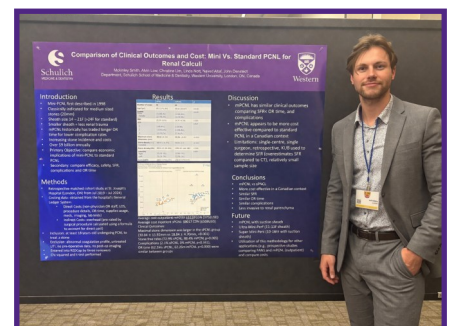
I was honored to receive the Dr. Gerald Brock Travel Award, which provided me with the opportunity to attend the World Congress of Endourology and Uro-Technology (WCET). Attending WCET was a great experience that enhanced my understanding of cutting-edge developments, strengthened my presentation skills, and inspired me to continue exploring ways to improve patient outcomes and costs within our healthcare system.

I learned about multiple novel approaches to the treatment of BPH, including the emerging role of OptiLume, and gained new perspectives on the latest advances in HoLEP and robotic surgical techniques. There was an incredible presentation on bladder transplantation, highlighting the rapid innovation taking place in urology and transplantation science. Equally impactful were the sessions showcasing advances in instrumentation and technology, including flexible and navigable access sheaths and the integration of artificial intelligence into ultrasound-guided PCNL access. These developments broadened my technical knowledge and emphasized the importance of innovation in improving patient safety, efficiency, and outcomes.

I had the privilege of presenting our departments' research on mini-PCNL in a moderated poster session. Engaging directly with global experts allowed me to receive valuable feedback and insights. Finally, the congress facilitated meaningful interactions with thought leaders and peers from around the world, fostering mentorship and collaboration important to my academic and clinical growth. It was a pleasure to be involved in this meeting, and to be in a great community at the forefront of technological advancement in surgery.

I am grateful for the support of the Dr. Gerald Brock Travel Award, which made this experience possible.

Sincerely,
- Mckinley Smith, PGY3



Goodbye and Best Wishes!

Dear faculty, fellow residents, and administrative staff,

Wow... where has the time gone? It feels like just yesterday I was starting my first day at Victoria Hospital — a wide-eyed kid walking down the halls, not quite knowing what lay ahead.

I am forever grateful to Dr. Dave, Dr. Wang, and the CaRMS committee of 2021 for taking a chance on me and giving me the opportunity to train in such an incredible program.

To the faculty — I only hope to become even half the surgeon, technically and professionally, that you are. Thank you for your guidance, patience, and for setting the standard I'll spend my career trying to live up to.

To my co-residents — you pushed me to be better every day. My seniors, thank you for your patience and for protecting me when I messed up. My juniors, thank you for always stepping in when I felt overwhelmed — and for those parking garage debriefs.

To my family — my parents, my brother, my sister-in-law, and now my niece — thank you for your constant support and for always being there when I needed you. And to my father, thank you for always being my surgical inspiration — for keeping me grounded, helping me see the positive in any situation, and pushing me to continually improve.

And to my partner, Sunyoung — thank you for your kindness and patience, especially with the unpredictability of residency and the stress of the Royal College exam. I couldn't have done this without you.

As I head to New York City, I still feel that same anxiety and imposter syndrome from 2021 — but now with the confidence that comes from everything you've taught me.

Thank you all for everything.

-Bruce Li, PGY5 Resident

As I near the end of residency at Western, I've had the chance to reflect on how much the past five years have shaped me. Western has been a special place to train, with high volume and high expectations balanced by strong support and mentorship. I'm so grateful to the faculty who pushed me, supported me, and invested so much in my training. Your mentorship has had a huge impact not only on how I practice urology, but also on how I will approach my career moving forward.

To the residents, thank you for the SGMs, memes, and Thursday Teas that got us through the long days (and nights). I always say the best part of residency has been our crew, and I truly wouldn't have made it through without your friendship.

After 13 years in London, it's bittersweet to be leaving a place that has been home for so long, but I'm excited to head back to Toronto for a year of additional training in robotics. Stepping into independent practice is both exciting and daunting, but looking back, I realize just how much I've learned here because of this program and the people in it. That gives me confidence that I'm ready for the next step.

Thanks for an amazing five years!

- Heather Rotz, PGY5 Resident



Goodbye and Best Wishes!



As I finish residency, I'm deeply appreciative of the past five years of training, guidance, and support. Working alongside such an exceptionally talented group of surgeons has been inspiring—your rigor, passion, and guidance have shaped me into the sleep-deprived, slightly scarred, but far better-prepared person I am today.

To the faculty, thank you for your patience, trust, and commitment to teaching; you have taught me that my learning has only just begun.

To my co-residents: it has been a privilege to train alongside you. We supported one another through long calls, tough cases, and late night drinks.

Come July, I will be continuing my learning at my fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at MacKenzie Health. I really am following the footsteps of Haider.

Finally, I leave residency with many things, including lifelong bonds, friends, and the ability to insert a Foley catheter at 3 a.m.— a skill I'm told is transferable to all areas of life.

Thank you for an unforgettable five years.

I will miss you all!

- Jennifer Wong, PGY5 Resident



As I come to the end of my training, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the people, experiences, and moments that have defined this fellowship. This chapter has been both professionally transformative and personally meaningful, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have trained in such a supportive and inspiring environment.

I am especially thankful for the mentorship of Dr. Denstedt and Dr. Pautier. Their guidance, generosity with time and knowledge, and commitment to excellence set a standard I will continue to strive toward throughout my career. Beyond clinical and technical skills, they modeled thoughtful decision-making, professionalism, and the importance of teaching with patience and humility. I am profoundly grateful for the trust they placed in me and for the lessons that will stay with me long after fellowship.

I would also like to sincerely thank the faculty, nursing staff, and administrative teams who make this program what it is. The dedication, teamwork, and compassion demonstrated every day created an environment where learning and patient care could truly thrive. Working alongside such skilled and committed professionals has been a privilege. Outside the hospital, this time was special in unexpected ways as well. Living in a snowy climate for the first time in my life was a memorable experience from winter walks and fresh snowfall to discovering how much joy there can be in embracing an entirely new environment. Those moments added another layer of meaning to this chapter.

To my fellow residents and fellows: thank you for the encouragement and shared experiences that made this journey so memorable. The sense of community within this program is something special, and I will always value the friendships and mutual support that developed over the course of training.

As I move forward to the next stage of my career, I do so with confidence built on the foundation this fellowship has provided and with immense appreciation for everyone who played a role along the way. Thank you for the mentorship, collaboration, and countless moments of learning. I will carry this experience with me always and look forward to staying connected in the years ahead.

-Hussain AlRashed, Fellow



As my time in London, Ontario comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone who made this experience so memorable. Moving countries was both exciting and challenging, but from the very beginning, I was made to feel truly welcome and supported.

I've had the privilege of working alongside exceptional mentors, and I am especially grateful to Drs. Power, Huynh, Inman, and Izawa for their guidance, generosity, and support throughout my time here.

To the residents: if you ever have the opportunity to pursue a fellowship abroad, take it. Working in a different country is an incredibly rewarding experience—it broadens your perspective and offers the chance to learn from people and systems you may not otherwise encounter.

I wish you all the very best and hope our paths cross again in the future.

- Mithun Kailvasan, Fellow



Blasts From the Past



Blasts From the Past



LUCAS REMPEL

Hometown: North Vancouver, British Columbia
 Undergrad: UBC
 MD: UBC

My name is Lucas, and I was born and raised in North Vancouver, BC. I developed a passion for urology early in medical school through exposure to various research projects and excellent mentorship. I'm looking forward to the experience of leaving Vancouver and becoming a London transplant! Outside the hospital, I love staying active; you can usually find me skiing, playing soccer, golfing, or training for another marathon. Excited to meet the team and to work with everyone!



Getting to know the PGY1s

GRANT SWEENEY



Hometown: Burlington, ON
 Undergrad: McMaster University
 MD: McMaster University – Niagara Regional Campus

Hi everyone! My name is Grant. I am thrilled to be joining the Western Urology team as a transplant from McMaster University. I was a late bloomer in the OR, but my elective with the Western Urology team sealed the deal for Urology as the only path forward! Outside of medicine, I am passionate about fitness, having owned a nutrition coaching and personal training business during my gap (3) years between undergrad and medical school. Beyond fitness, I love food (both eating and cooking!), cars, and my wife, Emily. I am excited for the opportunity to live and learn with the amazing team at Western Urology!

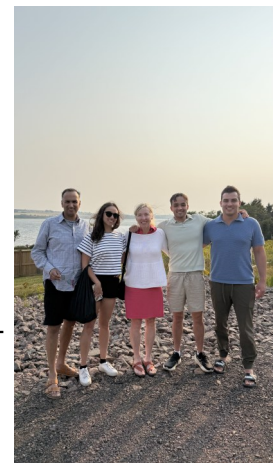
What's Up Alumni?

I was John Denstedt's endourology fellow in 1995-1996. I am grateful for my time in London. I have now built my career here in Toronto at Michael Garron Hospital since I returned. I have raised 3 children and have been married for 32 years. My oldest is getting married this September. I have had a clinical endourology fellowship running here through the University of Toronto since 2003 with trainees that have gone on to successful careers across the country.

I am currently the Chief of Surgery at MGH and I am very much enjoying that leadership role as we look to expand the surgical program in a rapidly evolving health care system.

Finally, I am very proud of some of the work that I have done overseas to build out urologic capacity through side-by-side training and mentorship, program development and support for resident training in Africa through COSCECSA. We have worked in Malawi, Kenya, China, Uganda and rural Jamaica.

- Dr. Rajiv Singal, Chief of Surgery, Michael Garron Hospital



2025-2026 Urology Resident Roles

Chief Residents: Bruce Li, Heather Rotz, Jennifer Wong
 RPC Resident Representative: Heather Rotz
 Resident Wellness Representative: Aurinjoy Gupta
 CaRMS Representatives: Danny Matti, Mehran Nejad Mansouri
 Social Media Representative: Mehran Nejad Mansouri
 Bootcamp Representatives: Victoria Turnbull, Mehran Nejad Mansouri

Division Productivity 2025 (Jan. -Dec.)

Honours and Awards

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic:

- Program Director, Urology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University
- Lavergne Faculty Development Award \$5,000 in support of the Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) course in Edinburgh in June 2026
- Best Poster in Session, AUA Best Poster in Session Award, American Urology Association, Graduate Research Student Supervisor
- Review Spotlight, Top contribution to reviewing scientific articles for the Canadian Urological Association Journal

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell:

- London Magazine's Top 20 Under 40 - awarded to young London professionals that are making a splash in their career and moving the city forward

Dr. Joseph Chin:

- European Urology Platinum Circle Reviewer

Dr. John Denstedt:

- International Liaison of the Endourological Society
- Honorary Member, Urological Association of Asia
- 2025 Schulich Alumni of Distinction Award for Medicine

Dr. Melissa Huynh:

- Western University, Department of Surgery Academic Merit Award – Researcher/Scientist

Dr. Brant Inman:

- Merit award for Research Achievement, Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University

Dr. Patrick Luke:

- Lavergne Faculty Development Award in support of training course on Development of HOLEP prostatectomy procedure to increase the repertoire of BPH surgery to help reduce hospital stay
- Department of Surgery Clerkship Teaching Award

Dr. Stephen Pautler:

- Appointed as Site Chief, Surgery, St. Joseph's Hospital
- Best Paper on Clinical Research 2025 – A multicentre randomized controlled trial of antimicrobial prophylaxis to prevent urinary tract

infections after shockwave lithotripsy for urolithiasis: the APPEAL trial, European Association of Urology (EAU)

- Best Scientific Work – Impact of multiple ablations vs single ablation procedures for treatment T1a renal cell carcinoma (RCC): Evaluation of adverse event rates and long-term oncologic outcomes, Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)
- Urology Resident Teaching Award 2025, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University

Dr. Jessica Prodger:

- Western University Faculty Scholar Award (Emerging Scholar, 2024-2027)

Dr. Hassan Razvi:

- Best Paper on Clinical Research in 2025: A multi-center randomized controlled trial of antimicrobial Prophylaxis to prevent urinary tract infections after shockwave lithotripsy for urolithiasis. The APPEAL trial, European Association of Urology

Dr. Alp Sener:

- Most Innovative Project, Wounds Canada Governing Committee, Awarded for the best project and presentation at the annual meeting.

Dr. Peter Wang:

- Appointed Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education, Schulich School of Dentistry, Western University

Dr. Blayne Welk:

- Merit award for Research Achievement, Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University
- SUFU Diokno Lapides Essay Award for The impact of early vs late spinal decompression on urinary and sexual function after acute spinal cord injury, Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine & Urogenital Reconstruction
- Merit award for Academic Achievement, Researcher/Scientist, Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University
- Second Best Presentation, JK Wyatt Urology Residents Research Day, (Mehran Nejad Mansouri, Resident, Supervisor Dr Blayne Welk), Utilizing predictive analytics to understand variations in neurogenic bladder symptoms core (NBAA) quality of life satisfaction scores in adults with acquired spinal cord injury, April 7, 2025

Grants

Academic Medical Organization of Southwestern Ontario (AMOSO):

- The impact of intraoperative diuretic use on delayed graft function following decreased donor renal transplantation. PI: **Sener A**, **Luke P** \$110,000

ARGOS/Climber:

- Expansion Cohort. Co-PIs: **Bauman G**, Loblaw A. \$100,000

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):

- Canada-Wide Implementation of a Virtual Sexual Health and Rehabilitation eClinic (SHAReClinic) for Prostate Cancer Patients and their Partners. PI: Matthew I. Collaborator: **Campbell J**. \$523,678
- Prostate-Targeted PET/TRUS. PI: Reznik A, Co-Investigator: **Bauman G**. \$965,000
- Bacterial Immunotherapy for Bladder Cancer. PI: S.M.Haeryfer, Co-Investigators: **Huvnh M**, **Sener A**, **Power N** \$1,101,600

Canadian Urological Association (CUA):

- Extracorporeal magnetic stimulation in the treatment of urinary incontinence after radical prostatectomy. PI: **Welk B** \$5,000

Cook Canada:

- Annual support of EndoUrology Fellowship Program. **Razvi H** \$35,000

Craig H Neilsen Foundation:

- Improving accessibility to urodynamic studies through education and training of SCI providers. PI: **Welk B**, Stampas A \$270,000

Department of Surgery IRF:

- The effect of 10 degree Celsius organ preservation on graft outcomes following donation after cardiac death kidney transplantation in an ex-vivo porcine model. PI: **Sener A** \$20,000
- Incident kidney stone formation in chronic kidney disease (CKD), Co-PI: **Afenu E**, **Denstedt J** \$5,000

Diatomic Inc:

- The impact of molecular hydrogen on ex vivo perfusion of DCD renal grafts following static cold storage. PI: **Sener A** \$156,900

Division of Urology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University:

- Patient reported outcomes for bladder management strategies in young adults with spina bifida. PI: **Welk B** \$17,500
- Machine learning analysis of changing trends in metabolic stone disease. PI: **Bjazevic J** \$5,000

KarlStorz Endoskope:

- Annual support of EndoUrology Fellowship Program. **Razvi H** \$30,000

Keith and Leanne Lavergne & Family:

- Anti-tumor immunity on PROGNOSIS (Prostate RadiOIGaNd Window of Opportunity DOSImetry study). PI: **Inman B**, \$20,000 (Lavergne Faculty Catalyst Grant)
- Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) course for structured training in the assessment of surgeon's cognitive and interpersonal performance. **Bjazevic J** \$5,000 (Lavergne Faculty Development Grant)
- Development of HOLEP prostatectomy procedure to increase the repertoire of BPH surgery to help reduce hospital stay training course. **Luke P** \$5,000 (Lavergne Faculty Development Grant)
- Incident kidney stone formation in chronic kidney disease. Co-PI: **Afenu E**, **Denstedt J** \$2,500 (Lavergne Resident and Fellow Research Grant)
- Cost comparison of flexible ureteroscopy with FANS versus mini-percutaneous nephrolithotripsy (mini-PCNL). Co-PI: **Alrashed H**, **Denstedt J** \$2,500 (Lavergne Resident and Fellow Research Grant)

Lawson Research Institute IRF:

- The effect of kidney preservation at 10°C with sodium thiosulfate in a simulated pig kidney transplant model. PI: **Sener A** \$20,000

Multiorgan Transplant Program:

- Protecting heart grafts from ischemia-reperfusion injury with sodium thiosulfate-supplemented solution in heart transplantation. PI: Zheng X, Co-Investigator: **Sener A** \$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** \$2,425,695

Ontario Research Fund (ORF):

- Molecular Imaging and Theranostics. Co-PIs: Lee TY, **Bauman G** \$1,998,568

Urology Care Foundation – American Urological Association:

- A machine learning model to develop a stone recurrence risk calculator based on clinical and metabolic parameters. PI: **Bjazevic J** 4,000
- Building sustainable urologic care in Central Asia. PI: Okhunov Z, Co-Investigators: **Denstedt J**, Karimov O \$36,000

Weston Foundation:

- Modulating the gut-kidney axis: A clinical evaluation of delayed-release apple cider vinegar capsules. PI: **Bjazevic J** \$300,000

Publications

- 1.
2. Al-Abo M, Foo WC, Howard LE, McGue S, Lacroix B, Kephart J, Clayton A, Thornburg B, Anand M, Rothberg MB, McCall SJ, Huang J, Esther TA, Moul JW, Ferrandino MN, Polascik TJ, Robertson CN, **Inman BA**, et al. Genetic ancestry concordant RNA splicing in prostate cancer involves oncogenic genes and associates with recurrence. *npj Precis Oncol*, 2025 Jan; 9 (30): 1-16, DOI: 10.1038/s41698-025-00817-9
3. Aly M, Wilson C, Davidson J, Matti D, **Wang PZT**, **Dave S**. Early outcomes and risk factors for complications following pediatric neurogenic bladder reconstruction: a secondary analysis of the pediatric NSQIP database (2015-2020). *Journal of Pediatric Urology* 2025 August 08 Online ahead of print
4. Aronson M, Palma L, Semotiuk K, Nuk J, Pollett A, Singh H, Rothenmund H, Racher H, Jessen J, **Pautler SE**, et al. Canadian consensus for the assessment and testing of Lynch syndrome. *J Med Genet*, 2025 Apr 17; 62 (5): 326-334, DOI: 10.1136/jmg-2024-110465
5. Au RC, Jenjitrant P, Cool DW, **Izawa J**, **Inman B**, Ward A, Chin JL. Artificial intelligence may enhance the role of magnetic resonance imaging in prostate cancer focal therapy. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis*, 2025 Jun 2, DOI: 10.1038/s41391-025-00990-9
6. Avolio PP, Kool R, Shayegan B, Marcq G, Black PC, Breau RH, Kim M, Busca I, Abdi H, Dawidek M, Uy M, Fervaha G, Cury FL, Sanchez-Salas R, Alimohamed N, **Izawa J**, et al. Effect of Complete Transurethral Resection on Oncologic Outcomes After Radiation Therapy for Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*, 2025 Feb 1; 121 (2): 317-324, DOI: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2024.08.036
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8. Basulto-Martínez M, **Denstedt J**. Assessment of a novel bendable-tip ureteral access sheath with integrated suction: an in vitro study. *Urolithiasis*, 2025 May 2; 53 (1): 85, DOI: 10.1007/s00240-025-01753-w
9. Basulto-Martínez M, Khandwala Z, Alotaibi T, **Ierides S**, **Bjazevic J**, van Uum S, Clemens KK, **Razvi H**. The prevalence of vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency in calcium oxalate stone formers in Ontario, Canada, and the impact of vitamin D supplementation. *Can Urol Assoc J*. Online ahead of print. 2025 Jul 8, DOI: 10.5489/ouaf.9184
10. Bernardino RM, Yin LB, Lajkosz K, **Winquist E**, et al. Intraductal carcinoma on biopsy predicts poor oncological outcomes in patients undergoing neoadjuvant treatment for high-risk prostate cancer prior to radical prostatectomy. *Eur Urol Open Sci*. 2025 Oct 14;82:52-58. doi: 10.1016/j.euros.2025.09.015. eCollection 2025 Dec
11. 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 Sep 1; 43 (7): 1574-1581, DOI: 10.1002/nau.25514
12. Brahmania M, Sachar Y, Arab JP, Khan MQ, Bhati P, Onizuka K, Teriaky A, Qumosani K, McClure A, **Welk B**, Lam M, Tang E, Skaro A, Rahman A. Geographical Distance from Transplant Center and Impact on Waitlist Outcomes and Healthcare Utilization Pre-Listing. *Am J Gastroenterol*. Online ahead of print. 2025 Jul 2, DOI: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000003628
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19. de Jong JJ, Proudfoot JA, Daneshmand S, Svatek RS, Narayan V, Davicioni E, Joshi S, Dahmen A, Li R, **Inman BA**, et al. Molecular Subtyping for Predicting Pathological Upstaging and Survival Outcomes in Clinically Organ-confined Bladder Cancer Patients Undergoing Radical Cystectomy. *Eur Urol Open Sci*, 2025 Mar 1; 73: 24-30, DOI: 10.1016/j.euros.2024.12.009
20. **John Denstedt**. Legends in Urology - John Denstedt. *Canadian Journal of Urology*, 2025 Feb
21. de Vries-Brilland M, Hamilou Z, Ghosh S, Heng DYC, Wood L, Basappa NS, Kollmannsberger CK, Graham J, Bhindi B, Finelli A, Bjarnason GA, Bosse D, Pouliot F, Castonguay V, Breau RH, Saleh RR, **Winquist E**, et al. . Real-world assessment of clinical outcomes of first-line treatment in metastatic papillary renal cell carcinoma. *Oncologist*. 2025 Aug 4:oyaf240. doi: 10.1093/oncolo/oyaf240
22. Dhanani S, Ramchandani R, Allan J, Hudek N, Herry CL, Scales N, Adhikari NKJ, Brehaut JC, Burns KEA, Chassé M, Iyengar AM, Meade MO, Ramsay T, Scales DC, Selzner M, **Sener A**, et al. Feasibility and Optimization of Donation Advisor: a Decision Support Tool for Deceased Organ Donation and Transplantation. *Transplant Direct*, 2025 Mar 1; 11 (3): e1748, DOI: 10.1097/TXD.0000000000001748
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- Whiteman M, Turley E, Postenka C, **Sener A**. Therapeutic effect of mitochondria-targeted hydrogen sulfide donor AP39 in a mouse model of acute frostbite injury. *Biomed Pharmacother*, 2025 Feb 1; 183: 117869, DOI: 10.1016/j.biopha.2025.117869
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JCEM Case Reports Accepted

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Urology Professor Emeriti Honors and Awards

Dr. Gerald Brock:

- Brantley Scott Award, American Urological Association

Dr. Joseph Chin:

- European Urology Platinum Circle Reviewer

Urology Professor Emeriti Publications

1. Au RC, Jenjitrant P, Cool DW, **Izawa J**, **Inman B**, Ward A, **Chin JL**. Artificial intelligence may enhance the role of magnetic resonance imaging in prostate cancer focal therapy. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis*, 2025 Jun 2, DOI: 10.1038/s41391-025-00990-9
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Dash 4 Dad Walk/Run for Prostate Cancer

On June 21, 2026 the 28th Dash 4 Dad walk/run for prostate cancer will be held at Springbank Gardens. Over the past 27 years, we have raised more than 1.8 million dollars for prostate cancer research and treatment at LHSC. We are the longest running fundraising event at for LHSC and the third top in fundraising amounts. We have done this with an entirely volunteer commitment, 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 2026 to support the men in your lives!



2026 EVENT INFORMATION

Registration: Opens at 8:00 am
Opening Ceremonies: Begin at 9:00 am
Walk/Run: Begins at 10:00 am

- TRACK YOUR PROGRESS**
Track your distance and have your supporters donate based on your completion!
- EARN BADGES**
Create a profile to receive badges based on achievements and performance.
- FIGHT WITH THOSE FIGHTING**
By participating in Dash 4 Dad, you continue to help fight with those who need support the most.

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