Finlayson Research Day has been a long-standing annual event for the Department of Pathology. Finlayson Day was created in 1985 in honor of Dr. Morrison H. Finlayson, former Director of the McGill Residency Training Program. Under his direction, the program not only emphasized the highest quality of education but Dr. Finlayson understood the importance of a resident's well-being and implemented measures to integrate this element into the program throughout their training. Two features that continue to be hallmarks of the program to this day.

Under the leadership of Dr. Edith Zorychta, Finlayson Research Day continues to provide a casual and welcoming venue for the exchange of ideas between current members of the department who are investigating a range of topics in the multi-disciplinary field of pathology research.

This year’s keynote lecture was given by Dr. John Hart, an acclaimed expert in the field of Gastrointestinal and Hepatic pathology from the University of Chicago. One of the highlights of this year’s event was Dr. Zorychta’s moving tribute to Dr. Doris Nunes Collins, whose generous endowment recently established an Endowed Chair in the Department of Pathology. Dr. Nunes Collins graduated magna cum laude from McGill in 1949, earning several degrees along the way including an MDCM and MSc. She established herself in the discipline of Pathology and forever carried a deep fondness for McGill as she forged a very successful career as an academic surgical pathologist. Dr. Zorychta's presentation was both illuminating and inspiring to the audience, which included Doris’ relatives who were especially invited to attend.

Finlayson Day typically showcases research projects and poster presentations involving McGill trainees in the Residency and Graduate Studies programs. Six research presentations, divided into experimental and clinical, were Chaired by Dr. Zorychta and Dr. Chantal Bernard, respectively. Prizes are awarded for Best Research Presentation and Best Poster in both clinical and experimental categories. This year, a total of 15 posters were submitted and given careful consideration by a panel of judges.

The department would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Zorychta and Dr. Bernard for organizing the event and to Isabel, Joan and Eileen for their assistance in coordinating the activities throughout the day. We’d also like to acknowledge all of the speakers and members who participated at this year’s event and recognize the efforts of the attentive staff at the Faculty Club.
FINLAYSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis: A Surgical Pathologist’s Perspective

This year’s Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. John Hart, Professor of Pathology at the University of Chicago. Dr. Hart graduated from the University of Iowa Medical School in 1986 and completed his residency in pathology at U.C.L.A. Medical Center in Los Angeles, followed by a Gastrointestinal and Hepatic Pathology fellowship at the same institution. In 1991, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, Department of Pathology, where he started a fellowship program in Gastrointestinal and Hepatic Pathology in 1998. He has served as the director of this fellowship program since that time. The fellowship has graduated more than a dozen GI pathologists who are now working in academic pathology departments throughout the United States.

Dr. Hart has also published more than 180 articles in the fields of gastrointestinal and hepatic pathology and has authored numerous book chapters. He has lectured throughout the United States and in Europe and Asia. His annual three day course on liver pathology, sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Pathology, has run for the last 13 years. He currently is a member of the education committees with the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) and with the Rodger Haggitt Gastrointestinal Pathology Society.

Finlayson Research Day Awards

Clinical & Experimental Research Awards

Best Experimental Research Presentation
Necola Guerrina (MSc program)

Best Clinical Research Presentation
Dr. Chelsea Maedler (PGY5)

Best Poster
Dr. Zari Dastani (PGY2)

Teacher of the Year
Dr. Jason Karamchandani

Resident Teacher of the Year
Dr. Margaret Redpath (CIP program)

Resident of the Year
Dr. Livia Florianova (PGY3)
On June 18, 2015 we bid farewell to one of our treasured colleagues, Heather Barwick, who has been an integral part of the Department of Pathology for the last 40 years.

Heather’s retirement was marked with her having gone full circle as she started and ended her career with organizing the opening of a cytopathology laboratory. Heather’s first job soon after her graduation in cytotechnology was to build a cytopathology laboratory in London Ontario from the ground up.

She eventually came back to Montreal and started working for McGill in the cytopathology lab in the Duff building. During her tenure, Heather also coordinated the merging of two cytopathology laboratories when the RVH and MGH merged. Her previous merging experience was instrumental in helping to plan the opening of the new cytopathology laboratory at the Glen site. Heather’s involvement in so many aspects of this department coupled with her knowledge of the inner-workings of the MUHC made her an invaluable asset when onboarding new clinical staff. Simply put, Heather’s natural disposition for helping made her the go-to person when no one else knew where, when or how something needed to be done!

Heather will be dearly missed by so many, but for her colleagues in the cytopathology lab, it feels as though they are losing a member of the family. From a professional standpoint, Heather’s accomplishments are far and wide. She helped build the cytopathology slide teaching files, assisted Dr. Manon Auger in overseeing the McGill Cytopathology Review Course over the last 13 years, and taught basic cytology to medical students and respiratory cytology to the pathology residents. For all of her achievements in the cytopathology laboratory, Heather was awarded the McGill University Ann McCormick Award a few years ago.

From a personal perspective, Heather’s affable disposition and boundless energy was always on display. She could always be counted on for support and will be remembered as someone for whom the words never and impossible were always absent from her vocabulary. Heather’s strong work ethic and dedication to her job was evident when she would put in long workdays without hesitation. Nothing ever fazed Heather; if there was a way to achieve something, she would find a way to get it done.

Heather will continue to dedicate her time to volunteer work, in particular, as a much beloved Leader with Girl Guides of Canada, organizing fun educational activities ranging from selling those celebrated cookies, and weekend camping excursions in the woods. She will also continue singing in the church choir, and plans to travel and spend more time with her daughter and new son-in-law.

On behalf of everybody in the department, thank you Heather for your generosity of time, your dedication and devotion to this department and to all of its members. Congratulations on a job well done, and you will always be part of our Pathology family!

We wish you a wonderful and well-deserved retirement.

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### Academic Renewal Fund Research Competition

This past spring the Department of Pathology introduced its first annual Academic Renewal Fund Competition which aims to provide funding for new research projects and facilitate research carried out by members of the Department. The total amount of funding available for this competition is $50,000, to be divided into 1 award of $20,000, 2 awards of $10,000, and 2 awards of $5,000. The competition was open to all pathologists within the Department of Pathology at McGill University. Following the announcement in March, a total of 10 proposals were submitted by the deadline of May 15, 2015 and reviewed by the Departmental Research Committee. Congratulations to the following Principle Investigators on receiving their awards!

**$20,000 award:**

Manon Auger: *A pilot-study to test UroVysion in atypical or suspicious pancreatobiliary and upper urinary tract cytological specimens: can it improve the diagnostic accuracy?* (with Co-investigators: M. Blumenkrantz, F. Brimo, D. Caglar, Y. Kanber, and J. Lavoie)

**$10,000 awards**

Jason Karamchandani: *Next generation RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) of muscle biopsy mRNA (MBxRNA-seq) as a new diagnostic method.*

Atilla Omeroglu: *Back to basics – developing IHC surrogates for genomics-based assays in ER+/LN- breast cancer.*

**$5,000 awards**

Moy-Fong Chen and Tuyet Nhung Ton-Nu: *A Prospective Case Control Study Of Placental Pathology In Newborns With And Without Neonatal Encephalopathy.*

Dr. Sangeeta Sandhu: *Use of micro-CT to evaluate fetal cardiac congenital anomalies, a step towards virtual pediatric autopsy.*
Dr. David Haegert was recently featured in the Spring/Summer 2015 edition of MS Research, a publication of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. Dr. Haegert’s research involving the search for biomarkers that can predict the progression of disease in patients with progressive multiple sclerosis has garnered him the Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Alliance (PMSA) Challenge Award.

To read the full article please visit our website at: https://www.mcgill.ca/pathology/files/pathology/heagert_article-msr-eng-web.pdf

Congratulations Dr. Brimo!

In June 2015, Dr. Fadi Brimo was awarded the Junior Scientist Award by the Canadian Association of Pathologists (CAP/ACP); a prestigious award given only to one Canadian Scientist during the CAP annual meeting. As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Brimo’s research focuses on the morphologic, clinical, and basic science studies in the areas of tumors of the genitourinary tract.

CAP/ACP 2015 Annual Meeting

This year’s meeting was held in our fair city from June 20-24, 2015. The Canadian Association of Pathologists / Association canadienne des pathologistes (CAP/ACP), is a voluntary professional organization, that advances the interests of pathologists and promotes high quality standards for patient care by providing national leadership and promoting excellence in pathology and laboratory medicine practice, education and research. With twelve abstracts submitted to the meeting, once again our resident’s did an excellent job!

Residents’ News

Hats off to Dr. Livia Florianova (PGY3) who was awarded the Donald W. Penner Award for best poster by a resident at this year's CAP/ACP meeting. Entitled, Prediction of neoadjuvant treatment response in triple-negative breast cancer by evaluation of stromal tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes: one university-affiliated hospital experience.” L to R: Drs. Duc-Vinh Thai, (PGY2), Chelsea Maedler-Kron (PGY5), Chantal Bernard (PD), Amal Al-Odaini (PGY3), and Livia Florianova (PGY3)

Livia would like to acknowledge that this achievement was made possible under the supervision of Dr Olga Aleynikova (JGH), in collaboration with the clinical and basic research teams at the Lady Davis Institute of the JGH.

MUHC Pathology Department Innovations

The MUHC Department of Pathology strives for new innovations, which help day-to-day practice of various pathology activities. These include original ideas or tools which aim to improve the workflow. People are encouraged to nominate their innovations or those of their colleagues to Dr. Gao, Chief of Pathology, or Marie Vachon, Pathology Lab Administrator, for recognition by the department.

Any innovation deserves acknowledgment, but the best ones will be selected monthly and published within the department Quarterly Newsletter.

Mrs. Carla Reid was selected as the Pathology Department Innovator for the month of July, in recognition of her innovative frozen section technique referred to as the “Big Dipper”. Frozen sections, during intraoperative consults, are vastly improved by dipping the chunk of tissue into liquid nitrogen; however, it can be quite difficult to hold on to this chunk of tissue during the dipping process. The “Big Dipper” is a metal receptacle, reminiscent of a large tea ball (industrial sized) that holds the tissue securely inside of it. The “Big Dipper” is then lowered into the liquid nitrogen tank with a chain, much like preparing a cup of tea. The tissue is then left to “steep” briefly until it is frozen. The “Big Dipper” is then retrieved and the tissue is ready for sectioning.

We raise our teacups to you, Carla, for this excellent innovation!

Success at the Royal College Exams!

On behalf of all the Staff and fellow Residents, congratulations to our recent graduates Chantal Atallah, Marie-Josée Cardin, and Pierre-Olivier Fiset for successfully passing their Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada exams. We wish you every success in your future careers.

The department would also like to acknowledge the Staff for their continuous support and dedication in the teaching of our Residents.

Do you have a news story?

The McGill Department of Pathology Newsletter is published four times a year. It is available by email and on the Department webpage at http://www.mcgill.ca/pathology/newsletter. If you would like to submit an article or receive the newsletter by email, please contact the Editor at carolynna.olha@mcgill.ca