

THE SQUARE

KNOT

Approximately 10-15% of couples experience infertility and subfertility. In ours and many other societies, fertility and infertility issues generally are focused on the female partners of the couples. Hence most infertile or subfertile couples begin seeking medical help from gynecologists for the female partners.

Male Reproductive Medicine at McGill *The Heritage and Vision for the Future*

By Peter Chan, M.D.

field of Male Reproductive Medicine, urologists world-wide have taken the role of managing the male partners in couples experiencing infertility.

In reality, based on recent studies, most experts agree that about a third of couples experiencing difficulties conceiving are due to pure male-factor infertility and another third due to a mix of both male and female factor infertility. Indeed, with the recent advances both in research, clinical evaluation, medical and surgical therapies in the

HISTORY OF MCGILL REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

McGill has a long history in the field of reproductive biology research. In the 1950's, **Dr. Charles P. Leblond**, who was the chair of the Department of Anatomy at the time, pioneered the histological work on testis to study spermatogenesis. In 1962, one of his post-graduate students, **Dr. Yves Clermont**, made the classical description on the complete staging of spermatogenesis in animal and human. Not only did this work form the basis of generations of research studies on spermatogenesis, but the staging system and detailed histological description are also used extensively by reproductive biologists even today. Subsequently, Dr. Clermont, who eventually succeeded Dr. Leblond as the chair of the department, produced generations of world-renowned reproductive biologists throughout the world. In particular, **Drs. Louis Hermo** and **Carlos Morales**, who are currently Professors of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at McGill, continue to actively work on their respective fields of reproductive biology in studying epididymal physiology on sperm maturation and sorting and trafficking of lysosome proteins. In the late 1980's I began and completed my graduate study under Drs. Louis Hermo ▶

(Please see *Male Reproduction* on page 10)

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DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

NEWSLETTER

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2008



Dear Editor,

What a pleasure it was to see the picture of Harry Scott, MD, celebrating his 90th birthday and to read his note on pericardial tamponade in the spring 2008 *Square Knot!*



Letters to The Editor

Harry has not changed! When I was chief surgical resident at the MGH in 1957 ---51 years ago!-- Harry was a role model for all of us who were surgical residents. I can still hear his voice--and remember his "can do" personality. He was ---and is --- energetic, bright, skillful and unforgettable!

Harry was only 39 years old--- 51 years ago --- but all of us on the surgical service trusted him, admired him and learned life lessons from him as our model of a surgeon. Thank you, Harry, for everything you taught us that helped us to care for patients!

With best wishes,

**Francis Coughlin MD, M.Sc. (McGill), FRCSC
New Canaan, CT, USA**

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Dear Editor,

I was very impressed by the report of Harry Scott's 90th birthday celebration. Apart from the now-white hair Harry's face seems to be exactly the same as it was in the early fifties when as a student I first saw him at the Central Division of the Montreal General Hospital. He gave a lecture to our group in the old main theatre of the operating room on scrubbing technique. In his firm and unambiguous style he told us all we would ever need to know about scrubbing. Later as a resident I found his performance as a then younger staff surgeon exacting in his expectation that we would all do our jobs and live up to our positions, and inspiring in his own abilities in teaching.

Harry Scott had a broad education and is very well read. He has well-founded, firm opinions on many subjects which he can explain in clear terms, as he is by nature a genuine and enthusiastic student. Surgery

is only one of his many interests. He comes from a distinguished family of clerics and jurists, and has carried on their tradition of achievement in intellectual pursuits.

I enjoyed reading the article and in seeing his picture, with his full head of hair and trim figure.

On another subject, the Globe and Mail two days ago ran an obituary notice of John Moore, who had died in Fredericton after a short illness. I liked John very much, and always enjoyed his friendliness and encouragement, and his collegial companionship at the Royal Victoria. He must have been 92 or 93. He was a nice and kind friend.

Further, I enjoyed seeing the picture of Vince Piccone, Jack White, Charlie Mayo and Brian McKenna. It was a very good picture of them all looking very happy and young. That was an enterprising bit of surgery they did, and they were clearly getting great satisfaction from it. That is the best part of the practice of surgery.

Many thanks for the continued workmanship on the Square Knot.

With best wishes.

**Geoffrey Lehman,
Calgary**

In response to the Editor's inquiry:

I did general surgery and some vascular surgery. I graduated in 1953 and trained on the surgical diploma course, which I finished in 1959. I got my Fellowship and DABS in 1960; FACS in 1962. I was on the staff of the RVH from 1961 to 1985, finally as Senior Surgeon and Associate Professor at McGill. My degrees are BA 1949, MD CM 1953 and Diploma Surgery 1959 (all McGill).

Thanks for your kind attention, and again, I appreciate the work you do for the Square Knot, which gives me and all other old timers great pleasure.

Sincerely,

**Geoffrey Lehman,
MD CM, FRCSC, FACS**

Dear Editor,

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) at the annual meeting held on June 14th 2008 in Hollywood, Florida, I was honored with the Distinguished Investigator Life-Time Achievement Award for 2008.

This was in recognition of my participating in the activities of this Clinical Trials Group led formerly by the legendary Dr. Bernard Fisher and now by Dr. Norman Wolmark, a McGill graduate. Thirty four years ago in the spring of 1974, I joined and have been designated as the Principal Investigator of the Royal Victoria Hospital ever since. Through the great support of my surgical colleagues, clinical research coordinators, oncology nurses and other members of the Oncology Team of the Royal Victoria Hospital we have been able to accrue over 1300 individuals to both the Treatment and Prevention Trials over the years. This participation has resulted in being involved in many prospectively randomized landmark trials that have led to evidence that has changed the way we manage the patients with cancer of these two sites.

My involvement with the trend-setting NSABP no doubt has led to myself becoming a true academic surgeon advocating the value of clinical trials and has influenced many surgical oncologists and fellows that have worked and trained at our institution.

**Henry R Shibata MD, FRCSC
Professor Emeritus McGill University
Senior Surgical Oncologist MUHC
Medical Advisor Cedars Cancer
Institute**

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Dear Editor,

Dr. Louis-Philippe Palerme is a God send to the people of Prince George, BC. My daughter was diagnosed with colon cancer a month ago by Dr. Palerme and he is a wonderful doctor. He is at at the Prince George hospital. ▶

(Please see **Letters** on page 21)



Editor's Note

By Ray C.J. Chiu, M.D., Ph.D.

As I sent out my "last reminder" to the Surgical Divisions at McGill, announcing a deadline to solicit information and contributions to this issue of *The Square Knot*, it suddenly occurred to me that this will be the second anniversary since I was persuaded to succeed **Dr. Ed Monaghan** as the volunteer editor for this publication, perhaps as a small payback to what McGill had given me all those years.

Having been involved with many professional publications, I thought this task would be a piece of cake, but in fact it turned out to be more like "sweet and sour".

The most rewarding has been the positive feed-backs from our senior alumni, such as those cited in the *Letters to the Editor* section in this issue. Their reflections and kind words contribute to the collegiality and *esprit de corps* we seek with this effort. The vitality and productivity of current staff and trainees reported

here are being received with sense of pride and satisfaction by our alumni and friends.

On the other hand, we learned that freedom of expression we respect needs to be guided by the civility and the mission of our publication, such that contributions and submissions which may be taken as offensive by readers should be avoided. As this publication is now accessible on the internet, our readership can be diverse which needs to be considered in our editorial mandate and policies. The submissions may be edited for length as well to accommodate space available.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent assistance each issue of this publication receives from **Ms. Ildiko Horvath** at the MGH Medical Multimedia Services, MUHC, and **Ms. Jennifer Day** at the Medical Information Technology, McGill Faculty of Medicine. Their expert help is much appreciated. ♦

Welcome Aboard



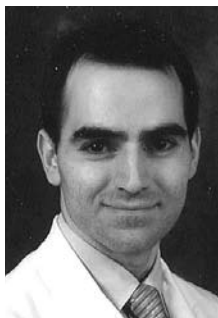
Dr. Simon Bergman

Dr. Simon Bergman joined the General Surgery staff at the Jewish General Hospital August 1, 2008. Dr. Bergman obtained his M.D. at McGill 2001 and graduated from our residency training program in 2007. He pursued a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at Ohio State University and is fully trained in robotics and related technologies.



Dr. Mirko Gilardino

Dr. Mirko Gilardino joined the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as of July 1 2008 and is based at the Montreal Children's Hospital. He trained at McGill (M.D. 2001) where he completed his residency in 2007. He obtained additional training at Johns Hopkins University as a fellow in reconstructive craniomaxillofacial surgery. At the MUHC he will coordinate the development of a multidisciplinary Craniofacial Centre for Children.



Dr. Ari-Nareg Meguerditchian

Dr. Ari-Nareg Meguerditchian joined the Division of General Surgery (Surgical Oncology) as of August 1, 2008 and is based at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Dr. Meguerditchian completed his General Residency training at Laval University in 2005, followed by three years of fellowship in translational research and surgical oncology at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo NY. At McGill he will be involved in clinical and basic cancer research as well as outcomes research. ♦

Welcome to the New Chief Residents, 2008-2009



DIVISION OF CARDIAC SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. KEVIN LACHAPPELLE**



Dr. Turki Albacker comes to us from Saudi Arabia where he obtained his MD Degree with Honours at King Saud University in Riyadh. Turki is a well read, hardworking, diligent resident who obtained his Master's of Science Degree in Experimental Surgery and had a number of publications and presentations, both at the American Heart Association and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Turki also received a Certificate in Educational Leadership from Regis University in Denver and is an active member of the Clinical Investigator Program at McGill University. We are confident that Turki will have a very good chief resident year and he is looking forward to a fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in aortic surgery. We wish him the best of luck.



Dr. Rony Atoui comes to us from Montreal and did his undergraduate as well as medical degree at McGill University. He graduated on the Dean's Honour List and won the Campbell Keenan Memorial Prize in Clinical Surgery. Rony is a hardworking individual who has been very productive in his academic enrichment year where he obtained his Master's Degree in Experimental Surgery and had a number of publications and presentations notably at the American Heart Association and the Society for Thoracic Surgeons. Everyone likes Rony and he makes friends wherever he goes. Following his chief resident's year, he will go on to Dr. McCarthy's group in Chicago to do minimally invasive valve surgery. We wish him the best of luck in this upcoming year and for the future.



Dr. Siamak Mohammadi has taken a long route to get to McGill University and his final year in Cardiac Surgery. He comes to us from Iran via Paris, France; Vancouver, British Columbia; and Sainte Foy, Quebec. He is already a very experienced and mature surgeon with a number of publications in high ranking journals such as *Circulation*. We are sure that his chief resident year will be fruitful and he has plans to continue his training in Critical Care Medicine at McGill and join the cardiac surgical team at Hôpital Laval, Laval University in Quebec in 2010.

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. PAOLA FATA**



Yahya Al-Azri is a graduate from Sultan Qaboos University in 1998. He did one year of internship followed by Basic general surgical training in Oman for 2 yrs and then he worked for sometime in Edinburgh, Scotland and obtained the Membership Examination of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (MRCSEd). He is a proud father of baby boy Raid and a new baby on the way. He started his residency at McGill in 2004 and completed six months of research with Dr. Fata in traumatic pancreatic and duodenal injuries. He is presently applying for a Fellowship position in Hepatobiliary Surgery.



Sulaiman Al-Hadher graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1998 and was then employed at the Amiri Hospital in Kuwait as of July 1999. He started his residency at McGill in July 2004. Proud father of two children. He completed six months of research in Pediatric Surgery. He will be pursuing a Fellowship in Vascular Surgery at the University of British Columbia.



Salman Al-Sabah is a graduate from Kuwait University Medical School in 2001. He started his residency at McGill in 2004. Salman completed 1-year of research with Dr. N. Christou in Bariatric Surgery and Dr. Alan Barkin in upper GI bleeding. He was awarded the 2007 Best Poster Award at the Canadian Association of General Surgery, Canadian Surgery Forum, Toronto. Salman also completed a Masters in Health Management. He ranked 1st across Canada in CAGS in Feb 2008. He is presently applying for a Fellowship position in laparoscopic surgery. Salman was awarded the Best Resident Teacher Award this past year.



Mohammed Al-Sibani is a graduate of Sultan Qaboos University – College of Medicine, Oman in June 1999. Then he worked as a medical officer in the Armed Force Hospital in Oman, rotating through the Surgical Department. He started his residency at McGill in 2004. He completed a six-month research project with Dr. Marc Basik. He is a proud father of Raghad and Wael. He is presently applying for a Fellowship position in Surgical Oncology.





Ali Hazrati is a graduate of Tehran Medical University, Iran, 1998. After graduation he served as a family practitioner in public and private hospitals. He then immigrated to Canada where he spent 2-years at the Montreal General Hospital Research Institute and completed his Master of Science (M.Sc) degree followed by a research fellowship in Dr. L. Rosenberg's lab in 2003. He then moved to Newfoundland and practiced as an Emergency Physician in Western Memorial Hospital in Corner Brook. He successfully passed the Canadian Board of Family Medicine certification exam (CCFP) in 2004. He then started his General Surgery residency at McGill University in 2004. He completed a six-month Plastic Surgery research project at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 2007 under the supervision of Dr. Marek Dobke, chief of the department. He presented his work at the American Society of Plastic Surgery (ASPS) in Baltimore in 2007. He is presently applying for a Fellowship position in Hand and Microvascular Surgery and will eventually pursue a career in Plastic and Reconstructive surgery in the United States.



Pascal Lamarre is a graduate of McGill University. He started his residency at McGill in 2004. He has been accepted in the Combined Critical Care Program. Pascal is a proud father of Charlotte. At the completion of his ICU fellowship at McGill University, Pascal will pursue trauma fellowship training in the US. Pascal was awarded the Best Resident Teacher Award in General Surgery this past year.



Elliot Mitmaker is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He started his residency at McGill in July 2003. He completed 1-½ years of research with Dr. M. Trifiro at the Jewish General Hospital and obtained a Master's Degree in Experimental Surgery in 2007. He is presently applying for a Fellowship position in Endocrine Surgery.



Gerry Polychronopoulos completed a Bachelor of Science Degree at Boston College prior to completing his M.D. Degree at McGill University. He started his residency at McGill in 2003. He completed 1 ½ years of research in the MIS Lab. He is the father of two beautiful children, Nikolas and Vasilias. An avid sports fan, he proudly hails from the city of the World Series Champion Boston Red Sox and NBA Champion Boston Celtics. He is presently applying for a Fellowship position in Hepatobiliary and Transplant Surgery.



Debbie Woo is a graduate of McGill. She started her residency at McGill in 2004. She completed a clinical research project in hepatobiliary surgery. Debbie is indeed a gamer enjoying a good "battle" on Dance Dance Revolution. She is devoted to her friends and her family. Debbie is planning

to do locums for a year to support her "house-husband" Fady Mansour who is planning to do a Fellowship. A fellowship in Vascular Surgery is in the future.



Christian Zalai is a graduate of McGill. He started his residency at McGill in 2004. He completed a clinical research project in trauma surgery and presented his results as a platform presentation at the Trauma Association of Canada 2007 in Ottawa and at the Rocke Robertson Forum. His clinical interests lie in Critical Care, Trauma, and Acute Care Surgery.

DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: DR. REGGIE HAMDY

Abdulaziz Alomar: As chief of the 2009 graduating year, this man needs no formal introduction. When he was just an R1, he was already behaving like an R4. During his rookie year, he walked most of his senior residents through the cases all while humbly holding the retractors. This fatherly figure never touched a consult he didn't like. Aziz will be finding fame and ridicule during his fellowship training with the orthopedic sports group at the University of Western Ontario. After completion, he will pursue a career in limb lengthening at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

Asim Al-Daheri: Asim was born in Jedah, Saudi Arabia. He is married with two children. The main reason why he chooses to practice orthopaedics is to study the effect of Shisha on men's osteoporosis (Arabic joke?). Asim plans to do his Fellowship in Toronto in knee surgery.

Marie Gdalevitch: Marie Gdalevitch aka "Mary" is the local heroine of this graduating quintet. She is admired by her colleagues and patients. Following graduation, Marie will be pursuing a career in pediatric orthopedics. She will be in Baltimore, MD for a fellowship in limb lengthening, then a year in Sydney, Australia for pediatric orthopedics. She will make a fine role model for young girls and boys alike.

David Lee: This Yale grad began his journey as a resident with an unexpected vacation to Vancouver and came back married, excited and exhausted. It is now four years later, but nothing has changed in this respect. He plans on a career in Arthroplasty surgery after spending time at the University of Calgary for fellowship training.

Patrick Allison: Patty A is a complex animal that can be summed up with just two words: Thunder Bay. Love him or hate him, he has been the face of Orthopaedics for the last 5 years. ▶

► He will be working the halls of Sunnybrook in an effort to fine tune his bone setting skills at the University of Toronto with a fellowship in Orthopedic Trauma. When asked about future advice, he simply replied, "Remember kids: measure twice, hit once, and respect the talus!"

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. PRAMOD PULIGANDLA**



Dr. Robert Baird completed his undergraduate studies at McGill where he received his MD. Under the supervision of Drs. Jean-Martin Laberge and Feige Kaplan, he obtained his Masters of Science in Experimental Surgery. His thesis was entitled "The Effect of Fetal Tracheal Occlusion on Branching Morphogenesis in Animal Models of Pulmonary Hypoplasia Secondary to Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia".

He was accepted into the McGill General Surgery Program in 2002. Three and a half years later he transferred to University of British Columbia due to family employment change, to complete his general surgery training. He will pursue a two year fellowship in pediatric general surgery at McGill. Robert and his wife, Naomi, have a one year-old son Sean. We welcome Robert and his family back to Montreal, and look forward to having him join the Division.

DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. BRUCE WILLIAMS**

Dr. Jennifer Dolmajian received her medical degree from McGill University in 2004. She was on the Dean's Honour List for three years and was the recipient of the J. W. McConnell Award from 2000-2002. Jennifer has been involved in many community activities and has served as a counselor for youth groups. She has been competitive in and enjoys track and field, basketball, and downhill skiing. Following completion of her training, she plans to practice community Plastic Surgery

Dr. Photis Loizides graduated from McGill University with his Medical Degree in June, 2004. He has received several awards including the James McGill Scholarship and being chosen for the Dean's Honour List. Photis is currently involved in a research project on "Lateral Thoracic Artery Perforator Flaps: An Anatomical Study". Following completion of his training, he plans to do a Fellowship in Microsurgery.

In 2002, **Dr. Dimitrios Motakis** graduated with his Ph.D. in Experimental Medicine and in 2004, he received his Medical Degree, both from McGill University. He is co-author on several papers and he is currently involved in three research projects in the Division of Plastic Surgery. He has received several honours including the Dean's List, Concordia University, and the Medical

Research Council of Canada Doctoral Research Award. He enjoys painting with oils, pastels, and charcoals, along with jogging and resistance training.

DIVISION OF UROLOGY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. SERGE CARRIER**



Dr. Andrew Feifer was born and raised in Montreal. He graduated from McGill University medical school in 2004 after having completed a B.Sc (Honours) in physiology. He went on to undertake a residency in Urology at McGill. His main research interests include prostate and kidney cancer, prognostic models and clinical

and molecular epidemiology. Upon completion of residency, he will be pursuing a urologic oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.



Dr. Maximiliano Sorbellini stated: "I was born in Argentina and raised in Buenos Aires, Cincinnati and Paris. I graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine with an MD with Distinction in Research in Urologic Oncology. During medical school, I was selected to be part of the Summer Research Program at the

National Institutes of Health. There, I studied the Process of Informed Consent and explored new ways to insure an adequate informed consent process for research subjects using third-party advocates. As a senior medical student, I worked on new prognostic nomograms for renal cell carcinoma at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. My papers had been published in the Journal of Urology and had been cited in Campbell's textbook of Urology. After residency, I will be pursuing further training in Urologic Oncology". ♦

Dr. **Armen Aprikian**

launched a province-wide prospective prostate cancer biobank project across the four university teaching hospitals, funded by "Procure", a charitable organization, and the FRSQ. He had been appointed Full Professor in the Department of Surgery, June 2007, and is now the editor-in-chief of the Canadian Urological Association Journal.

KUDOS !!



In recognition of his efforts and devotion to medical education, **Dr. Peter Chan** of the Division of Urology was the 2008 recipient of the Everett C. Reid Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Urology. This is the second time Dr. Chan received this honor. Dr. Chan served as Co-Chair of a post-graduate course entitled

Male Infertility Treatment and Prevention during the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association in Orlando, FL. Dr. Chan (Principal Investigator) and **Drs. Bernard Robaire** and **Barbara Hales** (Co-Principal Investigators) of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics received a four-year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to study the long-term impact of testicular cancer and chemotherapy on Male Reproductive Health. Drs. Chan and Robaire were named co-editors by the American Society of Andrology for the second edition of the *Andrology Handbook*, a comprehensive text on the current issues of research and clinical Andrology. This book will be published early 2009.

Dr. Simone Chevalier has been appointed the Scientific Director of the Procure Prostate Cancer BioBank of Quebec.



At the American Urological Association meeting, **Drs. Elhab A Elzayat** and **Mostafa M. Elhilali** received the "Best Poster 2008 Award". The winning poster was entitled: *Holmium Laser Ablation (HOLAP) versus Photoselective Vaporization (PVP) of the Prostate: A Prospective Randomized Trial.*

Dr. Lorenzo Ferri, from the Division of Thoracic Surgery received a new FRSQ Award 2008-09. The title of his Chercheur-boursier clinicien-Fondamental is: *La formation des métastases du cancer de l'oesophage facilitée par l'inflammation; le rôle de l'Axe selectin -ligand selectin.*



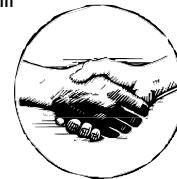
Dr. Philip H. Gordon was an invited participant at the XXVI Jornadas Portuguesas de cirurgia Porto, Portugal Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 2008. The topics covered included: *Surgical Treatment of Diverticulitis; Complication of Laparoscopy; and Perianal Complications of Crohn's Disease.*

Dr. Wes Kassouf was awarded a CIHR operating grant for the next three years investigating the role of Akt/mTOR signaling pathways in bladder cancer. He was newly appointed as Chair of the NCIC disease-oriented group in advanced bladder cancer. Research on upper tract versus lower tract urothelial carcinoma, under the supervision of Dr. Wes Kassouf, received a 5-star distinction award at the Canadian Urological Association annual meeting in Edmonton, June 2008.



Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge, Professor of Surgery, Division of Pediatric General Surgery was elected Board Member of the APSA Foundation at the 39th American Pediatric Surgery Association (APSA) Annual Meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona in May. He was elected for a three-year term (2008-2011).

Dr. Kevin Lachapelle has been named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence, 2008, in recognition of his contributions to teaching in the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Lachapelle is Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiac Surgery and Director of the McGill Medical Simulation Centre which was developed under his leadership.



Dr. Jacques Lapointe, a young faculty recruited as an assistant professor and a Prostate Cancer Scientist by the division of Urology in April 2006, was recently awarded a Scholarship from "Le Fonds de la Recherche en santé du Québec". This Junior I award recognized the quality of the candidate's dossier to date and will allow him to carry on his most promising research proposal on prostate cancer genetics. Congratulations!

Dr. Pramod Puligandla, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Pediatric General Surgery will be taking over as Program Director, Pediatric General Surgery Training Program effective July 1st, 2008. Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge has held the position of Program Director since 1994.

The McGill Division of Orthopaedic Surgery is proud to announce that **Dr Michael Tanzer** was awarded the 2008 Founder's medal for the best basic science presentation from the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society (CORS) for his work entitled *Skeletal distribution of 14C-labeled biphosphonate after local elution from porous implants*. This major recognition extends to his collaborators from the Jo Miller Orthopaedic Research Laboratory: **Dennis Bobyn**, **Jacintha Roberts**, **Jan Kryger** and **Dorota Karabatz**. This adds to the many awards already granted to this team. Dr. Tanzer has been invited to summarize his areas of research at the next meeting of the CORS in Whistler. ♦



Achievements and Congrats

Toufic Azar, a PhD candidate in the McGill Faculty of Engineering, under the supervision of **Dr. Renzo Cecere**, delivered a paper titled *A Concept for a Novel Procedure for Mitral Valve Repair by Percutaneous Annuloplasty*, at the June meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering, in Irvine, California.

Dr. Marcin Czerwinski, a Chief Resident in the Division of Plastic Surgery, presented a paper on Facial Fracture/Zygoma Treatment at the American Senior Residents Conference 2008, and won the First Prize with his presentation under **Dr. Bruce Williams'** supervision. This is the second year in a row

this prize was won by our Plastic Surgery Senior Resident since last year when **Dr. Mirko Gilardino** received the First Prize for his paper on Transverse Cervical Vessels in Head and Neck Reconstruction – Clinical and Basic Sciences Research – under the supervision of **Dr. L. Lessard**.

Dr. Ali Hazrati (R4 in General Surgery), with Dr. Teanoosh Zadeh in the McGill Division of Plastic Surgery and their plastic surgery collaborators at the University of California, San Diego, USA, presented a paper entitled: *Aging Mid-Face: Assessment and Proposed Management; Inter-rater Reliability and Concordance*, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Plastic Surgery in Baltimore, MD, USA in October 2007.

A team of McGill Engineering students, **Mathieu Laforest, Simon Carignan, Joseph de la Plante** and **Antonio Pagano**, also under the supervision of **Dr. Renzo Cecere**, were awarded the Harry Pearce

Prize, a prestigious Design prize at the recent McGill University Convocation. Their work was on a vital component of an intra-corporeal membrane oxygenation catheter currently in development.

Dr. Konrad Szymanski (R2 in Urology), will begin his Master of Public Health studies at the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, in September, 2008. ♦



Dr. Konrad Szymanski

2008 McGill Department of Surgery Graduating Residents & Fellows



CARDIAC SURGERY
FELLOW
Tareq Aleinati

MINIMALLY INVASIVE
THORACIC SURGERY
FELLOW
Valeed Saleh

GENERAL SURGERY
Abdulrahim Al Awashez
Hussein Barayan
**Sebastian Demytten-
aere**
Thamer Houh
Howlah Qasem
Esmaeel Taqi

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY
Marco Ferrone
Guido Hockmann
Sourendra Raut
Neil Saran
Matthew Stiebel

PLASTIC SURGERY
Salem Al Ajmi
Sachin A. Chitte
Marcin Czerwinski
Mario Luc

UROLOGY
Adel Alammari
Guy Breault

VASCULAR SURGERY
FELLOW
Paul Henegan

PAEDIATRIC GENERAL
SURGERY FELLOW
Jon Ryckman

MINIMALLY INVASIVE
SURGERY FELLOW
Goffredo O. Arena

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY
FELLOWS
Hidefumi Nishimori
Éric Poirier

ARTHROSCOPY AND KNEE
SURGERY FELLOW
Wazzan Al Juhani

ORTHOPAEDIC SPINE
SURGERY FELLOW
Mahdi Bassi

PAEDIATRIC UROLOGY
FELLOW
Ahmed Al Zahrani

MALE REPRODUCTIVE
MEDICINE AND MICRO-
SURGERY FELLOWS
Jason M. Boman
Rakesh Vijay Khanna

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Taylor** for receiving a ten year service pin from the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS). The CNIS is a national non profit organization that promotes the delivery of essential surgical skills to low income countries. Since our inception in 1995, the CNIS has trained over 5000 African practitioners, making us one of the world's largest non profit organizations in international surgery.

An International Surgeon: Dr. Robert Taylor, McGill Alumnus

By Jessica Pautsch

Dr. Robert Taylor, McGill medical graduate in 1970, has been instrumental in bringing the CNIS to its current status. Since his arrival in 1998, he has helped establish the Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) course, one of our core programs at the CNIS. He has brought this course to the University of Malawi and to the Clinical Officers School and has continued to instruct this course in Malawi every year from 1999 to 2002.

Among his many contributions to the CNIS, Dr. Taylor has served on the program committee, the Board and has been contracted out for various CNIS assignments as the surgical associate. He has also created, developed and run the workshop, "The Place of Surgery in International Development" in Ottawa, Toronto and St John's. This course is the first of its nature and continues to train surgeons concerned about international surgery. His next

initiative for the CNIS is developing a surgical nurses section of the CNIS.

In addition to his work with the CNIS, Dr. Taylor is Clinical Associate Professor at UBC and is involved with the International Red Cross. He has spent some time in Guyana setting up a successful grassroots hospital teaching program and continues his commitment to international health. ♦

Contributed by: *Jessica Pautsch*
Public Engagement Coordinator
Canadian Network for International Surgery
www.cnis.ca



Drs. Taylor and Litherland at the Annual Bethune Roundtable

Dream of a Not-So-Mad Scientist: Reincarnation of My Beloved Grandma?



IT IS VERY SIMPLE. I will take a fibroblast from my grandma's skin, and introduce 4 transcription factors (Oct3/4, Sox2, c-Myc and Klf4) to create an induced pluripotent stem [iPS] cell (*Okita K et al. Nature 2007; 1448:313-317*). The reported birth of a chimeric mouse using such a cell confirmed that iPS cells indeed behave like embryonic stem cells (*Wering M et al. Nature 2007; 1448:318-324*). So, using this technique, I should be able to

create an identical twin of my beloved grandma, although this 'duplicated grandma' would be much younger than me. I do not mind that, but will she still remember her excitement when I was born...???...I think I'm starting to feel a bit confused! ♦



► and **Richard Oko** (a former post-doctoral fellow of Dr. Clermont who is currently Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the Queen's University) during my medical training at McGill. I am proud to be a member of this long line of history of McGill Reproductive Biologists.

Male Reproduction

continued from page 1

Other world-renowned reproductive biologists at McGill include **Dr. Claude Gagnon**, former Director of Research of the Division of Urology at McGill. With fields of interest including sperm motility physiology and the roles of reactive oxygen species on sperm capacitation, Dr. Gagnon has been a highly productive researcher and has mentored many basic scientists and clinician scientists including **Dr. Armand Zini** of the Division of Urology at McGill and **Dr. Keith Jarvi** of the University of Toronto. The latter two have been actively training many clinical reproductive urologists working in various cities around the world.

Dr. Bernard Robaire of the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics is another internationally recognized McGill Reproductive Biologist. For over three decades, Dr. Robaire has focused his research on androgen action, the structure, function and regulation of the epididymis, aging of the male reproductive system, and reproductive toxicology. This year Dr. Robaire was honored with *The Distinguished Andrologist Award* by the American Society of Andrology. Among the long list of his graduate students is another McGill Reproductive Biologist, **Dr. Jacquetta Trasler**, Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Associate Director for Pediatric Research at the MUHC. Dr. Trasler's research focus is on the epigenetics of normal gametogenesis.

Over the recent years, the McGill Reproductive Biologists group was further enriched by many other scientists including **Drs. Makoto Nagano** and **Anna Naumova** of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, **Dr. Simon Wing** from the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, **Dr. Sarah Kimmins** of Animal Science at the MacDonald campus and **Dr. Cristian O'Flaherty**, our newly recruited scientist in the Division of Urology. McGill University currently hosts the largest and most productive group of reproductive scientists in the world.

STATE-OF-THE-ART CARE FOR MALE INFERTILITY

With regards to the healthcare model of Male Reproductive Medicine at McGill, we have since the beginning of our program adopted a collaborative approach and work closely with a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals including geneticists, embryologists, psychologists, nurses, ethicists, endocrinologists and gynecologists to address globally the infertility issues of the couples to provide an optimal, ethical and cost-effective management plan. In this model, we as

urologists not only take a leading role in providing state-of-the-art fertility care for men in our center locally, but globally we also serve an ombudsman-like role advocating the need of a thorough evaluation and management of the male partners to minimize the needs of intensive and costly assisted reproductive technologies. Several of our senior urologists including **Drs. Yosh Taguchi** and **Alex Brzezinski** have begun the early work of male infertility at McGill. Currently, I am joined by Dr. Armand Zini, who is the leader of the McGill Andrology Research Axis and has an international reputation for his works in the pathophysiology of varicoceles on sperm quality, and **Dr. Serge Carrier**, a world-renowned expert in sexual medicine who is the Director of the McGill Sexual Health Clinic and Director of the McGill Urology Training Program, to provide comprehensive care for men with sexual and reproductive problems.

Specific state-of-the-art clinical services in Male Reproductive Medicine at McGill include various advanced molecular genetic evaluation such as Y-chromosome microdeletion, an assay co-established at the Montreal Children's Hospital by **Dr. Patrick Scott** of the Department of Human Genetics and myself, sperm chromatin structural assay at the Royal Victoria Hospital. I have also joined **Dr. Shree Mulay**, Director of McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, over the years to develop and validate our own bio-available testosterone assays at McGill. Advanced surgical techniques including microsurgical varicocelectomy and reconstruction of the male reproductive tract have allowed improvement of the fertility status of many infertile men. This year at the annual meeting of the American Urological Association, we have reported our results of microsurgical vasoepididymostomy, which is considered by most experts the most technically challenging microsurgery in which a 150-200 um epididymal tubule is to be connected to a 400 um vasal lumen to create a water-tight anastomosis. Using a longitudinal intussusception technique that I developed, our patency rate of this surgery of over 94% at McGill is currently the highest reported in the literature.

Advanced surgical sperm retrieval techniques such as testicular microdissection and other minimally invasive techniques we offer at McGill allowed many men who have azoospermia or testicular failure to father their own genetic children using advanced assisted reproductive technologies such as intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) at the McGill Reproductive Center run by **Dr. S. L. Tan**, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, who is also a long-term clinical collaborator with all of our clinicians at McGill Male Reproductive Medicine.

ACADEMIC ASPECTS OF MCGILL MALE REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

Academically, under the direction of Drs. Zini and Carrier, our andrology fellowship program continues to attract ►

► high quality candidates nationally and internationally. In addition to presentations at various major conferences and publications in various high-impact peer-reviewed journals, original research works from our group have over the years received numerous national and international awards including the First Prize in Fundamental Research and the Annual Urological Research Award of the Canadian Urologic Oncology Group; Best Video Award of American Society for Reproductive Medicine Annual Meeting; Audio-Visual Award at the American Urological Association Annual Meetings; First Prize of Scientific Research Presentation from the Quebec Environmental Health Research Network and Clinical Diagnostic Award from the American Society of Andrology. In addition to the successful track record in obtaining research funding to our basic scientists, our clinician scientists in Male Reproductive Medicine are fortunate to be awarded operating grants and salary awards from the CIHR, FRSQ and the NSERC.

The future academic direction of McGill Male Reproductive Medicine includes several projects in development. First, we have recently obtained a four-year funding from the CIHR to evaluate the long-term impact of chemotherapy on sperm quality. This research is a combined effort with Drs. Robaire and Hales of the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics. In collaboration with Dr. Makoto Nagano we are developing

stem-cell based strategies for fertility preservation for boys and young men who will undergo cancer therapy. Finally, we have fostered gratifying collaborative research efforts with a group of psychosocial specialists including **Dr. Zeev Rosberger**, Director of Psychology of the Jewish General Hospital in evaluating the combined impact cancer, chemotherapy and infertility on young male cancer survivors. **Dr. Irv Binik**, Director of McGill Sex and Couple Therapy Service and **Dr. Monica Oala** have also joined us in developing a training module to incorporate psychosocial counseling to couples undergoing fertility management into the clinical psychologists training curriculum.

It is tremendously satisfying to see that our program in Male Reproductive Medicine continues to build upon the strong tradition of McGill Reproductive Biology. The achievements and international reputation of our program reflect the intense dedication of the current members and collaborators of our program to academic excellence. I feel personally very privileged to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors to whom we owe this optimism and I look forward to future opportunities to report to you other exciting news of our program. ♦

*Peter Chan, MD, FRCSC,
Director of Male Reproductive Medicine*



Generations of McGill Reproductive Biologists

Standing: Drs. Robaire, O'Flaherty, Chan. Seated: Drs. Oko, Clermont, Gagnon and Morales.

19th Annual Fraser Gurd Day May 22, 2008



19TH ANNUAL
FRASER N. GURD
VISITING PROFESSOR



DR. PETER C. NELIGAN
MAY 22, 2008



TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD (*Post Graduate Education*)

Dr. Paola Fata

THE "EDDY"
EDMOND D. MONAGHAN PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY AWARD

Dr. Tung Tran

KATHRYN ROLPH AWARD

Dr. Paola Fata

OUTSTANDING RESIDENT / FELLOW TEACHER AWARDS

Cardiac: **Dr. Siamak Mohammadi**

General Surgery: **Dr. Pascal Lamarre
and Dr. Salman Al-Sabah** (tie)

Orthopaedic Surgery: **Dr. Neil Saran**

Plastic Surgery: **Dr. Mario Luc**

Urology: **Dr. Guy Breault**

RESEARCH AWARDS

**Oral Presentations for Excellence
in Basic Science Research**

1st Prize: **Dr. Saima Hassan**

*CXCR4 Blockade in a Transgenic Mouse Model Inhibits Primary
Tumor Growth and Distant Metastasis in Breast Cancer*

2nd Prize: **Ms. Pepa Kaneva**

*Validation of a Physical Activity Questionnaire (CHAMPS)
as an Indicator of Postoperative Recovery*

3rd Prize: **Dr. Jonathan Spicer**

*Acute Systemic Inflammation Facilitates Lung Carcinoma Cell
Adherence to Hepatic Sinusoids in vivo by Neutrophil Dependent
and Independent Mechanisms*

**Poster Presentations for Excellence
in Basic Science Research**

Winner: **Mr. Sam Wai Chan**

Poster entitled: *Toward Non-Invasive Detection of Oxidative
Stress in Prostate Cancer Patients*

**Poster Presentations for Excellence
in Clinical Research**

Winner: **Dr. Ivan V. Litvinov**

Poster entitled: *CD 109 is a Critical Mediator of TGFB
Signaling Normal and Psoriatic Skin*

Highlights









6th Annual L.D. MacLean Visiting Professor March 19-20, 2008



Dr. Michael Sarr

the promotion of excellence in academic surgery. Dr. Lloyd MacLean was Chairman of the McGill Department of Surgery from 1968 to 1973, 1977 to 1982 and from 1987 to 1988. He was the Edward W. Archibald Professor, Department of Surgery, McGill University from 1987 – 1993. He was also Surgeon-in-Chief at the Royal Victoria Hospital from 1962 to 1988. ♦

PROGRAM :

Introduction and Welcoming:

Dr. Jeffrey Barkun, Head Division of General Surgery

VISTING PROFESSOR

Dr. Michael Sarr: *The Biology of Hernia Formation/Repair*

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Wael Hanna: *Traumatic Tracheal injuries.*

Discussant: Dr. David Mulder

Dr. Jeremy Grushka: *The effect of in vivo tracheal occlusion on lung branching morphogenesis in Nitrofen rat model of congenital diaphragmatic hernia.*

Discussant: Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge

Dr. Marylise Boutros: *Prophylactic intra-operative biliary stenting in liver transplantation: a randomized trial.*

Discussant: Dr. Jean Tchervenkov

Dr. Jonathan Spicer: *Systemic inflammation increases esophageal carcinoma cell recruitment in the liver vasculature: A role for Selectin/Sialyl Lewis-X interactions”.*

Discussant: Dr. N. Christou

Dr. Saima Hassan: *Pre-clinical testing of a CXCR4 small molecule inhibitor in transgenic mouse model.*

Discussant: Dr. Sarkis Meterissian

INTERESTING CASE – DEBATE

To prep or not to prep in colorectal surgery

Pro: **Dr. Frederic Gauvreau**, Con: **Dr. Goffredo Arena**

This Visiting Professor Program is designed to acknowledge **Dr. L.D. MacLean's** leadership role in

Flanders Visiting Professor April 17, 2008



Dr. Robert J. Cerfolio

Dr. Robert J. Cerfolio, Professor of Surgery and Chief of Thoracic Surgery of the University of Alabama comprehensive Cancer Center, was the Flander Visiting Professor on April 17, 2008.

He gave a lecture at the McGill Multi-disciplinary Surgical Grand Rounds at the Sir William Osler Amphitheatre of the Montreal General Hospital, MUHC. The topic of his lecture was *The evolving role of PET scan, EBUS and EUS-FNA in the staging and re-staging of patients with non-small cell lung cancer.* ♦

2008 Stikeman Visiting Professor May 1, 2008



Dr. Eugene Blackstone

Dr. Eugene Blackstone, staff at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Professor of Surgery at the University

of Toronto was the 40th Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery at McGill University.

At Surgical Grand Rounds in the Osler Amphitheatre of the Montreal General Hospital, Dr. Blackstone spoke on *Challenges of Analyzing Results of Rare Congenital Heart Diseases*. This was followed by a Mini Course on Cardiothoracic Surgery Outcomes (Generating New Knowledge from Information, Data and Analyses).

After lunch, the afternoon session consisted of presentations by staff, alumni and residents. This was followed by the Visiting Professor Lecture where Dr. Blackstone gave a second talk entitled *From Trees to Wood and Back*.

The annual banquet was held at the University Club in honor of the Visiting Professor. The grateful cardiac surgery residents in the Division of Cardiac Surgery also acknowledged **Dr. Kevin Lachapelle** with a Teaching Excellence Award in recognition of his dedication to teaching his residents. The Division also took this opportunity to acknowledge and express deep gratitude to **Mrs. Emma Lisi**, for her many years of outstanding administrative contributions to both the Cardiac and Thoracic Divisions, dating back to the year 1979 when she joined the team in the surgical research laboratory of **Dr. Ray Chiu** at the University ▶

- Surgical Clinic of the Montreal General Hospital.

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. Eugene Blackstone as the 2008

Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery along with alumni and friends who attended this special event. ◆

Pediatric Surgery Visiting Professor June 11-12, 2008



Mr. Adrian Bianchi, FRCS

The Division of Pediatric General Surgery held its annual **Frank M. Guttman Visiting Professorship** June 11 and 12, 2008. It was a great honor to receive **Mr.**

Adrian Bianchi, Consultant Pediatric and Neonatal Reconstructive Surgeon, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and St Mary's Hospital (Manchester) for Women and Children. Mr. Bianchi is dedicated to the care of children with congenital anomalies and to minimally invasive and esthetically-oriented surgical techniques, developing 'Small-Hole Open Surgery' as an alternative to laparoscopy. He has a particular interest in the 'Structured Management of the Child with Short Bowel' a topic which inspired laboratory and clinical research into the development of innovative techniques for autologous gastro-intestinal reconstruction. He is internationally recognized for his

innovative techniques in pediatric surgery, which include intestinal lengthening, bedside closure of gastroschisis, periumbilical incision for neonatal laparotomy and esophago-gastric disconnection for recurrent gastroesophageal reflux (all of which are called "The Bianchi Technique!"). He has been visiting professor and operative demonstrator at several centers in Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, Japan and Singapore. Since 1993

Mr. Bianchi has been co-director of the International Specialist Neonatal Surgical Course sponsored by the British Council. In 1995 the Maltese Government (his country of origin) conferred on Mr. Bianchi the honor of "Member of the National Order of Merit of Malta" in recognition for "Services to Children".

The Frank M. Guttman Visiting Professor was held in conjunction with the North-Eastern Pediatric General Surgery Joint Rounds. The full two-day event included Medical Grand Rounds at the Montreal Children's Hospital presented by Mr. Adrian Bianchi "Role and Indications for Oesophago-gastric Dissociation", followed by a full day of interesting cases presented by residents from Hôpital Ste-Justine, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Kingston General Hospital and The Children's (McGill) on Wednesday, June 11. On Thursday June 12, Mr. Bianchi presented at McGill Multidisciplinary Surgical Grand Rounds at the Montreal General Hospital "Structured Management for the Short Bowel State". The group then returned to the Montreal Children's Hospital for Surgery Clinic followed by Neonatal Rounds, "Conservative Yet Aggressive Management of Necrotizing Enterocolitis", also presented by Mr. A. Bianchi. Mr. Bianchi and his wife were then given a tour of the Osler Library. Activities at both sites were well attended by surgeons and residents alike. Mr. Bianchi and his wife extended their stay in Quebec with a tour of Lac St-Jean, Charlevoix, with a final stop in Quebec City. ◆

Divisional Activities

DIVISION OF CARDIAC SURGERY

Dr. Renzo Cecere, Surgical Director of the MUHC Heart Failure and Thoracic Transplant Program and Director of the Mechanical Cardiac Assist Program, organized McGill's 2nd Canadian Residents' & Fellows' Summit on Heart Failure, Transplantation, & Mechanical Circulatory Support, held on April 24-25. Dr. Cecere and colleague **Dr. Nadia Giannetti**, Medical Director of the Heart Failure Program, recruited the participation of 14 Canadian key opinion leaders in the fields of medical and surgical management of end stage heart disease, travelling to Montreal for this unique educational initiative. Seventy residents and fellows representing all Canadian training programs in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, were sponsored to attend this symposium, through educational grants provided by McGill University Faculty of

Medicine, MUHC, and industry. This year, the Keynote Speaker for the McGill Heart Failure Summit Lecture Series, was **Dr. Joshua Hare**, Louis Lemberg Professor of Medicine, Chief of Cardiology, Director of the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute, University of Miami, delivering a provocative lecture on Stem Cell Therapy in Advanced Heart Disease. Full details of this Program, endorsed by the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, can be viewed at www.muheartfailure.com/education ◆

Renzo Cecere, M.D.

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. P. Fata and her husband Dr. O. Court hosted their 6th Annual Soccer / BBQ Event for the General Surgery Residents at their home on Saturday, July 19th, 2008. It was a very ►



Dr. Paola Fata and son

competitive soccer game with the residents losing to the staff 5-3. Despite the rain, this event was very well attended by residents and staff. ♦



DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY – BARIATRIC SURGERY

Successful bariatric surgery allows morbidly obese patients to lose up to 70 percent of their excess weight and to maintain weight loss. The latest study by **Dr. Nicolas Christou** shows that this surgery also decreases the risk of developing cancer by up to 80 percent. Dr. Christou presented his preliminary results at the 25th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery.

The researchers compared 1,035 morbidly obese patients who underwent bariatric surgery at the MUHC between 1986 and 2002 with 5,746 patients with the same weight profile who did not undergo the operation. The number of cancer diagnoses in first group was 85 percent lower for breast cancer and 70 percent lower for colon and pancreatic cancers, and was also distinctly lower for several other types of cancer. "The relationship between obesity and many forms of cancer is well established," said Dr. Christou. "This is one of the first studies to suggest that bariatric surgery

might prevent the risk of cancer for a significant percentage of morbidly obese people."

Obesity affects the body in multiple ways, so a single hypothesis cannot fully explain these results. However, excess body fat is widely thought to be responsible for increased hormone production, a major risk factor for breast and colon cancer. Thus modifications to the patient's hormonal metabolism due to weight loss might explain the lower incidence of these cancers in patients who underwent surgery.

"Bariatric surgery is an extremely efficient tool in the treatment of morbid obesity and its consequences, and the MUHC is one of Canada's leaders in this field," Dr. Christou said. "We're hoping that these results will help the government and public health authorities realize the importance of this procedure in the fight against the various pathologies associated with obesity."

Dr. Nicolas Christou is Director of Bariatric Surgery at the MUHC and a researcher in the Infection and Immunity Axis at the Research Institute of the MUHC. ♦

From: MUHC Public & Media Relations Office

DIVISION OF UROLOGY : "WALK OF COURAGE"

The McGill Division of Urology has been involved in a major effort to raise funds for prostate cancer research. Members of the division have been a driving force behind the creation of a non-profit organization called PROCURE, whose primary objectives are to promote education and research in the field of prostate cancer for the benefit of patients and their families in Québec.

In the last 2 years and under the leadership of **Dr Armen Aprikian**, Director of McGill Division of Urology, PROCURE has directed significant funds to the development of a Prostate Cancer BioBank for research. It is through a very unique collaboration that urologists, pathologists, scientists, and members of personnel from Laval, Montreal, Sherbrooke, and McGill Universities have joined their efforts to establish standardized methods in order to prospectively collect biospecimens and clinical data of the highest possible quality for research. The Biobank was officially launched in 2007. It enrolls patients from the time of diagnosis and throughout the course of the disease. Such a project requires significant funds and PROCURE has committed to help raise the money necessary to ensure the success of the BioBank.

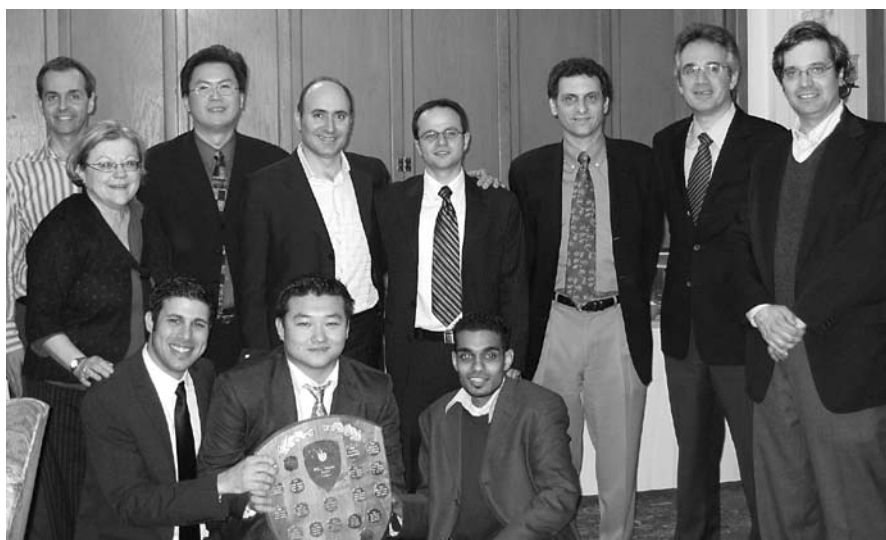
This June 15th on Father's Day, PROCURE and its partners in faculties of Medicine throughout the Province organized the Second Annual Walk of Courage to support the cause of prostate cancer. The event was held on Ste-Helene's Island under



"Walk of Courage" participants

► the patronage of Mayor Tremblay. More than 750 persons gladly supported the initiative. The walk with families and kids was an occasion to raise over 750 000\$ for prostate cancer research. ◆

Simone Chevalier, PhD



Urology Research Day 2008

Back row: Drs. Jacques Lapointe, Simone Chevalier, Peter Chan, Armand Zini, Wassim Kassouf, Abraham Morgentaler, Armen Aprikian and Cristian O'Flaherty. Front Row: The three awardees for best presentations. Faysal Yafi, MengGuan and Daniel Thiruganaratnopathy.

UROLOGY RESEARCH DAY

The central theme of the Urology Research Day this year was Andrology. The guest speaker, **Dr. Abraham Morgentaler, MD.**, Associate Clinical Professor in Urology of the Harvard Medical School, gave a state-of the art presentation entitled "What happens when a Nobel Prize winner is mistaken? Re-evaluating the relationship of prostate cancer and testosterone".

A jury selected the three best research presentations of students and fellows. Prizes were awarded to **Mr. Daniel Thiruganaratnopathy** (McGill graduate student in Experimental Medicine), **Dr. Faysal Yafi** (McGill Urology) and **Dr. Meng Guan** (Urology Resident, Sherbrooke University) during a well-attended reception and dinner offered at the end of this very special Annual event of the Urology Division. ◆

DR. GAGNON CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Several staff members of the Division of Urology recently organized a very special reception at the RVH in honour of Dr. Claude Gagnon, professor in the McGill Dept of Surgery, for his 30-years of career achievements in academics with over 25 years spent at McGill.

Dr. Gagnon obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at University of Montreal in 1974 and, afterwards went for post-doctoral fellowships in Switzerland and New York prior to joining the Department of Pharmacology at Laval University in Québec City. After a few years, he came to McGill and under the leadership of Dr. Mostafa Elhilali, the former Chair of the Urology Division, he founded the first Urology Research Facilities located at the RVH. He was instrumental in the subsequent development of the Uro-Oncology Research Facilities located at the MGH and in the recruitment of **Dr. Simone Chevalier** as the scientific director of this new team. ►



Drs. Aprikian, Gagnon, Chevalier and Elhilali

► Dr. Gagnon figures among pioneers in the area of Andrology and Fertility. He is internationally known for his achievements and leadership in sperm motility and capacitation. He trained

several graduate students and fellows, themselves now working as scientists in the area of Fertility. ◆



Letters

continued from page 2

Sharron Tozer
Office Administrator
Prince George Chamber of
Commerce, British Columbia

Editor's Note: Mrs. Tozer must have seen on the internet our "Where are they now?" query in the previous issue of The Square Knot. We appreciate her help.

Dear Editor,

I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Dave Mulder's paean to Dr. Edward Archibald in the spring 2008 issue of The Square Knot, and particularly to Archibald's ever inquisitive and scientific mind. Dr. Mulder mentioned Archibald's contributions to the technique of thoracoplasty. More vital, I believe, to the development of Thoracic Surgery was Archibald's major role in the development of Pulmonary Resection, and especially to Pneumonectomy, considered at that time the "Holy Grail" of Thoracic Surgery.

In the course of my outstanding Thoracic Surgical training with Drs. Darrell Munro and Jim Wilson at the Royal Edward/Montreal Chest Hospital, I heard mention that Archibald actually performed the first modern pneumonectomy. I was confounded upon arriving at Johns Hopkins for Pediatric Surgical training to find that the Baltimoreans made a similar claim for Dr. William Rienhoff Jr. Obviously, research among the stacks of the Welch Medical Library was called for. After studying many journal articles, and the informative discussions following, I discovered that there was much truth to both claims.

Successful lobectomy, utilizing individual ligation of the hilar structures, was first carried out by Dr. Edward Churchill of Boston in 1931. In the same year, Dr. Rudolph Nissen (of the Nissen Fundoplication) performed the first successful pneumonectomy, per

se, using the technique of mass ligation of the hilar structures; the lung spontaneously sloughed out 14 days later. The second successful pneumonectomy, and by far the most publicized, was done by Dr. Evarts Graham of St. Louis in April 1933. He carried out a one stage resection with mass ligation of the hilum, cautery excision of the lung, and subsequent ligation of the pulmonary artery. Although successful, these techniques constituted only stepping stones to the modern pneumonectomy.

In December 1931 and February 1932, Archibald performed a two stage pneumonectomy, individually ligating the hilar structures of each lobe resected; the patient died a week after the second stage due to streptococcal septicemia. After presenting this case in April 1932, Archibald commented "that it would have been better to remove the whole lung in one stage by individual ligation ►

► of the separate hilar structures". Three months after Graham's operation, on 7 July 1933, Archibald successfully performed a one stage pneumonectomy with ligation of the individual hilar structures. His pioneer procedure was followed 3 weeks later, on 24 July 1933, by a similar operation by Rienhoff at Johns Hopkins. The techniques developed by Archibald and Rienhoff marked the start of pneumonic resection as practiced today, and the onset of the era of modern Thoracic Surgery. Although Archibald warrants the primacy, both deserve the honor "Fathers of the Modern Pneumonectomy".(1)

Archibald's leadership in the practice of scientific surgery, particularly Thoracic Surgery, contributed to his election two years later as President of the American Surgical Association.

Best,

Jack White, M.D., D.M.
Seattle, WA

Reference:

(1) White, J.J.: *Edward Archibald and William Rienhoff Jr.: Fathers of The Modern Pneumonectomy – An Historical Footnote.* *Surgery* 68: 397-402, 1970.

Dr. Mulder's reply:

Dear Jack,
Chiu forwarded me your very thoughtful letter related to Archibald and I really appreciate reading it. During the application to Parks Canada to recognize Archibald's contribution I had the benefit of all of Martin Entin's paperwork including his book on Archibald and this was absolutely invaluable. He also notes your comments regarding the attribution related to the pneumonectomy operation. I have encouraged Ray Chiu to publish

your whole letter as I believe it adds to the Archibald story and it is important for our younger generation to know of these past efforts.

On a personal note, I always recollect when I was in my first year Residency hearing you speak at Grand Rounds and your involvement when you were working with Dag Munro and how I hope that some day I might emulate your performance.

I hope this letter finds you well and I was so pleased you took the time to add to the Archibald legend. ♦

Kind personal regards,

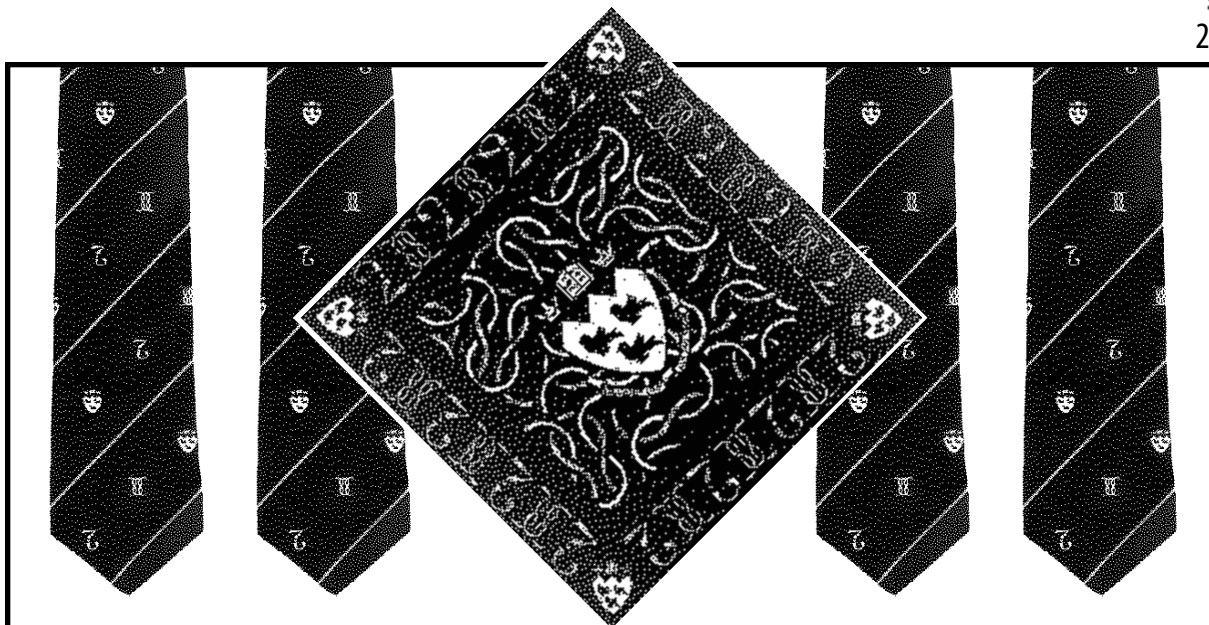
David S. Mulder, MD



The Montreal General Hospital Surgical Staff, 1966-67



Left to Right: Dr. F. N. Gurd, Surgion-in-Chief; Dr. John Henry, Miss M. McCann, Dr. Rae Brown, Miss M. MacLeod, Dr. A. G. Thompson, Chief "L" Surgery; Dr. Arnold MacLean, Dr. J. D. Palmer, Chief "M" Surgery.



Tie one on for McGill !

The McGill Department of Surgery invites you to tie one on for the old school!

The McGill blue silk tie and scarf with CREST, SQUARE KNOT and FLEAM are available for purchase from the Alumni Office as follows:

McGill Dept. of Surgery Alumni, Montreal General Hospital
 1650 Cedar Avenue, Room L9.420, Montreal (Quebec) H3G 1A4
 Telephone: (514) 934-1934, ext. 42028
 Fax: (514) 934-8418

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Costs:

Tie \$50.00 Qty: Total

Taxes are included

Scarf \$95.00 Qty: Total

Taxes are included

.....

Ray C-J. Chiu, M.D.
Editor

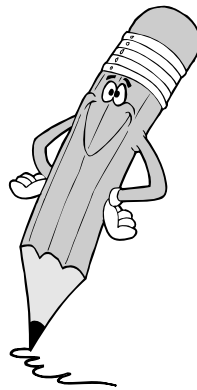
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without you !**



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Send submissions to:

Ray Chiu, M.D. • Editor • THE SQUARE KNOT • The Montreal General Hospital
1650 Cedar Ave., Room: C9-169, Montreal (Quebec) Canada H3G 1A4

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**MCGILL SURGERY ALUMNI
& FRIENDS**

Contributions of \$100.00 are appreciated in ensuring the continued publication of "The Square Knot" and supporting McGill Surgery Alumni activities. Please make cheque payable to the McGill Department of Surgery and forward to Maria Bikas, McGill Surgery Alumni & Friends, The Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Avenue, Room: L9-420, Montreal (Quebec) Canada H3G 1A4 Telephone: (514) 934-1934, ext.: 42028 Fax: (514) 934-8418.

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