December 2010                                                                                                                                                 Volume 3, Issue 1

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

I am very pleased to be sending out my report as the end of year beckons and the holiday break nears. I extend to all our staff, residents, students, secretaries, alumni, and volunteers a wonderful and most meaningful holiday greeting. I also extend to you my very best wishes for the New Year. May the year 2011 bring you much health and prosperity.

As this year closes, I reflect on the good fortune and productivity of the McGill Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. This past year’s fundraising efforts were exceptional. We honoured Dr. Martin Black for his many years of service with the establishment of the Martin Black Fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology. We reached our goal for this project to the amount of $1,500,000, and very shortly, we will be using the funds for the training of head and neck fellows here at McGill University. More so, we deservedly honoured our cherished colleague and mentor, Martin Black.

The exciting news does not end here. I am pleased to announce that the honouree for the 2011 McGill Head and Neck Fundraising event will be Michael Douglas. As many of you know, Mr. Douglas has recently gone through his own battle with throat cancer, and he graciously agreed to become our special honouree for the event in May 2011. More news will follow as these festivities unfold.

Two special visiting professorships recently took place. We were pleased to invite Dr. Brian Blakley, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology, University of Manitoba, as this year’s McNally lecturer on October 21. We also had the privilege of having Dr. Pat Gullane, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, University of Toronto, as the Birkett lecturer on November 11.

The plans for our Department’s Update Course in Otolaryngology at Mont-Tremblant have recently been announced. Once again, there is an exciting program in place that encompasses the fields of rhinology, head and neck, neuro-otology, laryngology, and pediatric otolaryngology. The list of both local and visiting faculty is indeed impressive. I urge everyone to attend this course, and I extend a particular welcome to our alumni to come to Mont Tremblant for this internationally recognized CME/ski meeting.

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There are also a few other noteworthy announcements. On November 25, 2010, the Collège des Médecins du Québec officially changed the name of our specialty to Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in harmony with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada nomenclature.

I would also like to announce that Dr. Jean-Jacques Dufour recently tendered his resignation from the staff of the Jewish General Hospital. We extend our very best wishes to Jean-Jacques as he enters a new phase in life. We also extend our very best wishes to Dr. Michael Hier who was recently appointed to the position of Chief of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the JGH. Other announcements concerning our Department are listed below in this newsletter.

Finally, our Department held its end-of-year holiday party at the restaurant Bice on December 8, 2010. The evening was organized by Carole Goldberg, and it was a great success. Participating were the doctors, support staff, speech and language pathologists, residents, fellows, and volunteers from the four hospitals, the Montreal Children’s, the Jewish General, the Montreal General, and the Royal Vic. Look below for some memorable pictures of that evening.

So, now it is time to sign out for 2010 and to look forward to 2011. I extend my thanks and gratitude to all our teachers and to all the staff that work so diligently under stressful conditions at times to help make our academic program so successful and to service our patients in a most professional manner. I am optimistic that the stars will continue to shine on our Department in 2011 and we will have another great year.

**SAY AHHH!**

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Staff**

Dr. Mark Samaha was recently certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. The Department congratulates Dr. Samaha for this accomplishment and for now being double-board certified.

Under the supervision of Dr. Richard Payne, McGill medical student Shawn Karls has received a 2009 grant from the Mach-Gaessler Foundation of Canada, which encourages research in cardiology, oncology, and psychiatry. The funds are for a project on “Thyroglobulin as a Marker of Thyroid Cancer.”

Drs. Paul Wiseman (Physics and Chemistry), Nathan Jowett, Alex Mlynarek, Reggie Hamdy (Surgery – Orthopedics), and Robert Harrison (Physiology and Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, Toronto) were recently awarded a Canadian Institute for Photonic Innovations (CIPI) grant for a project entitled “Ultrafast laser ablation of tissue.” The grant, which is worth $51,400, is part of the CIPI’s Technology Exploitation Program (TEN) whose goal in part is to “expedit[e] the transfer of knowledge and technology to industry.”
**Appointments**

Dr. Michael Hier is the new chief of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the Jewish General Hospital, replacing former chief Dr. Saul Frenkel.

Dr. Karen Kost is currently the vice-president of the American Society of Geriatric Otolaryngology and 2nd vice-president of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

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**Conferences**

The Association d’oto-rhino-laryngologie et de chirurgie cervico-faciale du Québec’s annual meeting took place October 29-31, 2010. This year’s topics were « Imagerie en ORL » and « Surdité (expertise) ». Below is a list of the Department’s presentations at the meeting.


Amir A, Karls S, Hier M, Payne RJ. “The Value of PET Scan in Patients with Thyroid Nodules Undergoing Thyroidectomy.”


Daniel SJ. « Focus group / étude de besoins en EMC »

Daniel SJ. « L’endoscope à l’assaut des glandes salivaires. »

Daniel SJ, Sénécal AM. « Les techniques de réadaptation pour la sialorrhée – Expérience du centre de réadaptation Mackay. »

Jowett N, Mlynarek A. “Reconstruction of Cheek Defects.”

Katsarkas A. « Le vertige positionnel : est-il toujours paroxystique et bénin ? »


Samaha M. « Rhinoplastie endonasale : une présentation vidéo d’une approche mini-instrusive avec anesthésie locale. »


Waissbluth S, Zeitouni AG, Chauvin P. « Tumeur à cellules granuleuses atypiques de la langue. »

Dr. Daniel acted also as a moderator and scientific advisor for the meeting.
Tremblant Update in Otolaryngology Course

The Department’s 15th Annual McGill Update in Otolaryngology Course will take place on March 18-20, 2011 at the Hotel Fairmont in Mont-Tremblant. This year’s course features an exciting program featuring faculty from both Canada and the United States. Please visit the Course’s website to view the program and for information about registration and hotel room booking.

http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/tremblant/

In early October of this year, Dr. Saul Frenkel visited King Abdulaziz University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as an external fellowship examiner and invited guest lecturer. Below is a photo from this visit; pictured, from left to right, are: Dr. Khalid Al-Qahtani (alumnus), Dr. Frenkel, and Dr. Abdulrahman Hagr (alumnus).
**Fundraisers**

**BREAKING NEWS:**

The Department is very pleased to announce that the special honouree for its 17th Annual McGill Head and Neck Cancer Fundraiser will be actor and producer Michael Douglas. Further details will be forthcoming.

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On September 1, 2010, the Department held a cocktail to celebrate its very successful 16th Annual McGill Head and Neck Cancer Fundraiser and the close of the 2009-2010 academic year. In attendance were department faculty and staff, the co-chairs and members of the fundraising committee, and representatives from the Jewish General Hospital Foundation and McGill University’s Faculty of Medicine. Also in attendance were Dr. Frenkje, Dr. Hartley Stern (Executive Director, Jewish General Hospital), Dr. Richard Levin (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University), and Dr. Martin Black (the 2010 fundraiser’s special honouree) who each in turn addressed the audience. The evening was in recognition of the collective efforts of the many individuals who contribute toward the continuing success and development of the Department.

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**Recent and Forthcoming Publications**


Holiday Party

The Department’s annual holiday party was held December 8 at Ristorante Bice. Members from the Department’s four hospital departments were invited to the dinner that included music, dancing, and even a Zumba instructor who lead the crowd through steps of the popular fitness aerobic dance. Below are some photos from the evening.
E-SOUND
VISITING LECTURESHIPS AND PROFESSORSHIPS

Annual Herbert S. Birkett Memorial Lectureship

The Department’s 68th Annual Herbert S. Birkett Memorial Lectureship was held on November 11, 2010 at the Royal Victoria Hospital. The invited guest lecturer was Dr. Patrick Gullane, Otolaryngologist-in-Chief, University Health Network / Wharton Chair, Head and Neck Surgery, Princess Margaret Hospital / Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, University of Toronto. The topic of Dr. Gullane’s talk was “Thirty Years of Head and Neck: Lessons Learned – Imagine the Future.” Dr. Gullane also led resident teaching rounds the next morning, and the topic of his talk that day was “Management of Non-Melanotic Skin Cancers: Current Approaches.”

Annual William J. McNally Memorial Lectureship

On October 21, 2010, the Department held its 14th Annual William J. McNally Memorial Lecture at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Dr. Brian Blakley, Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at University of Manitoba, was the invited speaker. The subject of his talk was “Objective Evaluation of Vestibular Function for Clinical Purposes.”

Dr. Blakley also gave a lecture the following day, October 22, on ototoxicity research at McGill Auditory Sciences Laboratory.
RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

The Department is proud to announce the inception of two new one-year clinical research fellowship positions, one in Laryngology and the other in Head and Neck and Microvascular Reconstruction (which is in addition to the current one-year Head and Neck fellowship). The first Laryngology fellow, Dr. Nadine Yammine, began her training in July 2010, while the first Head and Neck and Microvascular Reconstruction fellow, Dr. Eyal Sela, will start his training in July 2011, following the completion of his current Head and Neck fellowship at McGill. Descriptions of both fellowships are available on our website:

http://www.mcgill.ca/ent/fellowship/

ALUMNI CENTRE

Dr. Khalil Al-Macki, who is Consultant and Head of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the Armed Forces Hospital in Muscat, Oman, writes of new developments at his hospital. In November of this year, the first few cases of cochlear implantation were performed at the Armed Forces Hospital, making the Hospital the second centre in Oman to have a cochlear implant program.
**EVENTS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- Mar. 18-20, 2011: Tremblant Update in Otolaryngology Course
- 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.

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See us at:
www.mcgill.ca/ent