Dear Colleagues, Alumni, Staff, and Supporters of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery,

We are long overdue for this newsletter and departmental update. Although time has passed, our Department has not been idle. In fact, the 2009-2010 academic year has witnessed a number of important events.

In December 2009, we held a two-day retreat in order to discuss future direction and strategic planning for our Department. The retreat was timely because of the imminent planning for the MUHC superhospital at the Glen site and development of our discipline at the Jewish General Hospital, Montreal Children’s Hospital, and other community hospital centres within the McGill network. Prominent on the agenda was the development of clinical Centres of Excellence, education, and research. In the pages below, you will find the agenda and the names of the presenters at this important academic event.

Our Annual Resident Research Day took place on May 17, 2010. We were pleased to welcome one of our former alumni, Dr. Nader Sadeghi, as the 2010 James D. Baxter Lecturer. The day’s proceedings were once again a scientific highlight. The Department heard research presentations from both undergraduate medical students and from Otolaryngology – Head and Neck residents. The competition winners are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, and I congratulate each one of the award recipients. In the evening, the Department hosted a magnificent banquet at the University Club. We were pleased to welcome Dorothy and Jim Baxter and Lynn and Nader Sadeghi. Dr. Sadeghi was presented with a plaque commemorating his important lectureship, and awards were also presented for the winning research presentations. The Department was pleased to acknowledge Dr. William Novick who marked an important milestone for endurance. He was acknowledged for 50 years of devoted service to the Royal Victoria Hospital and to McGill University. Dr. Martin Black received the Best Teacher Award for 2010 as bestowed by the residents.

I am pleased to report on the results of this year’s extremely important fundraising project. The Head and Neck Oncology Fund partnered with the Jewish General Hospital Foundation to establish the Martin Black Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was chaired by Mr. Peter Triassi. The intention of this Fund was not only to provide a University fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology but also to acknowledge the impact of Martin Black as a prominent head and neck oncologist and educator. The goal to raise $1.5 million was established and successfully met. The Martin Black Endowment Fund will now be able to support fellowship training in head and neck oncology at McGill University.
The McGill Head and Neck Oncology Fundraising event was held on May 12, 2010 at the Mont-Royal Centre. The event itself raised a total of $325,000 to support young researchers and laboratories in a variety of subspecialty areas of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery. Dr. Martin Black was this year’s special honouree, and he was aptly acknowledged for his years of service to McGill University and the Jewish General Hospital as a physician, teacher, mentor, and friend.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge a number of residents and a number of our staff for their contributions to our Department's academic success. Valérie Côté and Nathan Jowett each received CIHR research awards. Sam Daniel and Robert Funnell received an important CIHR grant for work in childhood deafness. Elizabeth Blouin produced a DVD on Tracheostomy Care for patients which was acknowledged by the MUHC at a public presentation on June 3, 2010. Lily Nguyen received the award for Best Surgical Teacher of the Year at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. Sam Daniel was appointed CPD Educator by the Royal College of Canada. The Department acknowledges each of these individuals for their personal accomplishments.

SAY AHHH!
FACULTY NEWS

Staff

The Department congratulates Dr. Lily Nguyen who recently received the Best Surgical Teacher of the Year Award from the Montreal Children’s Hospital.

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Drs. Sam Daniel and Robert Funnell were awarded a three-year Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Operating Grant for a project entitled, “Mechanics of the outer and middle ear in newborns and infants.”

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February 1, 2010 marked Dr. William Novick’s 50th year as a member of the McGill University and Royal Victoria Hospital teaching staff. The occasion was recognized at a luncheon organized in the ENT Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital on June 23, 2010. The Department also marked Dr. Novick’s contributions to the University and MUCH at its annual Resident Research Day / James D. Baxter lectureship on May 17, 2010 when Dr. Frenkel presented Dr. Novick with a plaque commemorating his 50 years of “dedicated and passionate service.”
Dr. Sam Daniel was recently approved to become a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Educator of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for a two-year period beginning July 1, 2010.

Dr. Alex Mlynarek and wife Lisa welcomed a baby girl, Talia Isla Kasia Mlynarek, on March 30, 2010.

Teaching

*Announcements for some of the courses listed below can be found on our website: [http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/events/](http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/events/)

Dr. Sam Daniel organized jointly with the University of Ottawa a Temporal Bone Course that took place November 2-4, 2009. The instructors were Drs. Melvin Schloss, Robert Shapiro, Anthony Zeitouni, Jamie Rappaport, Robert Sweet, Leopold Tarantino, Jean-Philippe Vaccani, Balasingam, and Daniel. The course was given at the McGill Medical Simulation Centre, and attendees were third- and fourth-year residents from McGill University and the University of Ottawa and a fellow from Brazil.

Dr. Nabil Fanous conducted his annual Facial Plastic Course on February 26, 2010 at the Royal Victoria Hospital. The day-long course targets residents from both McGill University and Université de Sherbrooke.

Dr. Fanous also held a half-day course on “How to Handle and Protect Yourself from Difficult Patients, Difficult Employees, Difficult Colleagues and Difficult Others” on March 1, 2010. This course was attended by both McGill University and Université de Sherbrooke residents.

Dr. Alex Mlynarek is holding a Mandibular Plating Course at the McGill Medical Simulation Centre on August 31, 2010 for the Department’s residents.

Dr. Lily Nguyen has organized an Advanced Airway Management Simulation (AAMS) Course for first- and second-year McGill medical residents. The course is a hands-on approach to learning the management of a difficult airway (video-assisted intubation, surgical airway, etc.) and will take place September 14, 2010 at the McGill Medical Simulation Centre. The planning committee includes Dr. Nguyen (course director), Dr. Francesco Ramadori (Anesthesia), Dr. Angelina Guzzo (Anesthesia), Linda Crelinstein (McGill Medical Simulation Centre), and Guylaine Neveu (McGill Medical Simulation Centre). The invited faculty include Drs. Natalie Buu (Anesthesia), Karen Kost, John Manoukian, Catherine Paquette (Anesthesia), Tarek Razek (Surgery), and Keith Richardson.

Dr. Nguyen has also organized an Airway Basics Course as a hands-on approach to learning the basics of airway management (intubation, bag-mask, surgical airway, etc.). The course is for McGill University first-year residents and will take place September 15, 2010 as two half-day sessions.
The MUHC and Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery have created an educational DVD entitled, “Living with a Tracheostomy” to aid patients of this procedure. Drs. Anthony Zeitouni, Karen Kost, and MUHC Head and Neck Oncology nurse Elizabeth Blouin were present at the public launch of the DVD on June 3, 2010. Congratulations are offered to Elizabeth Blouin for creating this important, patient-oriented, instructional video.

The press release about the DVD, along with a video clip, is available on the MUHC’s website: http://muhc.ca/newsroom/news/muhc-launches-educational-dvd-assist-patients-living-tracheostomy

A departmental retreat was held over two consecutive evenings, on December 8 and 9, 2009. The topic of the retreat was “Strategic Planning and Priorities: The Next Five Years,” focusing on the creation of Centres of Excellence which have as a mission the combination of a high-quality clinical program in concert with a high-quality academic program.

Photos from the retreat as well as the program can be found below.
Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
Departmental Retreat
“Strategic planning and priorities: The next five years”

Faculty of Medicine, Dean's Building, Holmes Hall
3605 rue de la Montagne (corner av. du Docteur-Penfield)

Agenda

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

5:30 – 6:30 pm  Buffet dinner

5:30 pm  Dinner presentation – “Investing Wisely”
          Presented by Scotiabank

6:15 – 6:30 pm  Introduction
          Dr. Saul Frenkiel

6:30 pm  Committee reports – Centres of Excellence
          Moderator – Dr. John Manoukian

          6:30 – 6:50 pm  Voice and Swallowing – Dr. Karen Kost
          6:50 – 7:00 pm  Discussion

          7:00 – 7:20 pm  Dizziness Unit – Dr. Athanasios Katsarkas
          7:20 – 7:30 pm  Discussion

          7:30 – 7:50 pm  Skull Base Unit – Dr. Anthony Zeitouni
          7:50 – 8:00 pm  Discussion

          8:00 – 8:20 pm  Head and Neck Oncology – Dr. Martin Black
          8:20 – 8:30 pm  Discussion

          8:30 – 8:50 pm  Thyroid Cancer Centre – Dr. Richard Payne
          8:50 – 9:00 pm  Discussion

9:00 – 9:20 pm  Pediatrics – Dr. Sam Daniel
9:20 – 9:30 pm  Discussion

9:30 pm  Closing remarks
          Dr. Saul Frenkiel
Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

Departmental Retreat

“Strategic planning and priorities: The next five years”

Agenda

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

5:30 – 6:30 pm Buffet dinner

“Department of Otolaryngology – An evolution of nomenclature”
Dr. Saul Frenkiel

Ceremonial champagne toast celebrating the new
“McGill Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery”
Dr. Martin Black

6:30 pm Clinical and academic priority planning
Moderator – Dr. Melvin Schloss

6:30 – 8:00 pm Clinical direction

- Facial plastic/reconstructive surgery
  Dr. Nabil Fanous
- Sinus centre
  Dr. Mark Samaha & Dr. Martin Desrosiers
- Otology
  Dr. Jamie Rappaport & Dr. Robert Sweet
- General and community otolaryngology
  o Lachine General Hospital
    Dr. Samir Abboud
  o Lakeshore General Hospital
    Dr. Richard Lafleur
  o Saint-Mary’s Hospital
    Dr. Georges Sejean

8:00 – 8:30 pm Undergraduate and postgraduate education – “Future direction”
Dr. Lily Nguyen & Dr. John Manoukian

8:30 – 9:00 pm The research program and role of basic scientists –
“Where do we go from here?”
Dr. Bernard Segal

9:00 – 9:30 pm Growth areas, new horizons, and future recruitment
Dr. Saul Frenkiel & Staff

9:30 pm Retreat closure
Dr. Saul Frenkiel
Fundraisers

On June 5, 2010, the McGill Auditory Sciences Laboratory held an “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. The announcement for the event is available on the Department’s website:  

On May 12, 2010, the Department held its 16th Annual McGill Head and Neck Cancer Fundraiser at the Centre Mont-Royal. This year’s special honouree was Dr. Martin Black, head of the Head and Neck Oncology program at McGill University, who is the namesake of the new endowment created to help in head and neck cancer training. Through the Jewish General Hospital Foundation, the Martin Black Endowment Fund was established to recognize Dr. Black’s contributions at McGill University in the area of head and neck oncology. The Martin Black Endowment Fund, which will soon reach its objective of $1.5 million, will serve to support fellowship training in Head and Neck Oncology/Surgery at McGill University. The evening itself also grossed approximately $325,000 for the McGill Head and Neck Oncology Fund. This McGill fund is used to support the variety of research projects in the Department, including research laboratories, residents, MSc students, and also undergraduate medical students.

The dedication and hard work of everyone involved, including co-chairs Drs. Saul Frenkel, Richard Payne, and Michael Hier event coordinator Carole Goldberg, JGH Foundation Director of Corporate Gifts Muriel Amar, honouree Dr. Black, and the Head and Neck Fundraising Committee members, made this successful fundraiser possible.

Gazette columnist Jennifer Campbell, who attended the Fundraiser, wrote an account of the event in her society column of June 20, 2010:  

Please visit our website for additional details about the Department’s Head and Neck Oncology Program and to view the Ad Book for the 2010 Fundraiser:  
Conferences

The Department’s 14th Annual Update in Otolaryngology and Ski Weekend was held on March 19-20, 2010 at the Hotel Fairmont in Mont-Tremblant. Organized by course directors Drs. Michael Hier, Karen Kost, and Jamie Rappaport, the event brought together participants from Canada, the US, and abroad and was a great success. The program for this year’s meeting covered topics including current practice and advances in tonsillectomy, caring for the professional voice, facial plastic procedures including non-surgical facial rejuvenation techniques (live demo), management of early stage oral cancer, and the practical management of the dizzy patient.
The following papers were presented at the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery’s 64th Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario, May 23-25, 2010. The topic of this year’s meeting was “Technology Transforming Patient Care.”


Kilty SJ, Desrosiers MY, Morris D. “Clinical Importance of Bacterial Biofilms in Chronic Sinus and Ear Disease.” Workshop.

Kost K. “Laryngology.” Leader, Poster Walk with the Experts.


Lecavalier M, Nguyen L. “Bilateral Dacrocystoceles: A Rare Cause of Neonatal Respiratory Distress.” Case Report.


Payne R. “Thyroid Panel.” Workshop.


In addition to the above presentations, Drs. Payne (Thyroid Surgery) and Zeitouni (Otology) chaired panels at the meeting. Drs. Daniel and Kost chaired Special Interest Committee Meetings on Pediatric Otolaryngology and Laryngology, respectively. Dr. Daniel also co-chaired a hands-on course on sialoendoscopy.
The previous issue of e-Voice included a report on the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery’s Annual Meeting & EXPO OTO which took place in San Diego, California on October 4-9, 2009. In addition to the presentation noted then, Dr. Karen Kost personally presented at the meeting a 45-minute miniseminar entitled, “Perceptions of Otolaryngologists toward Percutaneous Tracheotomy and the Impact on Resident Education.” The presenters were Drs. Kost, J Johnson, D Goldenberg, M Seybt.


This year’s American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO will be held in Boston, MA, September 26-29. The following will be McGill’s thyroid presentations at the meeting, all supervised by Dr. Richard Payne.

Abdul-Sater L. “What Are Thyroidectomy Patients Really Concerned About?”

Karls S. “Gender as a Risk Factor for Thyroid Cancer.”

Richardson K. “Sentinel Node Biopsy in Thyroid Cancer: Does It Work?”

Sands N. “The McGill Thyroid Nodule Score and Risk of Malignancy.”

Varshney R. “Head and Neck Cancer Predisposes to Obstructive Sleep Apnea.”
Recent and Forthcoming Publications


E-SOUND
VISITING LECTURESHIPS AND PROFESSORSHIPS

Resident Research Day / James D. Baxter Lectureship

The Department’s 18th Annual Resident Research Day / James D. Baxter Lectureship was held on May 17, 2010 at the Royal Victoria Hospital. The day-long event included presentations from residents and a fellow from the Department as well as medical students from McGill University and Queen’s University. The program for the day’s events can be found on the Department’s website: http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/events/2009-2010/

Dr. Nader Sadeghi, Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of Head and Neck Surgery at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., was the invited lecturer. His talk was on “Surgical Organ Preservation in Laryngeal Cancer: A Paradigm in Evolution.” Dr. Sadeghi also gave a presentation on “Evidence Based Evaluation and Treatment of the Neck in Head and Neck Cancer” to the residents at morning rounds the following day.

The day ended with a dinner at the University Club of Montreal where awards were distributed for various presentations and honours from the 2009-2010 academic year:

Facial Plastics Annual Course Awards (R5 graduation certificates)
- Dr. Talal Al-Khatib
- Dr. Sumeet Anand
- Dr. Chris Szeto
- Dr. Vi Vu
- Dr. Nadine Yammine
- Best publication: Dr. Valérie Côté
- Best presentation: Dr. Nadine Yammine

Best Presentation at University Grand Rounds
- 2009: Dr. Keith Richardson (junior resident)
  Dr. Vi Vu (senior resident)
- 2010: Dr. Nathan Jowett (junior resident)
  Dr. Valérie Côté (senior resident)

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

Best Student Presentation
- Alexander Amir

Best Junior Resident Presentation
- Dr. Noah Sands

Best Senior Resident Presentation
- Dr. Keith Richardson

Melvin Mendelsohn Temporal Bone Drilling Award
- Dr. Nathan Jowett

2nd "William H. Novick" CanMEDS Resident Award
- Dr. Keith Richardson
Dr. Martin Black won the Department’s Best Teacher Award 2009-2010, as voted upon by the residents, and was presented with a plaque honouring this achievement.

Dr. Frenkel presented Dr. William Novick with a plaque commemorating his 50 years with McGill University and the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Dr. Frenkel presented Dr. Nader Sadeghi with a plaque recognizing him as the 18th Annual James D. Baxter Lecturer as well as one of the Department’s 100th-anniversary neck ties.
The 7th Annual Melvin D. Schloss Pediatric Otolaryngology Lectureship and Academic Day was held on May 10, 2010 at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. This year’s invited lecturers were Dr. Patrick Froehlich, Professor at Hôpital Édouard Herriot in Lyon and Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology at Hôpital Debrousse and Hôpital de la Femme de la Mère et de l’Enfant de Lyon, and Dr. Karen Gordon, Director of Research in the Cochlear Implant Laboratory, Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Dr. Froehlich’s talk was on “Minimally-Invasive Surgery in Pediatric Otolaryngology” and Dr. Gordon’s was entitled, “Can Cochlear Implants Reverse Effects of Deafness in the Central Auditory System?” The program for the lectureship is available on the Department’s website: http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/events/2009-2010/

The 4th Annual McGill Auditory Sciences Laboratory Lectureship and Academic Day took place on August 30, 2010 at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. The invited speaker was Dr. Udayan Shah, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University in Wilmington, Delaware. Dr. Shah spoke about “Pediatric Surgical Grand Rounds: Advances in Pediatric Endoscopic Sinus Surgery” and “Lasers in Otology.” The lectureship announcement and program are available on our website: http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/events/
RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Drs. Valérie Côté and Nathan Jowett were each awarded a Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) – Master’s Award by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for research toward their respective Master of Science degrees in the Department. According to CIHR, this Award is “intended to provide special recognition and support to students who are pursuing a Master’s degree in a health-related field in Canada. Candidates are expected to have an exceptionally high potential for future research and productivity.” The Department congratulates Drs. Côté and Jowett for their achievements.

Extra-curricular Activities

Dr. Talal Al-Khatib, a recent graduate of the Department’s residency program, was a member of the newly-founded Montreal Children’s Hospital team in the Montreal Corporate Basketball League and averaged 15 points per game. Information about the league is available on the AK-REC website: http://www.ak-rec.com/

ALUMNI CENTRE

Dr. Raymundo Mungia has been accepted into a two-year postdoctoral fellowship position, beginning July 16, 2010 and ending July 15, 2012, in Neurosciences at the University of Calgary.

Dr. Hagr Abdulrahman, who completed his residency in the Department in 2004 and is currently on staff at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, writes with an update. He is working on increasing the number of cochlear implant procedures from 100 to 200 next year in his department, so that King Saud University will have the fourth largest cochlear implant program in the world. Dr. Abdulrahman started an otology fellowship, which is accredited by the University and Ministry of Health and is the only one of its kind in the Middle East. Additionally, Dr. Abdulrahman performed the first BAHA procedure in the Middle East and now works in the largest such program in the region. In April 2010, he also performed the first fibroblast in the Middle East. Dr. Abdulrahman is also supervises the Prince Sultan Research Chair for Hearing Disability and Implantable Devices.

On a personal note, in April of this year, Dr. Abdulrahman welcomed the birth of his fourth daughter.

Obituary

Dr. Alvin Roland Backstrom (June 2, 1928 - November 3, 2009). McGill Otolaryngology residency program alumnus.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Sept. 15, 2010: Airway Basics Course
- Sept. 26-29, 2010: AAO-HNS Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- Oct. 21, 2010: McNally Lectureship
- Nov. 11, 2010: Birkett Lectureship
  Invited lecturer: Dr. Patrick Gullane
  Professor & Chair, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, University of Toronto
- Apr. 14, 2011: Raymer Lectureship
- May 2, 2011: Schloss Lectureship
- May 9, 2011: Resident Research Day / Baxter Lectureship
  Invited lecturer: Dr. Manohar Bance
  Professor of Otology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery, Dalhousie University
- May 22-24, 2011: CSO-HNS Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC

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.

We’re on the Web!
See us at:
www.mcgill.ca/ent