



The SQUARE



Message from the Chair

By Liane Feldman, MD

The arrival of fall begins a new academic year, with all the energy brought by the arrival of new residents, fellows, students and faculty members, but it also marks us coming to the end of the calendar year. Beginnings and endings present opportunities to reflect in gratitude for all that we have, and also to set goals and plan for the future. This is perhaps particularly relevant for 2023 as we are marking the **100-year anniversary of Dr Edward Archibald** being

appointed as the first chair of the McGill Surgical Department, organizing the teaching program in surgery and establishing a surgical research centre.

32nd

Fraser Gurd Day June 2, 2022

Fraser Gurd Day is always such an important moment in our academic year - a chance to present

highlights of our Department's research and celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating residents and fellows. One of the consequences of the pandemic was the impact on events such as Fraser Gurd Day, as we cancelled the event in 2020 and had a virtual event in 2021. Virtual platforms of course have been integral to our functioning these past years, enabling so many more people to participate across our many teaching and clinical sites, and even around the world. But we have also become even more aware of the importance of community on our well-being and how important it is to come together, sharing meals, marking life cycle events, and learning together. I was certainly hoping 2022 would be fully back to normal but with hospital rules minimizing meeting group numbers this was not to be. While grand rounds and the research day were again virtual, we were very happy to be able to celebrate our graduates and their guests at a slightly scaled down hybrid banquet which was also enjoyed by many others over Zoom.

We were privileged to welcome **Dr Susan Moffat-Bruce** as the 32nd Fraser Gurd visiting professor. Dr Moffat-Bruce is Chief Executive Officer of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, having assumed that role in January 2020. She is also professor of surgery in the division of thoracic surgery at the University of Ottawa. Dr Moffat-Bruce was born in London ON, completed her undergraduate degree at McGill University, and medical school and residency in General Surgery at Dalhousie University. She completed her PhD in Transplant Immunology at the University of Cambridge, England, and then went on to Cardiothoracic Surgery fellowship at Stanford

(See continuation on page 3) ➤



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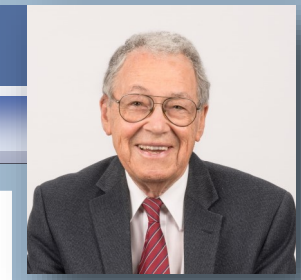
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Editor's Note

By Harvey Sigman, MD



The Square Knot, in celebration of the **Centenary** of the Department of Surgery of McGill University, has undergone a facelift post-Covid and the particular challenge of a two-years-in-one issue. This has been created by **Carolynna Olha**, our new Associate Editor. She has brought a wealth of experience to this position and it has been exciting, for me, to work with her. I wish to thank Liane Feldman, for her ongoing support and for making Carolynna available to me. At the same time, I wish to thank and pay tribute to **Derek Delisi** and **Ildiko Horvath** who assisted me in the past in producing a Square Knot, of which our Department could be very proud.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of **Doctors Jonathan Meakins** and **David Mulder** for their research and submissions on surgical leaders of the past who have brought our Department to the eminent position it holds today, in Canada and internationally. I have called on them, often, during my tenure as Editor, and they have always responded, graciously, and generously of their time.

I personally also learned much of the past through

following the links, both past and present, through the late **Tony**

Dobell, who had an early influence on me, but more importantly, as a pioneer in cardiac surgery, in Canada and the United States. These have been described in a separate article below.

The Department of Surgery lost a good friend in the past year, in the person of **Dr Alan Turnbull**. Alan was in Dr. Lloyd D. MacLean's resident cohort and left McGill to pursue his career at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He never really left McGill and kept coming back year after year for every important event that we celebrated. He is fondly remembered by the many surgeons who knew him, and, well presented by **Roger Tabah**, elsewhere in this issue.

I would like to remind our readers that all the previous issues of the Square Knot have been archived online. They are interesting to peruse since they provide a living history of our Department over 30 plus years. In addition, we welcome correspondence, from our readers from near and afar.

Harvey Sigman

LETTER to THE EDITOR

Dear Harvey,

We started acquiring prints just over 40 years ago. We had no goals, only the acquisition of things we liked, all 19th century or earlier. We had some difficulty with modern and contemporary works. When carefully examined in around 1990, it was clear we had many important pieces, but rather eclectic. There was no theme or direction. Fresh from discussing a student's thesis, having pushed the idea of focus, it was clear that our accumulation of prints was in the same state. Upon careful review, the theme, Dutch 16th and 17th century landscape and genre scenes, emerged and became over time the collection. The National Gallery of Canada (NGC) wished to create an exhibition:

[THE COLLECTOR'S COSMOS](#), which ran through the summer and fall of 2021.

Midway through the summer of 2021, we decided to donate the entire collection of 258 prints to the NGC. The process was completed, as it happens on our 50th wedding anniversary! It is now a travelling NGC collection, entitled

[Masters of Print:](#)

[Rembrandt & Beyond](#),

currently in Whistler, BC at the Audain Gallery of Art. It will then travel to Edmonton's Art Gallery of Alberta in November. The two websites each show thirteen different images in the collection.

We have recently given a significant collection of Ukiyo early 19th century Japanese woodblock prints to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Their theme is coherent with the Dutch collection.



Christ and the Woman of Samaria
Rembrandt Dutch 1658

With warm personal regards,
Joe

Editor's Note:

Thank you, Joe for sharing your long-standing passion for Art with our readers.

Harvey

*(Chair's Message
continued from page 1)*



University. She earned a Masters of Business Operational Excellence and an Executive Masters of Business Administration at the Fisher College of Business at the Ohio State University. Prior to her role at the Royal College, Dr. Moffat-Bruce served as executive director at The Ohio State University (OSU) Wexner

Medical Center University Hospital. As the OSU Wexner Medical Center's inaugural chief quality and patient safety officer from 2010-17, she led data analysis, transparent reporting of outcomes and process improvement for a seven-hospital academic medical center. Dr Moffat-Bruce is also a funded quality and outcomes research scientist who has published over 200 and book chapters, as well as 3 books. She was named to the Canadian medical hall of fame in 2021.

At Grand Rounds, Dr Susan Moffat-Bruce spoke on **"Learning Health Systems: Our Roles and Opportunities"**, laying out a vision for providing clinicians the tools and metrics to continuously learn from data and implement evidence into practice. This was followed by our annual research forum. We received over 110 abstract submissions this year, which is the most ever. **Dr Jake Barralet** and his team including **Ms Micha Huynh** created a program allowing for over 50 presentations, highlighting the many areas of research and innovation in our Department. This was organized into two synchronous streams: Clinical sciences including Outcomes and Education sessions, and Laboratory sciences including Basic and Translational science, Cancer research, and Device Intervention sessions. Each was chaired and co-chaired by department leaders in the field and we have specifically highlighted new voices for

those in new roles. Presentations were pre-recorded, then followed by live questions which helped keep everything on

32nd Annual Fraser Gurd Event



Surgical Outcomes Co-Chairs **Drs Stephanie Wong** and **Richard Garfinkle**

Keynote: Dr Wong, "Optimizing Surgical Decision Making in Women With Elevated Breast Cancer Risk"

Surgical Education Co-Chairs **Drs Melina Vassiliou** and **Jenny Moon**

Keynote: Dr Melina Vassiliou, "FLS 2.0-Coming to a Test Centre Near You"

Basic Science Co-Chairs **Dr Lisbet Haglund** and **Mr Li Li**

Keynote : Dr Lisbet Haglund, "Senolytic Therapy for IVD Related Chronic Low Back Pain in Mice and Men"

Cancer Research Co-Chairs **Drs David Labbé** and **Livia Garzia**

Keynote : Dr Labbé "Single-Cell Transcriptomics Uncovers Novel Therapeutic Strategies to Intercept"

Interventions Co-Chairs **Drs Amir Hooshier** and **Junko Tokuno**

Keynote : Dr Hooshier "Surgical Robots: Promises, challenges, and innovation"

(See continuation on next page) ➤

time during this busy morning. After a lunch break we re-convened for an excellent symposium on “*New Skills for Surgical Leadership*”.

This included:

Dr Susan Moffat-Bruce: *Dispelling leadership myths in surgery*
Dr Michael Tanzer: *Lessons learned from leading in crisis*
Dr Shannon Fraser: *Quality, Safety and Informatics*
Dr Jason Harley: *Enhancing teamwork*

I would like to congratulate all the speakers and presenters for the excellent quality of all the talks.



Research is a core mission of our department. Discovery and invention advance patient care, while our research training programs develop the next generation of innovative scientists and surgeons. Planning is critical for any organization. Failure to anticipate future needs and prioritize programs will impact our ability to effectively serve our patients, learners, faculty and communities. It had been nearly 10 years since our last strategic plan for research, a process that served us well and propelled the modernization and growth of our graduate program.

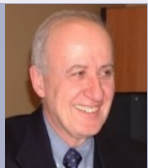
In some ways, the process of strategic planning is as important as the plan. Like everything else, we were challenged by the pandemic as we believed it vital to be in-person for at least some of this process. In the fall of 2021 we convened a group including representative internal and external stakeholders who first completed a survey and then met in October 2021 for a workshop that resulted in a draft research strategy framework. This was followed by a Department-wide survey resulting in further refinements. Although we were again delayed by the COVID wave of the winter of 2021-22, we were finally able to meet as a department for an in-person workshop in April 2022. Further work in small groups followed to draft priority initiatives stemming from the plan that would be specific, achievable, provide accountability and contain deadlines. Our goal is not only to create this roadmap but also ensure we establish the structures and processes that allows us to continually update the plan. The final version will be shared by the end of the year.

Robotics & Data Science Research Program

The future of surgery and interventional medicine will continue to evolve,

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Congrats! Fraser Gurd Awards



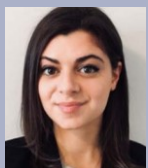
L.D. MacLean Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Antoine Loufti
General Surgery



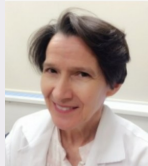
Outstanding Teacher Award, (Surgical Foundations)

Dr. Shannon Fraser
General Surgery



Harvey H. Sigman Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Nayla Gosselin-Papadopoulos
Orthopedic Surgery



Kathryn Rolph Award

Dr. Donna Tataryn
Orthopedic Surgery

AWARDS TO RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

Ross Adair Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Jenny Moon (General Surgery)
Dr. Carl Laverdiere (Orthopedic Surgery)
Dr. Ioana Fugaru (Urology)

"The Eddy" Edmond D. Monaghan Principles of Surgery Award

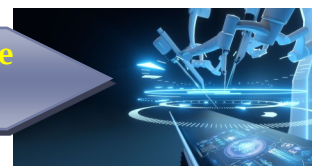
Dr. Alhaj

Kent Mackenzie Award for Educational Leadership and Excellence in Surgery

Dr Ahmed Naïem (Vascular Surgery)

George Gurunian Memorial Prize

Seta Derderian (supervisor: Dr Simone Chevalier)



Chair's Message *continued*

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becoming increasingly less invasive, safer and more precise, with better outcomes. Foundational to this process are the continued evolution of surgical robotics becoming smaller, cheaper and smarter) coupled with advances in data science connecting, integrating and interpreting preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative information. This has the potential to revolutionize decision making, provide decision support during operations and predict complications and outcomes. Our department already has many of the building blocks in place to continue to contribute in creating this future. A further step was accomplished in opening a Surgical Robotics Research Lab in July 2021 at the MGH, under the leadership of Amir Hooshier PhD. This will be a center of excellence for innovation, development, and validation of the next-generation surgical robots and associated technology such as technologies for pre-operative planning, intraoperative guidance, in-situ diagnostics, and patient outcome data analytics. In collaboration with clinicians, scientists and engineers from ours and other departments, Dr Hooshier has attracted peer-reviewed, philanthropic and industry funding, students and research staff for projects focused on next-generation soft and rigid surgical robots, risk-aware autonomous control algorithms, augmented and mixed reality-based surgical planning and navigation systems, and artificial intelligence-based patient outcome prediction models.

Renovation of the Osler Amphitheatre

As you may know, there was a flood in the Osler Auditorium in November 2020, which caused quite a bit of damage, and forced the MUHC to close the only amphitheatre in the MGH. We all have spent countless hours in the Osler as part of our Department's academic activities, as residents, alumni and faculty- grand rounds, visiting professors, town halls, academic half day, lectures, meetings, orientation sessions, video-conferences, research seminars... the list goes on and on. Now that we are



emerging from the pandemic we need to go back to in-person and hybrid academic activities and the loss of the Osler has been very disruptive. Lecture space is extremely limited at the glen and is under such demand that the single large amphitheatre at the RI is booked a year in advance.

The good news is that the MUHC has designed a new Osler Auditorium that would not only repair the damages caused by the flood, but would also modernize the amphitheatre to current norms and standards. This includes updating the electricity and ventilation systems but also redesign the space in order to obtain the quality of acoustics appropriate for use in an amphitheatre. In the era of hybrid events, new equipment and infrastructure is required. Finally, it won't come as a surprise that all of the chairs need to be replaced.

While the majority of the funding will come from Quebec's *Programme d'investissement en conservation des infrastructures* (PCFI), the MGH foundation has begun a campaign to raise \$500 000 as requested by the MUHC to finance part of the project and design an ultra-modern amphitheatre that would benefit our , scientists, trainees and staff for many years to come. While all donations, of any amount, will help enormously, a donation of \$10 000 (can be pledged over 5 years) will allow for naming a chair in the Osler. By the way, we are in a "friendly competition" with the other clinical departments to see who can provide the greatest support – I am confident that the Department of Surgery will prevail!

More information is available [here](#).



Edward W. Archibald First Chair of Surgery - McGill University's Faculty of Medicine 1923-1935

By Jonathan L. Meakins, MD

This year, 2023, is the 100th anniversary of the appointment of Edward William Archibald to the Chair of Surgery at McGill University's Faculty of Medicine. In 1990, the Edward W. Archibald Chair of Surgery was established and awarded to Lloyd D. MacLean, who had re-established at the Royal Victoria a similar culture of scientific inquiry linked to the development of innovative approaches to difficult surgical conditions. Today and in recent years, the Chair has been held by the Chair of the Department of Surgery. It is worth asking why this might be so and show how the named chair reflects the values and vision of the Department.

Archibald was an excellent student, winning the Gold Medal in Modern Languages in 1892 and graduating from medicine in 1896, having spent a term in Montpellier, France. Perfectly bilingual, he interned at the Royal Victoria for three years. Academic activities started early with a paper on 89 appendectomies in the hospital's annual report of 1898. Afflicted with tuberculosis in 1901, he spent time at the Trudeau Institute and recovered, with no recurrence. There followed three years in Europe, including time with Mikulicz, leading in 1904 to an appointment as assistant surgeon. James Bell, Surgeon in Chief, asked Archibald to be responsible for head injuries, leading to three months with Horsley at Queen's Square in London in 1906. He was effectively Canada's first neurosurgeon, writing a 378-page monograph titled, *Surgical Affection and Wounds of the Head*, which for 10 years was the standard text. He gave up neurosurgery with the recruitment of Wilder Penfield to the RVH in 1928, whose vision expanded to create the Montreal Neurological Institute, which opened in 1934.

He had a remarkable range of clinical interests, most of which he examined sufficiently deeply to publish. In about 1910, Pancreatitis became a passion and he worked on etiology and potential therapeutic approaches for many years, working independently in the lab scrounging resources. He linked the biliary system and pancreatitis, acute and chronic, and postulated that sphincterotomy could be a solution. He wrote extensively on gastroenterostomies and war wounds following his experiences in WWI.

The single clinical thread throughout his career was thoracic surgery, from his first publication in 1906 until his last in 1935. He did not originate thoracoplasty for the management of TB, but refined the techniques so that he was considered the master of the procedure. He first presented and published his results in 1912. In 1928, he established the Thoraco-Pulmonary Service, a combined clinical entity incorporating all relevant disciplines and a training program for surgeons wishing to do thoracic surgery, particularly thoracoplasty. Taking part in this program is how **Norman Bethune** arrived and in time joined the staff.



Edward W. Archibald

Archibald's interests then extended to Pneumonectomy and over time he developed his approach allowing him to do the first pneumonectomy with individual ligation of the vessels and the bronchial stump in July 1933.

With the retirement of Dr. Armstrong in 1923, internal squabbles arose over the appointment of the Surgeon in Chief at the Royal Victoria. Sir Vincent Meredith, supported by Professor Oertel, wanting the Chief to fill beds and not waste time on any academic activities, independently appointed Sir Henry Gray as Surgeon in Chief, over the wishes of the Medical Board. When Gray was dismissed in 1925, some inertia followed until January 1929, when Dr. Archibald was finally made Chief. Nevertheless, in the interregnum he was the *de facto* leader and organized the Department in a collegial manner to everyone's benefit. An example of his leadership is the creation of the Thoraco-Pulmonary Service.

Archibald's appointment to the Chair of Surgery in 1923 was independent of his position at the hospital. While disappointed about the appointment of Gray, being a perfect gentleman, he went about the business of creating a real university Department of Surgery, with an

(See continuation on page 20) >



Dr. H. Roche Robertson

McGill Chair in Surgery – 1959-1962
A Personal Recollection

By David S. Mulder, MD

My first contact with Dr. Robertson came in 1962 at a graduation banquet of the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Robertson was invited as the graduation speaker by Dr. Joe Stratford who was a faculty member of the Division of Surgery in Saskatoon, led by Dr. William Feindel. Dr. Stratford was our class president and I was fortunate to sit with Dr. Robertson at dinner. He questioned me on my career goals in Medicine. I replied that, inspired by Dr. Eric Nanson, I wanted to be a surgeon.

“Why don’t you come to the Montreal General Hospital?” was his enthusiastic reply. I stated that I hadn’t applied to the M.G.H. program and was going to do a rotating internship at the University Hospital in Saskatoon. He quickly stated “That’s O.K., just report to Mrs. McMurray in Dr. William Starnes office on the 6th floor on July 1, 1963, and you will have a job as a junior assistant resident in Surgery.” No contract only a handshake! Everything worked out despite family concerns that I didn’t have a letter or written confirmation of any kind.

I was disappointed to hear that Dr. Robertson had been appointed Principal of McGill University in December of 1962. Early in my M.G.H. residency, Dr. Robertson met with the group of residents he had appointed and assured us all that the new Surgeon-in-Chief – Dr. Fraser N. Gurd would take care of us. In the interval, Dr. Joe Stratford had returned to the M.G.H. recruited by Robertson and he welcomed my wife and I to Montreal and the M.G.H.

My next encounter with Dr. Robertson came in the spring of 1964 when we met at a Department of Surgery dinner and discussed my year to date. He suggested that every academic surgeon needed a career focus and he suggested that injury or trauma could be an interesting career direction. In discussing a paper on WWII, he emphasized that the most critical variable in the injured soldier was “the time from injury to definitive care.” He felt that Quebec and Canada were deficient in this regard. This

was very important advice and focused my career goals.

Dr. Robertson became Surgeon-in-Chief at the M.G.H. and Chair of Surgery at McGill on July 1, 1959. His appointment followed an external review of the McGill Department of Surgery at the R.V.H. and M.G.H.¹ This was an elite international committee consisting of Professor R. Milne Walker, University of Bristol; Dr. F.G. Kergin, University of Toronto; and Dr. Francis D. Moore from Harvard. The conclusion was that current departmental

activities were dominated by private practice with a lack of original research and educational activities. The need was to recruit “academic surgeons of the highest calibre.”

Dr. Robertson was a 1936 McGill graduate, and the first graduate to ever assume the office of Principal. His surgical residency was under the aegis of Dr. Fraser B. Gurd at the M.G.H. He served in World War II, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His war-time academic interest in wound infections and thrombo-embolic disease became his focus upon returning home to the University of British Columbia. He soon became the founding Chair of Surgery and acting Dean. An

international search led to his appointment as Surgeon-in-Chief at the M.G.H. and Chair of McGill Department of Surgery.

Richard Pound, in his book on Robertson’s career, describes him as a Surgeon and Shepherd of Change at McGill.² He notes the many changes at the M.G.H., including establishing a trauma unit and an infection unit in the hospital. He and D.G. Cameron were the beneficiaries of Percy Randall Waters bequest, which allowed the development of the McGill University Clinic on the 10th floor and the University Surgical Clinic on the 9th floor of the M.G.H. His planning notes emphasized the need for proximity of basic research space to clinical care. He quickly established the concept of geographic full-time faculty in his first two recruits. He also demanded



H. Roche Robertson

(See continuation on page 19) ➤



Links To The Past Dr. Anthony (Tony) Dobell (1927-2015)

By Harvey Sigman, MD

Preparation of this addition of the Square Knot, commemorating the Centenary celebration of the **100th anniversary of the McGill Department of Surgery** has been both a fascinating experience and a great challenge.

I reflected on some of those who played an important role on my own development. There were many mentors, but I chose **Tony Dobell** (1927-2015), who had the earliest influence on me during my residency. I began my residency in 1958 at the Montreal Children's Hospital. Tony had just joined the staff at MCH and was embarking on his own career as the first cardiac surgeon at McGill to dedicate his life, wholly, to cardiac surgery. It was the beginnings of open-heart surgery, and the early days were depressing, because the equipment was primitive and only the sickest children were selected for surgery.

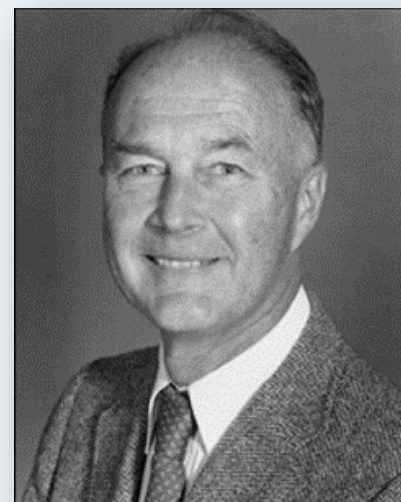
I often had the opportunity to chat with Tony, before and after operations, and was so impressed with his dedication to his patients and his humility, that I thought that to have these qualities was certainly as important as becoming a skilled surgeon.

In going through old Square Knots in the archives, in preparation for this issue, I found an article written by Dr.

Dobell in the Winter 2012 Edition, entitled *Early Cardiac Surgery at McGill: Reminiscences*, in which he described that a Dr. Mark Kaufmann, in Bermuda, influenced him to go into Surgery. The fact that one individual can influence a junior rotating intern, with no particular interest in surgery, to go into surgery, was

fascinating to me. It sent me on a quest to learn more. The quest itself became even more fascinating!

I found a video history of Dr. Dobell's life, an interview carried out with him by Dr. William S. Stoney, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Vanderbilt University, who carried out oral history interviews with every important cardiovascular surgeon in the



Tony Dobell, MD

USA and Canada, for the Eskin Biomedical Library at Vanderbilt.

Dr. Dobell's insights, and reflections on his life and experiences is so candid and reflective of his humility, that every surgical resident should have the opportunity to see it in preparation for a career in surgery, regardless of the specialty.

The reference to his career choice is as follows: Dr. Dobell said that while in

medical school at McGill, he was not interested in surgery. On graduation, he carried out a rotating internship at the MGH, (before the days of going directly into a surgical specialty). As part of the rotation, he was sent for a period to a small hospital, the King Edward VII Memorial

I became very impressed by a single surgeon, who paid great attention to his patients and performed with what I took to be admirable interest in his patients and in his surgical technique which was rather meticulous

First three Surgical Chiefs, Jewish General Hospital



Dr. Edward W. Archibald
1934



Dr. Alfred T. Bazin
1935



Dr. Mark Kaufmann
1936

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Academic Affairs

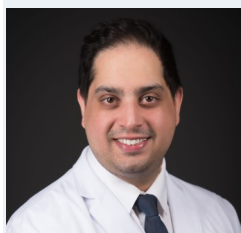


McGill

Department of Surgery

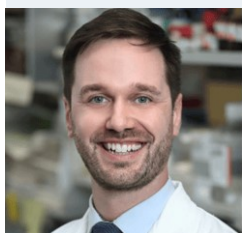
WELCOME

In Academic Affairs news, five new academic members have joined the Department of Surgery since July 2022.



Dr. Jas Singh recently joined the Department as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)** this past July to begin his practice specializing in **Functional and Reconstructive Urology and Neurourology** at the Jewish General Hospital, supplementing the excep-

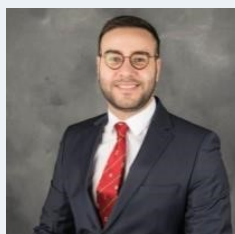
tional work being performed in the Division of Urology at McGill University. Dr. Singh was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he completed his medical training and residency in Urology at the University of Manitoba. Following completion of his fellowship with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2020, he then pursued subspecialty fellowship training in Reconstructive Urology at the University of Texas - MD Anderson Cancer Center and Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. He currently lives with his wife Simran and baby son, Kiaan.



Dr. Alexis Rompré-Brodeur also joined the **Division of Urology** starting the past July as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)**. Dr. Rompré-Brodeur's clinical practice will cover all urologic cancers with a research interest in

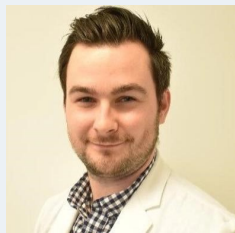
clinical trials, hereditary and genetically-defined renal cancer syndromes, metastatic renal cancer, high-risk prostate cancer, and metabolic imaging. He completed his bachelor's in biochemistry with honors and his medical school at Université de Montréal. He later pursued his residency training in urology at McGill University, before joining the National Cancer Institute of the National

Institutes of Health (NIH) in Maryland to pursue his Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) fellowship. Dr. Rompré-Brodeur is also finalizing a master's degree in health sciences from the Clinical Research Training Program at Duke University, North Carolina, which focuses on clinical trials and network meta-analyses.



Dr. Fadl Hamouche also joined the **Division of Urology** as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)** in July 2022. Dr. Hamouche's clinical practice will covers all aspects of kidney stone

disease management, voiding dysfunction, and ureteral reconstruction. He started his medical education at Université Paris-Saclay in Paris, France before joining the University of Sherbrooke, where he graduated in 2015. He then completed his residency training in urology at McGill University where he developed an interest in kidney stone disease. In 2020, he pursued a society-accredited fellowship in Endourology at UCSF, with a focus on Ultrasound-guided percutaneous surgeries, benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostate enucleation procedures, and ureteral reconstruction. He is also an MPH candidate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg school of Public Health where he is currently pursuing his Master's degree with an interest in health policies and health economics.



Dr. Robert-James Doonan joined the **Division of Vascular Surgery** as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)** Sept. 1, 2022. Before joining McGill as a Clinician Investigator, Dr. Doonan

completed an Aortic Fellowship in Liverpool, UK. As a recipient of the Tomlinson Award, Dr. Doonan was awarded the financial support needed to initiate his clinical research program focusing on aortic pathology and aortic surgery at McGill and the MUHC.

[\(See continuation on next page\) ➤](#)

Academic Affairs



McGill

Department of Surgery

WELCOME



Dr. Rafael Galli joined the **Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery** as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)** in December 2022. He is a craniofacial surgeon from Brazil with a strong interest in clinical innovation and cutting-edge research. Before joining the faculty, Rafael came to McGill in 2015 to pursue a two-year fellowship in Craniofacial Surgery. He then went on to complete an additional two-year fellowship in Surgical Innovation, and holds a MSc Degree in Experimental Surgery.

Congrats! PROMOTIONS FALL 2022



Dr. Marylise Boutros
Full Professor (Clinical)
General Surgery



Dr. Lee Lawrence
Associate Professor (Clinical)
General Surgery



Dr. Derek Rosenzweig
Associate Professor (Clinical)
Orthopedic Surgery

Congrats! PROMOTIONS SPRING 2022



Dr. David Labbé
Associate Professor (Research)
Division of Urology



Dr. Sender Liberman
Full Professor (Clinical)
General Surgery



Dr. Tarek Razek
Associate Professor (Clinical)
General Surgery



Dr. Steven Paraskevas
Full Professor (Clinical)
General Surgery

McGILL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

**33RD ANNUAL
FRASER N. GURD
VISITING PROFESSOR**



MELINA R. KIBBE, MD, FACS

JUNE 8th, 2023

RI-MUHC AMPHITHEATRE (GLEN SITE)

ZOOM ACCESS ALSO AVAILABLE:

<https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/81944324101>



Research

By Jake Barralet, BEng (Hons), PhD

Vice Chair, Research, McGill Department of Surgery
Scientific Director of Clinical Innovation Platform, MGH/RI-MUHC



RESEARCH RETREAT

The Department of Surgery concluded its research strategic exercise last summer. This exercise was structured as a two-phase approach: 1) pre-retreat working group, and 2) a department-wide retreat to present the draft research strategy and collect feedback from all departmental members.

At the Pre-retreat, participants included key research representatives from all six surgical divisions, as well as external stakeholders from within the Department's collaborative research community.

Pre-Retreat Participants

Jake Barralet, Vice Chair (Research) Surgery, Research Director, Orthopedic Surgery

Benoit Boulet, Associate Vice Principal, Innovation & Partnerships

Yolande Chan, Dean, Desautels Faculty of Management

Rhian Thouyz, CSO, RI-MUHC

Renzo Cecere, Chair, Cardiac Surgery

Simone Chevalier, Research Director, Urology

Liane Feldman, Chair, Dept. of Surgery, McGill

Lorenzo Ferri, Chair, Thoracic Surgery

Julio Fiore, Outcomes Director, General Surgery

Heather Gill, Research Director, Vascular Surgery

Ed Harvey, Director of IRR, Orthopedic Surgery

Kevin Lachapelle, Vice Chair Education, Cardiac Surgery

Fackson Mwale, Graduate Program Director, Orthopedic Surgery

Steven Paraskevas, Research Chair, General Surgery

Anie Philip, Research Chair, Plastic Surgery

George Zogopoulos, Director Precision Oncology, General Surgery

During the pre-retreat session, participants were asked to analyze the Departmental survey results, sent out a few weeks prior to the event. Discussions and concerns raised during the session helped to build the draft strategy.

The pre-retreat discussions and survey results helped to shape the research strategic framework, and to consolidate our mission, vision, and values as the following:

Mission

To provide the highest-quality patient-centered surgical care, perform innovative research, and train the next generation of surgeons and scientists.

Vision

To be Canada's leading academic surgical department, improving outcomes and quality of care through impactful research, innovation, and training

Values

Excellence – to produce world-class results

Collaboration – to yield interdisciplinary breakthroughs

Empathy – for patients, learners, faculty and staff

Creativity – to drive meaningful innovation and discovery

Inclusivity – for a supportive, welcoming & productive environment

During the Department-wide retreat, the preliminary strategic framework was presented and discussions on each pillar and cross-functional capability were directed by the relevant leaders in the research field.

Pillar Leaders

Surgical Outcomes & Quality:

Dr. Marylise Boutros & Julio Fiore, PhD

Personalized Medicine:

Drs. Liane S Feldman & George Zogopoulos

Surgical Education:

Dr Melina Vassiliou & Jason Harley, PhD

Oncology: Dr Lorenzo Ferri & David Labbé, PhD

(See continuation on next page) ➤

Research

(Research Retreat continued)

Cross Functional Capabilities

Translation-Innovation: Dr Gerald Fried, Fackson Mwale, PhD

Data Science: Dr Lawrence Lee

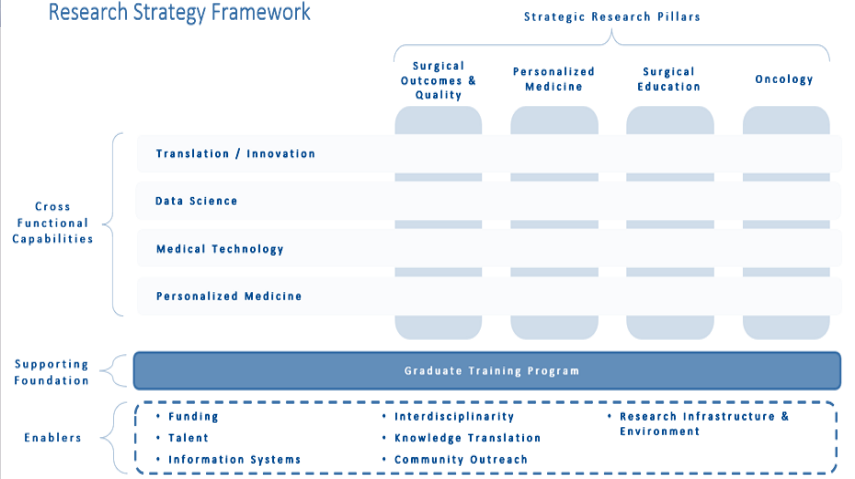
Medical Technology: Amir Hooshir, PhD

Personalized Medicine: Anie Philip, PhD and Steven Paraskevas, MD PhD

The end product of the research retreat delivered more detailed objectives for each pillar and cross-functional capability. These have been drafted and will be published on the Department's website in December 2022. We are very eager to present you with the official strategy and keep you updated on its implementation.

We thank our research leader and members of the Department who participated at our research retreat.

Research Strategy Framework



CATEGORY

DEFINITION

Strategic Research Pillars

Research domains uniting multiple practice areas around common points of interest

Cross-Functional Capabilities

Methods and expertise that enable effective research within the verticals

Supporting Foundations

Essential elements upon which all other activities rest

Enablers

Underpinning elements that support implementation and sustainable success

Can you find yourself in this photo ?

Are you sure?

Details can be found [here](#).



Surgical Education

By Melina Vassiliou, MD

Vice Chair, Education, McGill Department of Surgery
Surgical Education Adair Family Chair

My interest in the science and psychology of education allowed me to approach my new role as Associate Chair of Surgical Education with enthusiasm at the prospect of shaping the future of surgical education. 2022 was my first year assuming the responsibilities of this important role and it has been a privilege to bear witness to the resilience and dedication our surgeons and students have demonstrated during the pandemic and its aftermath.

Meeting with all the key stakeholders in the Department, I began the year with a clear objective of understanding the current needs, strengths and challenges facing each of our six surgical divisions to identify areas of greatest priority, while at the same time acknowledging their successes. Efforts to improve the learning environment will also consider the various stages of one's surgical career cycle, from medical student to surgeon retirement, and provide opportunities for stakeholders with common interests and goals to network and share ideas, knowledge, and resources.

Surgical Education Retreat

On September 20, 2022, we held our first in-person Surgical Education Retreat at the eco-friendly Maison du Développement Durable, which brought together Program Directors, leaders in Undergraduate medical education, education scholars and Program administrators for an afternoon of guided interactive discussions. Our primary goal for this group is to create a community of practice whereby common tasks are pooled and support for creative projects is readily accessible. The retreat offered a much needed opportunity to connect and identify mutual concerns, areas of interests and potential opportunities for collaboration. Main themes emerging from the inaugural retreat included, **bureaucratization and workload, recognition and role clarity, surgical culture and pedagogy, politics and the challenges of implementing change.** Feedback from participants was very positive and we will continue to meet regularly to better understand and address these important and relevant issues. Huge thanks to

Christine Raneburger and Carolynna Olha who organized and planned the retreat in addition to participating in it!



New Surgical Education Group

The Surgical Education Group, led by Drs. Maryam Wagner and Carlos Gomez-Garibello has been re-instated following a pandemic-imposed hiatus. The purpose of this group is to create a community of people linked together by their common interests in Surgical Education, from teaching to research. The overall goal will be to forge relationships and collaborations between different individuals and groups by providing a forum for surgeons, education scholars and researchers to meet and discuss research ideas and get feedback on innovative education projects. The inaugural meeting was held on Oct 21, 2022, and it was a great first step in bringing people together with a better understanding of what the needs are and how this Group can serve the Surgical Education community.



You can read more about the [New Surgical Education Group](https://healthnews.mcgill.ca/after-a-pandemic-imposed-pause-mcgills-surgical-education-group-returns/) by clicking here: <https://healthnews.mcgill.ca/after-a-pandemic-imposed-pause-mcgills-surgical-education-group-returns/> and ALL are encouraged to get involved! Let us know what your interests are and how this group can provide value to the Surgical Education community at McGill by emailing us at surgeryeducation@mcgill.ca.

(See continuation on next page) ➤

Surgical Education

Accomplishment Highlights

The Department of Surgery would like to acknowledge all accomplishments in Surgical Education over this past year.

Congrats!

Appointees to the Faculty Honour List



Dr. Dan Deckelbaum
Assistant Professor (Clinical)
Trauma & General Surgery
(2021– 2022)



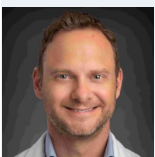
Dr. Stephane Bergeron
Full Professor (Clinical)
Orthopedic Surgery
(2022—2023)



Dr. Tarek Razek
Associate Professor (Clinical)
General Surgery
(2022—2023)

Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Awards

► **CAME Certificate of Merit** is awarded to promote, recognize and reward faculty committed to medical education in Canadian medical schools.



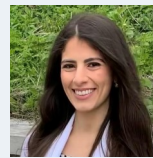
Dr. Simon Bergman is this year's recipient of the CAME Certificate of Merit award in recognition of his innumerable contributions to Surgical Education at McGill, and in particular, to his many years of hard work and dedication in undergraduate education.

► **CAME Rising Star Award** is intended to recognize residents who have demonstrated a commitment and/or passion for medical education.



Dr. Olivier Vaillancourt is a fifth-year resident in Cardiac Surgery at McGill University with a bright future. He was

awarded the CAME Rising Star award for his contributions in Cardiac Surgery through the Residency Program and Simulation Committees. In addition to excelling clinically and showing dedication to his patients, he has been strong leader and advocate for his fellow residents, ensuring their voices are heard on both university and provincial levels.



Isabella Bozzo is a fourth-year medical student at McGill University, was awarded the CAME Rising Star award for her contributions to research and clinical innovation in orthopedic surgery. Prior to medicine, Isabella was designing biomedical devices and surgical simulation software in pursuit of her Mechanical engineering degree. Her ultimate goal is to apply her background in biomechanics research to innovate clinical tools that can improve patient outcomes. In the words of one of her mentors, Dr. Mitchell Bernstein, *"she is the most impactful medical student I have met in the past 10 years of my career"*.

Division of Surgical Education

Future plans include envisioning the creation of a **Division of Surgical Education** which will help to showcase all of the amazing people involved and ongoing projects. The Surgical Education website will also be redesigned with more function and purpose to better meet our needs.

Surgical Grand Rounds

Finally, Surgical Grand Rounds continues to offer thought-provoking topics by outstanding speakers and virtual attendance has been a great success! We recently hosted our first in a series of Surgical Education rounds which included a fascinating panel on the role of Artificial Intelligence in Surgical Education, [*Hey Siri! What is Artificial Intelligence in Surgical Education?*](#).

Keep on the lookout for upcoming [Grand Rounds](#), and possibly an extended grand rounds from well-known author [Christine Porath](#)!



Faculty Development

By Kevin Lachapelle, MD

Vice Chair, Academic Affairs, McGill Department of Surgery

The Department of Surgery has tried to foster excellence and support Staff to attain their full potential as academic surgeons and members of the surgical community. In January 2022, the Department inaugurated its Faculty Development stream to further support our surgical community. It is an effort to make support explicit and directive.

Faculty Development is different from Maintenance of Competence or Continuing Education. Although all involve expanding one's knowledge and skill, the latter generally refer to enhancing one's medical or surgical acumen and are usually specialty specific. Faculty Development is more focused on what one may define as "Soft Skills". These skills are considered separate from pure Surgical expertise and are rarely part of a typical training program.

The traditional Faculty of competent academic surgeons is necessary for success, but it is no longer sufficient. There are many skills which are not formally addressed during the life cycle of a surgeon. These are essential for a productive, balanced, and meaningful surgical career. These skills have been learned by observing our peers, trial and error, and hoping osmosis would infuse the necessary knowledge and approach. How do you become an effective Leader, Educator, or Communicator? How do you maintain a work-life balance and avoid burn-out? How do you remain resilient despite continual change and challenges? How do you foster and encourage diversity?

Faculty Development is a ubiquitous function of any School of Medicine, and it has a long tradition within the Faculty of Medicine at McGill. However, the practice of surgery is a unique blend of doctor-patient relationship, high stakes intervention, technology, and teamwork. We believe there is a need for Faculty Development focused on our surgical reality.

Our First Faculty Development Offering :

The Surgical Leadership Program

The McGill Department of Surgery, in partnership with the Desautels Faculty of Management/Executive Institute, have created a unique Leadership Program for Surgeons to fill a need in our healthcare system. This program is the first of its kind in Canada, and one of a handful of programs in the world. The idea behind the development of this course stems from an unmet need within surgical training programs, and a realization among surgeons that they lack the necessary training for many leadership roles. The Program offers a series of leadership development courses for surgeons to enhance their skills and qualities in order to become more effective leaders.



Surgeons can hold leadership roles on Departmental Committees, Divisions, and Training Programs. Surgeons are also researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and are exceedingly involved in the wider medical community. All of these activities are directly related to improving patient outcomes. The Program was intentionally designed to consider all of these factors to help strengthen a surgeon's leadership potential to promote better managers, teams, and workplace positivity and efficiency.

The three-month Program consists of eight three-hour sessions delivered on a weekly basis. The program is structured around three main themes: Essential Leadership, Financial Management and Conflict Resolution.

(See continuation on next page) ►

Faculty Development

The first cohort included 15 surgeons and research scientists representing all six divisions of the Department. We received excellent feedback from our first cohort and are thrilled to announce that with a generous \$100K donation from **James and Dana Wessel**, we have the funds to secure delivery of the Surgical Leadership Program for the next three years. These funds were donated in memory of **Dr. Edward Archibald**, a world renowned surgeon and former leader within the McGill Department of Surgery.

The next session of [the Program](#) will launch again in September 2023.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCAN ME



“

It was a great experience and definitely worthwhile!

Dr Joshua Vorstenbosch

“

The course was valuable and should be continued!

Dr Ron Dimentberg

“

Great program, geared to offer a non-medical/surgical perspective on how to improve as a leader from experts in leadership, communications, finance, and conflict resolution. Great lecturers and a format that limits the disruption to clinical activities. Would recommend this course to anyone who is interested and dedicated to self-improvement

Dr Jean-Sebastien Pelletier



Congrats!

**First Cohort
2022**



REFLECTIONS

By Gerald M. Fried, MD

Associate Dean for Education Technology and Innovation

Director of the Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning

After dedicating 10 years as McGill Chair of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief of the MUHC, I wondered, *what next?* I was not ready to retire to the couch and there was only so much tennis I could play in a day. I really thought there was more I could contribute, but after 40 years, it was time to transition out of the clinical practice of surgery.

For the past 30 years, I have been passionate about surgical education, especially the role of simulation to teach and assess surgical skills. My experience in developing the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Program and subsequently the Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) was incredibly rewarding, and taught me a great deal about the opportunity for scholarship and innovation in surgical training. My academic success and the leadership opportunities that ensued came on the foundation of my work in surgical education.

When considering the next chapter of my career, I am extremely grateful to Dean David Eidelman and Vice Dean (Education) Annette Majnemer for selecting me to direct the **Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning (SCSIL)** for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and for appointing me as the inaugural **Associate Dean for Education Technology and Innovation**. The SCSIL has been led by surgeons since its inception 20 years ago, and I am particularly grateful to Dr. Kevin Lachapelle for his vision in designing this amazing facility, and for his leadership as the original director. After 10 years, the Sim Centre could boast 12,000 learner visits per year, yet could not meet demand. Expansion, thanks to the generosity of Arnold Steinberg and the community, brought the Sim Centre to its current 31,000 square feet, and we now offer training to 18,000 learners per year, including med students, residents and practicing physicians from McGill and outside. We also train nurses, physical and occupational therapists, paramedics, inhalation therapists, Canadian Department of Defence, NASA astronauts, and

informal caregivers in the community. It is truly exhilarating to watch our students learn by doing, engaged in their experience, and to know that simulation training is effective, efficient, and safe.

When I started in this position in January 2020, I was asked to develop an online learning program to reach learners who could not easily get to our centre, scale our learning programs, make in-person training more effective and efficient through a blended learning approach, and create revenue by distributing our content worldwide. Unfortunately, I had no experience or skills in online learning, but I understood the vision. As I was mulling how best to accomplish this, less than two months later the COVID19 Pandemic was upon us, and the urgency of online learning grew by several orders of magnitude. We conducted a virtual search and were delighted to select

Professor Tamara Carver to be the inaugural Director of the EdTECH Office. She started in August 2020 and has built a

remarkable program with a team of instructional designers,



Dr. Yo Kurashima

a script writer, videographer and editor, graphic designer, and sound technician. Together, we raised funds from the community to support this program and to build a state-of-the-art film and sound studio. The professional quality of their

It is truly exhilarating to watch our students learn by doing, engaged in their experience, and to know that simulation training is effective, efficient, and safe.

[\(See continuation on next page\) ➤](#)

(Gerald M. Fried continued from previous page)

products is amazing! We are committed to ensuring that this online content is as engaging and interactive as our in-person offerings. The combination of online modules with in-person simulation training increases the outcome of the simulation training and is available to reinforce the hands-on experience and to refresh the learner over time.

Fifteen years ago, I was invited to present my work on surgical education at the International Society of Digestive Surgery congress in Yokohama, Japan. At that meeting, **Dr. Yo Kurashima**, a surgeon from Hokkaido University in Sapporo, approached me, inspired by the work we had done at McGill on simulation training for laparoscopic surgery. After meeting him over lunch and hearing about his passion for education, I agreed to welcome him to McGill where he spent three years learning about the use of simulation for procedural training, and how to measure performance. It was a wonderful experience for both of us. Dr. Kurashima is now Associate Professor and Director of



Dr. Yusuke Watanabe

Simulation Training at Hokkaido University, and launched a new Japanese Society of Surgical Education that now attracts hundreds of surgeons and trainees to its annual meeting.

After he returned to Japan, Dr. Kurashima asked if we could accept his colleague from Hokkaido University, **Dr. Yusuke Watanabe**. Dr.

Watanabe also spent a very productive three years with us. We have continued to welcome a series of surgeons to our Department as education scholars ever since, and with the generous support of Satoko and Richard Ingram in more recent years, we can continue to deliver.

Our current Japanese education scholar is **Dr. Junko Tokuno**, a thoracic and lung transplant surgeon from Kyoto University. She completed her Masters in Experimental Surgery (Education Concentration) and is now continuing on as a Simulation Fellow. Her thesis work, on a blended online-in person curriculum to teach chest tube insertion, has been incorporated into our

surgical curriculum, and she is now working on adding a virtual reality component to this curriculum.

Sometimes it is hard to appreciate how the work we do at McGill resonates internationally. This past December I was delighted to receive an

membership in the **Japanese Society for Endoscopic Surgery**. In his presentation of this award Congress President, **Dr. Ichiro Uyama**, cited my contributions to education in the field of minimally invasive surgery internationally and in teaching a generation of surgical educators in Japan.

As I look to the future of surgical education, I see the time has come to rethink how we train residents. The technological opportunities, such as simulation, online



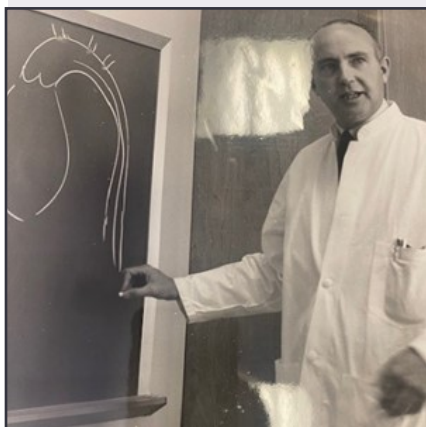
Dr. Ichiro Uyama

learning, virtual and augmented reality, and artificial intelligence will catalyze these changes. It is important that we develop evidence to guide us on how to use these modalities optimally to ensure that future generations of surgeons will be prepared to meet the demands of modern surgical practice.

The American College of Surgeons and the American Surgical Association, in collaboration with the American Board of Surgery, have recently convened a task force, called the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Surgical Education II, to develop a blueprint for the education of future surgeons. I am excited to be part of this team and hope that I can bring the McGill and Canadian contributions to surgical education to my colleagues and have at least a small hand in this important effort.

It has been a wonderful journey!

(Rocke Robertson continued from page 7)



that each surgeon have a specific area of academic interest, leading to publications and presentations at surgical meetings. This included the concept of specialty clinics. Dr. Robertson introduced the concept of one-year of dedicated surgical research in the early

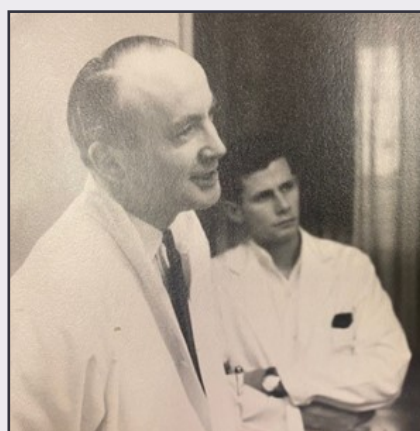
years of surgical residency. This allowed the resident to achieve a McGill degree in Experimental Surgery. Fraser N. Gurd was appointed Director of the University Surgical Clinic and recruited Dr. Gustavo Bounous who worked with Gurd and Hope McArdle, Ph.D. on hypotensive shock and parenteral nutrition. Dr. Robertson totally revamped education in Surgery for McGill students. He provided bedside professorial rounds on ward L or M every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. These were classics on patient care where he used a Socratic method to make his points. He made monumental changes in the physical plant and the modus operandi of the M.G.H. and indeed the entire McGill Department of Surgery. He was instrumental in the recruitment of Dr. L.D. MacLean from the Wangenstein Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota. He clearly qualified as a Shepard of Change for the M.G.H. during a three-year time frame. Pound's book also details the Robertson impact on McGill University as Principal.

How well I recall the day I received my M.Sc. degree from McGill and from Dr. Robertson in his role as Principal. He not only shook my hand, but gave me a bear hug and took time to ask about my wife and family, remembering all details. Some years later, I asked about his ability to recall names and personal details. He told me he kept a 3" x 5" cue card after interviews with residents and students, and went back to them as needed.

One of my most memorable encounters with Dr. Robertson and his wife took place in his retirement home outside of Ottawa (South Mountain). Dr. Rea Brown and I drove from Montreal in a blinding blizzard probably in 1994-5. We went to discuss the naming of a Rocke Robertson Professorship in Trauma Surgery. Dr. Robertson had prepared a roast chicken dinner and welcomed us with open arms. He agreed to our development of a named professorship which continues to 2023 with the 27th

Robertson visitor. His charm and personality that day included many aspects of his life in Surgery and as Principal at McGill. He recalled his feeling of support from his "boys" related to the 1968 student protests, by a visit from Rea Brown and other M.G.H. residents offering to provide a protection gang (voluntary bodyguards).

Rocke Robertson was one of the first to congratulate me on assuming the position as Surgeon-in-Chief at the M.G.H. and later the first recipient of the H. Rocke Robertson Professorship in Surgery at McGill. He met for a photo



with Alan G. Thompson, Fraser N. Gurd and I at a reception in Livingston Hall.

While I had casual yearly contacts with Rocke over his final years, I was surprised to get a call from his son Tam Robertson

informing me of his death and asking if I would consider giving a eulogy at his funeral. I was honored and privileged. Rocke Robertson was a giant physically, mentally, socially, and personality wise. He played a pivotal role in many aspects of my life and as an academic surgeon. I am forever indebted.

References:

Gurd, Fraser A: "The Gurd, The Montreal General and McGill. A Family Saga". Edited by Douglas Waugh, General Store Publishing House 1996.

Pound, Richard W: "Rocke Robertson: Surgeon and Shepard of Change". Montreal McGill Queen's University Press 2008.



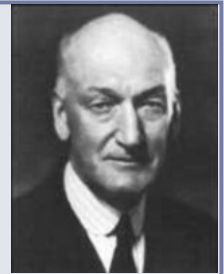
(EW Archibald continued from page 6)

emphasis on education and research. The undergraduate teaching program was strengthened utilizing the resources of the Montreal General and the Royal Victoria Hospitals. Archibald already had a widely recognized reputation for an inquisitive mind with productive research programs in North America and Europe. With the support of the Dean, C.F. Martin, a Rockefeller grant, with sponsorship from the Hospital and University, was acquired and in 1929 the Division of Surgical Research was established and continued long after he retired.

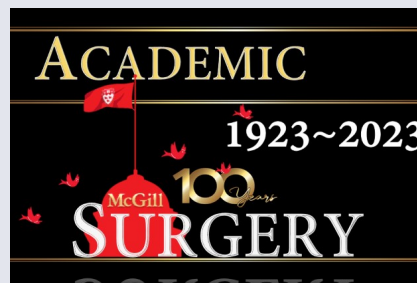
The program was very successful at developing a cadre of surgeons, many coming on staff and earning graduate degrees in basic physiology, with **Dr. Arthur Vineberg** being the first PhD to graduate. He and Dr. Gallie from Toronto were the first two examiners in surgery for the Royal College. His involvement with education for medical students, the training program in thoracic surgery and experience as examiner focused his thoughts on the status of the profession within society and the need for standards within the surgery. These ideas were highlighted in his 1935 Presidential address to the American Surgical Association: *"Higher Degrees in the Profession of Surgery"*. Immediately following his address, Evarts Graham formed

a committee which led directly to the formation of the American Board of Surgery with the first examinations being held in 1937.

In all these activities, he exemplified the characteristics of a remarkable academic surgeon and has been a role model for generations of McGill surgeons.

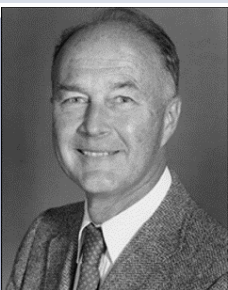


Dr. Feldman would like to celebrate Dr. Archibald's appointment and his establishment of the values of an Academic Department of Surgery. She has suggested the coordination of a manuscript describing the evolution and development of the McGill Department of Surgery over the



last 100 years. In that light, the Division Heads, Faculty leaders and department alumnae will be contacted for significant events in their Divisions and/or the Department.

(Tony Dobell continued from page 8)



Hospital in Bermuda. It was there that he had the opportunity to work with **Dr. Mark Kaufmann**.

Dr. Dobell said in the interview: "After graduation I became interested in surgery". "I became very impressed by a single surgeon," "who paid great attention to his patients and performed

with what I took to be admirable interest in his patients and in his surgical technique which was rather meticulous".

This stimulated me to search for information about Dr. Kaufmann. The findings were interesting, particularly in regard to the theme of this issue. The RVH Annual Report of the 1920s shows that Dr. Archibald, as Chief of Surgery, had several Clinical Assistants in his department of surgery at the RVH. Three of them had a significant impact on our surgical legacy. Dudley Ross became Chief of Surgery at the Montreal Children's Hospital from 1937-1954. Gavin Miller became Chief of Surgery at the RVH, where he was a leader in GI surgery and Department Chair from 1947-52. Mark Kaufmann became Chief of Surgery at the JGH,

two years after it opened its doors in 1934.

Dr. Sherif Emil described in the Square Knot, Winter 2012, that Dr. Ross, in 1938, was the first surgeon in Canada to repair a congenital heart defect and one decade later, the first in Canada to successfully repair an esophageal atresia. Dr. Mark Kaufmann was Chief of Surgery at the JGH from 1936-1952 at which point he relocated in Bermuda.

Interestingly, when the JGH opened in 1934, it appointed prominent McGill physicians as chiefs of major departments, including **Edward Archibald**, of the RVH as Chief of Surgery 1934-35, followed by **Alfred T. Bazin**, of the MGH in 1935-36

I found these links going back about 100 years up to the near present, including that of Tony Dobell who is still remembered well as one of Canada's most renowned surgeons of the late 20th and early 21st centuries as fitting for this special Square Knot.

WATCH an Interview with Dr. Dobell on his beginnings in Cardiac Surgery at McGill

100 years of Academic Surgery

Chronology of Academic Chairs 1923–2023





Division of Cardiac Surgery



IPSC-Derived Cardiomyocytes

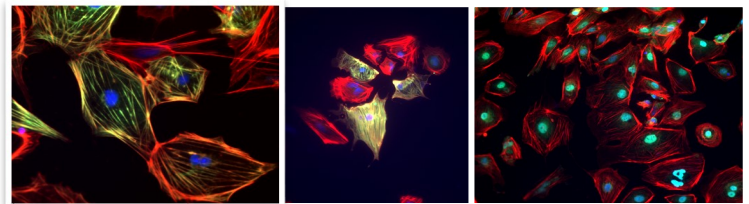
by Renzo Cecere

The **Myocardial Regeneration Lab** at the RI-MUHC, led by

Dr. Renzo Cecere, has been developing a pipeline to generate patient specific heart cells since 2020. These induced-pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes are produced from peripheral blood and can be used for disease modelling, predicting patient-specific outcomes after cell injury, and screening of therapeutic drugs. While it is undeniable that these cells hold incredible clinical relevance, we were captivated by their beauty during the validation

process, where we ensure that the end product is truly of cardiac lineage.

We included cells stained with GATA4, SERCA2a and cardiac troponin T (in green), DAPI (in blue) and actin (in red). The overlap of colors creates a stunning visual and highlights the success of the first step of our work with these cells.



Cardiovascular Robotics and Artificial Intelligence



Surgical Robotics Centre (SRC): Surgical Innovation with Next-generation Robotics & AI

by Amir Hooshidar

The field of medical robotics has rapidly grown in recent years, offering healthcare professionals unprecedented features for preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

Examples of medical applications for robotic manipulators include:

- Exoskeletons and prosthetics.
- Teleoperated diagnostic systems (such as ultrasound imaging).
- Minimally invasive surgery through endoscopic, laparoscopic, intraluminal and endoluminal approaches.
- Robot-assisted rehabilitation systems.

In response to the global need for innovative solutions to ever-growing surgical needs, the Department of Surgery has taken the initiative in establishing its technological hub for

surgical innovation, specifically in the area of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics. In June 2021, the Department established the Surgical Robotics Centre (SRC) to develop technologies that leverage clinical data-driven AI and robotics for clinical needs in four major spheres: diagnostics, therapy and intervention, outcomes, and education.

The Department of Surgery has over a decade of experience training surgical innovators through its Experimental Surgery and Surgical Innovation programs. Residing at the heart of the Montreal General Hospital - in proximity to knowledge users including healthcare professionals and leaders, surgeons, clinicians, nurses, educators, and first responders - the SRC is well-poised to offer a thriving environment for faculty, staff, and students concerning genuine innovations toward answering their clinical needs. Also, partnering with the Research Institute's Clinical Innovation Platform (CLIP), positions SRC's innovators at the sweet spot for making their innovations translation-ready.

(See continuation on next page) ➤

Surgical Robotics Centre (SRC) continued

SRC research has been supported by research grants and awards from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Fond de Recherche du Quebec (FRQ), Montreal General Hospital Foundation, and McGill University. This research has been featured at flagship conferences and resulted in more than twenty publications in journals recognizing biomedical and engineering disciplines.

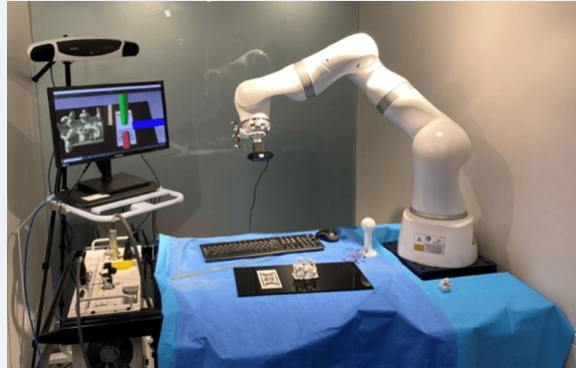
More specifically, our SRC-Kinova collaboration is being supported by NSERC's highly competitive Alliance Mission Grant, which is aimed at addressing critical science and technology challenges that have the potential to play a pivotal role in Canada's economy. Kinova, a QC-based company, is Canada's only medical robot manufacturer and a long-time industrial partner of the Department. This collaboration is focused on developing the next-generation smart robotic platforms for robot-assisted laparoscopic surgery, and is being led by the Department Chair, **Dr. Liane Feldman**, **Dr. Jake Barralet** (Vice-chair of Research), **Dr. Javad Dargahi** (Mechanical Engineering Dept., Concordia), and **Dr. Amir Hooshier** (Director of the SRC).

The SRC's research on the next-generation soft robotic catheters for mitral valve repair recently received the prestigious and highly competitive FRQ Audace Grant. This research features a collaboration between the Department of Surgery and the Computer Science Department of Concordia University and is being led by **Dr. Amir Hooshier** (the Director of the SRC), **Dr. Renzo Cecere** (the Head of Cardiac Surgery Division), **Dr. Jake Barralet** (Vice-chair of Research), and Dr. Thomas Fevens (Concordia).

The SRC's successful collaboration with Cardiac division chief, **Dr. Renzo Cecere**, led to the spin-off of the start-up **HoloRay Inc.** Based on intellectual property developed in collaboration with Dr. Cecere, this technology is now in pre-clinical testing at the RI-MUHC and has already demonstrated proof-of-concept for teleproctoring complex cardiac surgery, e.g., mitral valve repair, and is now being



tested for telementoring life-saving maneuvers, e.g., chest tube insertion for virtually teleporting educators to remote areas such as Northern Territories of Quebec. A usability study on this immersive augmented-reality-based technology for telementoring is underway at the SRC in partnership with the Clinical Innovation Platform (CLIP), the Steinberg Centre for Simulation, and the Interactive Learning (SCSIL).



In addition to minimally invasive general and cardiac surgery, the SRC has collaborative projects in surgical oncology (musculoskeletal) with **Dr. Robert Turcotte** and **Dr. Ahmed Aoude**, orthopedic surgery with **Dr. Gregory Berry** and **Dr. Rudy Reindl**, and ENT with **Dr. Nader Sadeghi**.



The SRC currently has 12 active graduate trainees and interns and many of our research collaboration have produced fruitful exchanges between trainees at other universities in Montreal, across Canada (e.g., University of Toronto), and internationally (e.g., France). Strategic partnerships with Canadian and

international medical device and robot manufacturers are underway to co-develop innovative technologies. For instance, NSERC and Mitacs have supported the SRC's partnership with the Quebec-based Kinova, the only Canadian manufacturer of medical robotic arms. More recent strategic co-development partnerships have been secured and will be announced soon.

With the global momentum of AI reaching new bounds, intelligent robotics-based medical technologies in surgery will thrive with the collaboration and support of McGill's world-leading surgeon-scientists, healthcare professionals, engineering faculties, and computer scientists. Together, with the strategic support of world-leading industrial partners, McGill's innovation ecosystem, and the RI-MUHC's support of interdisciplinary research, the SRC is poised to become a global centre for surgical innovation in the near future.

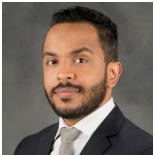
Cardiac Surgery Residency Program



Dr Nasser Aljerayed - Complex Adult Cardiac & Valve Surgery Fellow

Dr. Nasser Aljerayed is a highly qualified and experienced cardiac surgeon with an impressive academic and professional career. He earned his MBBS degree from the Faculty of Medicine, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2002 and completed his clinical internship in 2003. He pursued further education and training in France, earning a French Board of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (DESC) degree in 2010, and a University Diploma of Heart Valves Surgery (DU) in 2009. Dr. Nasser Aljerayed has been registered and categorized by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties as a senior registrar in cardiac surgery since 2010 and as a consultant in cardiac surgery since 2017. He served as the head of Card Surgery Department at King Saud Medical City in Riyadh from March 2019 until August 2021. Currently, he is a fellow in the Cardiac Surgery Department at McGill University's Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, Canada, completing his Complex Adult Cardiac and Valve Surgery Fellowship since August 2021.

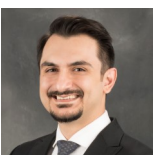
NEW CHIEF RESIDENTS



Dr Ali Alakhtar

Dr. Ali Alakhtar was born and raised in Unaizah, Saudi Arabia. He obtained his Bachelor of Medicine degree with Honours from Qassim University, Saudi Arabia. In 2017, Ali joined Cardiac Surgery Residency at McGill University. During his residency he obtained a Master of Science, Experimental Surgery - Surgical Education from McGill University. He has published several papers as lead or co-author and has presented at local and international conferences. In 2022, Ali was awarded the **Cardiac Surgery Outstanding Resident / Fellow Teacher Award** from the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery at McGill University and in February 2023 received the prestigious **Michael J. Davidson Structural Heart Fellowship Award** from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

In July 2023, he will be pursuing a Structural Heart Fellowship at Washington University at St. Louis. After completion of his Fellowship he intends on returning to Saudi Arabia to develop a Structural Heart Program at the recently established health center in his home town. He would like to thank his parents, his wife Bayan and daughters Aljawharah and Adeem for all their support and encouragement throughout his journey.



Dr Ziyab Sarfaraz

Ziyab Khan Sarfaraz is a highly motivated and accomplished cardiac surgery resident with a passion for excellence in healthcare. Graduating in the top three of his class from Arabian Gulf University, Ziyab completed three years of general surgery residency in Oman before dedicating himself to cardiac surgery. Driven by his



desire to make a difference, he embarked on a six-year journey at McGill University, where he obtained extensive training and expertise in cardiac surgery.

Ziyab is known for his strong work ethic and meticulous attention to detail, which have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and patients alike. His goal is to use his skills and knowledge to provide his patients with the best possible care and help them achieve optimal health outcomes.

Ziyab's long-term goal is to bring the latest and most innovative surgical procedures to Oman, where he hopes to make a significant contribution to the healthcare system. To achieve this, he will be pursuing a two-year fellowship in minimally invasive cardiac surgery and transcatheter structural heart interventions at the world-renowned Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Institute. This fellowship will provide him with a unique opportunity to learn from some of the most distinguished cardiac surgeons in the world and to gain hands-on experience with the latest surgical techniques and technologies.

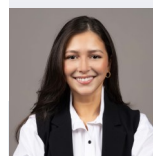
In addition to his passion for cardiac surgery, Ziyab is also committed to medical education and research. He believes that by sharing knowledge and experience, he can help advance the field of cardiac surgery and improve patient outcomes.



Dr Rasha Al-Nadabi

Rasha Al Nadabi finished her medical school in Oman at Sultan Qaboos University, and joined the McGill cardiac surgery residency program in 2017 and completed a Masters in Experimental Surgery in 2019. Currently she's in her 6th year of residency. Besides Surgery she enjoys playing chess.

Dr Raji Alsobhi



Dr Nanla Benchelabi

Nanla is a first-year resident in cardiac surgery at McGill university, where she also completed her medical training. Passionate about this field even before starting medical school, she owes her interest in cardiac surgery to her academic background (Biomedical Sciences and Kinesiology) and the role models she met along the way. She is fascinated by the complexity and variety of the advanced surgical techniques, the use of innovative and cutting-edge technology and most importantly the ability to correct the patient's anatomy in real time. Outside of the hospital, Nanla enjoys sewing, painting, and running.



Division of General Surgery



McGill Initiative in Teaching Technology: Virtual Patient Case Simulations

By Nancy Posel

In September 2022, the **Advanced
Trauma Life Support** (ATLS) Surgical

Foundation teaching for Bootcamp R1's was supplemented, at the request of Program Directors **Drs. J-S Pelletier** and **A. Pang**, with a collection of interactive Virtual Patient Case Simulations (VPS) developed by **Dr. D. Fleiszer** and **N. Posel** (PhD).

VPS are online, authentic, comprehensive scenarios that are available to each individual student through their own unique sign-on. They are easily modifiable in response to changes in practice. They are reproducible, immersive, and engaging and can provide individualized and objective metrics. Feedback from this initial group of residents has been excellent.

VPS also permit teaching, learning and objective evaluation of individual learners specifically addressing: (a) the attainment of learning objectives for each student, (b) determination of knowledge gaps with the resulting ability to address them in a timely fashion, and (c) objective assessment of individual performance in an environment that is realistic but safe.

Virtual patients are often used as part of a blended or hybrid learning model, preceded by didactic learning, and often followed by individual or group practice in the Simulation Centre, in preparation for work in the clinical setting and associated Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) where appropriate.

Nine diverse trauma cases were made available. These VPS, generally classified as a mid-fidelity simulation modality, provide learners with opportunities for decision-making aligned with patient outcomes, feedback, and verbal or written handovers in the form of summary statements.

Our initial review of resident responses to the cases generated the following results:

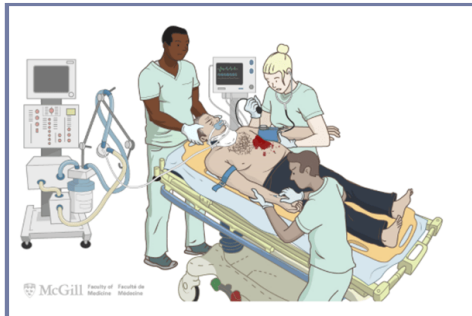
1. Decision-making was not always aligned precisely with the ATLS algorithm that had been taught. Several learners made errors by missing critical information.
2. EPAs can be incorporated in VPS and their use determined by faculty.
3. Perspectives with respect to comprehensive 'whole patient' review was often lacking. Choices often focused on the immediate injury, irrespective of stated co-morbidities and the impact of these initial decisions on long-term patient outcomes.



The quality of the required summary statements or 'handovers' was diverse, sometimes demonstrating knowledge gaps, misunderstanding of clinical information, and a lack of comprehensive and sequential reporting.

Takeaways from these initial activities:

1. VPS can support teaching, learning, and assessment of critical decision-making, clinical understanding and script development, and comprehensive case management.
2. VPS narratives and associated decisions can be associated with entrustable professional activities where assessment by simulation activities is permitted.
3. They can help to gauge subjective levels of individual confidence with objective measures prior to placement in the actual clinical setting.



4. Authors can integrate rationales and immediate feedback with their VPS, enhancing timely learning.
5. Individualized reviews and reports support early remediation.

Reporting features associated with VPS applications can support further analysis and potential research.

(See continuation on next page) ➤



Division of General Surgery

McGill Initiative in Teaching Technology continued...

Cases are welcomed and can be developed for any clinical scenario to complement or replace other teaching methods. Development of cases does not require knowledge of the case application, but rather, content expertise and the desire to better engage our new demographic of learner. We invite authors who are interested in supporting the McGill Surgical Teaching Community. All development is done by the development team. There is no cost associated with this activity. **To see an example of a virtual patient case, click on [Sgt Begin](#)**



Robin Poole Awarded the Companion of the Order of Canada

This past December, Dr. Robin Poole was awarded **Companion of the Order of Canada**.

This follows his honorary Doctor of Science

degree from Western University "for his contributions to medical education and for his breakthrough research on cartilage that has paved the way to the early detection of osteoarthritis".

Congratulations Professor Poole!

Dr. Poole is a researcher, leader, educator, mentor, and environmentalist. As a researcher, Dr. Poole transformed our understanding of cartilage biology and arthritis. Arthritis currently affects six million Canadians and is the leading cause of disability in Canada. Dr. Poole discovered some of the first molecular biomarkers that detect arthritic diseases and can monitor their progression and treatment. These biomarkers are now used in drug development and academic research – giving new hope to the many, including myself, who suffer from joint disease. Following studies in the UK, Dr. Poole was recruited to establish the Joint Diseases Laboratory in 1977 at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal. In addition to his distinguished service as Director of the Joint Diseases Laboratory, Dr. Poole was a professor of surgery at McGill University and adjunct professor of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Montreal.



Robin Poole CM, PhD, DSc
Professor Emeritus



Ari N. Meguerditchian, MD

Associate Professor, Surgery & Oncology
Surgical Oncologist, MUHC; Scientific
Director, St-Mary's Research Centre)

Dr. Ari N. Meguerditchian's appointment to the **Surgery Examination Committee of the Medical Council of Canada** has been renewed until 2026. This committee develops and validates the surgical questions for the MCCQE examination. Dr. Meguerditchian has been serving on this committee for the last 10 years. He has also been reappointment to the **Comité d'évolution des pratiques en oncologie** (INESSS) until 2024. Having served on this committee since 2012, INESSS is charged with the development of provincial evidence-based guidelines on the management of cancers, provides scientific consultation to support the MSSS with cancer-specific issues (e.g. proton therapy, surgical approaches to lymphedema, etc.), and participates in the formulary approval process of new anti-neoplastic agents.

Congratulations to his PhD student, **Ms. Nina Morena**, for her success in receiving the following grants from 1) Fonds de la Recherche du Québec-société et culture; and 2) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.



Steven Paraskevas, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery

Congratulations to Dr. Paraskevas, his team and collaborators on their recent success in the Fall 2022 competition and being awarded three grants from **CIHR**, **NSERC**, and **Médicament Québec** for a total of **\$3.7M** over the next 5 years!

CIHR Operating Grant – Principal Investigator

Project title: *Engineering a vascularized macroencapsulation device for diabetes cellular therapy*

Co-Principal Investigator: Corinne Hoesli (McGill)

Total amount \$1,042,000, over 5 years.

NSERC Alliance Grant - Co Investigator

Project title: *Bioengineering stem cell-derived islets to treat diabetes in custom cell culture vessels*

Principal Investigator: Corinne Hoesli (McGill)

In partnership with St. Gobain Life Sciences, Inc.

Total amount \$295,000 over 3 years

Médicament-Québec Team Grant - Co Investigator

Project title: *Scaling up biomanufacturing of therapeutic organoids derived from stem cells*

Principal Investigator: Corinne Hoesli (McGill)

Total amount \$2.4M over 2 years



Division of General Surgery



Shannon Fraser, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery
Chief, General Surgery (JGH)

I would like to recognize the wonderful achievements of my colleagues in the

Division of General Surgery at the JGH who received awards at **2022 LD McLean: ceremony.**

Outstanding Excellence in Teaching Faculty award
Dr. Jean-Sebastien Pelletier

Marvin Wexler Clinical Excellence Faculty award
Dr. Marylise Boutros

David Owen Undergraduate Teaching award
Dr. Alison Pang

New Funding Recipients:

Dr. Evan Wong – 2022 CAGS Operating Grant

Sinziana Dumitra— awarded her FRQS Junior 1

Marylise Boutros— awarded FRQS Junior 2

More Successes!

Dr. Liane Feldman & Dr. Fu-Hua Lawrence Lee

Awarded a contract from the MSSS to establish the audit and feedback database to support provincial implementation of ERAS pathways

Dr. Marylise Boutros

Received the James IV Fellowship award
Silver Scalpel Research Award

Dr. Tarek Razeq

Named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence

Dr. Stephan Robitaille

Award for Best Presentation at the Canadian Association of General Surgery (CAGS)

Dr. Richard Garfinkle Resident
Best Presentation at CAGS.

Dr. Jenny Moon, Resident,
Silver Scalpel Research Award

Congrats! Accomplishments



Dr. Patrick Charlebois Assumes the Presidency of the Association Québécoise de Chirurgie (AQC)

Dr Charlebois, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Oncology, has dedicated many years of service to the AQC, representing the interests of MUHC surgeons in several capacities, starting with the Association's Board of Directors, then serving on its Executive Committee for 15 years, and finally as President-Elect over the last year. Dr. Charlebois would like to acknowledge his predecessors, Dr. Sylvain Genest, Dr. Roger Grégoire, Dr. Mario Viens and Dr. Serge Legault for their commitment and mentorship. As he assumes the presidency, Dr. Charlebois pledges to defend the professional autonomy of surgeons and promote a work environment that supports a high-quality and accessible surgical practice, while enhancing the value of the surgical profession through fair remuneration. Dr Charlebois encourages AQC members to submit questions and suggestions to aqc@chirurgiequebec.ca. He can be reached directly at: presidence-aqc@fmsq.org.

EVENTS



Annual Harvey H. Sigman Lecture in Surgical Education

November 16-17 2022

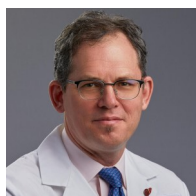
Last November, the Department of Surgery hosted the 16th annual Harvey H. Sigman Lecture in Surgical Education with Visiting Professor, **Dr. Adnan Alseidi**, Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, Vice Chair for Education, Department of Surgery, The University of California, San Francisco. He gave an outstanding and inspiring grand rounds titled "*The Changing Landscape of Psychomotor Training: a focus on autonomy, entrustment, & the JOY of Surgery*". For academic half day with the residents, Dr Alseidi focused on oral examination preparation.

This lecture is presented annually in honour of Dr. Harvey Sigman's life-long commitment to education and established to enhance the Surgical Education Program at the Jewish General Hospital and McGill University.

EVENTS

Annual Hepaticobiliary Symposium & Lectureship

November 23-24, 2022



The **McGill Hepato Pancreatic Biliary & Transplant Surgery Program** hosted its 18th Annual Symposium on November 23, 2022, with Dr. Metrakos presiding over the symposium as Chairperson. The

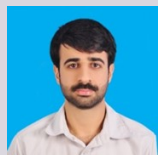
theme of this year's event centered on Regenerative Liver Surgery, with invited keynote speaker **Dr. Erik Schadde**, Associate Professor of Surgery at Rush University Medical Center Chicago. His keynote address, entitled "*A farewell to ALPPS. The rise and fall of a very special surgical operation*" was well received by the community of clinicians and researchers attending the event.

The goals of the symposium is to provide "physicians and nurse clinicians with the current data regarding diagnosis, treatment strategies, surgical techniques, and outcomes relevant to the management of patients with benign and malignant hepatic, pancreatic and biliary disease."

General Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME

NEW 2022-2023 Residents



Dr. Shuaib Aldalal

Shuaib is a motivated Kuwaiti resident, eager to follow the steps of my role model surgeons who provided their best knowledge and efforts to help patients. The goal I am pursuing currently is to become a competent surgeon. Alongside surgery, I have a passion towards creativity, manifested by indulging in many hobbies such as arabic calligraphy, welding, woodworking and 3d printing.



Dr. Thunayan Aldalmani

Thunayan obtained his medical degree from the Royal college of Surgeons in Ireland 2019. He joined the General Surgery Program in 2022. Interest in skiing, football and travel.



Dr. Hamda Almarzooqi

Hamda was born and raised in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Graduated from University of



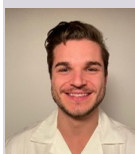
Division of General Surgery

Sharjah, College of Medicine in 2019 with excellent with honors degree, followed by a one year internship in Dubai Health Authority. Currently a general surgery resident at McGill university. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling and trying new food.



Dr. Mahdi Baba

Mahdi obtained his medical degree from the Royal college of Surgeons in Ireland 2019. My main field of research prior to residency was MIS and bariatric surgery. Apart from surgery, my joy in life is spending time with my Family.



Dr. Dylan Grisell

Originally from Toronto, Dylan completed his BSc in Biology at Florida State University and headed West for medical school at the University of Calgary before coming to Montreal to join the McGill General Surgery program. He plans to complete a Master's in Experimental Surgery through the clinician-investigator program and is particularly interested in Surgical Education. Dylan has an early interest in Acute Care Surgery and Intensive Care but looks forward to finding his niche while exploring General Surgery's various subspecialty fields.



Dr. Talal Hijji

Talal obtained his medical degree from Alfaisal University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia before joining the McGill general surgery family last year. I'm thrilled to be pursuing this dream of mine and look forward to developing my interests here and for the all the opportunities that lie ahead.



Dr. David Levi

David joined the McGill General Surgery residency program after earning his medical degree from Université de Montréal in 2022. Born and raised in Montreal, he has previously completed undergraduate and graduate degrees at McGill University in the neurosciences. Beyond the hospital, he enjoys weightlifting, cycling, spending time with his dog, and supporting the Montreal Canadiens.



Dr. Gaida Noman

Gaida graduated with first-class honours from King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She joined the General Surgery Program on 2022. She enjoys traveling, meditation and snorkeling (especially in the Red Sea).

General Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME



Division of
General Surgery



Dr. Anna Wang

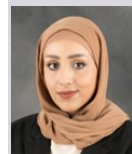
Anna Wang obtained her medical degree from McGill University in 2022 and joined the McGill General Surgery program later that same year. She is interested in cancer care and research in surgical outcomes after colorectal cancer surgery. Outside of General Surgery, she enjoys fitness, volleyball, and traveling.



Dr. Dan Moldoveanu

Dan first started his studies at McGill University with a BSc in Physiotherapy. He then obtained his MDCM diploma and enrolled in McGill's General surgery program. During his residency, he spent 3 years in the lab working under Ian Watson, PhD and Dr. Sarkis Meterissian on predictors of response to immunotherapy in cutaneous melanoma. He is currently enrolled in a Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Next year, he will be moving to Toronto for an Endocrine Surgery fellowship. His hobbies include hiking, reading and cross-country skiing.

Graduates 2022



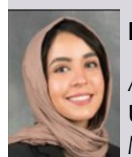
Dr. Najla AlGhaithi

Najla was born in Oman and obtained her medical degree from Sultan Qaboos University. She joined the bariatrics surgery fellowship at McGill University after graduating from McGill's general surgery residency program in 2022. Najla is interested in pursuing further training in minimal invasive surgery before going back to her beloved country Oman.



Dr. Abdulaziz Ali

Abdulaziz finished his general surgery training at McGill and successfully obtained his Canadian and American Board of Surgery certification. Currently, he is finishing his MIS fellowship training at McGill and will be pursuing a second fellowship in Bariatric surgery next year. He plans to return home to Kuwait after his fellowship training to begin his career as an assistant professor at Kuwait University. Abdulaziz continues to pursue his special passion for bodybuilding and nutrition, and is grateful for the opportunity to keep his passion alive throughout his residency.



Dr. Aroub AlKaaki

Aroub graduated from King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She joined McGill general surgery family in 2017. Aroub is interested in thoracic surgery and minimally invasive procedures. She participated in clinical research under the supervision of Dr. J. Cools and Dr. L. Ferri. She enjoys crochet, Kung Fu and spending time with friends. She is pursuing a Thoracic Surgery Fellowship in Ottawa.



Dr. Ali AlNaki

Ali graduated from medical school in 2012 from Arabian Gulf University, Manama Bahrain. He joined our McGill General Surgery Program in 2017. He will pursue a Colorectal Fellowship.



Dr. Ebram Salama

Ebram completed his medical degree at McGill University prior to joining the general surgery program in 2016. He has a keen interest in healthcare management, and during his residency completed an MBA in Business Analytics. Ebram is pursuing a Colorectal Fellowship in Cleveland Clinic Florida.



Dr. Maude Trepanier

Dr. Maude Trepanier obtained her medical degree from McGill University in 2016 before joining the McGill General Surgery residency program later that year. During her residency, she completed a Master's degree in epidemiology, biostatistics and occupation health focusing on oncological outcomes in colorectal cancer surgery. Maude is pursuing a Colorectal fellowship at Penn State Health Department of Surgery.

EVENTS

Resident & Fellow Appreciation

Each year there is a designated day to show appreciation to our residents and fellows. However, we recognize the devotion to learning and the dedication to patient care each and every day of the year.

The General Surgery Program thanks all the residents and fellows for their commitment to their patients and to a career in surgery. They received Division of General Surgery Scrub caps along with a brunch box.



General Surgery Residency Program

EVENTS

Resident Retreat 2022

2022 marked the return of the Resident Retreat. The MGSRC organized a weekend event for trainees at all levels with team building spirit and fun outdoor activities. These events are so important to the wellbeing of trainees and plans for this year's retreat are already confirmed.



Fried Mentorship Program



In 2022, the program's staff-resident mentorship program was changed into a group mentorship format, coordinated by **Dr. Kate McKendy** (Assistant Program Director).

It is loosely based on the Osler groups in UGME. The goal is to create small mentorship communities, with trainees at all levels paired with 2 attendings who meet quarterly to discuss a variety of issues related to surgical professional life, wellness and to get to know each other better. The program was named after **Dr. Gerald Fried** who was a

mentor to so many in the General Surgery Program (and still is!) in recognition of his contributions to surgical education.



Division of General Surgery

Annual General Surgery Soccer Game

Residents vs Staff & Residents



Research Transition Dinner 2022

This event is meant to help residents prepare for and deal with the struggles associated with research life, and transitioning to and from clinical duties.



Thanks to **Dr. Liberman** and the Division for their support.



Annual McGill General Surgery Resident & Faculty Bike Ride



2nd Annual General Surgery resident and faculty bike ride. Depending on your level, groups are organized from 26km to 53 km.



Music & Surgery

Thanks to **Dr. Deckelbaum**, **Dr. Liberman** and the Division of General Surgery we have an annual the collaboration between the **Montreal Symphony Orchestra** and the General Surgery Residency Program at McGill University – to learn from a discipline



that at first glance may appear far removed from surgery, yet on closer inspection, is quite similar. Dedication, discipline, personal sacrifice, and the passion for the profession, are all essential to our aspiration of excellence in the field. There were many points that were highlighted during our discussion to achieve the above goal including dedication, discipline and focus.

Division of Orthopedic Surgery



McGill Orthopaedic Virtual Visiting Professor May 12th and May 26th, 2022



Dr. Sigurd Berven is the chief of the Spine Service at UC San Francisco. He holds a joint appointment in Orthopaedic Surgery and Neurosurgery, and he leads the UCSF Spine Surgical Home Program. Dr. Berven studied Human Biology and Economics at Stanford University. He studied Philosophy, Politics and Econom-

ics (PPE) as a graduate student at Oxford University. He then attended Harvard Medical School, followed by residency in the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Program. His post-graduate surgical training included a chief residency at the Boston Children's Hospital, and Spine Fellowship at UC San Francisco where he has been on the faculty since August 2000. Dr. Berven is the Professor in Residence at UC San Francisco, and he serves as the Chief of the Spine Service and Director of the Spine Surgical Home Program and the Interdisciplinary Spine Service. His clinical interests include complex spinal deformity in the adult and pediatric patient. His research interests aim to compare the value of interventions including non-operative management, operative strategies and new technologies.

On May 12th, 2022, Dr. Berven started the day by giving a humbling talk about "Evidence in Orthopaedic Surgery: Sources of Evidence and Contributing to the Evidence". This was then followed by case presentations, mainly focused on spine and pelvic pathologies. This exercise was

intended to help preparing our graduating R5s for their second part of the Royal College exam. Residents and Staff alike highly appreciated Dr. Berven's insights and the discussions garnered.

The second part of the McGill Orthopaedic virtual VP day was held on May 26th, 2022. The day began with an enriching lecture, given by Dr. Berven, entitled "Research in Orthopaedic Surgery: Opportunities and Challenges". Subsequently, "Resident Research Paper Competition" was carried out, where residents and PhD students had the opportunity to present their work, judged by a panel of three attendings. We then concluded the day



with our traditional dinner/banquet awards. During this event, the McGill Orthopaedic program congratulated each of our graduating residents and fellows. Multiples awards were also presented to the deserving residents, fellows, and staff, who exemplified outstanding commitment to teaching, education, supervision, compassion and altruistic patients' care.



37th Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor



37th Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

On November 3rd, 2022, **Dr. Jason James Howard**, Assistant Chief of Staff Emeritus at the Nemours/Al duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware joined us for the 37th Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Howard is a Senior Attending Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon at Nemours Children Health in Wilmington, Delaware since 2019. He is a member of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental

Medicine, a member of the Australian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, the Pediatric Spine Study Group, Neuromuscular RIG, and the Cerebral Palsy Hip Outcomes Project II (CHOP II). His clinical research areas of interest include neuromuscular disorders (cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophies), pediatric hip, pediatric spine, and foot deformities.

Dr. Howard started the morning at 7:00 a.m. by giving us a humbling Grand Round talk about his distinctive experience in Qatar. He spent five and a half years in Qatar as Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, a position in a new academic children's hospital in Doha, Qatar. Sponsored by the Qatar Foundation – an initiative of the Royal Family to help diversify the country into a knowledge-based economy – the idea was to institute a Western-style academic healthcare centre capable of stemming the outflow of citizens seeking specialized pediatric medical care abroad. Following this, he spent the rest of the morning with the residents, going over Royal College style cases with the R5s, preparing them for their exams. Between case presentations, he presented three lectures about ***“Hip displacement in Neuromuscular Disorders: Etiology, Surveillance, and Treatment”***, ***“The Foot in Neuromuscular Disorders: Principles and Pearls”***, and ended the session with ***“Orthopedic Challenges in Spinal Muscular Atrophy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Gene Therapy Era”***. Residents and Staff alike highly appreciated Dr. Howard's talks and the discussions it garnered. This great event was concluded with our

Division of Orthopedic Surgery



From left to right: Dr. Abdullah Haidar, Dr. Sami Chergui, Dr. Mitchell Bernstein (Program Director), Dr. Eissa Aloughani, Dr. Sadiq Alaqaili & Dr. Jacqueline Achkar

traditional **Annual Eugene Rogala Dinner**, the first since the pandemic, where all Staff and residents had the opportunity to further pick Dr. Howard's brain in a more casual setting.

Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program

The Division of Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program welcomed five new residents at the start of the 2022-2023 academic year.



Jacqueline Achkar

Jacqueline completed her Undergraduate and Medical Degrees at Université de Montréal before pursuing her Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at McGill University. What inspired her to go into Orthopedics was the tangible aspect of Orthopedic pathologies and how the discipline is centered on helping patients achieve their full functional potential. Having strong female role models in the field also greatly encouraged her to pursue this great career. On a personal level, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, snowboarding, as well as competing with her ringette team.

WELCOME



Sami Chergui

Sami graduated from Medical School at McGill University. He is currently undergoing residency training at McGill's Orthopaedic Surgery Program. He was inspired to pursue this specialty after seeing multiple family members struggle with orthopaedic conditions and witnessing how functional impairments deeply affect one's quality of life. On his time off, he mainly enjoys spending time with loved ones, golfing and scuba diving. He is looking forward to tackling the adventure of residency with the support of his great co-residents that he has met within the program.



Eissa Aloughani

Eissa was born and raised in Kuwait. He completed Medical School at the Arabian Gulf

Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME

Continued from previous page

University of Bahrain. He worked for 2 years in Kuwait as an Assistant Registrar in Orthopedics before joining the Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program at McGill. Outside the hospital, his interests include sport fishing, scuba diving, and traveling.



Sadiq Alaqaili

Sadiq was born and raised in Saudi Arabia before moving on to complete Medical School in Riyadh at Alfaisal University in Saudi Arabia. He is grateful to all his mentors and colleagues whose support throughout his journey allowed him to match at the prestigious McGill University Orthopedics Residency Training Program. His passion for orthopedics, enthusiasm for research, and great communication skills are some of his key strengths. Finally, Sadiq's chief goal is to convey his Canadian training and experiences to the next generation of trainees in Saudi Arabia.



Abdullah Haidar

Abdullah was born and raised in Kuwait. He pursued his medical training at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland. After spending many years abroad, he was looking for a new challenge and decided to pursue a career in Orthopedic Surgery at McGill University, hoping to contribute to the advancement of new technologies in this discipline.

Graduates 2022



Six residents graduated from the residency program in June 2022 and will be pursuing these fellowships:

Saud Alfayez - Sports Medicine Fellowship
McGill University (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Mohammed Al Otaibi—Pediatric Orthopaedics Fellowship
UBC Children's Hospital (August 2022 to July 2023)

Bardia Barimani—Arthroplasty & Lower Extremity Reconstruction Fellowship
University of Toronto - Mount Sinai Hospital
(August 2022 to June 2023)

Division of Orthopedic Surgery

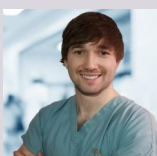


Chief Residents



Dr. Lucy Luo

Dr. Luo completed her Undergraduate Studies in Physical Therapy at McGill University before pursuing medical education and subsequent Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at the same distinguished institution. Her passion for surgical education has led her to undertake a Masters in Experimental Surgery in order to evaluate the use of augmented reality simulation in trauma surgery. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her young son, exploring new destinations, and baking delicious treats.



Dr. Simon Martel

Dr. Martel completed his medical school training at Université Laval before entering the McGill University Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program. Outside the hospital, he enjoys a multitude of recreational sports such as hockey, volleyball, downhill skiing, and watersports. Simon served as the program's social representative in 2022-2023 and organized many events and activities that were greatly appreciated by his peers. It is with great enthusiasm that he will continue his involvement with the program as Chief Resident for the upcoming academic year. In his new leadership role, he hopes to foster a positive learning environment, continue to advocate for his colleagues and strive to enrich the clinical, research and educational pillars of the program.

Jason Corban (2 fellowships) - Sports Fellowship
University of Southern California Medical Centre—USC Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California
(August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023)

Shoulder/Elbow Fellowship
New England Baptist Hospital/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre—Tufts/Harvard Medical Schools
Boston, Massachusetts (August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024)

Bayan Ghalimah — Hand & Wrist Fellowship
University of Calgary, Alberta
(July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Susan Mengxiao Ge—Foot & Ankle Fellowship
St. Paul's Hospital, UBC
(July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Congrats! Accomplishments

2022 Master Educator Award

The Orthopaedic Residency Program at McGill University recognizes **Dr. Stephane Bergeron** for his outstanding dedication to the promotion of anatomy knowledge and surgical approaches for our residents. Dr. Bergeron coordinated multiple Anatomy Summer Sessions for our resident cohort at the Shriners Hospital for Children – Canada, Simulation Center. He organized a pre-anatomy session quiz, and supplied them with curated learning material. He is well-deserving of our *Master Educator Award*.



Association d'Orthopedie du Quebec Resident Research Competition

Dr Greg Berry would like to congratulate **Julien Montreuil** and his supervisor **Mitch Bernstein** for having won the Resident

Research Competition at the Annual Meeting of the Association d'Orthopedie du Quebec for their project on the episode of care costing of hip fractures. The quality of the three other papers in the competition was very high which speaks to the quality of this project and Julien's presentation.

Division of Orthopedic Surgery



EVENTS

3rd Annual Golden Bone Resident Competition

On December 22, 2022, the **Golden Bone Resident Competition** took place during the AO Basic Fracture Course, as part of Academic Half-Day Teaching. It was organized by **Dr. Anthony Albers** and **Dr. Mitchell Bernstein** who have enriched the



resident learning experience by creating an exciting competition, testing resident knowledge.

There were several teams of residents competing against one another for the Golden Bone trophy, their name on a plaque and bragging rights.



Dr. Albers (R) & Dr. Bernstein (L) stand proudly with this year's winners: Drs Paul Kooner, Jacqueline Achkar, and Muadh Alzeedi

EVENTS

Ortho Holiday Dinner 2022

For the first time in three years, the program held its first Holiday Dinner since the start of the pandemic. Residents and Program Directors gathered at Bevo Bar + Pizzeria in the Old Port to celebrate the Holiday Season.



Resident Retreat 2023

The Resident Retreat has become a crucial part of our curriculum as we strive to promote resident wellness and team spirit within the program. This year, the McGill Orthopaedic Residents gathered for a

This year residents competed by fixing a broken femur fracture and successfully answering questions. The competition took place in the Shriners Hospital Simulation Centre.

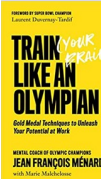


Dr. Anthony Albers & Dr. Nawaf Alamiri

winter retreat in Mont-Tremblant. The group went hiking, tubing and had a team dinner in the Tremblant Pedestrian Village.

Resident and Fellow Appreciation Day 2023

For the **Resident/Fellow Appreciation Day** in February, the Residency Program purchased the book *Train (your brain) Like an Olympian* by Jean François Ménard for each resident and fellow. The author works closely with the Montreal Canadiens and Olympic athletes as a mental performance coach and kindly provided a personal video message for the residents and fellows.





Division of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mirko Gilardino, MD
Division Director



Stephanie Thibaudeau, MD
Program Director



Anie Philip, PhD
Research Director

The Department of Surgery Division of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery strives to provide state-of-the-art surgical care to our patients, combined with cutting-edge research and innovation that continues to keep McGill Plastic Surgery as a leader in the field. We have a diverse faculty and provide Plastic Surgery expertise in all of the subspecialty areas including breast and oncologic reconstruction, burn surgery, pediatric and craniofacial surgery, hand and microsurgery, maxillofacial surgery and facial trauma, general plastic surgery and aesthetic surgery. As a leader in surgical education, our residency training program attracts the finest trainees from across the country

that participate in the complex, tertiary cases referred to our centre. Our division is proud to graduate three to four highly trained Plastic Surgeons per year along with one Craniofacial Surgery subspecialty fellow. Combined with a highly productive and dedicated full-time research team and infrastructure, McGill Plastic Surgery oversees numerous MSc and PhD students annually and continues to produce a high volume of peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. Taken as a whole, McGill Plastic Surgery embodies the true nature of a high-level academic surgery program, encompassing innovative patient care, surgical education and training of future plastic surgeons and pioneering research.

Mirko Gilardino

EVENTS

Visiting Professor
Scott P. Bartlett, MD
June 10, 2022



Scott P. Bartlett, MD,
Director of the
Craniofacial Program
at Children's Hospital
of Philadelphia is
known for his work in
facial plastic surgery

in children and adults, treating them for both reconstructive and cosmetic concerns. In his reconstructive work, Dr. Bartlett treats patients with facial

trauma, facial palsy, congenital abnormalities and defects of the face following skin cancer surgery. In the area of cosmetic surgery, he has special interests in the face and neck, concentrating on nasal, eyelid and facial rejuvenation procedures. In addition to surgical treatments, Dr. Bartlett uses injectables and fillers, laser resurfacing, and state-of-the art implant materials. By combining his expertise in infant and adult reconstruction with aesthetic procedures, he is able to marry form and function in restoration.

Dr. Bartlett is a member of the Edwin and Fannie Gray Hall Center for Human Appearance, a team of specialists dedicated to improving ways of treating appearance related

problems. He is also the holder of the Peter Randall Endowed Chair in Pediatric Plastic Surgery and of the Friends of Brian Endowed Chair in Pediatric & Reconstructive Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. His research focus is learning the effects of aging on the structure of the face and refining methods of facial reconstruction. His other research interests include growth and development of the face and implant materials. He is widely published in specialty journals and books.

Dr. Bartlett lectures worldwide and is a member of prestigious plastic surgery societies such as the American Association of

(See continuation on next page) ➤

EVENTS

AAPS Plastic Surgery Visiting Professor

Joseph Upton MD

June 23, 2022



Joseph Upton MD is internationally renowned expert in surgery and reconstruction of congenital differences in the hand. He is Senior Associate in Surgery, Vascular Anomalies Center and Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Upton obtained his MD at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He Did internship training at Yale-New Haven Hospital and then an orthopedic military internship at Eisenhower General Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. He completed his residency training at Saint Joseph Hospital in Houston, Texas and then proceeded to do Fellowship training in Hand Surgery at Roosevelt Hospital in New York, New York.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) is the largest plastic surgery specialty organization in the world. Founded in 1931, the society is composed of surgeons certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery or by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada who perform Plastic and Reconstructive surgery. ASPS comprises 93% of all board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States and has more than 8,000 plastic surgeons worldwide. ASPS publishes the plastic surgery journal, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.

ASPS runs The Plastic Surgery Foundation (The PSF), which supports research by ASPS members through grants, awards and scholarships. The foundation also funds educational research programs

(Dr. Bartlett continuation)

Plastic Surgeons, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the International Society of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery, of which he is a former President. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is the Section Editor in Pediatric / Craniofacial for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the most widely read journal in the specialty. Each year he travels to Poland in a volunteer

capacity where he performs surgery and trains Polish physicians in methods of facial reconstruction for children and adults.

Dr. Bartlett is the Mary Downs Endowed Chair in Craniofacial Surgery at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and is a Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. He completed his pre-medical studies at Weber State College in Utah and his medical studies at Washington

University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He interned and did his surgical and plastic surgery residencies at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. At Harvard University, he was a research fellow in surgical immunology and later a craniomaxillofacial and pediatric fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is board certified in Plastic Surgery.



Division of
Plastic, Reconstructive &
Aesthetic Surgery

Martin Entin Lecture in Hand Surgery

Paul S. Cederna, M.D

January 12, 2023



Paul S. Cederna, M.D. is the Robert O'Neal Professor of Plastic Surgery, Chief of the Section of Plastic Surgery, and Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Michigan who specializes in reconstruction of complex wounds. Academically, Dr. Cederna has a very active research enterprise directing the Neuromuscular Research Laboratory at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Cederna has received over \$45,000,000 in direct research funding, authored over 385 scientific manuscripts, published 31 book chapters, presented his work over 850 times at national and international meetings, and has been asked to give over 450 extramural presentations. He has mentored 65 students, 45 research fellows, and 17 postdoctoral fellows from various backgrounds including biomedical engineering and physiology. He has received over 75 national research awards either as first author or mentor of the research work.

Dr. Cederna has been the Chairman of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, Chairman of the Plastic Surgery Research Council, President of the American Society for Peripheral Nerve, and President for the Plastic Surgery Foundation. He is currently the Vice-Chairman of the American College of Graduate Medical Education Residency Review Committee.

EVENTS

Congrats! Accomplishments



Dr. Joshua Vorstenbosch was awarded the **FRQS *chercheur boursier 1*** award for his cutting edge research on implant biology. He is the first surgeon-scientist in the Division of Plastic Surgery to have received this honor.

We have secured over \$1M in funding with the support of the Cedars and MGH Foundations to add specialized equipment required for the new McGill Surgical Lymphedema Program. This multidisciplinary team will add to the existing well-established MUHC Medical Lymphedema program and will be spear-headed on the Plastic Surgery front by Dr. Josh Vorstenbosch in conjunction with **Dr. Meterissian** and **Dr. Towers**.

Dr. Mirko Gilardino became a Director on the board of the **Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons**.



Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery Residency Program

The Division welcomes five new residents for the 2022-2023 academic year.



Abdulaziz AlAzzam

Dr. Abdulaziz AlAzzam obtained his medical degree from King Saud bin Abdulaziz University and was a resident in the Saudi Board of Plastic Surgery before joining McGill's Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residency Program. Abdulaziz is interested in surgical innovation. He also enjoys watching and playing soccer, racquetball and travelling.



Fardad Jabbari Aslany

Dr. Fardad Jabbari obtained his medical degree from McGill University before joining McGill's Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery Residency Program. His previous training as a Software Engineer was followed by research in Artificial Intelligence and several years of professional experience in the field. Fardad's research interests include surgical innovation and education, AI and technological

WELCOME

integration into surgical planning, simulation, and longitudinal evolution. He also enjoys sports, traveling, content creation, the art scene and the deep space.



Rawan Elabd

Dr. ElAbd completed her combined MD MS degree in Biomedical Sciences in Kuwait before she joins our McGill Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery community. Her research interests are on nerve regeneration, targeted muscle re-innervation, and outcomes in breast reconstructive surgery. In her free time, she enjoys mommy activities, meditation, and cooking or baking!



Hillary Nepon

Dr. Hillary Nepon was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her love of adventure took her to Ireland where she obtained her medical degree from University College Cork. Here she saw her first rhomboid flap and the power of plastic surgery in restoring form and function. With her heart set on becoming a plastic surgeon, Hillary began her PhD in Experimental Surgery at McGill on the inflammatory and fibrotic reaction to breast implants, and subsequently joined the McGill Plastic & Reconstructive surgery residency program. Prior to medicine, Hillary was a dancer and toured internationally for fourteen years. She also enjoys cooking, travelling, exercise and spending time with her two cats Batman and Milo.

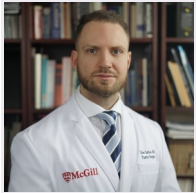


Nader Henry

Dr. Nader Henry joins the McGill Plastic Surgery program from the UK. He graduated from Imperial College London and practiced as a plastic surgery resident in the UK before deciding to move to Canada to continue his training. His academic interests lie in healthcare management and medical education. Dr. Henry completed his BSc in management from Imperial College Business School and is currently undertaking an MSc in Clinical Education from the University of Edinburgh. In his free time, Dr. Henry enjoys travelling to new and exotic places, playing and watching football (soccer) and going to the movies. He hopes to one day combine his love for travel, education and plastic surgery through charitable outreach.

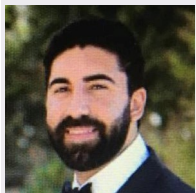
Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery Residency Program

GRADUATES 2022



Tyler Safran

After graduating medicine from McGill University in 2018, Dr. Tyler Safran went on to join the McGill Division of Plastic Surgery as a resident. He additionally completed a MSc. in Experimental Surgery under the supervision of **Drs. Dionisopoulos** and **Vorstenbosch**. He has an interest in alloplastic breast reconstruction, body contouring, and aesthetic surgery. Upon graduation, he will be pursuing a fellowship at the University of Southern California in Aesthetic Surgery and Body Contouring.



Peter Alam

Dr. Peter Alam will be pursuing a Microsurgery Fellowship in Texas at MD Anderson, the largest cancer center in the world. There, he will train under world leaders to master the art of microvascular reconstructive surgery specifically related to the oncology patient.



Obituary Gaston Schwarz 1938-2022

By Mirko S. Gilardino, MD

It is with great sadness that I announce, on behalf of the McGill Division of Plastic Surgery and the entire McGill academic surgical community, the passing of Dr. Gaston Schwarz on January 20, 2022.

Dr. Schwarz was an active member and loyal supporter of our Plastic Surgery Division for over 50 years. He began his academic career at McGill in October 1971 following completion of his prestigious fellowship with Dr. Ralph Millard in Miami. He was a pioneer in many ways, introducing live surgery teaching to the field of plastic surgery in 1983 – now a routine educational tool for all



Division of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery



Myriam Caruso MacDonald

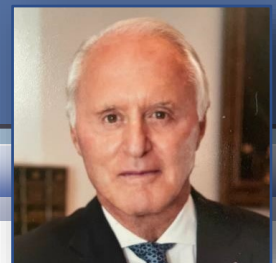
Dr. Myriam MacDonald is a Brazilian plastic surgeon who moved to Canada with her family and decided to retrain and practice here. Her main interests are breast surgery, aesthetics, and patient satisfaction. After graduating she will be doing a breast reconstruction fellowship at University of Ottawa.

Clinical Fellow



Arturo Vela Lasagabaster

Born and raised in Spain, Arturo completed medical school at the University of Navarra. He moved to Madrid where he did his residency in plastic surgery at the Ramon y Cajal University Hospital. Arturo successfully passed the EBOPRAS examination and practiced as an attendant in Barcelona for one year before he enrolled in a MSc program at McGill University in Surgical Innovation, focused on tissue regeneration research, especially in tissue vascularization, bone regeneration, and wound healing. Arturo started the Craniofacial fellowship in July and he is planning to finish his thesis this year.



surgical meetings.

He was also one of the first surgeons to open a private operative facility in Montreal, and was integral in the establishment of safety standards for private clinics and the current certification process. His private clinic, up until his retirement in 2021, was an essential aesthetic surgery teaching site for our McGill Plastic Surgery residents for 40 years, and countless trainees have learned from his massive surgical experience.

From early in his career, Dr. Schwarz became an icon internationally in plastic surgery. He operated

(See continuation on page 49) >

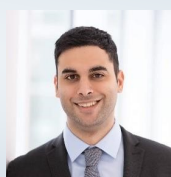


Division of Thoracic Surgery

OUR TEAM



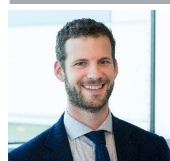
Dr. Lorenzo Ferri
Division Director



Dr. Jonathan Cools-Lartigue



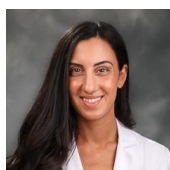
Dr. David Mulder



Dr. Jonathan Spicer
Advanced Thoracic & Surgical
Oncology Fellowship Director



Dr. Carmen Mueller



Dr. Sara Najmeh



Dr. Mathieu Rousseau



Dr. Christian Sirois

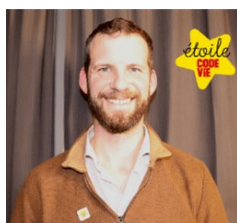
The Division of Thoracic Surgery strives to provide state-of-the-art surgical care to our patients, with cutting edge research and innovation that continues to uphold McGill Thoracic Surgery as a world leader in the field.

We have a diverse faculty and provide Thoracic Surgery expertise for a wide range of malignant and non-malignant lung, chest, esophageal and gastric diseases, and is a North American and international leader in many of these fields. With its supra-regional mandate, the Division's program provides comprehensive care to Lung, Esophagus and Stomach Cancer patients residing on the McGill RUIS (Réseau universitaire intégré de santé) territory and is home to the largest and most

comprehensive esophageal and gastric cancer program in Canada.

This Division has been privileged to develop an internationally recognized expertise in Thoracic and Upper G.I. Surgery but is first and foremost an academic surgical unit, with half of the attending surgeons holding PhDs and all trainees involved in research with approximately 15-20 publications annually. As an affiliate of the McGill University School of Medicine, the service functions as an active clinical teaching unit for residents, fellows and medical students, and is widely regarded for its robust clinical and basic science research productivity. It is the only program in the province to receive the Minister of Health's Level 4 designation for Lung Cancer, and as a result it offers the highest level of integrated patient care, research, and education in Quebec. *Dr. Lorenzo Ferri*

Étoile CODE ViE Recognition Program – Portrait of Dr. Jonathan Spicer



Dr. Jonathan Spicer was recently interviewed and the Division of Thoracic Surgery's work was highlighted on the **MGH Foundation CodeLife podcast** entitled "Equitable Access to Innovative Cancer Care".

Read his PORTRAIT

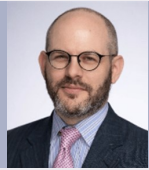


Hear the PODCAST



Advanced Thoracic and Upper GI Surgical Oncology Fellowship

The mission of the fellowship training in Thoracic Surgery is to provide the necessary experience in complex thoracic and upper G.I. cancers. The exposure will include the comprehensive management of patients with lung, mediastinal, and esophageal/gastric malignancies including diagnosis and investigation, adjuvant and neo-adjuvant therapy planning, interventional endoscopy, minimally invasive and open surgery, and palliation of end-stage disease.



James Tankel MD

2021-2023

1-year Clinical / 1-year Research
Israel



Joseph Seitlinger MD

2022-2023

1-year Clinical
France



Luciano Bulgarelli Maqueda MD

2023

1-year Clinical
Argentina



Merav Rokah MD

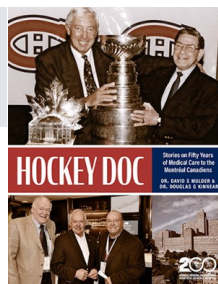
2021-2022

1-year Clinical / 1-year Research
Israel

HOCKEY DOC Stories on Fifty Years of Medical Care to the Montreal Canadiens

By Dr. David Mulder and Dr. Douglas Kinnear

For hockey fans of all ages and the Québec medical community, Hockey Doc shares the relationship between the injured professional athlete and the medical staff of a university medical centre and provides an inside look at the injuries and illnesses these doctors have faced over their storied careers. **Dr. David S. Mulder** has been a part of the Montréal Canadiens medical team since 1969, first covering the Montreal Junior Canadiens. Dr. Mulder served two terms as Surgeon-in-Chief at the MGH and Chair of Surgery at McGill University before leading the Division of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery. He's been called "the Jean Beliveau of sports medicine."



Division of Thoracic Surgery

EVENTS

McGill Annual Symposium on Upper-Gastrointestinal Cancers – October 2022

The Division of Thoracic Surgery hosted a very successful Annual Symposium on Upper-Gastrointestinal Cancers in October 2022 – the largest since its beginning five years ago with 13 guest speakers and over 100 guests.

UPCOMING! The **2023 Symposium** will be held on Saturday, October 28th and is sure to be bigger and better than ever!



From left to right – Back row : Dr. Serge Mayrand, Dr. Joanne Alfieri, Dr. Thierry Alcindor, Dr. Donald Low, Dr. Dr. Jelena Lukovic, Dr. Lorenzo Ferri, Dr. Wayne Hoffsetter, Dr. Mark van Berge Henegouwen, Dr. Jonathan Yeung, Dr. Steven Lin, Dr. Robert Bechara

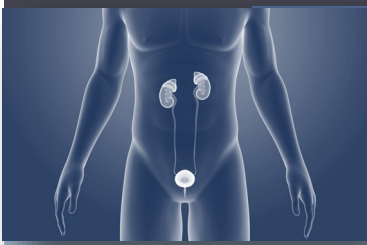
Seated: Dr. Frédéric Lemay, Ms. Ekaterina Kosyachkova, Dr. Suzanne Gisberts, Dr. Samuel Klempner, Ms. Teresa Tiano, Dr. Andrew Seely



UPCOMING! June 16-18, 2023 Early-stage Lung Cancer International eXpert Retreat - #ELIXR23

The Divisions of Thoracic Surgery at the McGill University Health Centre (**Dr. Jonathan Spicer**) and Le Centre Hospitalier De l'Université de Montréal (**Dr. Normand Blais**), are pleased to announce the first annual international conference entitled Early-stage Lung cancer International eXpert Retreat - **#ELIXR23**.

This 2.5 day conference will be held in Montreal at the **Vogue Hotel from June 15th to 17th, 2023**. This event is aimed at bringing together innovative minds to give presentations that will foster educational development, as well as inspire discussions regarding clinical management and improving outcomes for early-stage lung cancer patients.



Division of Urology



McGill Urology 32nd Annual Research Day by Dr Simone Chevalier

Dr Simon Tanguay, Head of the McGill Division of Urology, and **Dr Simone Chevalier**, Director of McGill Urology Research, were pleased to host the **McGill Urology 32nd Annual Research Day** on October 19, 2022 with invited Visiting Professor **Dr. Marshall L. Stoller**, Professor and Vice Chair of Urology, University of California, San Francisco. Since 1990, the Division has hosted an annual research gathering allowing graduate students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, research associates and assistants to present their research endeavors.

The central theme was on Stones under the direction of **Dr Sero Andonian** and assisted by **Dr Fadl Hamouche**. We were delighted to welcome **Dr Marshall L. Stoller**, and it was a privilege to hear his excellent talk "*Towards an Understanding the Etiology of Urinary Stone Disease*". This was followed by the 25 scientific presentations moderated by **Dr Cristian O'Flaherty**. With close to 100 people in attendance, the McGill Urology Research Day featured students, residents and fellows, who have participated in research projects, to present their innovative research to peers, and get a glimpse of the quality and breadth of research being done on various themes related to urological disorders.

Awards were presented for the best presentations to Post Doctoral Fellow **Dr Eva Michaud** (*Dr Wassim Kassouf*), Ph.D. Student **Ms. Walaa Alahmadi** (*Dr David Labbé*), Medical Student **Mr. Elie Fadel**, (*Dr Jacques Lapointe*) and to Ph.D. Student **Ms. Kate Glennon** (*Dr Yasser Riazalhosseini*).

The jury was composed of visiting professor **Dr Stoller**, **Dr Maurice Anidjar**, **Dr Rafael Sanchez-Salas**, and **Dr Alexis Rompré-Brodeur** on behalf of an appreciative McGill Division of Urology. The day concluded with closing remarks from **Dr Simon Tanguay** congratulating everyone who participated and thanking the organizers **Dr Cristian O'Flaherty** and **Dr Simone Chevalier**, Pharmaceutical partners for their continuous and generous support, and **Ms. Chrysoula Makris**, whose indispensable contribution throughout the years has made the McGill Urology Research Day once again a successful and memorable event.



McGill Urology Research News



Prostate cancer ranks third for cancer-related mortality in Canadian men. Research on the lethal form of prostate cancer has been

hampered by the lack of a sufficient number of patients and too short follow up periods. To overcome these limitations, Drs. Aprikian and Chevalier along with colleagues from across the province and PROCURE have devoted over 15 years in the generation of a large prostate cancer cohort of 2007 men undergoing radical prostatectomy. Patients consented to donate blood and urine during their trajectory

Innovative Research on Lethal Prostate Cancer

by Dr Armen Aprikian & Dr Simone Chevalier

and prostate tissue at time of surgery. Beside quality analyses, the bank has voluntarily remained unused until now to reach sufficient maturity for recurrent cases to progress, while receiving standard of care. To this date, over 150 patients have either died from their disease or will do so in a near future due to the advanced stage of their disease and the lack of curative treatments.

This precious cohort and biobank is now allowing Drs. Aprikian and Chevalier to specifically study the lethal form of prostate cancer. They are participating in the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope (MOH)-Quebec and Health

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Urology Residency Program

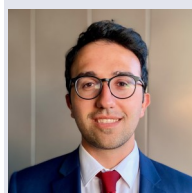
WELCOME

New Chief Residents 2022



Dr. Mohammed Alessa

Dr. Mohammed Alessa completed his medical education at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. He joined the McGill Urology residency program in 2018. During his residency training, he worked on a few research projects involving bladder preservation and trimodal therapy predictors in bladder cancer. Dr. Alessa was awarded the Division of Urology "Best Resident Teacher" award at this year's Fraser Gurd Dinner, and the Annual Division of Urology Resident Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership skills. He is looking to pursue a fellowship in urologic oncology. During his free time, he enjoys cycling, traveling, and hiking.



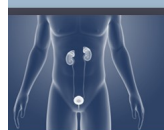
Dr. Charles Hesswani

Dr. Charles Hesswani obtained his B.Sc. and medical degree from McGill University before entering the Urology Residency program in 2018. He has a particular interest in urology oncology and worked on various research projects during residency on both bladder and kidney cancer. He is currently the academic chief resident for the program. Dr. Hesswani was awarded the first prize in the Resident Prize Essays category of the 2022 Northeastern Section of the American Urological Association (NSAUA) Annual Meeting, for his research project entitled: "*External Validation of the Molecular Subtype Classifier by Immunohistochemistry for Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer Patients treated with Radiation-Based Therapy.*" He was also selected as one of the two chosen residents from across Canada to participate in the USANZ 2022 Trainees Week in Melbourne, Australia, under the CUA-USANZ Exchange Program. Charles is currently applying for fellowship through the Society of Urologic Oncology. Outside work, he enjoys hiking, playing tennis and BBQing.



Dr. Francis Petrella

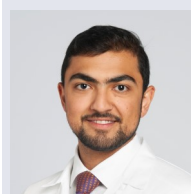
Dr. Francis Petrella completed his medical education at University of Montreal before joining the McGill Urology Residency program in 2018. In his free time, he enjoys running, skiing and playing



Division of
Urology

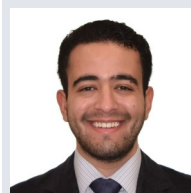
hockey. He has been actively involved in the transition of the program towards a competence-based curriculum. He has presented multiple research projects at international conferences and was awarded *Best Poster Award* at the American Urology Association meeting in 2020. Francis will be the External Chief Resident for the 2022-2023 academic year. He will then pursue a fellowship in Andrology and Infertility at the University of Miami.

New Residents 2022



Dr. Abdullah Alameeri

Dr. Abdulla Alameeri is originally from Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. He received his medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin. He went on to do an internship year at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, USA. Following that, he was a resident in the Urology residency program at the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi for around 1 year and a half before being accepted and joining the McGill Urology family. Aside from medicine, he loves to spend time with his kids and family, and is very interested in sports and fitness, and is a beginner paddle tennis player.



Dr. Rakan AlHaidey

Dr. Rakan AlHaidey, originally from Saudi Arabia, was raised in Canada prior to returning to Riyadh to pursue his studies. He acquired his medical degree from Alfaisal University, Class of 2020. During medical school, he played an active role in multiple student associations and extracurricular clubs prior to being recruited by the university as an Events and Activities Coordinator. Immediately after completing his internship, Dr. AlHaidey was awarded a scholarship to join the Urology Program at McGill University. Outside of work, Rakan built the habit of trying at least 1 new hobby every month. That introduced activities such as pottery, scuba diving, and archery.

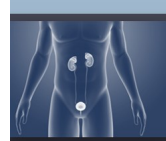
Urology Research News

Continued from previous page

Canada Initiative aiming to sequence the genome and transcriptome of tumours, their own emphasis being on prostate tumours and blood samples from lethal cases. They are developing methods to interrogate genes in blood samples longitudinally and identify drivers of prostate cancer lethality that originate from tumour cells already disseminated beyond the prostate at time of surgery.

Urology Residency Program

WELCOME



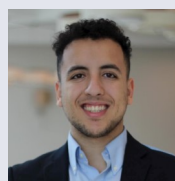
Division of
 Urology

New Residents 2022



Dr. Mana Almuhaideb

Dr. Mana Almuhaideb, graduated from the College of Medicine at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with honors in 2021. After graduating, Mana was awarded a scholarship to pursue his residency training at McGill and will join King Saud University as part of the faculty after he completes his training. Being a founding member of the first medical innovation unit in Saudi Arabia, Mana has an interest in healthcare innovation and entrepreneurship. Finally, Mana is very excited to explore what Quebec has to offer with his wife May.

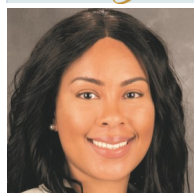


Dr. Adel Arezki

Dr. Adel Arezki, originally from Algeria, completed his undergraduate medical education at McGill University, before joining McGill University's Urology program. Throughout medical school, he was involved in multiple national medical education roles, such as Executive VP at the Canadian Federation of Medical Students. Adel has a special interest in artificial intelligence research and technological innovation, having developed several mobile applications. Outside medicine, he enjoys swimming, playing football and cooking.

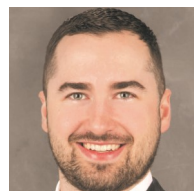
Graduates 2022

Celebrats!



Dr. Cora Fogaing

Originally from Montreal, Dr. Cora Fogaing completed her medical degree at McGill University in 2017 before starting residency in Urology. She developed an interest for global surgery after participating in a surgical mission in Rwanda as a medical student. During residency, she enjoyed teaching and was awarded the TCP Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was also involved as the junior representative of the program. Dr. Fogaing was also awarded the Douglas D. Morehouse In-Training Achievement Prize in recognition of her outstanding performance on the American Urological Association In-Service Exam. Outside the operating room, her hobbies include traveling, cooking and hiking. Upon completion of her residency training, Dr. Fogaing will pursue a fellowship in Reconstructive Urology at the Kulkarni Reconstructive Urology Center in Pune, India.



Dr. Benjamin Legault

Dr. Benjamin Legault was born and raised in Montreal. After being the valedictorian and receiving the Governor

General's Academic Medal (Collegiate Bronze) at St-Jean Royal Military College, Benjamin pursued his medical doctorate at Université de Montréal. He completed the first three years of his residency training in urology at Université de Sherbrooke. He now completed his last two years of his residency with the McGill Urology Residency Program. During that period, he received the award of Outstanding Resident of the Urology Division for his involvement in the Urology Residency Program and a hospital hero pin from the Jewish general hospital for his devotion to patient care. He also represented the urology residents as External Chief Resident. In the upcoming year, he will begin his practice as a community urologist in CISSS-des-Laurentides. Finally, Benjamin is an avid mountain biker, alpine skier and loves aerial photography.



Dr. Côme Tholomier

Dr. Côme Tholomier completed his medical education at McGill University before completing his residency in Urology at McGill University where he held the position of Academic Chief Resident. Throughout his residency, he published over 20 peer-reviewed articles and presented his research projects at multiple national and international conferences. He received the Resident Prize Essay at the Northeastern Section of the American Urological Association for his work in immunotherapy for bladder cancer in 2021. He is pursuing a fellowship in Urologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Congrats! Accomplishments

The **Division of Urology Research** actively engages and continues their ongoing productivity in basic, translational, clinical and educational activities, and would like to acknowledge and give kudos to their achievements in peer-reviewed funding, research awards, and scientific publications.



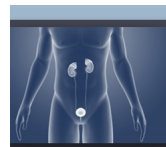
Dr David Labbé, received exceptional recognition from McGill University by receiving the **William Dawson Scholar** award for a 5-year renewable term. He was also awarded a **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)** Operating

Grant of **\$1,132,200**, with co-PI Dr Bordeleau (University Laval), for his study on *Protein glycation acts as a substrate-dependent tumorigenic molecular switch in prostate cancer*. More recently, Dr. Labbé won a **Department of Defense** - Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) Investigator-Initiated Research Award in the amount of **\$2M USD** for his study on *"Precision nutrition increases efficacy of DNA-damaging therapies in prostate cancer"*, and was also a recipient of a **Research Scholar Junior 2** award from the **Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)** in the amount of **\$277,526**.

Key publications by Dr David Labbé as co-corresponding author include [*"MYC Drives Aggressive Prostate Cancer by Disrupting Transcriptional Pause Release at Androgen Receptor Targets"*](#), published in *Nature Communications* and co-led by Dr Nadia Boufaied. This article was published as associated content to another *Nature Communications* article from [another group](#). Details can be found in the [RI-MUHC press release](#) published on May 13th.

He also contributed to two high-profile articles in *Science Signaling*, [*"Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase 1B Regulates miR-208b-Argonaute 2 Association and Thyroid Hormone Responsiveness in Cardiac Hypertrophy"*](#), and *JCI Insight*, [*"Response to Supraphysiological Testosterone is Predicted by a Distinct AR Cistrome"*](#).

Congratulations to **Dr. Simon Tanguay**, Professor and Chair of McGill's Division of Urology, for receiving the prestigious **Félix-Guyon Medal** at this year's **42nd Congress of the Société Internationale**



Division of Urology



d'Urologie (SIU) which took place in Montreal from November 9 - 13, 2022.

Congratulations to **Dr. Ioana Fugaru** for winning the first place research prize at the **2022 Quebec Urological Association Annual Meeting**, for her project entitled: *"The Association of Cortical Transit Time (CTT) with Diuretic Drainage Time Parameters in Antenatal Hydronephrosis"*.

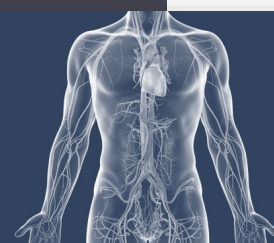


Congratulations to Dr David Labbé's two students, recent Experimental Surgery graduate, **Ms. Michelle Shen** (M.Sc.), for winning 1st place Poster Presentation Prize at the **Experimental Surgery Graduate Program Research Day 2022** and to **Ms. Jiaxuan Li** (M.Sc.) for obtaining a one-year Bursary Award from the **100 Days Across Canada**. Kudos to recent graduate **Léa-Kristine Demers**, receiving her M.Sc. in Experimental Medicine. We wish them all success.

Congratulations to Dr Simone Chevalier's two students **Ms. Samira Rahimirad** (PhD candidate co-supervised by Dr Armen Aprikian) for obtaining a **\$12,000** studentship from the **McGill FMHS** in September, and to **Ms. Seta Derderian** (PhD candidate supervised by Dr Chevalier) for obtaining the **George Gurunian Memorial Award in Surgical Oncology** for her oral presentation on *"Identifying Therapeutic Options for Patients with Advanced Prostate Cancer Through Genes in Liquid Biopsies"* at **McGill Fraser Gurd Day**; and selected poster presentation at the **Celebration of Research and Training in Oncology (CORTO)** on *"Predicting clinical outcomes and identifying therapeutic options for patients with advanced prostate cancer through genes in liquid biopsies"*.



Division of Vascular Surgery



Message from the Division Director

By Kent MacKenzie, MD,
Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery

After a busy but productive 2022, the Vascular Surgery Division has continued to work in accordance with its core values; Education, Expertise, Professionalism, Innovation, Scholarship and Leadership.

Our division has long been proud of the notable achievements of our residents and prior graduates and our current cohort of vascular surgery trainees is no exception. Academic productivity amongst the residents has been outstanding over the last several years and there are no signs of this slowing down. All our trainees work so hard and each of them bring a unique set of skills and talents to our program that truly form the investing fabric of Vascular Surgery at McGill University.

To our trainees Ahmed, Anna, Youssef, Sree, Angela, Anand, Xheni and Vicente, you are all appreciated and recognized for your dedication to the care of our patients. As vascular surgeons, we have a unique visibility and penetrance into an extremely wide scope of surgical and medical specialties with whom we interact almost daily. Personally, I am so extremely proud of our residents as well as all the attending surgeons for their commitment to professionalism and their expertise as consultants in vascular surgery at McGill. Always know that this makes a difference to everyone around you.

Dr. Robert Doonan at the MUHC. The collaborative approach between **Dr. Jason Bayne**, **Dr. Elie Girsowicz** and Dr. Doonan with fenestrated and branched endovascular stent grafts for aortic aneurysm disease has strengthened the foundation of our already prominent endovascular aortic practice at McGill. A heavy open thoracic aortic practice at the MUHC with Drs. Steinmetz, MacKenzie, Doonan and Gill collaborating with our MUHC Cardiac Surgery colleagues as well as with our vascular surgery colleagues at the JGH, Drs. Obrand,



Clockwise from bottom left: Dr. Mohammed Habib, McGill Vascular Surgery graduate 2022; Dr. Youssef Al-Moutawa; Dr. Angela Kim; Dr. Sreedharan Kanathasan; Dr. Anand Patel; Dr. Anna Kinio; Dr. Ahmed Naïem)

Bayne and Girsowicz, continues to thrive. We anticipate that this open thoracic aortic practice will grow clinically but also academically as Dr. Doonan expands tools, both clinical and investigational, for optimizing outcomes in this challenging, high-acuity, patient population.

Vascular Surgery Prehabilitation Program

Under the leadership of **Dr. Heather Gill**, Vascular Surgery Prehabilitation at McGill continues to expand. This growing program, now supported by the CIHR, the MUHC Foundation through generous community philanthropy and indeed the Division itself, bolsters existing high-level initiatives at the MUHC touching on optimizing patient outcomes like the ERAS program as well as Prehabilitation at the



Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Fellowship

The Division's **Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Fellowship** remains unique within the Canadian vascular surgery community. Our current fellow, **Dr. Vicente Mosquera Rey**, hails from northern Spain and will return to provide high-level advanced aortic intervention to his region and hospital. The advanced aortic practice at McGill has been bolstered with the addition of

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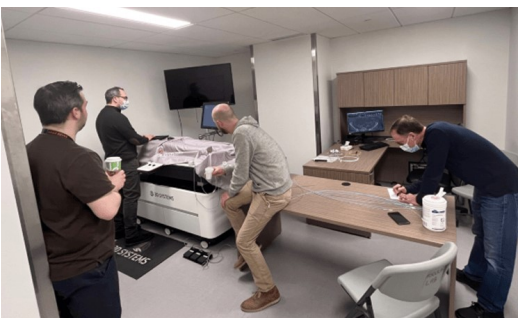
Message from the Division Director continued

General Hospital, which for so long now has assisted innumerable patients undergoing thoracic, colorectal and oncology surgery at the MUHC.

We have recently expanded our research support capacity in the Division and in addition to **Marie-Amelie Lukaszewski, PhD**, we welcome **Otgon Baatar, MD** as our second full-time Division Clinical research coordinator. Both individuals will play vital roles in the grant-supported and investigator-initiated research within the University division. With Dr. Gill as Principal Investigator for an upcoming international multicenter randomized controlled trial in Prehab for aortic aneurysm surgery, Dr. Doonan's developing research program, Dr. Girsowicz' simulation and educational initiatives, industry-sponsored trials, and our strong resident-driven investigator-initiated research for which all faculty participate, the foundation for academic productivity in the Division has been even further fortified. I am really looking forward to the coming 3-5 years of research in the Division and supporting all faculty and residents in their endeavors.

Vascular Surgery Simulation Center

Recently, **Drs. Elie Girsowicz** (Division Lead, Simulation) and **Jason Bayne** (Vascular Surgery Program Director) hosted all the faculty vascular surgeons at the Endovascular Simulation Center at the JGH. While open surgical simulation was not on the menu that day, we did have the opportunity to utilize our state-of-the-art endovascular simulator for the 3-hour session. Simulated cases in peripheral arterial intervention as well as endovascular repair of abdominal and thoracic aneurysms were covered. The endovascular simulator has already become a core component of our formal teaching program in vascular surgery at McGill and the Center has supported research in surgical simulation, both open and endovascular. We look forward to further expanding our educational curriculum in the Center, knowing this will enrich the training experience of our residents.



Left to right:
Dr. RJ Doonan,
Dr. Elie
Girsowicz,
Dr. Jason Bayne,
Dr. Daniel
Obrand.

Division of
Vascular Surgery



EVENTS

McGill Vascular Surgery Alumni Day



On April 21, 2023, the McGill Division of Vascular Surgery hosted its inaugural McGill Vascular Surgery Alumni Day; an event that we will strive to mold into a regular annual or biennial event. Our program touched on topics related to research, education, clinical challenges and physician well-being. Our first Visiting Professor was **Dr. Cherrie Abraham**, Director of the Aortic Disease Center at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, Portland, Oregon, a notable alumni, professional colleague, and friend to so many here at McGill. I would like to thank everyone who assisted us in getting this event off the ground. With everyone's support, our inaugural event was a huge success and the feedback from all attendees was spectacular! This will definitely be a recurring event.



Congrats! Accomplishments



Dr. Heather Gill - Assistant Professor (Clinical) was awarded a **CIHR Project Grant**, in the amount of **\$692,325**, for her research entitled *"The PREHAAAB Trial: Multimodal prehabilitation for patients awaiting open Abdominal Aortic*

Aneurysm repair - An international randomized controlled trial". She also completed her term as **Chair of the CSVS Research Chair** and has been nominated as the **2022 CSVS President-Elect** and will become President of the CSVS in Sept 2023.



Book Chapter: Aortic Intervention: A Practical Guide to Monitoring, Preventing, and Treating Spinal Cord Injury. **Dr. RJ Doonan, Assistant Professor (Clinical)** Francesco Torella,

John Kendall, Manoj Kuduvali, Mark Field. Koht, Sloan, Toleikis's Monitoring the Nervous System for Anesthesiologists and Other Health Care Professionals.

Congrats!

Graduates 2022



Dr. Mohammed Habib

Graduating Chief Resident

Dr. Mohammed Habib received his MD from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. He is planning to pursue a one-year advanced aortic endovascular fellowship at Uppsala University in Sweden and plans to start his practice at Umm Al-qura University-affiliated hospitals in Makkah.



Dr. Willem-Jan de Jong

Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Fellow, 2022

Division of Vascular Surgery



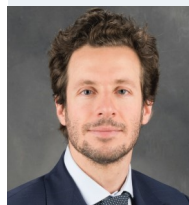
Vascular Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME



Xheni Konci NEW PGY-1

Dr Xheni Konci is a first year vascular resident at McGill. She moved to Canada at the age of 10 and grew up in Ottawa before moving to Montreal to complete her medical degree at McGill. During medical school, she developed a keen interest in vascular given its breadth of technical surgeries and high acuity medicine. She is a previous recipient of the National Student Research Award from the Canadian Society of Vascular Surgery and is actively involved in research projects. She is grateful for the opportunity to continue training at McGill and is looking forward to the next years of residency! Outside of the hospital, she enjoys spin classes, painting and exploring Montreal's numerous coffee shops.

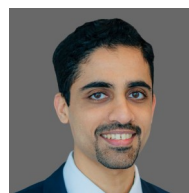


Dr. Vicente Mosquera Rey

NEW Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Fellow

Dr. Vicente Mosquera Rey graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at USP CEU University, Madrid, Spain. Between 2016 and 2021, he completed the residency training in Vascular Surgery at a high-volume department in the North of Spain, at Asturias University Central Hospital (HUCA). Before starting the Fellowship in Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Surgery at McGill University, he also worked for a short period as an attending in Bilbao. On completion of the fellowship, his aim is to keep up with complex Endovascular aortic repair along with PVD and open repair. Outside of Medicine and Surgery, he enjoys cycling, running and swimming as well as outdoors with family and friends

Current Residents



Dr. Ahmed Naïem - NEW Chief Resident

Ahmed Naïem completed his MD degree (Distinction with Honors) at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman. He joined the vascular surgery program

at McGill

[\(See continuation on next page\) >](#)

Vascular Surgery Residency Program

University, Montreal, Canada in 2018 where he has been serving on the **Residency Program Committee (RPC)**. He is the current 2022/2023 administrative chief resident. His time in the program has been highlighted by multiple podium presentations at both national and international meetings including a nomination for the 2019 Bayer-Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Research Award. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications focusing on chronic limb-threatening ischemia, limb preservation, and the impact of obesity on vascular diseases. Dr. Naiem has also received the **2022 Kent MacKenzie Award for Educational Leadership and Excellence in Surgery** and the **2021 McGill University Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) Surgery Resident Teaching Award**. During training, he developed an interest in complex lower extremity revascularization and limb salvage, which he intends to pursue as an advanced fellowship. In his spare time, he can usually be found exploring Quebec's Eastern Townships with his family.

Student SUCCESS

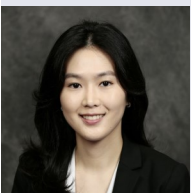


Dr. Anna Kinio (PGY-3)

Awarded a **SSP Operational Grant** in the amount of \$12,640 for her project *"Impact of Strict Glycemic Control on Surgical Site Infection Rates in Vascular Surgery"*.

Her work on the *"Impact of strict peri-operative glycemic control on surgical wound complication rates in vascular surgery"* has garnered her recognition for the following two awards:

- **Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters Award**
- **Bourse Henri-Paul Noel from the Association Chirurgie Vasculaire et Endovasculaire (ACVEQ)**



Dr. Angela Kim (PGY-2)

Awarded the **CSVS Resident Research Award** for her project entitled: *"Optimal Management of Infrainguinal Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia in Patients Lacking Consensus on Initial Revascularization Strategy"*, Sept 2022.

Angela is also a recipient of a **Canada Graduate Student Scholarship Masters Award** for her work on: *"Safety and feasibility of same-day discharge following carotid endarterectomy"*.

Winner of the **Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery 'Best Resident Presentation'** for: *"Timing of complications following carotid endarterectomy for symptomatic and asymptomatic carotid stenosis"*, Sept 2022.

Division of Vascular Surgery



Student SUCCESS



Dr. Sreedharan Kanathasan (PGY-3)

Appointed **Co-Editor** of the **Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery Medical Student Vascular Surgery Curriculum Book**. He will also co-author the book's section on Thoracic Outlet Syndrome.

Appointed as Author, Junior Reviewer and Junior Editor for the **Society of Vascular Surgery's Audible Bleeding Podcast**. He has been involved in the production of the following past and upcoming Podcast episodes and or series:



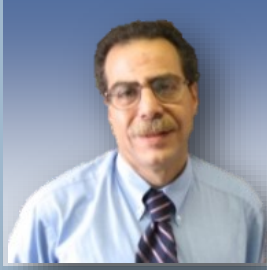
- * *"You've matched to Vascular Surgery...Now what?"*
- * *"Vascular surgeon involvement in contemporary oncologic resections"*
- * *"Controversies in surgical treatment for venous thoracic outlet syndrome"*
- * *"Vascular Origins Stories: Vascular Offspring Stories"*

Joanne Abi-Jaoude (MS 4): Winner of the **2022 CSVS National Student Research Award** for: *"The Influence of Resources and Job Demands on Burnout, Work Engagement, and Job Satisfaction in the Canadian Vascular Surgery Workforce"* – Supervisor **Dr. Elie Girsowicz**



Left to right: Dr. Angela Kim, Dr. Anna Kinio, and Dr. Ahmed Naiem

2022 Society for Vascular Surgery Annual Meeting



Obituary

Alan David Mackay Turnbull 1936-2022

By Roger Tabah, MD



Drs. Feldman, Fried, Britt, Wexler and Turnbull

Alan David Mackay Turnbull passed away in March of 2022 at the age of 85 from pulmonary fibrosis. Alan completed his residency in General Surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1967 and went on to pursue fellowships in both Surgical Oncology and Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at Memorial-Sloan Kettering in New York. Upon completing his surgical training, he joined the surgical staff at MSK where he practiced until his retirement in 2003. At MSK he headed the Critical Care Unit while his elective practice focused on the treatment of thoracic and upper GI malignancies. He was pre-deceased by his wife, Nancy who died in 2021.

Alan was an accomplished and well-travelled marathon runner who ran races the world over. His passion for running was curtailed by the development of lower motor neuron disease later in his life. What never wavered were both his pride in his Quebec roots and his appreciation for his surgical training under Dr Lloyd MacLean at McGill.

Born and raised in Trois-Rivières, Alan maintained a chalet in Mont-Tremblant since the 1970's to which he travelled the I-87 regularly in his beloved Mercedes AMG. He was regular fixture at both the annual LD MacLean days and the annual EJ Tabah Cedars Visiting Professor in Surgical Oncology. He was always keenly interested in the affairs of the McGill Department of Surgery. This allowed him to become a mentor to many of our younger surgical attendings and to Dr Lorenzo Ferri, in particular, to whom he had willed his coveted watch.

Alan Turnbull was a master surgeon and educator and will be sorely missed by many in Montreal and NYC. Above all, he was a dear friend to the Department of Surgery at McGill. As he has no direct heirs, he left his chalet at Mont Tremblant to the McGill Department of Surgery.

What a mensch!

(Obituary—Gaston Schwarz continuation from page 38)

in numerous countries including Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, proudly carrying the McGill flag and providing charitable care to patients in need. His international reputation and work essentially placed Canada on the map for aesthetic surgery. His leadership in cosmetic surgery was recognized by his presidency of the Canadian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons and later his impact on the field commemorated with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Quebec Society Of Plastic Surgeons.



As a former graduate of our program, and someone who went on to work with Dr. Schwarz on faculty, I can attest to what all of us remember about him – he was warm, caring and generous. He loved his work and it showed. He always made residents and students feel welcome and taught with conviction. His love for his work as a plastic surgeon was overshadowed, however, by his inspiring love and pride for his family. He was a loving husband and a caring father. Indeed, he was a mentor to many of

us in how to live life to its fullest – both in our careers and private lives.

Although we are all as an academic family deeply saddened by his passing, his legacy and impact on us and our Division will remain eternally. His family has expressed a commitment to commemorating his career and honouring his contribution to McGill Plastic Surgery. To that end, a fund has been established in the Division of Plastic Surgery at McGill University in memory of Dr. Gaston Schwarz.

We kindly ask that that you consider making a donation to the [Dr. Gaston Schwarz Memorial Fund in Plastic Surgery Research Education](https://www.alumni.mcgill.ca/give/index.php?new=1&allocations=08606), for the advancement of medical education and research, by visiting the following link: www.alumni.mcgill.ca/give/index.php?new=1&allocations=08606.

The SQUARE



The SQUARE KNOT