



THE SQUARE KNOT



McGill University
NEWSLETTER

Department of Surgery
Vol. 2, No. 1, Summer 1990

Annual McGill Fraser Gurd Research Day

Fraser Gurd research day has been a tradition at the MGH since 1977. This year, it was expanded to include the entire McGill Department of Surgery. Residents and research fellows from all surgical divisions presented original investigations with prizes awarded for the three best presentations.

Fraser Gurd

Dr. Fraser Gurd graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University in 1939. His surgical training was interrupted by service in the Canadian Army from 1941 to 1946. He completed his residency at McGill in 1948 and became a Research Assistant in the Department of Experimental Surgery.



Dr. Fraser Gurd

In 1962, Dr. Gurd succeeded Dr. H. Rocke Robertson as Chairman of the Department of Surgery, McGill University. In 1963, he became Director of the McGill/Montreal General Hospital University Surgical Clinic. Throughout his career, Dr. Gurd has demonstrated a remarkable interest in research with several significant investigations into the treatment of shock and trauma.

Dr. Gurd has many accomplishments. Among these perhaps his greatest contribution relates to the development of surgical scientists. Dr. Gurd has also been a major force behind the training of surgeons, particularly through his efforts in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

He has been President of numerous associations: the American Association for Surgery of Trauma; the Canadian Association of Clinical Surgeons; the Central Surgical Association; and the James IV Association of Surgeons.

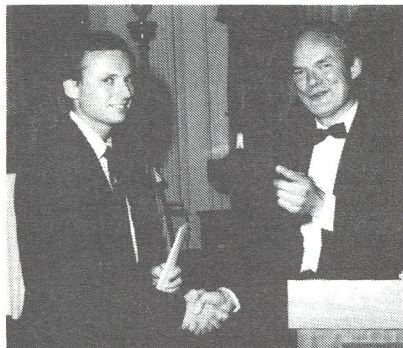
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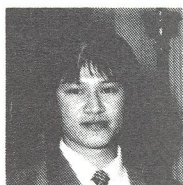
Dr. Gurd has received many honours, including the Royal College's Duncan Graham Award for outstanding service in medical education. He is an Emeritus Professor of Surgery at McGill University.

Dr. Gurd lives in Ottawa and was an honoured guest at the recent resident research day. The presentations by the residents and fellows are a tribute to his many contributions.

Resident Research Presentations



Dr. Poenaru and Dr. Finley



Dr. Oung



Dr. Thomas

On Thursday, May 31, 1990, a total of twenty residents and fellows, representing the surgical subspecialties, presented their research projects at the Fraser Gurd Research Day. A panel of judges, including Dr. Richard Finley, the Fraser Gurd Visiting Professor, selected the prize winners. Two residents tied for second place.

1st Prize **Dr. Dan Poenaru** under the direction of **Drs. J.M. Laberge, I. Neilson, L.T. Nguyen and F.M. Guttman** – *Congenital Esophageal Atresia and Fistula: 25 Years Experience.*



2nd Prize **Dr. C. Oung** under the direction of **Drs. R.C.J. Chiu, and J. Hinchey** – *Hemodynamic Responses to Dopamine in Hypothermic Subjects.*

2nd Prize **Dr. Dan Thomas** under the direction of **Dr. H.B. Williams** – *Muscle Preservation in Peripheral Nerve Injury Using Implantable Electrical Systems.*

The prize money was contributed by Davis + Geck Inc. All participants should be congratulated for their excellent papers.

Grand Rounds

Dr. Finley spoke at MGH surgical grand rounds, on *Esophageal Cancer: A Stimulus for Surgical Research*, and at RVH surgical grand rounds, on *Microvascular Lung Injury in Sepsis*. Both talks were greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

Dr. Richard J. Finley

The Fraser Gurd Visiting Professor

Dr. Richard J. Finley is Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery, University of British Columbia and Surgeon-in-Chief of the Vancouver General Hospital.

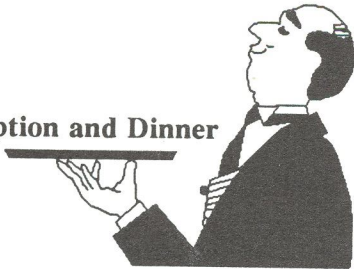
Doctor Finley is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario. His main interests include thoracic surgery and the metabolic response to surgery and sepsis. He has been a Gold Medallist in Surgery of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He has also served as a James IV Travelling Fellow. ■

McGill Surgery Tie

Do you have yours yet?

If you were unable to attend this year's Fraser Gurd Day banquet and you are a member of the McGill Department of Surgery (all surgical divisions and subspecialties), you can still get a tie, at the price of \$ 60.00 each. Contact: Dr. J.L. Meakins' office, 843-1504. ■

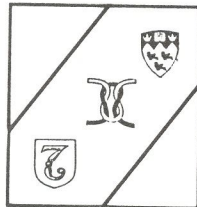
Reception and Dinner



On Fraser Gurd Day, over two hundred guests gathered at the Ritz Carlton Hotel for the reception, dinner and awards ceremony.

The Tie that Binds

The new Department of Surgery tie was first presented at the awards ceremony. The tie's pattern incorporates the symbols on our masthead – the McGill crest, a fleam and a square knot.



Dr. Meakins presented Dr. Fraser Gurd, Dean Richard Cruess and Dr. L.D. MacLean with the new tie. Waiters then distributed ties to all other members of the department in attendance.

Dr. Mulder spoke about the first few annual Fraser Gurd Days, which originated in 1977 as a day devoted to science and the acknowledgement of MGH residents' research work. The event still features the residents' clinical and basic research presentations in a day-long competition. However, as a further step towards the complete integration of the surgical programs at McGill, the presentations are now from all surgical subspecialties and all McGill affiliated hospitals. Unfortunately, the reckless golf games which characterized the early years of this event and gave rise to many colourful stories are no longer included in the festivities.

Dr. Meakins introduced Dr. R.J. Finley – the Fraser Gurd Visiting Professor – and he too received a McGill Department of Surgery tie. Dr. Finley presented awards for the day's best presentations to Drs. Poenaru, Oung and

Thomas.

The graduating residents from each division were then presented with a diploma and a gift. Congratulations to all!

A special thanks is in order to the Fraser Gurd Committee: Bruce Williams (chairman), Alan Graham, John Hinchey, Nelson Mitchell and Joe Stafford. Thanks also to Ray Chiu, who coordinated the research day, and to Jane Hutchison and Joy Jones, who coordinated the dinner and program.

According to the letters we received, the event was greatly enjoyed. We hope it was a satisfying day for all who participated and we look forward to an even more successful Second Annual McGill Fraser Gurd Research Day next Spring.

Photographs of the evening are available in the Audiovisual Department of the Royal Victoria Hospital (Ross 1).■

McGill Department of Surgery Women's Tie

Much thought was given to producing silk scarves for the female surgeons and residents, to correspond to the men's ties, but unfortunately the four colours required to represent the various surgical symbols selected for the tie would prove prohibitively expensive when applied to a silk scarf.

A work group, comprised of female surgeons and residents from different McGill affiliated hospitals, will be set up later this summer to design a suitable alternative to the McGill Department of Surgery tie.■

**McGill
Faculty of Medicine
Convocation**



We took great pride in this year's convocation, held May 29. Congratulations are in order to all the graduates, particularly those from our M.S. and Ph.D. programs:

Master of Science

Thierry Ezer Benaroch – *Biosynthetic Response of Young and Adult Articular Cartilage to Growth Factors.* (Experimental Surgery)

Julie Benoit – *Temporal Relationship Between ERG Components and Lateral Geniculate Unit Activity in the Rabbit.* (Neurology and Neurosurgery)

Christine Eve Gemeinhardt – *Electrical Stimulation of Denervated Canine Skeletal Muscle Using Implanted Electrodes and Pulse Generator.* (Experimental Surgery)

Reza John Mehran – *Evaluation of Muscle Flaps in the Treatment of Infected Abdominal Aortic Grafts.* (Experimental Surgery)

Jean Frederic Welter – *Vascularized vs. Conventional Bone Grafts: an Experimental Comparison in Large Defects of Weight Bearing Bones.* (Experimental Surgery) Dean's Honour List

Doctor of Philosophy

Linda Vivian Dansky – *Outcome of Pregnancy in Epileptic Women: a Prospective Evaluation of Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors.* (Neurology and Neurosurgery)

George Raymond Dodge – *Immunochemical Studies of Type II Collagen Degradation in Bovine and Human Articular Cartilage.* (Experimental Surgery)

Annette Majnemer – *The Prognostic Significance of Multi-modality Evoked Response Testing in High Risk Newborns.* (Neurology and Neurosurgery)

Dr. James D. Baxter (MD, CoM (McGill 1947), MSc (McGill 1952), FRSC (C)) was honoured as *Emeritus Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology.* **Professor Melvin D. Schloss**, Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology, made the address.

Dr. J.L. Meakins, introduced, by citation, **Dr. Lloyd D. MacLean**, who was awarded the Honourary Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa). Dr. MacLean is a premier surgeon-scientist, former Surgeon-in-Chief, Royal Victoria Hospital, former Chairman, McGill Department of Surgery, and 1988 SIMS Commonwealth Travelling Professor. Dr. MacLean then gave the Convocation Address. His address read, in part, as follows:

As health scientists, we come together in a common interest to promote health ... Ultimately, we are all interested in the individual patient. But we should take care that we are not seduced by the proposals that health scientists can or should be responsible for all the ills of society. Our impact will be greatest if we do not blur the boundaries of our expertise but maintain a focus on illness, its nature, its consequences and its cure ...

I have greatly enjoyed my association with medical students over the years and I think I have channelled some into their future careers. Many arrived for a rotation in surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital expressing an interest in Internal Medicine or perhaps Pediatrics. After six weeks of

Red Surgery, most were firmly devoted to a lifetime in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics ...

You will have in your careers powerful tools for the diagnosis and treatment of almost everything. Many of these are very expensive. You have also inherited a health-care delivery system which is comprehensive, universal, portable and publicly administered based on the notion that health care costs should be borne by the entire populace rather than those who are ill. This system embodies the most popular social legislation ever enacted in Canada and is the envy of many nations throughout the world ...

I hope you will accept the new challenges facing all of us as you prepare to practice the healing arts. On behalf of the faculty I bid you God-speed on your journey.

We congratulate Dr. MacLean and all the other graduates for all their accomplishments.■



Dr. Meakins and Dr. MacLean

Congratulations to Graduating Residents!

CVT

Tom Burdon
Garret Walsh

General Surgery

Tassos Dionisopoulos
Marek Dobrowolski
Ann Letourneau
Sarkis Meterissian
Bob Papenburg
Dimitri Petsikas
Gary Rosenthal
Barry Stein

Ophthalmology

Ernesto Calvo
Samir Jamal
Bill Johnston
Alan Lizauer
Jeff Martow
Cecile Taylor

Orthopaedics

Neil Herman
Malcolm Ghazal
Adel Kebaish
Paul Morin
Stéphane Mulligan
André Perreault
Felix Stanziola
Steven Trott

Paediatric Surgery

I. Neilson

Plastics

Arie Benchetrit
Grant Thomson
Ronald Zelt

Urology

Armen Aprikian

We congratulate you all on your achievement. Please send us your addresses, so you can stay in touch with the department through THE SQUARE KNOT. Good luck!■

6th International Symposium on Limb Salvage

Dr. K.L.B. Brown, Chairman of ISOLS and surgeon at the Montreal Children's Hospital, will be organizing the 6th ISOLS meeting in Montreal in 1991. The previous meeting - held in St-Malo - had representatives from 32 countries.■

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Welcome Residents!

A Special Welcome to New Residents in the Surgery Program!

Riad Adoumie	Thomas W. Kneifel
Shafgat Ahmed	Maria S.K. Li
Bilal Al-Nahwi	Jacob J. Lustgarten
Salem Al-Shammari	Khaled A.A. Mahmood
Hashim Balkhy	Sandeep Mayer
Renzo Cecere	Jose Mihangos-Pelaez
David Eiley	Mackenzie Quantz
Julio Faria	Cyril Rebel
Carl Farmer	Lisa M. Ronback
David Greentree	Gary Salisidis
Bobby Grillas	David Siglet
Michael Hier	Benjamin Tripp
Ahmed Jamjoom	Michel Vassilyadi

Welcome Back!

To residents entering subspecialties!

CVT

Benoît deVarennnes
Bill Kidd
Gary Kochamba
Gerry Reibman

Orthopaedics

Eric Laxer
Patrick Meere
Gary Schmidt
Tod Stein
Allan Tissenbaum

Plastics

Tassos Dionisopoulos
Daniel Durand
Chen Lee

Annual Report

Thanks to all of you who provided your annual report information on time. ■

Welcome to all General Surgical Residents

The Division of General Surgery would like to welcome all Residents in the McGill Postgraduate Residency Training Program in General Surgery.

Let me take this opportunity to also remind you to submit your vacation requests for the first semester (July 1 – December 31, 1990) by August 1, 1990.

Once again, it is time to choose a junior and a senior resident to represent the residents on the McGill University Postgraduate General Surgery Education Committee. The term of office is one year, July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991. If you are interested in this position and would like your name to be placed on the election ballot, please contact Rita Piccioni at 843-1532 or Dr. Steven Jackson at 842-1231 local 5225 before August 6, 1990.

We would like to thank Dr. Steven Jackson (Junior Representative) for all his work and effort during the past year.

If you have any questions or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact Rita Piccioni at the Teaching Office, 843-1532. ■

Fall Promotion

The next McGill Promotion Review is this Fall. Directors should submit the files of eligible candidates in their division to the Chairman's office in time for the Departmental Promotion Committee to make their recommendations prior to the Faculty review. Only when the candidates' files are in order will they be forwarded to McGill. ■

Stikeman Visiting Professor

On May 10th and 11th, the cardiovascular and thoracic surgical division of McGill welcomed Bruce Reitz, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Johns Hopkins, as the 24th Stikeman Visiting Professor.

Dr. Reitz presented surgical grand rounds at both the MGH and RVH on May 10. At the MGH, he spoke on the *Treatment of Aneurysms of the Ascending Aorta* – which described an extraordinary experience with the ascending aortic aneurysms related to Marfan's Syndrome with a mortality rate of 2%. At the RVH, he spoke on *Heart-Lung Transplantation: from the Laboratory to Clinical Application* – a fascinating personal account of the origin of heart-lung transplantation. Both lectures were enthusiastically received.

Throughout the two days of his visit Dr. Reitz impressed one and all with his thoughtfulness and his quiet authority. Ten CVT residents from several McGill hospitals presented research papers at the MGH, which were judged by a committee including Dr. Reitz. Later, at the annual dinner, Dr. Reitz complimented the CVT residents and staff on their presentations and awarded the Edward Charrette Prize to Dal Nguyen for his paper, *Broncho Alveolar Lavage for Rejection vs. Infection.*■

Moving?

If your address is changing, or if you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, please notify us as soon as possible. (see page 16 for our address)■

Orthopaedics Visiting Professors



Dr. Charles Rockwood

In May, the McGill Division of Orthopaedics had two visiting professors – **Dr. Charles A. Rockwood Jr.**, Professor and Chairman, Department of Orthopaedics, The University of Texas and **Dr. William A. Enneking**, Distinguished Service Professor of Orthopaedics, University of Florida.

They both spoke at the MGH on May 17: Dr. Enneking gave the **Edward Gallie Visiting Professor Presentation** on *Limb Salvage in 1990*, and Dr. Rockwood gave the first **Jo Miller Guest Lecture Presentation** on *The Impingement Syndrome and Rotator Cuff Lesions*.

On May 18th, a Resident Research Paper Competition was held. The winners were, in order: **Dr. Malcolm Ghazal**, *Radiographic Radionuclide and Clinical Evaluation of the AML Hip Prostheses*; **Dr. Michel Daigle**, *Silastic Implants of the PIP Joints of the Hands: A Ten Year Follow-up*; and **Dr. Joyce Tarbet**, *Tibial Hemiphelia: The Montreal Shriners Hospital Experience*.

At the presentation of the prizes, Dr. Rockwood commented on the exceptional quality of all the papers.

The events, both scientific and social, were greatly enjoyed by all involved.■

Visiting Medical Students!



The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has several medical students visiting in the near future:

Johanna Faschentrager comes from Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, West Germany. She will be studying general surgery from September 3 to 29, 1990.

Edhar Morales Juvera comes from the University of Anahuac, Mexico. He will be studying general surgery from September 3 to 29, 1990.

Christof Rose comes from the University of Berlin, West Germany. He will be studying general surgery from May 28 to July 21, 1990.

James E. Sharpe and **Hamish Shearer** both come from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. They will be studying Sports Medicine and Orthopaedics from July 1 to 31, 1990.

We'd like to offer a big friendly welcome to our guests, and we hope they have a fun and educational visit in Montreal. ■

New Equipment!

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is proud to announce its acquisition of two new instruments for the Operating Room. They have purchased an Image Intensifier, for use in the insertion of pacemakers, Knowles hip pinnings and ambi hip pinnings. It is also used in Nephrolithotripsy. They have also acquired a Hydro Static Ureteral Dilator, to be used in various G.U. procedures. ■

Surgical Research Gets a New Boost!

John Sampalis is joining the staff of the McGill Department of Surgery in July 1990, as a full-time epidemiologist with a cross-appointment in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. We enthusiastically welcome John to the Department.

John has been working on his PhD and has just completed his paper on pre-hospital services for trauma and trauma related mortality in Montreal, using data collected during a one-year period from calls to Urgences Santé requesting assistance for severe injuries. The conclusions of the study were that pre-hospital delays greater than one hour increase the risk of dying and that treatment in hospitals with adequate trauma care is necessary to reduce trauma related mortality. These findings have implications for the organization of trauma care in the Montreal region and suggest that regionalization of trauma services as well as establishment of designated trauma centres may be warranted.

John will have an office in the Hersey Pavilion at the Royal Victoria Hospital. He will be working with Drs. J.E. Morin and J.F. Morin on various projects, and will also be available to offer his expertise on other McGill-wide surgical research projects.

In addition to being a valuable resource person for McGill's surgeons, John will be developing his own projects, which will pertain to surgical patients in the McGill network. Welcome! ■

Clinical Epidemiology Course

Early next summer, Drs. John Esdaile and Steven Grover will be offering a course in clinical epidemiology for residents at McGill University. For further information, watch this space. ■

Farewell to Bill

Dr. W. Rennie (Bill to his large following at the RVH and McGill) has been appointed Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Bill Rennie has been the assistant surgeon-in-chief at the RVH during the last year and a half. He has substantially contributed to the running of the Department and participated in the financial management of the Department.

Bill Rennie is a talented, able surgeon and administrator who has easily won the respect and admiration of those who have had the pleasure of working with him. It is with great regret that we say farewell to a wonderful member of our McGill team. We wish him every success in his new endeavours and we trust he will not soon forget his many fans here. ■

Lithotripter News

During the 1989-90 year, since the installation of the lithotripter, 1100 patients received treatment in the Lithotripter Unit at the RVH. The Unit was covered by urologists from both the MGH and the RVH. During the summer of 1990, an attachment for gallbladder stone treatments will be installed. This will be a McGill venture, serving all teaching hospitals. ■

Downtown McGill Clinic

The McGill Faculty of Medicine is considering the feasibility of opening a downtown ambulatory care centre. To this end, the Dean has requested that each department prepare an estimate of their required needs in the proposed centre. ■



McGill Department of Surgery Forward Planning Task Force Update

The Task Force has held meetings regularly since June 1989, focusing on forward planning for the McGill Department of Surgery under the following major areas of interest:

- ▶ Clinical resources
- ▶ Teaching (undergraduate and graduate)
- ▶ Research (basic and clinical)
- ▶ Faculty requirements
- ▶ Governance of the department

Progress to date

Each of the divisions within the Department of Surgery has been reviewed and several recommendations will be forthcoming.

A Core Surgical Training Program for residents is under development for all disciplines and it is planned that this will be implemented fully in the 1991 academic year.

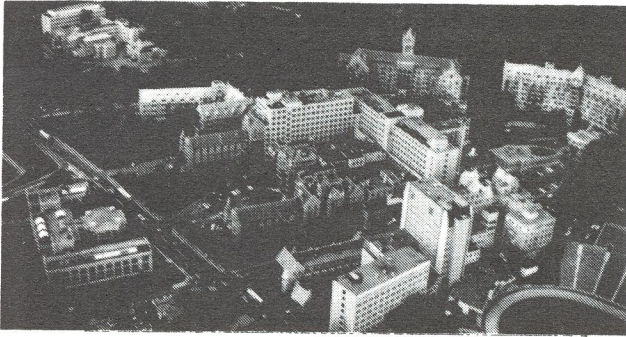
Research activities within the Department and residency teaching have been studied and the relationship of the base teaching hospitals with the affiliated hospitals has been evaluated with significant input from the Surgeons-in-Chief of the JGH, Queen Elizabeth and St. Mary's Hospitals.

New and expanding areas in the Department of Surgery are under review, including head and neck surgery, laser surgery, transplantation, trauma surgery and oncology.

Regular interviews with members of the Faculty have been held and these will continue into the autumn.

A report summarizing the activities of the Task Force will be circulated to the Faculty. A retreat of all members of the Department of Surgery is scheduled for Saturday, December 1, 1990, to discuss plans for the future. The retreat will likely be held in the McIntyre Medical Building. ■

RVH Renovations



The new Annex at the RVH is presently a large hole in the ground, but we remain optimistic that this will be transformed into a new building before too much longer. The projected completion date is, however, not before December 1992.

The new Annex, located on the site of the old interns' residence, will be a four-storey structure. It will contain space for the emergency department, a pre-natal unit, ICU, MICU, SICU, clinical labs and an office for anaesthesiology. The interns' residence has been moved to the Women's Pavilion. ■

New Equipment

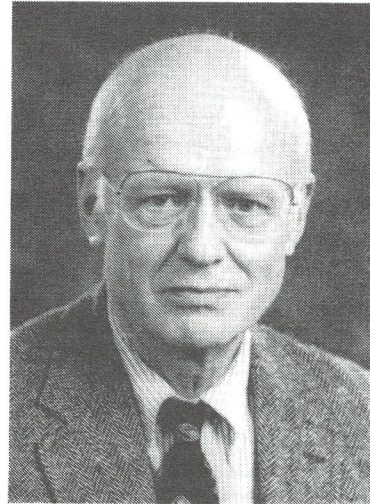
The MGH and QEH have already bought, and the JGH and the RVH are in the process of buying, a laparoscope to perform laparoscopic cholecystectomies, minimally invasive gallbladder surgery. ■

In Memoriam

- William Shizgal (H. Shizgal's father)
- Peter Mylonakis

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Annual L.D. MacLean Day November 15-17, 1990



Dr. M.J. Jurkiewicz

Dr. M.J. Jurkiewicz is the 1990 L.D. MacLean Visiting Professor. Dr. Jurkiewicz holds many important posts: President of the American College of Surgeons; Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Emory University's School of Medicine in Atlanta; Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Emory University Affiliated Hospitals in Atlanta; and Chief of the Surgical Services Department at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Atlanta.

Dr. Jurkiewicz will be visiting McGill November 15-17. Watch for further details in the program, available in late October, and in the next issue of this newsletter. Please circle November 16 in your calendar for the Banquet. Surgical members of all McGill affiliated hospitals are welcome. ■

Andre Aisenstadt Clinical Day

On October 31, 1990, the JGH will be holding its Andre Aisenstadt Clinical Day, chaired by Dr. Mostafa M. Elhilali. The topic is *Benign and Malignant Disease of the Prostate*.

- 9:00 Welcome Remarks, **M.M. Elhilali**
 9:05 Introduction and Historic Remarks, **M.A. Gold**

Benign Prostatic Disease

Moderator: **Alex Brzezinski**

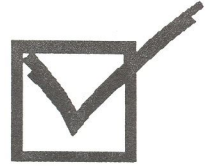
- 9:10 *New Biological Concepts in BPH and Prostatic Cancer*, **D.S. Coffey**
 9:40 *The Choice of Patient for Prostatectomy for BPH, Epidemiological Concerns*, **A.T. Cockett**
 11:00 *Medical Management of BPH*, **T.D. McConnell**
 11:30 *Newer Developments in Non-surgical Management of BPH*, **C. Olsson**

Prostatic Cancer

Moderator: **S.A. Jacobson**

- 13:30 *Cellular Death and the Prostate*, **C. Olsson**
 14:00 *Imaging for the Prostate*, **M. Rifkin**
 14:30 *Tumour Markers: Role in Diagnosis and Management*, **A.W. Bruce**
 16:00 *Surgery Versus Radiotherapy for Localized Disease: Doctors Predicting Outcome*, **D.F. Paulson**
 16:30 *Hormonal Management for Advanced Prostatic Cancer*, **M.M. Elhilali** ■

Dates to Remember



International Symposium on Spermatology in Siena, Italy, August 30 - September 5, 1990.

For further information, contact Dr. Claude Gagnon, RVH local 5429.

International Surgical Group meeting September 12 - 14, 1990 in Montreal.

Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery meeting September 14 - 16, 1990 in Toronto.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons meeting September 14 - 17, 1990 in Toronto.

MRC Operating, Maintenance and Equipment Grants new grants deadline September 15, 1990.

Society of Thoracic Surgeons meeting September 21 - 23, 1990 in Chicago.

McGill Graduate Faculty Grants Competitions Computer Grants deadline, September 28, 1990.

American Association for the Surgery of Trauma meeting October 5 - 7, 1990 in Chicago.

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress October 7 - 12, 1990 in San Francisco.

Canadian Cardiovascular Society meeting October 16 - 20, 1990 in Halifax.

Dr. Ray Morrissy will be visiting McGill, as the **Orthopaedic Visiting Professor**, October 18, 1990 and as the **Shriner's Hospital Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor**, October 18 - 19, 1990.

American College of Chest Physicians meeting October 22 - 26, 1990 in Toronto.

The **Andre Aisenstadt Day** of the Jewish General Hospital will be held on October 31, 1990. The topic will be *Benign and Malignant Disease of the Prostate*. **Dr. Mostafa M. Elhilali** will be program chairman. For further information see program on this page.

MRC Operating Grants renewal grants application deadline – November 1, 1990.

Quebec Urological Association annual meeting November 2–4, 1990 in Montreal. For further information contact Dr. Michel Bazinet, 843-1535.

Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society annual meeting November 4–6, 1990 in Esterel, Quebec. For further information, contact Dr. Claude Gagnon, RVH local 5429.

American Heart Association meeting November 12–15, 1990 in Dallas.

Association for Academic Surgery meeting November 14–17, 1990 in Houston, Texas.

L.D. MacLean Visiting Professor – Dr. Maurice Jurkiewicz, November 15–17, 1990.

McGill Department of Surgery Retreat Saturday, December 1, 1990. For further information, contact Dr. Meakins' office, at 843-1504.

Society of University Surgeons fifty-second annual meeting, February 7–9, 1991 in Galveston, Texas. Abstract deadline is August 31, 1990.

Society of Thoracic Surgeons meeting February 17–20, 1991 in San Francisco. Abstract deadline is August 1, 1990.

American College of Cardiology meeting March 3–7, 1991 in Atlanta.

Central Surgical Association meeting March 7–9, 1991 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Abstract deadline is September 17, 1990.

American Surgical Association meeting April 10–12, 1991 in Boca Raton, Florida. Abstract deadline is December 1, 1990.

American College of Surgeons Spring Meeting April 14–17, 1991 in New York.

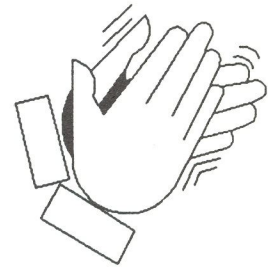
Eleventh North American Workshop: *The Male Sperm Cell: Spermatogonium to Fertilization* April 24–27, 1991 in Montreal. For further

information contact Drs. Orest Blaschuk (RVH local 5499) or Claude Gagnon (RVH local 5429).

Canadian and American Urological Association annual meetings June 2–6, 1991 in Toronto. For further information contact Dr. Mostafa Elhilali, RVH local 5486.■

Kudos

Dr. Pnina Brodt did a wonderful job organizing the Lake Ontario Metastasis Group Meeting on June 29, 1990, which included symposia on growth factors and their receptors in malignancy.



Dr. Nicolas Christou was the Chairman of a meeting, **Life-threatening Intra-abdominal Infections: Current Management, Future Perspectives**, at the International Congress for Infectious Diseases in Montreal on July 18, 1990. Drs. Christou, Nohr, Gordon, and Meakins, have had their program grant from the Medical Research Council – *Studies in Altered Host Resistance to Infection in Surgery and Trauma* – renewed.

Dr. L.D. MacLean, who recently received the Honourary Degree of Doctor of Science from McGill University, is now organizing a three day event for the International Surgical Group. The members of this group will be treated to an excellent academic and social program in Montreal from September 12 to 14, 1990.

Dr. Richard G. Margolese was the Herbert Black Professor of Surgical Oncology. He gave the Herbert Black Chair in Surgical Oncology Honourary Lecture on *Surgery and the University*, at McGill on May 9, 1990. He discussed the history and future of surgery in general and the JGH and the McGill Faculty of Medicine in specific. His talk was greatly enjoyed by those present.

Dr. Jonathan Meakins presented a paper, *Etiology of Multiple Organ Failure*, at the Sepsis and Organ Failure Session of the **Advances in Understanding Trauma and Burn Injury** International Research Conference, sponsored by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, in Washington, DC this June.

Dr. David Mulder is completing the galleys on the second edition of *Principles and Practice of Research: Strategies for Surgical Investigators*, which he is editing, together with four other doctors.

John Sampalis and the Department of Surgery have received a Fraser Fund award for the development of surgical epidemiology.

Dr. Hani Shennib has received a grant for a Cystic Fibrosis Transplant Clinic. This clinic will play a pivotal role in the establishment of surgery's role in the management of cystic fibrosis patients. Dr. Shennib has also been accepted for funding as a Chercheur Boursier Clinician Junior 2.

Dr. Jean Tchervenkov, who may be familiar to many of you as a surgical resident, is returning to McGill this July as an Assistant Professor and RVH staff member with the objective of establishing an adult liver transplant program. He will also attend in the SICU.

Dr. Judith Trudel, a General Surgeon, has received funding as a Chercheur Boursier Clinician.

Dr. H. Bruce Williams was the William Ersil Visiting Professor to Queen's University May 31 - June 1, 1990. He participated in the Annual Resident Day presentations and gave a paper on *Muscle Stimulation Using an Implantable Electrical System Following Nerve Injury and Repair*. Dr. Williams also chaired a symposium, *Laser for Plastic Surgeons*, at McGill University, June 15-17, 1990. The symposium was sponsored by the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons and was extremely popular. ■

Residents and Fellows Achievements

Dr. Armen Aprikian, Chief Resident in Urology, was awarded First Prize for Research by the Quebec Urological Association for his paper, *The Use of Stomach in Creating a Natural Urinary Sphincter*.

Dr. Benoît deVarennes, a CVT resident, has recently married. Dr. Dobell and the Department extend their congratulations.

Dr. Michel Daigle won second prize in the Orthopaedic Resident Research Paper Competition. See page 7 for more details.

Dr. Mohamad El-Gammal, Post-doctoral Fellow in Urology, was awarded the Second Prize for his research paper, *Experimental Study of the Effect of Balloon Catheter Dilatation of the Ureter on the Upper Tract Dynamics and Ureteral Wall in Swine*, by the Endourological Society and The Journal of Endourology.

Dr. Malcolm Ghazal won first prize in the Orthopaedic Resident Research Paper Competition. See page 7 for more details.

Dr. David Latter will continue to work at Stanford University until January 1991. According to all reports, his work is going very well and congratulations are in order for the birth of your second baby.

Dr. Sarkis Meterissian, a recent graduate in General Surgery, has won a Cedars Cancer grant and left for Boston on July 1st to continue his training and research in surgical oncology. Dr. Meterissian is the proudest new father we have ever seen!

Dr. C. Oung tied for second prize at the Fraser Gurd Research Day. See page 2 for more details.

Dr. Dan Poenaru won first prize at the Fraser Gurd Research Day. See page 2 for more details.

Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez-Cantu, a research fellow in the Department of Surgery, presented a paper, *Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) Alone Does Not Explain the Lethal Effect of Lipopolysaccharide* on his work with **Drs. N.V. Christou, J.L. Meakins and C.W. Nohr** at the Surgical Infection Society meeting in Cincinnati. We all wish you well in your return to Mexico.

Dr. Rémi P. Schneider, a research fellow from Switzerland working with **Dr. Carl Nohr** for two years, won the Resident Competition Award at the Surgical Infection Society meeting in Cincinnati for his paper *Humoral Immunity in Trauma and Non-Trauma Patients*, with **Drs. N.V. Christou, J.L. Meakins, and C.W. Nohr**. The abstract is included below.

Dr. Joyce Tarbet won third prize in the Orthopaedic Resident Research Paper Competition. See page 7 for more details.

Dr. Dan Thomas tied for second prize at the Fraser Gurd Research Day. See page 2 for more details.

Dr. John Yee presented a paper, *C. Difficile Disease in a Department of Surgery: The Significance of Prophylactic Antibiotics*, with **Dr. A.P.H. McLean, C.M. Dixon, R.N., and Dr. J.L. Meakins** at the Surgical Infection Society meeting in Cincinnati.

Dr. Ronald Zelt received a McLaughlin Fellowship in Plastic Surgery and Reconstructive Microsurgery. He will be starting his training at the University of Melbourne, Australia Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery with **Dr. G. Ian Taylor** on July 1, 1990. In 1991, Dr. Zelt will be going to Chicago for a Master's in Surgical Education. ■

Humoral Immunity in Trauma and Non-Trauma Patients

Drs. R.P. Schneider, N.V. Christou, J.L. Meakins and C.W. Nohr

Humoral immunity is depressed in non-trauma (NT) surgical patients. We measured antibody responses after blunt (BT) and penetrating (PT) trauma, and compared them to NT. Patients were defined as anergic (A) or reactive (R) on the basis of delayed type hypersensitivity response (DTH), known to be related to sepsis and mortality in NT. The response to tetanus toxoid (TT) vaccination on admission of > two weeks survivors of trauma was defined as the ratio of day 14/day 0 serum IgG anti-TT. Severity of injury and physiologic abnormalities were determined using a modified injury severity score (MISS), and APACHE II.

RESULTS: Anti-TT response (geometric mean)

	ALL	(N)	DTH R	(N)	DTH A	(N)
Trauma	34*	(31)	47*	(20)	19*	(11)
Blunt	32	(24)	42	(15)	20	(9)
Penetrating	44	(7)	66	(5)	16	(2)
Non-Trauma	3	(55)	9	(19)	2	(36)
Controls	28	(26)	--	---	--	---

* $p < .01$ BT + PT vs NT with same DTH, Wilcoxon rank(WR)

Anti-TT responses were similar in R and A trauma patients ($p > 0.6$, WR). On admission, MISS, APACHE II and DTH were similar after BT and PT ($p > 0.2$, WR and Fisher's exact test (FET)). DTH returned to normal in 29/31 trauma patients before discharge, but was unchanged in NT patients. Major infection rates were similar in both trauma groups (3/24 BT vs 2/7 PT, $p > 0.6$, FET), and independent of DTH (2/20 R vs 3/11 A, $p > 0.4$, FET), in contrast to NT patients (1/19 R vs 15/36 A, $p < 0.01$, FET)

CONCLUSION: Depressed DTH after trauma is temporary. In comparison to NT patients with similar depression of DTH, this transient immunodeficiency after injury is not associated with depression of antibody responses, or increased risk of infection. ■

Letters to the Editor



Recently we received a letter from Dr. Jose M. Tellado, a former fellow. He writes:

Since my arrival in Spain, I have not had time to organize my papers. My current appointment is an Attending Surgeon responsible for the Unit of Surgical Infectious Diseases. Besides that duty, I am setting up a lab dedicated to research in Surgical Immunobiology.

I really miss Canada and my friends there. It is too early to rationalize four years of intensive experience at the Royal Victoria Hospital. In any case, I would like to be in touch with the Department. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could put my name and address on the mailing list of "The Square Knot" newsletter.

Recently, we also received a letter from Dr. Jose Escamilla Olivera, a graduate of the McGill Department of Surgery currently practising in Mexico. Thank you for staying in touch with us. ■

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A Warm Welcome

This Newsletter is intended to be interactive. Our goal is not only to provide our readers with information, but to get information from you. For this reason, we are always pleased to hear from our readers, no matter what the issue. Comments and information are always welcome.

Please write to us at the address given on page 16.

- Jane Hutchison. ■

ADMINISTRATIUM New Element Keeps Growing, Slows Others

(from The Ottawa Citizen, March 27, 1990)

This anonymous letter is circulating at the National Research Council and represents scientists' grim, but humorous, response to their plight.

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered by physicists at the NRC Research Centre. The element, tentatively named administratium, has no protons or electrons and thus has an atomic number of 0. However, it does have one neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice-neutrons and 11 assistant vice-neutrons. This gives it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together in a nucleus by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles called morons.

Since it has no electrons, administratium is inert. However, it can be detected chemically as it impedes every reaction it comes in contact with. According to the discoverers, a minute amount of administratium caused a reaction to take over four days to complete, when it would normally occur in less than one second.

Administratium has a normal half life of approximately three years, at which time it does not actually decay, but, instead, undergoes a reorganization in which assistant neutrons, vice-neutrons and assistant vice-neutrons exchange places. Some studies have shown that the atomic weight usually increases after each reorganization.

Research at other laboratories indicates that administratium occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to concentrate at certain points such as government agencies, large corporations, universities, and NRC, and can actually be found in the newest, best maintained buildings.

Scientists point out that administratium is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reactions where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to determine how administratium can be controlled to prevent irreversible damage, but results to date are not promising. ■

Recycling



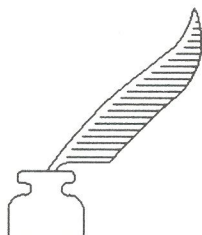
THE SQUARE KNOT is an environmentally-friendly newsletter. We print this newsletter on recyclable paper, and we have an office policy of obeying the four R's: refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle.

We applaud the recent decision of McGill University Printing Service to sell recycled envelopes at a lower price than new envelopes, to encourage recycling.

We encourage recycling, and would appreciate any suggestions from our readers concerning environmental office procedures, both for our own office and for publication in THE SQUARE KNOT. ■

Submissions Welcome

We can't do it without you - if you have any information you want to have published in THE SQUARE KNOT, comments about our newsletter or suggestions, forward them to us!



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**HAVE A HAPPY
SUMMER!**

