Submitted by Dr. Arvind K Joshi

I should begin by acknowledging the contributions of Dr. Denis Querleu, who served as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from November 2011 until July, 2013.

On a personal note, I extend my thanks to Dr. Querleu for his cooperation and open communication which helped to facilitate the leadership transition.

Since my appointment as Interim Chair, I have felt very welcomed and supported by the administration and membership of the University, Teaching Hospitals and the Department.

My sincere thanks are also extended to all members of the Faculty at each of our teaching sites for their hard work and commitment to teaching our students and Residents.

I am pleased to report on the notable accomplishments of our Department members and our trainees in their clinical, educational and research activities.

Firstly, I must extend my thanks and congratulations to every member of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Together, the members of this group have shown their dedication and resilience through budget cuts, staff and leadership changes. It is a testament to the professionalism of each person that these challenges have helped us to form a stronger, more efficient team where communication and collaboration between Divisions and Sites exists at a level never before realized.

In November, 2013, the members of the Division of Gynecological Oncology at the Jewish General Hospital and the MUHC signed a Joint agreement to confirm their collaboration on staffing, fellowships, teaching, sharing electronic records, clinical activities, research and joint academic endeavours. This was the result of several years work by all parties involved to document and solidify a pledge which will benefit our trainees and patients. As a Department, we are extremely proud of this concrete example of our commitment to setting historical practices aside and moving forward towards the same goals in a “virtual” network.

My thanks and congratulations go to the leadership and members of the Division of Gynecological Oncology at the MUHC and the Jewish General Hospital.

The Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Division was not included in the original (2007) plans for the Glen Site.
Dr. Holzer and his team have been working closely with the MUHC and provincial government to identify and secure an appropriate space close to the Glen site. Close proximity to the main building is necessary to facilitate continued research collaborations with the Division of Reproductive Biology, support for Residents and trainees during their REI rotations as well as the usage of cryopreservation for fertility preservation treatment.

I am pleased to announce that a location has been identified at 5252 Boul de Maisonneuve. Work is now underway to ensure that any modifications required to the new space are completed in time for the move.

In May, we created the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Research and Publication Committee. Under the leadership of Dr. Togas Tulandi, the mandate of this committee is to provide advice regarding the conduct of research, disseminate any new policies and regulations related to research ethics and publications and to investigate complaints. This group has become a valuable resource to assist our members and trainees to navigate the regulatory requirements for their research projects and publications.

I would like to thank the membership of the Academic Enrichment Fund (AEF) of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the MUHC for their continued generosity and support.

The AEF provides funding for attendance at scientific meetings, research projects and educational activities which would not otherwise be possible.

Several years ago the AEF membership hosted a Dinner Dance for every staff member, student and trainee in the Department at the MUHC. It has since become a much anticipated annual event.

This gesture by the AEF membership gives us the opportunity to network and to “put a face to the name” for those people we work with from a distance. It also serves as a must appreciated morale boost.

Recruitment of new Department members has been identified as a priority in order to ensure ample coverage for both teaching and clinical service in the face of recent departures and upcoming retirements. We are currently recruiting several new members whom we hope to appoint in the next two years.

I am pleased to say that I am impressed by the excellent credentials and energy of our new recruits and I am certain they will revitalize our Department.
At the time of writing this report, our focus is increasingly directed towards the upcoming move to the Glen Site. This is truly the largest healthcare event in the City of Montreal in the current age.

An enormous amount of energy from all our staff, but particularly the MUHC staff is being directed towards the move to the Glen.

The Women’s Health Mission Management committee has temporarily accepted a new mandate as a working group where the key members of the Department will work together in planning our relocation and the resulting changes to our processes and procedures.

While the move quickly approaches, “business as usual” will likely become more difficult to maintain. We are keenly aware that our current obligations must be fulfilled and services provided up to and including moving day.

As with any move of this proportion - there will surely be unexpected hitches, regardless of our best planning and organization.

In closing, I would like to express my complete confidence that this strong team will rise to overcome any challenges to ensure the provision of excellent teaching, research and most importantly - patient care before, during and after the move.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Arvind K Joshi
Interim Chair
Research and Publications

The CIHR approved a major research grant in the amount of $1.5 million to Dr. Haim Abenhaim for his study entitled: Progesterone for the prevention of miscarriage in women with first trimester bleeding: double-blind, placebo-controlled randomized trial.” The application was ranked first out of the 28 examined by the CIHR.

Co-Investigators are Drs. Audibert, Fraser, Gagnon, Klam, Leroux and Platt.

Dr. Lucy Gilbert as awarded a CIHR Grant in the amount of $1,404,691 in support of the ongoing “Diagnosing Ovarian Cancer Early by Targeting Symptomatic Women (DOVE) project.

The publications of our membership can be found at https://secureweb.mcgill.ca/obgyn/research/publications.

Teaching and Learning

Following the accreditation visit by the Royal College in March, 2013, both the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and the Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship Programs received full approval. Congratulations to our Student Affairs staff, the staff of the REI and MFM Divisions and to our Program Directors.

Alessandra Celani was the deserving recipient of the Pamela Chase Award for Excellent Administrative Service in the Faculty of Medicine.

Her superior organizational skills and dedication to our Residency Programs were key in the success of our Program Review.

Dr. Vincent Ponette was the 2013 Recipient of the APGO Carl A Nimrod Award. The Carl Nimrod Award recognizes excellence, commitment, innovation and leadership in teaching knowledge, attitudes and skills to the next generation of practitioners.
The following Departmental Awards were presented in May, 2013:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Lawrence Koby</td>
<td>A Benjamin Award for Excellence in Obstetrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Nimrah Abbasi</td>
<td>E and J Molson Award for Excellence in Research</td>
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<td>Dr. Khalid Akkour</td>
<td>C and L Lieberman Award for Excellence as a Resident Role Model</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Karen Wou</td>
<td>Brian Newton Memorial Prize for Excellence in Gynecology/Oncology</td>
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<td>Dr. Mohammed Malak</td>
<td>AAGL Special Resident in Minimally Invasive Gynecology</td>
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<td>Dr. Alice Benjamin</td>
<td>Outstanding Staff Teacher RVH Site</td>
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<td>Dr. Cleve Ziegler</td>
<td>Outstanding Staff Teacher JGH Site</td>
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<td>Dr. Sherri White</td>
<td>Outstanding Staff Teacher St Marys Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiore Desrouilleres</td>
<td>Best Ultrasound Technician Teacher Award JGH Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Galia Oron</td>
<td>REI Resident Award</td>
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Congratulations to our Residents for their success in the Inter-University debate. This year’s debate was held in Quebec City in November, 2013. Special mention should go to our presenters; Sara Salieem and Jessica Papillon-Smith.

**Involvement in the community**

In September, 2013, the Department hosted our annual symposium in association with the Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians of Canada (SOGC). This year’s title was *Update in Obstetrics and Gynecology*. The program focused on the importance of ensuring quality of learning opportunities by emphasizing continuous training, the cornerstone of our professional development and success.

The meeting was well attended by our membership and trainees as well as participants from across North America.

Congratulations and thanks are extended to Dr. Robert Hemmings and Dr. Togas Tulandi for compiling an excellent scientific program and making this event a resounding success.
Milestones

Promotions

Dr. Hugh Clarke’s June, 2013 promotion to Full Professor was followed shortly by his September 1st appointment as the inaugural Richard Cruess Chair in Reproductive Biology.

Dr. Clarke is highly regarded internationally for his research in the development and differentiation of the female germ cell (oocyte) and oocyte to embryo transition. He is also a well respected teacher and Director of the Division of Reproductive Biology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Retirements

Mrs. Mabel Ferguson’s August retirement truly marked the end of an era. Mrs. Ferguson spent most of her 47 years with McGill in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

As Student Affairs Coordinator, she enjoyed welcoming the new roster of students at the start of each rotation, seeing them continue through our Residency program and sometimes return as Attending Physicians.

In Memoriam

In September, we lost a colleague and friend with the passing of Dr. Riaz Farookhi.

He was a challenging and engaging teacher. His research interests focused on the development of the ovarian follicle and the pathways of communication between the oocyte and the somatic cells of the follicle.

His pragmatic optimism in the face of a devastating illness was truly admirable.