Chair's Report

The following Chair's Report will be submitted to McGill as part of the Department's 2009-2009 annual departmental report.

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The Department of Otolaryngology is pleased to provide McGill University and the Faculty of Medicine its 2008-2009 Annual Report. The following pages will highlight both the individual and collective productivity of the Otolaryngology faculty and the Department.

During the past few years, our department has maintained a steady growth in both clinical and academic activities. This year, our productivity has become even stronger with respect to research performance and peer reviewed publications. This is largely to the credit of an active teaching staff that devotes considerable energy towards this academic mandate. On behalf of McGill University, I offer my compliments to our academic staff, many of who have achieved national and international recognition for their work.

In addition to reporting on the annual activities, I would also like to take the opportunity to reflect on past and future strategic planning. I recently completed a comprehensive report outlining our Department's progress as part of an internal self-study document requested by the Faculty of Medicine. It was in the year 2002 that I commenced my mandate as Chair, and so, the preparation of this document provided me with an opportunity for considerable internal reflection but more so, reflection on the current and future direction for our Department.

When I first became Chair, I proceeded to set a number of reasonable objectives for our Department to achieve in the next half decade. These objectives included:

- the institution of a practice plan across all hospital sites incorporating the “rénumération mixte” program that existed within the RAMQ.
- the institution of a comprehensive and formal administrative structure for the Department of Otolaryngology.
- a plan to recruit new, well-trained individuals in a variety of subspecialty areas and, specifically, to recruit a clinician-scientist and a specialist in medical education.
- the development of Centres of Excellence that will incorporate both a clinical and academic mission.
- to expand the Otolaryngology research program and, hopefully, to inaugurate a new basic science laboratory.
I am pleased to report that this initial strategic plan has largely been fulfilled and that now, as we complete the 2009 academic year, we have become considerably more eminent as a university department.

Contrary to our general economy, McGill Otolaryngology has displayed continued growth. In 2008-2009, our faculty was fully immersed as educators at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and CME levels. I particularly acknowledge those members of our staff who were invited lecturers, visiting professors, and podium presenters on the international stage. For this important academic duty, I offer my compliments and congratulations. More specifically, Otolaryngology staff should be lauded for the manner in which they teach, supervise, and mentor medical students who rotate through our Department and most particularly for the manner in which they nurture our cherished Otolaryngology residents. These endeavours are fully acknowledged in this annual departmental report. It is most fitting that, in the month of February 2009, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada granted our training program its full approval. Congratulations to Dr. John Manoukian, the Residency Program Director, for this important accomplishment.

As a relatively smaller medical department having a predominantly clinical focus, our research productivity continues to improve from year to year. I am pleased to report that this year we have published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles, electronic articles, and book chapters. This is our greatest number of publications to date. Our Department has received a record amount of peer-reviewed grants totalling in excess of $6,000,000 to support our laboratories and our investigators who served as either principal investigators, co-investigators, or collaborators. Again, I congratulate our staff for their important involvement as researchers affiliated with McGill University.

This past fall, Dr. Melvin Schloss was replaced as the Director of Otolaryngology at the MCH. Our Department extends its sincerest congratulations to Dr. Schloss for his enormous contributions to McGill Otolaryngology and to McGill University during his 32-year tenure. His chosen replacement was Dr. Sam Daniel. Our Department offers Dr. Daniel its congratulations and has full confidence in his ability to bring Pediatric Otolaryngology to the next level. As further acknowledgement of Sam Daniel, he has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Members of our faculty have been acknowledged with numerous special honours which I highlight as follows.

- Dr. Martin Black received the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada’s Prix d’excellence.
- Dr. Sam Daniel received numerous honours, including MCH Medical Award of Excellence, Charles F. Ferguson Clinical Research Award from ASPO, Best Teacher Awards from the MCH Surgical and, finally, received national recognition as one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40.
- Dr. Martin Desrosiers was awarded first prize for Basic Science Research at the American Rhinology Society.
- Dr. Saul Frenkeliel received the David L. Johnston Award from the McGill Alumni Association.
- Dr. Henrietta Galiana received the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society’s Annual Service Award.
- Dr. Karen Kost received this year’s Best Teacher Award from the Department of Otolaryngology, McGill University.

- Dr. Richard Payne was the recipient of the 2008 Promee for Young Professional of the Year.

I take this opportunity to update you on a number of critical issues for our Department.

1. **Redevelopment Plan for the MUHC**

My impression is that things are happening but rather slowly. A ‘white paper’ was recently issued as an exercise for priority planning. It met with considerable criticism which resulted in a reappraisal of the planning process. I now firmly believe that MUHC administration will proceed with a more realistic and transparent exercise to put an appropriate clinical plan in place. It is also my hope that the Otolaryngology plan for development of clinical areas of excellence will be seriously considered.
However, I am also of the opinion that the new superhospital will not be able to accommodate all our needs within its designated walls. I am fully confident that Head and Neck Oncology/Surgery is to be accommodated at the Glen site. Other subspecialty areas of our clinical practice have yet to be designated. We must therefore continue to be open-minded and innovative in our own internal planning process. In other words, some of our programs may need to be developed at Lachine General Hospital or outside the walls of the MUHC.

2. Recruitment

Our Department continues to recruit exceptionally trained and bright individuals. This summer, we will welcome back Dr. Alex Mlynarek who has completed two years of head and neck training with additional skills in microvascular surgery. His first fellowship year was spent at the University of Alberta with Dr. Hadi Seikaly, followed by a second year at the University of Auckland.

Dr. Marc Tewfik is presently training in rhinology-skull base surgery at the University of Adelaide under the tutelage of Dr. P.J. Wormald. This is presently considered as the foremost program in rhinology in the world. It is anticipated that Marc will return to our Department in the summer of 2010.

Jonathan Young has been accepted for a laryngology fellowship at Harvard University. He will also proceed with additional training in the field of dysphagia. We hope to welcome him back to McGill in 2010 or 2011.

Dr. Mindy Black will be leaving our Department very shortly to pursue her career in Tucson, Arizona. This is a bittersweet departure since we will miss her involvement as part of our academic staff, but we congratulate her on her upcoming nuptials. Our Department congratulates and thanks Mindy for her important contributions as a teacher and mentor of medical students and residents.

3. Name Change for our Department

Several months ago, a request was made to the Faculty of Medicine to change the name of the discipline to Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. This would be in keeping with the official change of name at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and would be in keeping with the modern scope of our work. As part of this request, I consulted every Canadian department for their suggestions, and proceeded to dialogue with potentially interested departments within the Faculty of Medicine. After some minor negotiation with respect to thyroid surgery, all other McGill departments agreed with our request. The proposal for the name change is now supported by the Faculty of Medicine and presently rests with various administrative committees at McGill University. I trust that in the year 2010 we will celebrate our new designation as the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

4. Fundraising

I am pleased to state that this was another successful fundraising year for our Department. Initially, we were quite worried with respect to the economic downturn. However, the Head and Neck Cancer Fund this year raised in excess of $400,000. This was largely due to the personal involvement of our honouree, Mr. Alain Thibault, and to the magnificent efforts of Carole Goldberg. I would be remiss not to mention the work of our volunteer Fundraising Committee whose personal efforts contributed to a successful fundraising drive.

Due to our enormous fundraising success in the past two years, I made a decision to inaugurate the McGill Otolaryngology Endowment Fund. This Fund will be the recipient of capital that is not needed immediately for research projects and that, hopefully, will grow in a substantial manner. The hope is to eventually use this endowment to support an Otolaryngology Research Chair as a further means of securing our Department’s future.
5. **Strategic Planning**

My plans are to organize a faculty retreat in the month of November to formulate a strategic plan for the next five years. High on the list will be a discussion for development of Centres of Excellence in the areas of head and neck oncology, voice and swallowing, skull base surgery, vestibular disorders, and pediatrics. I would also like to include a designated thyroid centre as part of this discussion. The process will also include a strategy for recruitment and particularly the recruitment of a second clinician-scientist in the field of head and neck oncology. Part of the retreat will encompass the important concept of our own Department of Otolaryngology redevelopment plan.

6. **Website and Electronic Newsletter**

We continue to improve our departmental website (www.mcgill.ca/ent/). It now contains important information about our staff, teaching program, CME activities, and fundraising. It serves as an important link to our alumni who practice globally. I request that each of you scrutinize the website so that we may be as up-to-date as possible.

The electronic newsletter was inaugurated in September 2008 as a means of keeping in touch with all members of our faculty and particularly with our alumni. It helps us strengthen our friendship and our collegiality. It serves as a vital instrument to record and disseminate academic and social events that are so important to each of us. I again ask for your help in communicating your own activities for this newsletter by contacting Joanna Aroutian (jaroutian@jgh.mcgill.ca; 514-340-8222 x3179).

In conclusion, I extend our Department’s thanks to the Otolaryngology staff for its important contribution to McGill University. But more so, I extend my personal thanks to my Otolaryngology colleagues for their support and friendship.

**Faculty News**

**Appointments**

The Department congratulates Dr. Sam Daniel for his recent promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

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The Department welcomes its newest faculty member, Dr. Alex Mlynarek, who joins us as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Mlynarek graduated from McGill’s Otolaryngology medical residency program and then completed two years of fellowship training in Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction, one year at the University of Alberta, Edmonton and one year at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

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In October 2008, Professor Luc Mongeau was appointed as an Associate Member of the Department of Otolaryngology. Professor Mongeau is also Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Associate Dean (Academic Affairs) in the Faculty of Engineering, and Canada Research Chair in Flow-Induced Sound and Vibrations. He is also currently involved as co-supervisor for some resident research in the Department.

**Teaching**

Dr. Nabil Fanous held his Facial Plastics Course on April 17 and 24, 2009. This two-day session is an annual teaching event for all the Department’s residents, and those with the top scores are given awards.
**Fundraisers**

On May 27, 2009, the Department held its 15th Annual McGill Head and Neck Cancer Fundraiser at the Montreal Science Centre. The event was a great success, raising over $400,000 for research into head and neck cancer thanks to generous donations and contributions. The dedication and hard work of everyone involved, including co-chairs Drs. Saul Frenkel and Richard Payne, event coordinator Carole Goldberg, honouree Alain Thibault (President and CEO of Meloche Monnex), and the Head and Neck Fundraising Committee members, made this fundraiser possible.


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On June 6, 2009, the McGill Auditory Sciences Laboratory held a very successful “I Hear You” Golf Tournament at the Hemmingford Golf Club. The event, organized by Dr. Sam Daniel, raised funds for the BAHA (Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids) program at the Montreal Children’s Hospital.

**Congratulations**

Dr. Sam Daniel has been named one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 for 2008. This prestigious national award, founded in 1995 and managed by The Caldwell Partners, annually recognizes Canadians under the age of 40 who have made significant contributions to society in their respective fields. An independent National Advisory Board composed of leaders from across the country selects the winners from the pool of nominees according to the following criteria:

- Vision and Leadership
- Innovation and Achievement
- Impact
- Community Involvement and Contribution
- Growth / Development Strategy

This year’s award recipients were honoured at a Gala Luncheon on May 1, 2009 in Toronto. Further details about the award can be found on the Top 40 Under 40 website: [http://www.top40award-canada.org/](http://www.top40award-canada.org/)
The Department congratulates Dr. Saul Frenkiel on being awarded the David L. Johnston Award from the McGill Alumni Association in honour of the outstanding contributions that he has made to the Annual Fund and continues to make to McGill University. The David L. Johnston Award was created to honour Principal David L. Johnston’s leadership effort. This award is presented to a McGill faculty or staff member who has done exemplary work on behalf of the McGill Annual Fund. The award was presented at the MAA Honours and Awards Banquet on May 19, 2009.

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The Department congratulates Christina MacDonald (infirmière pivot, JGH) and Sonia Boccardi (nurse education consultant, JGH) for winning the 2nd prize Slatkoff Award from the JGH Nurses Week Committee (May 2009) for their poster presentation on preventing head and neck cancer.

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Elizabeth Blouin (infirmière pivot, MUHC) won the Clinical Award of Excellence given by the MUHC-RVH’s Department of Nursing (May 2009). The Department offers Elizabeth its congratulations.
End-of-year Cocktail Reception

On June 22, 2009 the Department held a cocktail dînatoire to celebrate the end of the 2008-2009 academic year and the successful 2009 Head and Neck Fundraiser event and to thank the Head and Neck Fundraising Committee members for their efforts. The occasion also served to recognize the Department’s four graduating residents who had just successfully completed their Royal College exams and to mark the departure of Dr. Mindy Black, who is moving to Arizona, and to thank her for her service to the Department.
Conferences

The Canadian Society for Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery held its 63rd Annual Meeting on May 10-13, 2009 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Department was well-represented with residents and faculty members in attendance, presenting papers and scientific posters and chairing workshops and sessions:

Al-Khatib T, Black M. Poster Presentation. “Parathyroid Cyst Presenting as a Large Neck Mass.”
Al-Khatib T, Nguyen L. "Improvement of Diagnostic Accuracy with Pneumatic Video-otoscopy Teaching: A Randomized Control Trial."
Al-Khatib, Schloss M, Saint-Martin C. Poster Presentation. “Diagnosis and Management of Spontaneous CSF Otorhea in Children: 2 Case Reports.”
Cheung V, Manoukian J. Poster Presentation. “Two Cases of Nasopharyngeal Stenosis after Multiple Adenoidectomies.”
Daniel S. Specialty Panel Chair. “Interesting and Challenging Cases in Pediatric Otolaryngology.”
Daniel S. Workshop Co-chair. “Intra-glandular Botulinum Toxin (IG-BTX) and Major Ducts Clipping for Management of Salivary Control in Children: Together and Head to Head.”
Kost K. Workshop Chair. “Chronic Cough: Seeing the Light at the End of the Tunnel.”
Kost K. Session Chair. “Education & Research.”
Payne R. Workshop Chair. “Thyroid Forum: Do the Benefits Outweigh the Risks – Neck Dissection and Thyroid Cancer.”
Sands N, Neaga O, Tamilia M, Hier MP, Black MJ, Payne RJ. “Is Hashimoto’s (Chronic Lymphocytic) Thyroiditis a Risk Factor for Transient post-Thyroidectomy Hypocalcemia?”

Yammine N, Vu T, Al-Hakami H, Black MJ. Poster presentation. “Osteomyelitis of the Sternoclavicular Joint: A Rare Complication of Total Laryngectomy.”

Dr. Karen Kost was elected to the Society’s Board of Directors as 2nd Vice-President. She joins the following Department staff who serve on various CSO-HNS councils and committees: Dr. Sam Daniel (Education – CPD / CME), Dr. John Manoukian (Regional Representative – Quebec), Dr. Ted Tewfik (Bylaws Committee), and Dr. Anthony Zeitouni (Historian).
Below are some pictures from the meeting:
The World Congress on Thyroid Cancer took place in Toronto on August 6-10, 2009. Under the supervision of Dr. Richard Payne, three McGill medical students and an Otolaryngology resident presented four well-received papers:

- Amir, Alex. “Can serum levels of thyroglobulin help detect well-differentiated thyroid cancer preoperatively?”
- Cohen, Natasha. “The role of anti-thyroglobulin antibody as a tumor marker.”
- Karls, Shawn. “Preoperative corrected serum calcium levels as an indicator of post-thyroidectomy hypocalcemia.”

Recent Publications:

Articles:


Case Report:

Visiting Lectureships, Professorships

Lectureship

The Department’s 17th Annual Resident Research Day / James D. Baxter Lectureship was held on May 7, 2009 at the Royal Victoria Hospital. The day-long event included presentations from McGill medical students and residents from the Department of Otolaryngology. The program for the day’s events can be found on the Department’s website: http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/events/

Dr. Joseph Chen, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto and Otolaryngologist-in-Chief in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, was the invited lecturer. His talk was on “The Management of the Facial Nerve in Skull Base Surgery.”

Dr. Françoise Chagnon, as a representative of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, presented Dr. Martin Black with the College’s 2009 Prix d’excellence for Mentor of the Year.

The day ended with a dinner at the University Club of Montreal where awards were distributed for various presentations and honours from the 2008-2009 academic year as well as the day’s presentations:

Facial Plastics Annual Course Awards (R5 graduation certificates)
- Dr. Yahya Al-Badaai
- Dr. Yaser Al-Rajhi
- Dr. Valérie Brousseau
- Dr. Jonathan Young

Pediatric Awards
Pediatric Research Award – 6th Annual Melvin D. Schloss Lectureship (February 2, 2009)
Best Clinical Presentation:
- Dr. Valérie Côté – 1st prize
- Dr. Talal Al-Khatib – 2nd prize
- Dr. Fahad Al-Saab – 3rd prize

Awards were also handed out to medical students and residents for the day’s best presentations:

Best Student Presentation
- Rickul Varshney

Best Basic Research
- Dr. Sumeet Anand

Best Clinical Research (Jr. – PGY1)
- Dr. Noah Sands

Best Clinical Research (Jr. – PGY2)
- Dr. Keith Richardson

Best Clinical Research (Sr. – PGY3-5)
- Dr. Valérie Côté

Melvin Mendelsohn Temporal Bone Drilling Award 2008-2009
- Dr. Mohammed Al-Essa

“William H. Novick” CanMEDS Resident Award
- Dr. Yahya Al-Badaai
Dr. Karen Kost won the Department’s Best Teacher Award 2008-2009, as voted upon by the residents, and was presented with a plaque honouring this achievement.

And, Dr. Frenkkel presented Dr. Joseph Chen with a plaque recognizing him as the 17th Annual James D. Baxter Lecturer.
On April 20, 2009, Dr. Melissa Vollrath was a guest speaker for a McGill Auditory Sciences Laboratory Special Seminar. Dr. Vollrath’s talk was on “Mechanosensation in Auditory and Vestibular Hair Cells.”

The Third Annual McGill Auditory Sciences Laboratory Lectureship, with invited guest speaker Dr. Seth Pransky, was held on August 4, 2009 at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. The topic of Dr. Pransky’s talk was “Otorrhea in children – Approach and management in 2009.”
Residents and Fellows

The Department congratulates its 2008-2009 R5 residents on having passed their Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada examinations and having completed their five-year Otolaryngology residency training:

Dr. Yahya Al-Badaai
Dr. Yaser Al-Rajhi
Dr. Valérie Brousseau
Dr. Jonathan Young

Dr. Al-Badaai has started a Rhinology fellowship at McGill. Dr. Al-Rajhi is currently doing a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at McGill. Dr. Brousseau is on staff in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Hôtel Dieu d’Arthabaska in Victoriaville, Quebec. Dr. Young has been accepted for a Laryngology fellowship at Harvard University; he will also proceed with additional training in the field of dysphagia.

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Our Department welcomes five new R1 residents beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year:

Dr. Yaseen Ali (Kuwait)
Dr. Yazeed Al-Ghonaim (Saudi Arabia)
Dr. Alipasha Rassouli (transfer from Ontario)
Dr. Tamara Mijović (McGill)
Dr. Rania Ywakim (Calgary)

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The Department congratulates Dr. Sumeet Anand who recently received his Master’s of Science degree in Experimental Surgery from McGill. Dr. Anand submitted his thesis, entitled, “The correlation between tumour volume and survival in oral cavity and oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma,” in August 2008, and convocation was held on May 26, 2009. His research was funded by a scholarship from the Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec (FRSQ) and was supervised by Drs. Sam Daniel, Martin Black, Michael Hier, and Robert Funnell.

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Dr. Fahad Al-Saab has completed his one-year fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. He will now return to work in Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Hadi Hakami will be staying as a Head and Neck fellow with the Department during the 2009-2010 academic year for a second year of training.

Alumni Corner

Dr. JP Souaid offers the following message:

“Starting in Sept. 2009 I will be joining the University of Ottawa as an Otologist. My private practice in Ottawa will still continue and I welcome any alumni who are in the area to drop by and catch up!!!”

Dr. Souaid can be reached at jpsouaid@hotmail.com.
Mark Your Calendars

- Oct. 4-7, 2009: AAO-HNS, San Diego, CA
- Oct. 29, 2009: International Congress on Salivary Gland Disorders
- Nov. 12, 2009: Birkett Lectureship (tentative)
- Dec. 8-9, 2009: Departmental Staff Retreat
- Mar. 19-21, 2010: McGill Update in ORL and Ski Meeting
- Apr. 15, 2010: Raymer Lectureship (tentative)
- May 13, 2010: Resident Research Day / Baxter Lectureship (tentative)
- May 23-26, 2010: CSO-HNS, Niagara Falls, ON

Help Name our Newsletter

We are still accepting name suggestions for our newsletter. Send in your suggestions and be eligible to win a special prize. Send your suggestions to Joanna Aroutian at jaroutian@jgh.mcgill.ca.

Keep in Touch

If any staff, residents, or alumni have newsworthy items, please convey the information to Joanna Aroutian (jaroutian@jgh.mcgill.ca). Items could include honours and awards, research grants, presentations, publications. And, we would also be interested in hearing about events in your personal life.