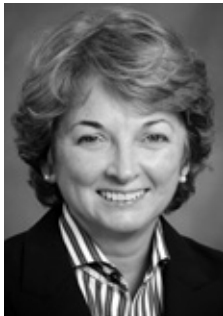


THE SQUARE

KNOT

The term "plastic surgery" stems from the Greek word "plastikos" meaning "to mold" or "to form". Modern plastic surgery has evolved along two broad themes: reconstruction of anatomic defects and aesthetic enhancement of normal form.

Plastic Surgery at McGill: On "the Shoulders of Giants"



Dr. Lucie Lessard

At the MUHC, it means striving for the highest standard in all aspects of plastic surgery: microsurgery, craniofacial surgery, hand/microsurgery/replant, breast reconstruction/microsurgery, oncologic reconstruction (sarcoma, melanoma, bcc etc.). It also means high expertise in sophisticated wound healing management, new distraction osteogenesis, nanotechnology, stem cells/adipose transplant and microsurgery perforator flap surgery etc. The Cancer, Pediatric & Women's Health missions are at the centre of "best care for life" for the patient population of the Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Division which interacts with all specialties for treatment and/or reconstruction.

Historically, our Division stands on the "shoulders of giants".

By **Lucie Lessard, MD, FRCS(C), FRCS(G), FRCS(C), FACS** Thirty-five years ago "Microsurgery = McGill and China" as at the time we were one of the two main centres of excellence in the world. With our **Drs. Woolhouse, Daniel, Terzis, Dykes, Entin, Williams** and later **Kerrigan**, the solid basis for microsurgery was established forever at the basic sciences level and at the clinical level (flap, ischemia/reperfusion injury, coupler etc.) through the research and clinical work done at the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) and at the Montreal General Hospital (MGH). The concepts and expertise developed at McGill are still the basis for textbooks and chapters on flap and microsurgery in all the main textbooks still being re-edited.

Through her training **Dr. Lessard**, like her Division, can also be said to stand on "shoulders of giants". After completing a first specialty in cervicofacial/ent and the Boards, she had the great opportunity to train in the U.S. under **Drs. Mulliken, Upton, and Eriksson**, as well as **Dr. Murray** who did the first kidney transplant in the world on his way to Plastic ▶

(See *Plastic Surgery* on page 5)

Inside

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DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

NEWSLETTER

McGILL UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2012



Dear Editor

Greetings! After reading Tony Dobell's article on Early Cardiac Surgery at McGill, I dug up an old photograph that was taken for official publication at that time to illustrate early Pediatric Cardiac Surgery*.



**Letters
to The Editor**

Ray, I don't know where to begin. You've accomplished so much to congratulate on.

Keep up the good work... you are the best. Regards,

Tony C. Ty, MD
Beaconsfield, Que.



* A typical operating room set-up for open-heart surgery at the Montreal Children's Hospital. Photo taken in 1964 for publication. Surgeons shown are **Dr. Anthony R.C. Dobell** and **Dr. Tony C. Ty**. The "pump" technician was **Mr. Claude Rancour**.

Hello McGill Surgery and Alumni Friends...

Thank you for the beautiful tie. I have worn it every day since I got it. As well as soliciting admiration from colleagues and patients, it keeps me warm.

Sincerely,

Jim Sullivan, MD

Note: Dr. James Sullivan is a retired orthopaedic surgeon, who was based at St. Mary's. He was very involved in undergraduate teaching (won the Harvey Sigman Award for Excellence in Undergraduate

Teaching, back in 2010). He is retired from active staff and continued as a Faculty Lecturer up until recently. (From: Ms. Ann Samson, Administrative Officer, Dpt. of Surgery).

.....

Dear Editor,

I would like to send this news for publication in your next edition of *The Square Knot* newsletter, it's a brief description of a recent collaborative agreement signed between McGill University Faculty of Medicine and King Saud University College of Medicine in Saudi Arabia.

The attached photo was taken at the time of signing this agreement (4th of April 2012) and the names of the people in the photo from right to left are as following: Dr. David H. Eidelman, Dr. Mazen Hassanain, Dr. Thamer Nouh, and Dr. Sarkis Meterissian.



"Historically McGill University has shared strong ties with King Saud University (KSU) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Many KSU Saudi graduates returned home as great ambassadors for McGill University. Under the leadership of Dr. Mazen Hassanain and Dr. Sarkis Meterissian, the McGill Faculty of Medicine and the KSU College of Medicine signed an agreement to develop a combined acceptance program for both graduate and postgraduate medical education for the new KSU students. The aim of this program is to promote the development of the clinician-scientists concept within KSU and to improve selectivity of candidates for our postgraduate programs. This endeavor will strengthen our relationship with our Saudi colleagues and will

provide a paradigm for further international collaborations with our alumni".

Mazen Hassanain, MBBS, FRCSC, PhD
*Assistant Professor of Surgery
Consultant HPB and Transplant Surgery
Department of surgery, College of Medicine
Scientific Director,
Liver Disease Research Centre,
King Saud University*

.....

Dear Editor,

Dr. Dag Munro's Obituary in the Globe and Mail this weekend caused me to recall the many good experiences I had with him at the "Royal Edward" in the last half of 1964. We admired his demeanor, his decisiveness and the responsibilities he gave us in the operating room. I cannot think of my time at the Royal Edward without, of course, thinking also of Jim Wilson-foilo to the Dag. Jim would coach us meticulously in the craft of thoracic surgery while Dag would throw us into the OR with instructions to do well. I am sure the two of them were in cahoots.

The print version of the Globe and Mail, April 28, 2012, pp S16, has a large photo of Dag operating (the online version does not) in which I seem to be assisting. Lynda has dug up a photo taken at the entrance of the Royal Edward at that time, Ed Charrette in the centre, me on the left and perhaps Claude Mercier on the right although I am not certain. Our close inspection leads us to conclude we are correct.

On another note the downturn in the market has necessitated that we put clinical trials of the Ballistocardiogram on a very restricted program as funding for development is near impossible to come by at this time. I have given up my role in the company to younger and more energetic young men. Thank you for your kind ear when we were first working on it.

Sincerely,
Edward Busse FRCSC (Ret.)
Chest Hospital Montreal 1964/5



As this issue of *The Square Knot* illustrates, the McGill Department of Surgery continues to grow and excel clinically and academically; and especially highlights the strengths of our learners and teachers.

Editor's Note

By Ray C.J. Chiu, MD, PhD

Debate over best learning practices was the topic of a recent article in Montreal's *The Gazette* newspaper, entitled [*McGill*] *Surgical residents contest shorter shifts**. On July 1st 2012, the province of Québec became one of the first places in North America to rule 24-hour resident shifts illegal, based on a grievance lodged by the Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec (FMRQ), and evidence published on the increased risk of iatrogenic errors by sleep-deprived trainees. While many agree on this conceptually, controversy surrounds the logistics of making this happen and the potential for lost learning opportunities for both skills acquisition and professionalism with "shift work". As the article paraphrased **Dr. Paola Fata**, McGill Division of General Surgery residency training program director, as saying "...there's been a real fragmentation of care. A patient may be seen and assessed by one team, have surgery by a different team and then have yet another team tend to post-operative care."

But the acquisition of knowledge is a changing process – changes in what we learn, of course; but also changes in the theories on how we best learn.



Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu

This reminded me of my own first experience with on-call duty, back in 1962 when I came from Far East to the U.S. for internship at Baltimore City Hospital, a Johns Hopkins University affiliate. Upon arrival, I asked how often I would be on-call. I was told (with some indignation) that I was expected to be on duty *all* the time, 24 hours *every* day, EXCEPT every second weekend when I could have 1½ days off to get my hair cut, sleep in, etc.! As it turns out, I had to leave Baltimore a year later due to a mismatch in my visa vs. length of their training program. So I went to New York Brooklyn's Kings County Hospital (SUNY Downstate Medical Centre - 3000 beds!) where I faced the less demanding on-call duty of 24 hour shifts every few days. No one even thought about 12-hour shifts back then!

So tell us what you think about this court ruling. What is your opinion about this, whether you are a current surgical resident, or are a matured practicing surgeon with experience? ♦

Reference:

*"Surgical residents contest shorter shifts", *The Gazette*, July 23rd 2012. <http://www.montrealgazette.com/health/Surgical+residents+contest+shorter+shifts/6977517/story.html>

See also: "Residents' shifts: Will cutting hours cure what's wrong?", *The Gazette*, July 5th 2012. <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Will+cutting+hours+cure+what+wrong/6815395/story.html>



What Philanthropy Means to the McGill Department of Surgery

Words from the Chair Department of Surgery, McGill University

By Gerald Fried, MD, MSc,
FRSC, FACS

The McGill Department of Surgery maintains its commitment to develop the next generation of surgeons by selecting the best from around the world and providing an environment that ensures excellent clinical training and an opportunity to acquire additional skills in all the academic areas of surgery.

July marks the start of a new academic year. We are delighted to welcome a fresh group of outstanding residents and fellows to the McGill training programs.



Dr. Gerald Fried

In June we held our 23rd Annual Fraser N. Gurd Day. This is the premier event in our academic calendar during which we highlight the research excellence in our department, present awards for teaching and research excellence, and thank our graduating residents and fellows for their contributions to the department and to McGill. (Link to Article on Fraser Gurd Day in this issue).

The motor of our success has been the philanthropy of our community, alumni, and current faculty. The generosity of our community allows us to have an outstanding visiting professorship program, to run our surgeon-scientist program, and to provide start-up support for new recruits as they develop their academic careers. ▶

▶ VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VISITING PROFESSORS AND SURGEON-SCIENTISTS

We have at least one visiting professor for each of our specialty divisions, and department-wide visiting professors for education, simulation, trauma, oncology, and minimally invasive surgery/innovation. Some of the visitors to the department this past year alone are listed in the cart below.

We are also very proud of our **surgeon-scientist program**. This is one of the unique aspects of McGill surgical residency programs. It provides residents an opportunity to pursue an advanced degree during their surgical training. In recent years our residents have graduated from Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Experimental Surgery, Education, Business Administration, and Public Health programs with Masters or PhD degrees. The Surgeon-Scientist Program is special for two important reasons. It allows us to recruit to our residency programs the highest quality trainees from around the world who recognize the value in this additional

education in preparing themselves for academic positions and for practice in a changing health care environment. Second, it ensures that our graduates will be highly competitive for the best fellowships and faculty positions after graduation. We depend on philanthropy for salary support for our residents when they are outside the clinical training stream.

The Tomlinson Fund for Recruitment and Retention of New Faculty is the result of a substantial endowment established by Dr. Richard H. Tomlinson. It enables us to be competitive with other leading departments in recruiting excellent academic surgeons and protecting their time during the development of their academic careers. In conjunction with a very strong endowed chair program, we at McGill have not only recruited very effectively, but have had an outstanding record of retention. This is thanks to our commitment to providing an environment whereby our faculty can be productive in all spheres of their careers. ▶

Steinberg-Bernstein Visiting Professor in minimally invasive surgery/innovation	Dr. Mark A. Talamini (UC San Diego)	<i>Natural orifices surgery: from concept to clinic</i>
Mostafa Elhilali Visiting Professor in Endourology and MIS Urology	Dr. John Denstedt (Western Ontario)	<i>New paradigms in surgical education</i>
Stikeman Visiting Professor in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery	Dr. Claude Deschamps (Mayo Clinic)	<i>Quality and safety in the surgical practice at Mayo</i>
H. Rocke Robertson Visiting Professor in Trauma	Dr. Mauricio Lynn (University of Miami)	<i>Impact of military medicine on modern trauma care and surgical challenges in management of conventional mass casualties</i>
Edward J. Tabah Visiting Professor in Surgical Oncology	Dr. Kelli Bullard Dunn (University of Louisville)	<i>Colorectal cancer: pearls, peeves, and pitfalls</i>
Frank M. Guttman Visiting Professor in General Pediatric Surgery	Prof. Heinz Rode (Cape Town)	<i>Pediatric surgery in Africa</i>
Visiting Professor in Plastic Surgery	Dr. Luis O. Vasconez (Univ Alabama, Birmingham)	<i>Breast cancer and breast reconstruction: what I have learned over the years</i>
Flanders Family Visiting Professor in Medical Simulation	Dr. S. Barry Issenberg (University of Miami)	<i>Advancing health care simulation: uncovering current evidence and exploring future directions</i>
Dr. Martin Entin Visiting Professor in Plastic Surgery	Dr. Donald H. Lalonde (Dalhousie)	<i>The art and science of good local anesthesia in hand surgery</i>
Wesley Bourne Visiting Professor in Anesthesia	Dr. Henrik Kehlet (Copenhagen)	<i>Fast-track surgery: what is it and should we do it?</i>
Lloyd D. MacLean Visiting Professor in General Surgery	Dr. Quan-Yang Duh (UCSF)	
Urology Visiting Professor	Dr Martin Gleave (UBC)	<i>Hormone therapy for prostate cancer. . .</i>
Harvey Sigman Lecture in Education	Dr Brian D. Hodges (Toronto)	<i>Tea-steeping and i-Docs: models for medical education</i>
Visiting professor in HPB Surgery	Professor Aldo Scarpa – (University of Verona)	<i>Molecular pathology & surgery</i>
Visiting professor in Orthopedic Surgery	Dr. Carlo Bellabarba (Univ Washington)	<i>Complex sacral fractures with spino-pelvic dissociation</i>
Visiting professor in Surgical Oncology	Dr. Mitsuru Sasako (Hyogo College of Medicine, Nishinomiya, Japan)	<i>Multidisciplinary treatment of gastric cancer.</i>

▶ A “Distinguished Surgeon Scientist” Honoured

Recently we were the recipient of a very generous donation in honour of **Dr. Ray Chu-Jeng Chiu, MD, PhD, FRCS, FACS, FACC**, in recognition of his enormous contribution to surgical research



at McGill over nearly 5 decades. This donation, by Ray's younger brother **Dr. Thomas Chu-Tzen Chiu** (a colo-rectal surgeon in Los Angeles) and his family, has been matched by the Foundation of the Montreal General Hospital. From these funds we have created an endowment to establish the “**Dr. Ray C.J. Chiu Distinguished Scientist**

for Surgical Research Award”. This will be held in the MGH Foundation and will allow us to fund a senior surgical scientist. Dr. Ray Chiu who is a professor of surgery and Director Emeritus of Cardio-thoracic Surgery Division at McGill, is an internationally known surgical innovator, teacher and mentor, who had delivered numerous lectures worldwide. He has made remarkable contributions to the field of cardiac surgery especially, but his research has also made important contributions to thoracic and vascular surgery, shock, nutrition and GI surgery. I cannot think of more fitting recognition than the establishment of an endowment that will guarantee that Dr. Chiu's name is forever associated with research excellence at McGill. We will make sure that his model of addressing clinical problems by rigorous scientific investigation, with the

outcome of that research being translated back to clinical care is forever part of the culture of surgical research at McGill.



Generous donors Dr. and Mrs. Thomas C.T. Chiu

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to you, our alumni, to support McGill. I hope that you will reflect on your time at McGill and your continued attachment to McGill Surgery with pride and will help us ensure that we will be able to maintain our tradition of excellence. Visit us at <http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/surgery/default.htm> to keep up to date on happenings in our department. Please also drop us a line to let us know how you are doing. ♦

Gerald Fried, MD, MSc, FRCS, FACS
*Edward W. Archibald Professor and Chairman,
Department of Surgery, McGill University*

Plastic Surgery

continued from page 1

▶ Surgery. He went on to become Chief of Plastic Surgery at the Brigham and Children's Hospitals at Harvard in Boston, a position he held for many years. In 1990, he received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his transplant work.

Dr. Lessard remembers him as a real Osler kind of teacher and a wonderful human being. Dr. Murray's vision was such that he managed to get his friend **Dr. (Mr.) Paul Tessier** to come to Boston from Paris for 2 months yearly to operate difficult craniomaxillofacial cases. While training at the Boston's Children Hospital Dr. Lessard had the great privilege of regularly assisting Dr. Tessier and translated for him (French-English) in the OR and clinics. She later continued with Dr. Tessier in Paris before pursuing a full craniofacial fellowship with **Dr. Lauritzen** in Sweden. This was all possible because of a McGill - Cedar Cancer scholarship for which she is very

grateful to the Foundation and Dr. E. Tabah.

On the international scene, recently Dr. Lessard accepted an invitation from the Mayo Clinic to participate in their 2012 Symposium in Reconstructive Surgery where she presented on *The interface of microsurgery and craniofacial surgery*. The invited faculty was truly international, with lecturers from Europe, Asia, North and South America. A few years ago, **Dr. Hisham Burezq**, a McGill graduate in Plastic Surgery, invited Dr. Lessard to Kuwait as a faculty for the 10th Panarabic Meeting. The following year she went to India where Dr. Ahuja invited her to give two papers and to moderate sessions at IPRAS in New Delhi. More recently in November, she was invited to Brazil by the President of IPRAS to give three talks at the Brazilian Plastic Surgery Annual Meeting. She was also asked to present her experience as a woman in a leadership position: *Mulheres na Cirurgia Plastica*. ▶

► Dr. Lessard presented a positive outcome of her experience as a woman in a surgical discipline and as a Division Chief. Dr. Lessard continues the work of Dr. Williams in representing McGill internationally.

Plastic Surgery research is now focused on wound and bone healing, TGF beta and CD 109 with our basic scientist **Dr. Anie Philip PhD** and her group of 12 MScs, PhDs and McGill graduate students. Our work with CD 109 has been accepted at several American meetings committed to high-level research. At the San Francisco/Stanford American Research Council, **Dr. Joshua Vorstenbosch** won the prestigious Crikelair Award. Dr. Philip has a very good track record with grant applications despite budget reductions. (Refer to Dr. Philip's article on page 8). In her practice Dr. Lessard concentrates on head and neck, craniofacial, microsurgery and breast reconstruction. Her research is on BMPs comparing distraction



Dr. Lessard voted as a member of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons, 2010.

*L to R: **Dr. Bahman Guyuron**, President - American Association of Plastic Surgeons, **Dr. Lessard**, **Dr. David L. Larson**, Secretary - American Association of Plastic Surgeons*

osteogenesis in long bones (tibia) and short bones (mandible) and BMP characteristics. This has been steadily accepted at the American PSRC (the best research meeting worldwide) and the ASPS. The research is co-supervised with **Dr. Reggie Hamdy** of the Shriners, a long-term collaboration of more than 10 years, and involves many Master students from Plastic Surgery. In 2011, three Master degrees were awarded in the Division of Plastic Surgery: **Dr. Izadpanah**, **Dr. Winocour** (TGF beta - co-supervised with Dr. Philip) and **Dr. Tahiri** who graduated under Dr. Lessard's supervision with honors. Much of their theses was presented at Fraser Gurd Research Days and won prizes.

Dr. Lessard, with Dr. Hamdy, had great press coverage in 2012 for an innovative surgical approach at the Shriners to reconstruct a severely traumatized foot on a young Vietnamese girl ran over by a bus. This was covered in The Gazette: and a YouTube video. Another recent instance of media coverage is that of Dr. Lessard's patient Jeremy Gabriel, a known singer in Quebec, who was named one of two worldwide Shriners ambassadors for the year 2012-13. During his term, he will give a concert with Justin Timberlake. Dr. Lessard is also a microsurgeon on the MUHC-CHUM provincial replantation program at Notre-Dame.

In July 2011, Dr. Lessard started a McGill International Craniofacial Fellowship along with **Dr. Gilardino** who also trained in craniofacial surgery. We have just graduated our first craniofacial fellow, **Dr. Alajmi** (IMG McGill trainee, 2011) who was the recipient of the "Ed Monaghan POS First Prize" a few years ago. He also completed a full year in the lab with Dr. Philip on TGFbeta and has presented this McGill work at the American PSRC with excellence. In June 2012, **Dr. Alajmi** won the first new scientific prize awarded at the MCH HB Williams Research Day for his work on NAM (cleft lip). He plans to start a Craniofacial Unit in Saudi Arabia.



"Rally 4 Kids" Craniofacial Fundraiser - June 25th 2011

This year all our R5s successfully passed their Royal College Exams. Kudos! Our teaching Program is now one of the large Plastic Surgery Teaching Programs in Canada and in North America; we will reach 20 residents in the near future.

Since becoming Division chief, Dr. Lessard has been recruiting steadily: **Dr. Karl Schwarz** (2007), **Dr. Mirko Gilardino** (2008), **Dr. Broula Jamal** (2008), **Dr. Mario Luc** (2009) and this year **Dr. Sabrina Cugno** (2012-2013).

Dr. Karl Schwarz (July 2007): Karl did his American training at Georgetown University in Washington with **Dr. Nahabedian** and **Dr. Spear** and has brought new breast cancer reconstructive techniques to McGill. He is committed ►

► to microsurgery in breast reconstruction (DIEP flaps) and this has a positive impact on the teaching. Dr. Schwarz actively presents his work nationally and in the U.S. With his microsurgical skills he is a great addition to our group. Dr. Schwarz is also involved in clinical research.

Dr. Mirko Gilardino (July 2008): Mirko is a graduate of McGill as well as the McGill Plastic Surgery program. Very early on in his residency, while doing coronal dissection on a trauma case, Dr. Lessard could appreciate his interest in CF surgery. He pursued a craniofacial fellowship with **Dr. Bartlett** at CHOP in Philadelphia. Dr. Gilardino has had coverage in *The Gazette* for his patients with midface distraction osteogenesis, a relatively new technique. He has obtained from the Garnier Foundation a commitment of five years to the MCH Foundation for craniofacial surgery. Since two years he is our Program Director. Mirko presents regularly and is involved in clinical research.

Dr. Broula Jamal (July 2008): Dr. Jamal is an orthodontist trained in London, Ontario. She is a great asset to the Craniofacial Unit within the multidisciplinary team at the MCH. She has developed the NAM program and is very involved with the group, all the while continuing to cover the Nunavik as a dentist.

Dr. Mario Luc (July 2009): In 2009, Dr. Lessard recruited Dr. Luc, another hard worker and a McGill Plastic Surgery grad with an MSc. During his training, he showed great interest in hand surgery and went on to the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee for a one-year certified Hand Plastic Surgery/Orthopedic Fellowship. Mario has a large practice, is committed to the care of patients with hand issues and has brought great expertise in wrist surgery. He has several ongoing clinical studies.

For 2012, Dr. Lessard is recruiting another plastic surgeon, **Dr. Sabrina Cugno**. Sabrina is a Rhodes Scholar and has a Master Degree in Basic Sciences from McGill. She is currently doing a Cleft Lip fellowship at Great Ormond Street Hospital and will join the McGill staff in December 2012. With this recruitment the Division will continue the pursuit of excellence in craniofacial surgery.

These new recruits are very hard workers. Most of them have taken roots, buying houses and getting married, fortunately a good omen for retention...

This article would not be complete without mentioning the many committed and dedicated University and private practice/esthetic teachers in our Plastic Surgery Group. At the MUHC: **Dr. Crépeau, Dr. G. Schwarz** and **Dr. Charbonneau**. At the JGH: **Dr. Dionosopoulos** and **Dr. Cohen**. At St. Mary's: **Dr. J. Schwarz, Dr. Papanastasiou, Dr. Swift, Dr. Zelt,** and **Dr. Luc**.

At Lachine: **Dr. Tawile** and **Dr. Cunningham**. These surgeons, for the most part McGill trainees, are very active in the Plastic Surgery community and have large practices.

Dr. Harvey Brown last year received the lifetime achievement award at the Quebec Association of Plastic Surgeons. He is involved in clinical activities and has operated thousands of hand cases in his career at McGill. **Dr. René Crépeau** is involved in the teaching of our residents during their esthetic rotations. He was involved with craniofacial surgery as well as cleft lip work until a few years ago. He also had studied in Paris with Mr. Tessier. **Dr. Gaston Schwarz** is very involved in esthetic teaching and is in charge of the esthetic rotations of our residents. **Dr. Teanoosh Zadeh**, a McGill grad, did a hand fellowship in Milwaukee. He has a hand practice and microsurgery practice and is involved with some of the sarcoma reconstruction. He also runs a brachial plexus clinic at the MCH once a month and is on the Provincial Replant Program at Notre-Dame. Dr. Bruce Williams has received the *Montreal General Hospital Achievement Award*. In addition to his adult and pediatric practice, he, with a few friends, is very busy with the annual Golf Tournament, a fundraising event of the Children's Hospital Foundation which has benefitted the Craniofacial Program. He is also behind the *Dorothy Williams Chair*, the first Pediatric Surgical Chair for the support of the Chief of the Department of Pediatric Surgery (MCH), currently **Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer**. Four years ago, the official HB Williams Craniofacial / Cleft Lip Unit was opened at the Montreal Children's Hospital with Dr. Ron Zuker as our guest speaker.

In conclusion, with active recruitment (5 staff in 5 years), the multiple sites (Dr. Lessard calls it her safe "diversified portfolio") and the increase in the number of residents, we do look forward to the new MUHC at the Glen to consolidate our activities in a better and stronger future! ♦

Lucie Lessard, MD, FRCSC, FRCS, FACS
Associate Professor and Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery
MUHC- McGill University
(Adult: RVH, MGH, MNH, LaSalle & Lachine
Pediatric: MCH and Shriners)

Research in the Division of Plastic Surgery at McGill University has a long and rich history of excellence. From the early 1970s to mid-1990s, research and innovation in plastic

Basic and Translational Research in the McGill Division of Plastic Surgery



Dr. Anie Philip

By Anie Philip, Ph.D.

PhD was in the field of endocrinology (PhD McGill 1986, **Dr. BEP Murphy** thesis supervisor), I had switched my field to growth factor signaling during my postdoctoral training at the National Research Council Canada.

I arrived with one graduate student and an NSERC grant obtained during my brief tenure in the McGill Department of Animal Science, and rapidly settled into MGH Room C9-177, the plastic surgery laboratory since the 1970s. The race for CIHR grants and FRSQ Chercheur boursier began in earnest immediately. The following year the lab was awarded a CIHR grant to study the regulation of TGF- β signaling in wound healing and scarring, and a Fraser-Monat Award from the Faculty of Medicine, McGill. FRSQ Chercheur boursier Junior and Senior Awards soon followed. Today, 18 years on, the plastic surgery research program on MGH C9 remains as exciting as ever - flourishing beyond my wildest imagination with continuous support from CIHR, NSERC and other agencies such as Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Arthritis Network and industry

surgery at McGill thrived under the leadership of clinician scientist pillars such as **Rollin Daniels**, **Bruce Williams** and **Carolyn Kerrigan** who brought international recognition to the Division by advancing

microsurgical research on several fronts, including microcirculation and free flap transfers. In 1994, I arrived on the scene, the first basic scientist to be recruited to the Division of Plastic Surgery at McGill. **Dr. Harvey Brown**, the Chair of the Division at the time, had the vision to broaden the scope of plastic surgery research to include wound healing and approached **Dr. Emil Skamene** (then Director of the MUHC Research Institute) to identify a basic scientist. I was delighted to accept the offer from Dr. Brown as it was a good fit for my own research interests and career aspirations. Although my

support. The laboratory has stayed vibrant by providing a fertile environment for research trainees. More than 40 post-doctoral fellows, surgical residents, PhD and MSc students, medical and undergraduate students have completed their training during these years. **Dr. Lucie Lessard**, chief of plastic surgery, and other surgeon scientists in the Division provide pivotal clinical perspectives through scientific collaborations, and often co-supervise surgical residents who train in the lab.

Our research focuses on understanding the mechanisms involved in skin and cartilage repair and regeneration. TGF- β is a multifunctional growth factor that plays a critical role in the development and maintenance of healthy skin and cartilage and abnormal TGF- β action has been implicated in pathological skin conditions including hypertrophic scarring and in impaired cartilage repair. One of the recent highlights of our research is the discovery of a novel TGF- β co-receptor known as CD109 that acts as a potent antagonist of TGF- β . Recent work on the potential of CD109 as an anti-scarring agent has resulted in two patents (# US 7173002; # US #61150953), and received two CIHR Proof of Principle grants. The research program is currently supported by: (i) CIHR Operating Grant (ii) NSERC Discovery Grant (iii) CIHR Industry-Partnered Grant (iv) CIHR Proof of Principle Grant (v) CIHR New Emerging Team Grant and (vi) CIHR Strategic Training Initiative grant.

Our research program has received international recognition through our research contributions. Notable recognitions include: Global Medical Discovery Series feature report, Sept 2011 for a recent publication on TGF- β signaling in skin cells; L'Oreal Skin Grant Award 2003, an award given to one scientist each year world-wide by L'Oreal, Paris in collaboration with La



Plastic Surgery Research Lab: Back (left to right): **Carter Li**, **Surya Sakr**, **Dr. Irvens Fanelus**, **Nick Zhygan**, **Dr. Ken Finnsen**, **Dr. Hari Babu**; Front (left to right): **Nermin Diab**, **Anshuman Saksena**, **Dr. Anie Philip**, **Aya Siblini**, **Yoon Chi**; Absent: **Joshua Vorstenbosch**, **Marie Andrée Poulin**.

► Société Française de Dermatologie; Feature Report in "Science's Next Wave", July, 2003, published by AAAS and the journal, SCIENCE; Appointments such as Co-Chair for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Wound Healing Society, the largest international organization focused on wound healing research; Chair of the Wound Healing Society Awards Committee 2006-2011.

A most rewarding aspect is the international recognition achieved by our lab members over the years. They have competed against the best in the field and won numerous prestigious awards at international forums such as the Plastic Surgery Research Council and the Wound healing Society. Trainees are the lifeblood of any research laboratory and their strive for excellence and achievements over the years have been central to keeping our research program

so lively and bursting at the seams in the MGH C9 plastics lab. The legacy of the plastics lab, in addition to advancing the field of tissue repair, is the continued success and productivity of the surgeon scientists and basic scientists who have trained there. I have no doubt that their future contributions will far exceed our expectations. ◆

Anie Philip, Ph.D.,
*Professor of Surgery; Director, Plastic Surgery Research;
Associate Director, Division of Surgical Research,
McGill University*

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Welcome to the New Surgery Chief Residents, 2012-2013



DIVISION OF CARDIAC SURGERY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. KEVIN LACHAPELLE**



Dr. Nasser AlKhamees has started his final year in Cardiac Surgery. He was born in Los Angeles, California, but comes from King Saud University in Riyadh. He has been with us since July 2007. Over the last two years, Nasser has truly blossomed into a gifted technical surgeon and already demonstrates knowledge and skills beyond his training level. We are therefore looking forward to working with

him in his final year and expect much from him. His primary interests are in the surgical management of advanced heart failure and congenital heart surgery for which he will no doubt be pursuing further training in the future. We wish him all the best and good luck.



Dr. Muhieldin Mohamed Muhieldin comes to us from Sudan where he is already a consultant cardiovascular surgeon at the Sudan Heart Institute. He did his medical degree at Moscow State University and followed that with a Ph.D. on mitral valve repair. He then did six years of training in cardiovascular surgery in numerous places including the Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, The Toronto General, and most recently in London, Ontario with a previous McGill grad, Dr. Richard Novick. Muhieldin will be with us for one year as a fellow in advanced adult cardiac surgery and we wish him well.

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. PAOLA FATA**



Dr. Carlos Chan completed his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and Computer Science at McGill before entering the McGill MD-PhD program. He completed his PhD in 2005 with Dr. Clifford Stanners, who cloned the gene for Carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA). While working towards his PhD, he developed a transgenic mouse model showing that CEA and its related molecules

(CEACAM) were not only benign tumor markers, but mediators of colorectal cancer progression. After graduating from McGill Medicine in 2007, he joined the McGill General Surgery residency program. Since then, MUHC became his second home. During his residency, he served as Vice President on the residency committee (MGSRC) for two years. He completed postdoctoral research fellowships with Drs. Nicole Beauchemin and Lorenzo Ferri on colorectal cancer metastasis and maintained active international collaborations with multiple investigators using my transgenic mouse model. He received multiple internal and external funding for his research projects, which were presented at national and international meetings and published in various clinical and basic science journals. His current research focus is to establish a link between CEACAM, Toll-like receptors and cancer progression in patients with colorectal cancers. In addition, he serves as reviewer for various major journals, such as Gut and Cancer Research. His most rewarding accomplishment is being a father of two boys, Casandro and Leopaul. He is currently applying for fellowships that will fulfill his ambition to become a strong academic surgeon who specializes in colorectal oncology and remains active in both basic and clinical research. ►



▶ **Dr. Nicole Kolozsvari** received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Guelph and her medical degree from the University of Western Ontario. During her residency she completed a Master of Science in Experimental Surgery at the Steinberg-Bernstein Centre for Minimally Invasive Surgery under the supervision of Dr. Liane Feldman. Her thesis project investigating different laparoscopic simulator training protocols married her interests in education and minimally invasive surgery and was awarded a SAGES (Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons) research grant. Nicole has presented her research at several national and international meetings and has several publications in peer-reviewed journals. Nicole also has a fulfilling (insane/unhinged/scary/choose your word) home life thanks to her husband Darryl and their amazing (incredible/young but surprisingly large/choose your own word) daughter Mira. Nicole is hoping to pursue a Fellowship in Bariatric Surgery.



Dr. George Melich studied biochemistry at undergraduate and graduate level at the University of Guelph and the University of Toronto. Achievements prior to Medical School included multiple scholarships and prizes for top academic and research results.

Throughout his undergraduate studies, he worked as a fitness instructor for a university fitness centre as well as a research analyst for a major pharmaceutical company.

George received his medical degree at McGill University. He has augmented his McGill Medical School experience with multiple clerkship rotations in most major surgical subspecialties at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Manitoba, Toronto and Ottawa as well as Harvard University in Boston and Memorial University in St. John's.

In residency, he has developed an interest in surgical education and minimally invasive surgery. He has been active in the field of surgical video instruction. He has also traveled to Seoul, Korea, for a three month stay to develop his robotic surgical skills and to work on multiple clinical and educational research projects. His efforts culminated with 5 podium and 3 poster presentations as well as multiple scientific publications internationally as well as in Canada and the United States.

His future goals include an academic surgical career involving research in robotics and surgical education. George's immediate plan is to expand his surgical skills by pursuing a colorectal fellowship focusing on minimally invasive and robotic techniques.



Dr. Marilou Vaillancourt received her Medical degree from Laval University. During her residency she completed research in education at the Steinberg-Bernstein Centre

for Minimally Invasive Surgery with Drs. Vassiliou, Feldman and Fried. She presented her main work on intraoperative assessment of laparoscopic colon resection at the American College of Surgeons and other educational projects at SAGES and CAGS. Marilou will be entering a community practice in 2013.

DIVISION OF UROLOGY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. WASSIM KASSOUF**



Dr. Amjad Alwaal, MD, MSc, PGY4 McGill in Urology, is a graduate from King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah. He obtained a Master of Science in Surgery degree from UBC, Vancouver. His thesis project was on gene therapy of prostate cancer. He joined the McGill Urology program in 2008.

During his residency he has been actively involved in basic science and clinical research, and has several publications in peer-reviewed journals. He is fortunate to be married to a very supportive wife, Atlat. And he is a proud father of a 5 year old son, Mohammed. After finishing his residency he will start a 2 year fellowship in Andrology and Reconstructive Urology in UCSF San Francisco with the world's top two pioneers in this field Tom Lue and Jack McAninch. After finishing his fellowship, Dr. Alwaal will assume his position as an assistant professor at King Abdul Aziz University.



Dr. Patrick Richard is an urology resident, originally from Bathurst, New-Brunswick. He graduated from Sherbrooke University Medical School in 2008. He completed his first three years of residency at Sherbrooke University before entering McGill University last year. Patrick has been actively involved in clinical research throughout residency. He had the opportunity to present his

work at numerous national and international meetings and had published in several peer-reviewed journals. Upon completion of his residency, he plans to pursue a fellowship in urologic oncology at the University of Toronto.



Dr. Khalid Alrabeeh graduated from King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He joined the urology residency program at McGill University in 2008. During his residency, he has been involved in urological basic science and clinical research in the field of male infertility. He presented at a number of national and international meetings. He is the urology academic chief resident for 2012/2013. Upon

completion of his residency, he plans to pursue a 2-year Fellowship in Infertility and Andrology. Following completion of his training he will start his academic career at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He is immensely proud of his wife Alanoud and his son Abdullah. ▶



Dr. Jacob Hassan was born and raised in New Maryland, New Brunswick. At the naïve age of 17 he ventured off to Montreal. This city brought him a higher education, a beautiful girlfriend, and 3 cats. Jacob enjoys travelling, playing soccer and watching movies. Before returning to the community, he plans on pursuing a fellowship with an emphasis on endourology.



Dr. Anastassia Abatzoglou graduated from University of Montreal Medical School. She joined the urology residency program at McGill University in 2011. During residency, she has been actively involved in clinical research and has presented at several national and international meetings. She is excited about a career in Pediatric Urology and will be starting her Fellowship at the Miami Children's Hospital, University of Miami in 2013. She enjoys travelling, playing racquetball and reading literature books. She has been fortunate to have exceptional support from her parents, brother and friends throughout her residency.

DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. MIRKO GILARDINO**



Dr. Youssef Tahiri graduated from McGill Medical School in 2008. He subsequently joined the Plastic Surgery Residency Program at McGill. During his residency, he completed with honors a Master's Degree in Experimental Surgery. He is actively involved in research: he is the author of 24 original published/accepted manuscripts, 25 abstracts publications; and presented his work at more than 40 national and international conferences. Along with his friend Jonathan Kanevsky and under the guidance of Dr. Mirko Gilardino, he co-founded the yearly Rally 4 The Kids tennis tournament in order to raise funds for the craniofacial program at the Montreal Children's Hospital. Following his residency, he plans to pursue a craniofacial fellowship.



Dr. Thomas Constantinescu obtained his medical degree from McGill University in 2008. Besides his training in plastic surgery, Dr. Constantinescu also teaches, and enjoys promoting the specialty of plastic surgery and helping aspiring medical students.

A Montrealer, he is an avid sports fan, and awaits the resurgence of the Habs. He played on the Quebec junior soccer team, is involved in the community, and enjoys traveling and pisco sour. Dr. Constantinescu is looking forward to his Chief year at McGill and wishes his friends and fellow colleagues in all specialties a successful academic year.

DIVISION OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. REGGIE HAMDY**

Dr. Maamon Aljonaid completed his medical education at the King Abduaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He started his residency training in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Montreal. However, he soon realized his mistake, and transferred to the Orthopaedic Surgery program at McGill. He quickly learnt French during his stay in Montreal and will be remembered most for his gentle personality.



Dr. Saleh Alsulaimani studied Medicine at the Umm Al Qura University in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, after which he joined the Orthopaedic Surgery training program here at McGill. He instantly fell in love with the training program at McGill and has thus decided to stay for another two years as he pursues a fellowship in Spine Surgery and then in Orthopaedic Oncology. Once he's had enough of Montreal, he will return to Saudi Arabia to join The King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh as staff. He is married and has a daughter, with another baby on the way. His extremely likable character will not be forgotten by his juniors.

Dr. Melissa Collins' thirsts for knowledge in the health sciences took her through a journey that started with an undergraduate degree in Physiotherapy at McGill University. She went on to obtain a Master's degree in nutrition at McGill before completing her medical education at the University of Montreal. Training in Orthopaedic Surgery at McGill is another step, as she now prepares to receive fellowship training at the renowned Hand and Upper Limb Centre in London, Ontario. Dr. Collins' soft spoken nature will, no doubt, be missed.



Dr. Nicholas Desy obtained his Bachelor's degree from McGill University in Microbiology and Immunology. He subsequently completed his medical school at McGill and stayed in Montreal to train in Orthopaedic Surgery. During his training he has conducted research on various topics such as ganglion cysts of nerves, total hip arthroplasty, and hip fractures. He also helped to establish the McGill Orthopaedic Student Interest Group. After graduating, Dr. Desy will pursue a Master's degree in Epidemiology at McGill and a fellowship in Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery in Calgary. He is most known for beating his staff up the hills on the bike, or so he wishes. . .



Christopher Michael Haydon pursued undergraduate education at the University of Western Ontario. After completing his

► degree, Dr. Haydon went back to his home town of Toronto for an enlightening medical school experience. Incredibly, Montreal was next on his list to get trained in the ways of the orthopaedic surgeons. Now he is ready to move onto the next one, New York City! The Insall Scott Kelly knee fellowship will prepare him to live the rest of his life on a beach.



Dr. Matthew Adam Mann was born in Montreal, but mainly grew up in Kamloops, British Columbia. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota and then completed his medical school at McGill University before joining the Orthopedic Surgery training program at McGill. His greatest accomplishment during residency was marrying his beautiful wife Hailey Rose Banack in 2011. Academically he contributed to several research articles in the fields of minimally invasive arthroscopic surgery and adult joint reconstruction. After completing residency he will be joining the team at the University of British Columbia for a fellowship with the adult reconstruction group, after which he plans to further his academic career with another fellowship.

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. PRAMOD PULIGANDLA**



Dr. Helen Hsieh graduated from Stony Brook University School of Medicine (NY) as an MD-PhD. During her residency, she got married, discovered the different sights of Montreal, made many wonderful friends and found her future in pediatric surgery after completing her research and clinical rotations at the Montreal Children's Hospital. Aside from work, she enjoys playing piano, cello and swimming endless laps in the pool (preferably post-call). After residency, Dr Hsieh will be starting a fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at the CHU Sainte-Justine, Montreal.

We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Alana Beres** as our new fellow (2012-2014) in pediatric surgery at the Montreal Children's Hospital. Alana is no stranger to McGill as she completed her general surgery training here in 2010 after an initial 2 years at Bay State Medical Centre in Massachusetts. Prior to Alana's return to McGill this year, she completed a pediatric trauma fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto (2010-2011) as well as a research fellowship at the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation located at the National Children's Medical Center in Washington, DC (2011-2012). Alana has been very productive in the last two years with presentations at national and international Pediatric Surgery meetings. We are extremely excited to have her back at McGill.

DIVISION OF VASCULAR SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. KENT MACKENZIE**



Dr. Jeremy Dunn received his B.Sc from McGill University, M.Sc from Dalhousie, MD degree from the University of Calgary and completed his General Surgery Residency at the University of Saskatchewan. He has multiple peer-reviewed publications in the field of Molecular Biology and completed his M.Sc. thesis on *Genetic Influences in the Premature Development of Coronary Heart Disease*. Outside of his clinical studies Jeremy enjoys music, skiing, motorcycles and travelling. He and his wife recently honeymooned in Argentina where they pursued their other passions of red meat and oenology. We wish Jeremy best of luck in his final year in vascular surgery at McGill University.

DIVISION OF THORACIC SURGERY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. LORENZO FERRI**



Dr. Mathieu Rousseau graduated from McGill Medical School. He is completing a Master under the supervision of Dr. Lorenzo Ferri. His work was presented at conferences including ASCO, ISW, CAGS, SAGES, JSS, AACR and it led to multiple awards. He served as Chief Resident of the MGH, President of the McGill Residents' Association and Secretary of the FMRQ. He sat on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Future of Medical Education in Canada project, on the National Steering Committee on Resident Duty Hours, on numerous Hospital and Faculty Committees and worked as a surveyor for Royal College Accreditations. He had the privilege to be a member of the Montreal Canadiens Medical Team since 2008. He does research in Global Surgery and traveled to Rwanda. This past year his family was blessed with the birth of their second child. He will go on to a thoracic surgery fellowship in the coming years.

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: **DR. ARI MEGUERDITCHIAN**



Dr. Angel Rodriguez Rivera is originally from Puerto Rico with a Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Puerto Rico in 2003. He then completed a Doctorate in Medicine at Ponce School of Medicine & Health Sciences (2007). He recently completed his General Surgery Residency at Drexel University (Philadelphia), where he was Chief Resident at Mercy Catholic Medical Center. During residency, Angel had the opportunity to work on hepato-biliary and pancreatic research. Outside of the hospital, he enjoys listening to jazz and latin music, deep sea diving and working on classic cars. ♦

Future of Canadian Postgraduate Medical Education

By Sarkis Meterissian, M.D.

Postgraduate medical education is presently undergoing a comprehensive, national reflective exercise in order to determine how best to train the doctors of tomorrow. This exercise, known as the Future of Medical Education in Canada Postgraduate Project, is the initiative of a consortium of four major stakeholders: the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, Le Collège des Médecins du Québec (CMQ), the College of

Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This consortium, funded by Health Canada, sent out a Request for Applications (RFA) to all 17 medical schools in Canada as well as other opinion leaders for this project in the spring of 2010. A group of medical schools put in an application for 2 projects, the Environmental Scan Consultant and the Liaison and Engagement Consultant. They included the University of Toronto led by Deputy Dean Sarita Verma and Vice-Dean Sal Spadafora, the University of British Columbia led by Associate Dean Kam Rungta and McGill University led by myself.

The purpose of the Environmental Scan component was to conduct a comprehensive review of the medical education literature as well as to conduct key stakeholder interviews on important topics in postgraduate medical education. A total of 24 themes or topics were chosen by the 3 Universities and at McGill we reviewed 3 of these. I, along with Dr. Mathieu Rousseau, reviewed Length of Training. We reviewed the literature and conducted interviews with key opinion leaders from across Canada and are in the process of preparing our manuscript. Our conclusion was that most leaders advocate a blended approach between time-based and competency-based education.

The Liaison and Engagement consultant project allowed me to visit the four Quebec medical schools as well as Memorial, Dalhousie, the CMQ and various interest groups to determine their opinions of the project as well as the future course of postgraduate medical education. I travelled extensively and found this aspect of the project extremely gratifying as I felt that folks were excited about the project and its impact on the education of future doctors. The data I collected was submitted to the Consortium and significantly influenced their deliberations on the eventual recommendations and action plans to be adopted.

The recommendations were launched on March 29th and, for those who may have missed them, here they are in capsule form:

- 1 Ensure the right mix, distribution and number of physicians to meet societal needs

- 2 Cultivate social accountability through experience in diverse learning and work environments
- 3 Create positive and supportive learning and work environments
- 4 Integrate competency-based curricula in postgraduate programs
- 5 Ensure effective integration and transitions along the educational continuum
- 6 Implement effective assessment systems
- 7 Develop, support and recognize clinical teachers
- 8 Foster leadership development
- 9 Establish effective collaborative governance in PGME
- 10 Align Accreditation Standards

As you can see, these are indeed transformative recommendations. The era of “see one, do one, teach one”, also known as the “apprenticeship model”, is over and in order to implement many of these recommendations a revolution must occur in the area of assessment and evaluation. We will need to evaluate, both in a formative and summative fashion, our residents’ competence in real-time. Society is demanding that the competence of our future physicians be validated in an objective and transparent fashion. Residents are also demanding to be trained in a collegial and safe environment and the recent work-hours regulations in Quebec are in keeping with this change in philosophy. Finally, it is clear that medical students will be required to choose specialities that society needs as opposed to what they want. Generalism is hot, subspecialization is not. Thus general surgery, as a generalist specialty, will gain increasing importance and Ministries of Health will demand that programs produce undifferentiated pluripotent general surgeons who can provide complete surgical care in small to medium size communities across Canada. Of course in order to implement all these changes we will need to develop better and more versatile clinician teachers. Faculty Development, support (both monetary and time) as well as academic recognition will be key ingredients of the future success of Canadian Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME). It is clear that the foundation of PGME is the clinician-teacher who provides excellent instruction, responsible role-modelling and effective and timely assessments. We all had role models during residency and it is these role models that we must nurture in order to effect change in our approach.

In conclusion I am proud to say that McGill University played an integral role in this important project. The project will change the landscape of PGME till 2020 and we must recognize its importance and make sure that we, as a University and a Department, are leaders in the implementation of its recommendations. ♦

Dr. Sarkis Meterissian
Postgraduate Medical Education Dean, McGill University

Fraser Gurd Day May 31, 2012



In June we held our 23rd Annual **Fraser N. Gurd** Day. This is the premier event in our academic calendar each year, highlighted by a visiting professor of great note. It is during this event that we celebrate our tradition of research excellence and

recognize those who have made outstanding contribution to the research and teaching missions of our department. During the banquet we have an opportunity to say thanks to our graduating residents and fellows for their hard work and contributions to the Department and to McGill.

This year our **Fraser Gurd** visiting professor was **Dr. E. Christopher Ellison**, the Robert M. Zollinger Chairman of the Department of Surgery at The Ohio State University. Dr. Ellison spoke on a *Blueprint for Assessment of Clinical Practice* and gave an additional talk on *Mentoring*

in Surgical Training and Practice. He commented on almost all the resident research presentations and contributed enormously to the success of the day. Dr. Ellison showed a remarkable ability to connect with everyone from the medical students to senior surgeons. He was a truly inspiring visiting professor and his visit highlighted the enormous value of a visiting professorship program.

The research presentations covered the gamut of surgical disciplines in our department, ranging from pure bench science to processes of care to education. This year we varied our traditional format, eliminating poster presentations and introducing TED style brief oral presentations. **Drs. Lawrence Rosenberg** and **Lorenzo Ferri** must be congratulated for their excellent work in putting the academic program together for the Research Day.

The Department of Surgery presented the Kathryn Rolph Award to **Mrs. Kappy Flanders** for her outstanding contribution to the

Department of Surgery over many years. Mrs. Flanders has been the leading influence in the establishment of Palliative Care, she has sponsored a visiting professorship in Lung Cancer and another in Medical Simulation. She introduced MiniMed to McGill and, with our Chancellor Arnold Steinberg, was instrumental in the creation of the McGill Medical Simulation Centre, now called the Arnold and Blema Steinberg McGill Medical Simulation Centre. She has shown the power of the individual. The Department is enormously appreciative of her energy, generosity and leadership. She is an incredible person and has made an extraordinary contribution to the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and McGill University. ♦

Gerald M. Fried, MD

*Edward W. Archibald Professor
and Chairman Department of Surgery*



By **Gerald Fried, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS**

2012 MCGILL DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AWARD WINNERS PRESENTED AT THE 23RD ANNUAL FRASER GURD BANQUET

HARVEY H. SIGMAN UNDERGRADUATE
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD (*Post Graduate Education*)
Dr. Sebastian Demyttenaere

POST GRADUATE EDUCATION TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
Dr. Simon Bergman

THE "EDDY"
EDMOND D. MONAGHAN PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY AWARD
Dr. Maxime Beaumont-Courteau

KATHRYN ROLPH AWARD
Mrs. Kappy Flanders

OUTSTANDING RESIDENT / FELLOW TEACHER AWARDS
Cardiac Surgery:
Dr. Hamad Al Habib

General Surgery (*a tie*):
Dr. Maha Al-Shaibi & Dr. Heather Gill

Orthopaedic Surgery:
Dr. Ali Esmaeel

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery:
Dr. Etienne Cardin-Langlois

Urology:
Dr. Raed Azhar

Highlights



2012 RESEARCH AWARDS

Oral Presentations for Excellence in Basic Science Research

1st Prize: **Dr. Jonathan Cools-Lartigue**

Neutrophil Extracellular Traps Sequester Circulating Tumor Cells in vitro and in a Murine Model of Metastasis

2nd Prize: **Dr. Lawrence Lee**

The Impact of Complications on Bed Utilization after Elective Colorectal Resection

3rd Prize: **Mr. Sam W. Chan**

Early Detection of Clinically Significant Prostate Cancer at Diagnosis: A Prospective Study Using a Novel Panel of TMPRSS2:ETS Fusion Gene Markers



TED-STYLE Presentation Winners (a TIE)

Winner: **Dr. Andrea Petrucci**

Assessing Clinical Judgment Using the Script Concordance Test: The Importance of Using Specialty-Specific Experts to Develop the Scoring Key

Winner: **Mr. Toufic Azar**

A Novel Percutaneous Mitral Valve Repair Technique









Dr **Gerald Fried** accomplished the following:

KUDOS !!

- Named to the Edward W. Archibald Chair of Surgery, McGill University.
- President-Elect of Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) for the 2012-2013 year (1st Canadian to be elected to this).



- Presidential Address to Central Surgical Association, Madison, WI, March 2012 "The Challenges of Change".

NAMED VISITING LECTURES

- Dr. Royce Laycock Visiting Professor in Surgery, University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, Texas.
- Schilling Visiting Professor, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- Kuwait Keynote Lecture: Surgical Endoscopy meeting "Using Simulation to Teach Laparoscopic Surgery: Building on a Solid Foundation", Kuwait City.
- Keynote lecture to World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Dr. Sarkis Meterissian is presently completing his 5th year as the Postgraduate Medical Education Dean at the Faculty of Medicine. He played a pivotal role as a co-investigator on the Future of Medical Education Postgraduate Project, funded by Health Canada. This project started in the spring of 2010 and recently concluded with the launch of the Recommendations on March 29th.



He was recently named President-Elect of the Canadian Association of University Surgeons. He was also named President-Elect of Breast Surgery International, one of the partners of the International Surgical Society. Sarkis is

presently Chair of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada Standing Committee of Postgrad Deans as well as the McGill Faculty of Medicine representative on the Collège des Médecins Board of Directors. In addition, Sarkis was recently named co-President (along with Dr. Louise Provencher) of the Breast Health Advisory Committee of the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation.

The followings (submitted on February 16, 2012) are recognition for clinician researchers in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Drs. John Antoniou and Fackson Mwale worked on repair of the intervertebral disc using mesenchymal stem cells and link N- a peptide with growth factor properties. Their grant was ranked first by the CIHR biomedical engineering committee on September 15, 2011.

Also *Quebec Science Magazine* recognized the department for producing two of the top ten scientific achievements of 2011 in Quebec. Firstly, **Drs. Paul Martineau, Edward Harvey and Louis Philippe Lefebvre**, developed a titanium porous screw, with ability to incorporate adjuvant medications. Secondly, the McGill Spine group including **Drs. Ouellet, Jarzem and Shir** for their work collaborated with Dr. Stone of the Pain Centre on the correlation between back pain and mental dysfunction.

Dr. Shannon Fraser, Chief of General Surgery at Jewish General Hospital, reported that **Dr. Tsafir Vanounou** performed the first minimally invasive, robotic assisted, Whipple resection (pancreatico-duodenectomy) in Canada in December 2011, assisted by **Dr. Simon Bergman**. Since then, 2 more patients have successfully undergone the procedure. This is a wonderful advance in surgical oncology which allows these patients to benefit from minimally invasive surgery, specifically speeding their recovery. We are very proud of Dr. Vanounou and Dr.

Bergman, as well as their operative team.

Dr. Michael Tanzer, Professor of Surgery, Associate Surgeon-in-Chief, MUHC and Vice Chair Surgery (Clinical), McGill University was the co-editor of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Orthopaedic Knowledge Update: Hip and Knee Reconstruction. He was involved in a Canadian trial of minimally invasive total hip replacement surgery. The resultant study entitled *A Prospective Randomized Multicentre Evaluation of a "New" MIS Approach to THA: Stem Subsidence an Issue?* was recently presented at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting in San Francisco and at the Annual Meeting of The Canadian Orthopaedic Association in Ottawa.



Dr. John Antoniou

Dr. John Antoniou, an orthopaedic surgeon at the Jewish General Hospital specializing in Hip and Knee replacement surgery, has recently been promoted to tenured professor of surgery at McGill University. Along with over 125 peer reviewed publications, 450 abstracts presented at national and international meetings, numerous CIHR and international grants and awards, Dr. Antoniou is currently president of the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society, holds the FRSQ Chercheurs-boursier cliniciens



Senior and holds McGill's William Dawson Scholar (Tier II Canada Research Chair). His research team continues to work on developing the latest in hip replacement / resurfacing technology and tissue engineering using stem cells for musculoskeletal disorders.

Dr. Reggie Hamdy described that on March 1, 2012 the Division of Pediatric Orthopaedics hosted their first annual Limb Lengthening & Deformity Correction by Visiting Professor. **Dr. Robert Rozbruch** is Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery at Weill ▶

► Cornell Medical College, and Associate Attending Orthopaedic Surgeon, Hospital for Special Surgery, N.Y. ◆



Team of Dr. Robert Rozbruch (5th person from the left)

Congratulations to **Dr. Mostafa Elhilali** for being awarded the highest honour from the International Society of Urology for his lifetime of contribution to global urology.

Division of Urology

By Simone Chevalier, PhD

Congratulations to **Dr. Simon Tanguay** who was elected General Secretary for the International Society of Urology.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jacques Lapointe** who has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure, effective June 1, 2012 and also renewed his Scholarship from "Le Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS)".

Congratulations to **Dr. Sero Andonian** on his new appointment as Director of the McGill Postgraduate Core Competencies Program. Dr. Andonian takes over from Dr. Linda Snell, who together with the Faculty's Postgraduate Core Competencies Committee positioned the program as a national benchmark over the last decade.

This year's Everett C. Reid Award for Excellence in Teaching went to **Dr. Wassim Kassouf**.

In 2012, **Dr. Kassouf** obtained 4-year CIHR grant renewal on the *Integration of mTOR-p53 pathway crosstalk and miR-34 family in prognostication and prediction of response to bladder cancer therapy*. In May, he was invited as



Dr. M. Elhilali, Mr. D. Azrieli and Dr. D. Eidelman

Visiting Professor at King Faisal Specialist Hospital (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) where he gave a talk on *Improving outcome in patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer*. He also served as course faculty at the American Urological Association on *Contemporary concepts and controversies in the diagnosis and management of upper tract urothelial carcinoma*. He was selected for the American Urological Association Leadership Program. He was nominated for VP communications at the Canadian Urological Association.

Dr. Kassouf's research, presented by **Dr. Bassel Bachir**, on *Regional differences in practice patterns and outcomes after radical cystectomy* won 'best moderated poster' at the American Urological Association Annual meeting 2012. Under his supervision, research performed by urology residents **Drs. Philippe Violette** and **Samuel Abourbih** on *Solitary solid renal masses: can we predict malignancy?* also received first prize essay at the Canadian Urological Association annual meeting in Banff.

The winner of the **Douglas D. Morehouse Achievement Prize** this year went to **Dr. Patrick Richard** for the highest score in the AUA in-service exam.

At the 27th Annual European Association of Urology Congress in Paris, **Dr. Jacques Corcos** and his team's poster *Bone marrow mesenchymal stromal cell therapy for restoration of bladder wall defects* was selected amongst the best posters and also won the third prize in research.

We are delighted to have received a very generous donation, led by **Mr. David Azrieli**, to complete an endowed Chair to be

► named the Azrieli/Elhilali Chair in Urological Sciences.

We held our 2nd Mostafa Elhilali Visiting Professorship in Endourology and Minimally Invasive Urology on April 11 and 12, 2012, with **Dr. John Denstedt**, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, University of Western Ontario. Dr. Denstedt gave two lectures, one at McGill Urology Grand Rounds entitled *Surgical management of urolithiasis 2012*, and the other at McGill Surgical Grand Rounds entitled *New Paradigms in Surgical Education*.

THE PROCURE WALK OF COURAGE

In support of the 2012 PROCURE Walk of Courage celebrating men and life, The PROCURE Walk of Courage for Prostate Cancer was held at Ile Ste-Hélène on Father's Day Sunday, June 17th. The McGill Urology faculty was again well represented by **Drs. Aprikian, Chevalier** and their team. Several team members of the MUHC-Prostate Cancer Biobank and research personnel at the MUHC-RI were present as strong supporters of this unique fundraising event for the cause of prostate cancer in Québec. Amongst the many participants was the Mayor of Montréal, **Gérald Tremblay**, leaders of several sports teams (hockey, football, and soccer). Ms. Pénélope McWade, animator of a daily talk show at Radio-Canada, rendered a special homage to her father and to all fathers fighting the disease in Québec. Over 800 participants took part in the festive 5 km walk and more than \$450,000 was raised. Amongst them, 100 participants included friends and family of the MUHC-Urology team led by **Dr. Aprikian** who raised over \$8,000 that will be used to fight prostate cancer through research, information and awareness.

4th UROLOGY MINI SYMPOSIUM

The Division of Urology came back once more last fall with the presentation of a Mini-Symposium, the 4th of a series since 2007, organized by **Dr. Jacques Lapointe** on the topic of Genetics and Urology. He invited six world renowned McGill guest speakers: Drs. William Foulkes, Nahum Sonenberg, Maxime Bouchard, Indra Gupta, Paul Goodyer, and Jacquetta Trasler. Through each of their talks, speakers took attendees from urological



Urology Research Day

diseases of adults such as prostate cancer, back to the embryo with the development of the genitourinary system, touching upon stem cells and ending by germ cells. **Drs. Armen Aprikian** and **Simone Chevalier** respectively gave welcoming and closing remarks. The event was sponsored in part by the Cancer Axis of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre and the Division of Urology. It was well attended with more than a hundred registered participants from Urology, McGill, and beyond. This excellent venue is becoming a habit with more to come . . .

MCGILL 22nd ANNUAL UROLOGY RESEARCH DAY

The Urology Division held its 22nd Annual McGill Urology Research Day on Wednesday April 18th, 2012 at the McGill University Thomson House. This year's organizers were **Dr. Sero Andonian**, **Dr. Mario Chevette** and **Dr. Cristian O'Flaherty**. Drs. Chevette and O'Flaherty collaborated for the scientific program, Ms. Makris dealt with the organization and event planning and **Dr. Sero Andonian** had the pleasure of welcoming this year's visiting professor, **Dr. Jeffrey Cadeddu**, Professor and Ralph C. Smith Distinguished Chair in Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery at the UT Southwestern Medical Center, Texas, USA, who gave a talk on *Magnetized Stone Fragments to Facilitate Removal*.

A jury composed of **Drs. Cadeddu, Chevette, Jednak** and **Taketo**, selected the three best research presentations. During a well-attended dinner reception, presentation prizes were awarded to **Ms. Tania Morielli** (McGill graduate student in Surgical Research), **Ms. Constance Boissin** (McGill graduate student in Experimental Medicine) and **Dr. Walid Shahrour** (McGill Urology resident). A special honor was given to **Dr. Eve de Lamirande** who has been working in the Urology-Andrology research labs with Dr. Claude Gagnon for over two decades. The evening concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Sero Andonian congratulating everyone who participated and helped, the pharmaceutical companies among others, in making the event a successful one.

On June 14 of this past Fathers' Day week, **Drs. Armen Aprikian, Peter Chan, Wes Kassouf** and **Jacques Lapointe** of ►



Men's Health Day

► the Division of Urology, were joined by a group of urology nurses, secretaries, residents, medical and nursing students at the Place Alexis Nihon to hold the 7th Annual MUHC Men's Health Day. This public health education event aims to provide information on various health issues and research related to men such as prostate cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia, voiding dysfunction, testis cancer, sexual dysfunction and infertility. A free health evaluation including blood and urine tests, blood pressure and fitness evaluations and prostate examination was available on site for all male participants. Montreal iconic comedian **Mr. Joey Elias** volunteered to be the spoke person for this year's event, which was well covered by various media including CTV, Radio Canada, CJAD and CHUM radio. Hundreds of men participated in the free health evaluation and the event was visited by over a thousand people.

For the fifth consecutive year, **Dr. Peter Chan** of the Division of Urology served as the Co-Director of a post-graduate course on Male Reproductive Medicine at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association in Atlanta, Georgia. This year Dr.

Chan was elected Director-at-large of the Society of Reproductive Surgeons of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). He was invited to serve as a faculty on a hands-on post-graduate course on microsurgery for male infertility at the 2012 ASRM meeting later this year in San Diego.

NEW RECRUITS



We are pleased to announce that we have recruited **Dr. Alice Dragmir (PhD)** in the Division of Urology as of January 2012. Dr.

Alice Dragmir, pharmaco-epidemiologist and health economist, graduated from the Université de Montreal and did her post-doctoral training at McGill. Dr. Dragmir will be developing a program of cancer economics and health outcomes under the leadership of Dr. Armen Aprikian and in collaboration with the Research Institute of the MUHC. ♦

Dr. Simone Chevalier, PhD
McGill Urology Director of Research

University Surgical Clinic 2009-2010



Back row: **Joshua Vostenbosch, Yoon Chi, Jason Patapas, Maria Petropavlovskaja, Julia Makhlin**
Front row: **Kenneth Finsson, Anie Philip, Lawrence Rosenberg, Melani Lighter**

Centre for Global Surgery expands to new territories

By Dan Deckelbaum, MD
and Tarek Razek, MD

Since its inauguration at the 11th annual Bethune Round Table, the Centre for Global Surgery (CGS) is increasing its activity in pre-existing programs and has ventured into new partnerships in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

At the request of the Donetsk Research and Development Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics and the Ministry of disaster preparedness, the CGS has participated in the disaster preparedness efforts for the *Euro 2012™* which took place in Donetsk this past June. In close collaboration with local leadership as well as participation of our own resident, **Dr. Evan Wong**, and **Artem Luhovy**, a second year medical student, a disaster preparedness assessment tool and a Hazard risk assessment tool was created for the city of Donetsk. This tool was presented to local as well as national Ukrainian health care institutions and governance. Through the disaster preparedness work, we have also implemented the first ever Trauma Team Training Course to occur in Eastern Europe. This course included the participation of **Andrei Belkin**, one of our ICU nurses at the MGH, who was instrumental for the great success of the course. Andrei will be returning to the Ukraine with **Dr. Kosar Khwaja** this fall for the second administration of the course and certification of local instructors for independent future administration of the course. **Iryna Moka**, one of the operating room nurses was in the Ukraine to assess potential partnerships with nursing leadership.

We have recently returned from the Middle East where we are involved in two programs in Israel and Palestine. In Palestine, a needs-assessment was performed of local health capacity and

potential partnerships for educational interventions as well as injury epidemiology assessments. Most of this work was centred in Ramallah and included meetings with local surgical leadership, NGO's, as well as the minister of Health and the Palestinian Prime Minister, **His Honourary Salam Fayyad**. The meetings were extremely productive and a trauma registry is already being implemented as a pilot program with the participation of **Fadi Hamadani**, a second year resident in our program. We hope to administer the first Trauma Team Training course in Ramallah in early 2013.

Across the border in Beer Sheva, Israel, the CGS organized a global surgery workshop for the students at the Medical School for International Health, a joint program run by Ben Gurion University and Columbia University. This workshop emphasized the academic aspects and importance of strong partnerships for effective program implementation in resource limited settings.



Trauma Team training in preparation for the Euro 2012 in the Ukraine

In addition to the above new programs, existing programs continue to grow. In Rwanda, MUHC surgeons have participated in 16 – two week modules covering different topics of General Surgery. The program which stemmed from an initial visit by **Dr. Sender Liberman**, has become extremely successful and

a model education partnership for resource limited settings as detailed further in our recent publication in *The Lancet*.

This program is also expanding into a nursing component under the leadership of **Donna Stanbridge**, Associate Director of Perioperative Services MUHC, who is developing a nursing education program in partnership with local Rwandan nurses following a trip to Rwanda in February. **Dr. Marc Dakermantji** is completing one of the largest analyses of injured patients in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically in Tanzania. These interventions are creating the framework for regional cooperation between surgical leadership in Tanzania and Rwanda where the Tanzanian

expertise in database management and trauma education is now being translated and implemented in Rwanda. ►



The Palestinian Prime Minister, **Dr. Salam Fayyad** (centre), with **Drs. Razek** (right) and **Deckelbaum** (left).

► Finally, here in Montreal, the student mentorship program has grown beyond our expectations. From an initial 3 interested students, there are currently over 50 involved medical students. This program culminated at the student lead global surgery conference which took place in May and hosted over 120 medical students from medical schools across the province. In addition, two students have participated in international electives: **Mathieu Hylands** in Rwanda and **Dimitrios Coutsinos** in Haiti. In addition to the clinical component of the elective, both are involved in research projects with local residents and students.

This has been an exciting year for the **Centre for Global Surgery** with rapid expansion of new and existing programs both locally and abroad. It is with the generous contribution of the MGH Foundation as well as the MUHC that these programs continue

to succeed. We continue to seek both private and public financial support to fund these programs as we strive to both augment local surgical capacity in resource limited settings, and foster the growth of future global health leaders amongst our students. We look forward to further expansion of our programs in the coming years and continue to encourage the participation of faculty, residents, medical students, nurses as well as other health care professionals for a multidisciplinary, comprehensive approach, to augment surgical capacity in resource limited settings. ♦

Dan Deckelbaum, MD and Tarek Razek, MD
Directors, Centre for Global Surgery

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L started my journey leaving Montreal on St. Patrick's day, March 17th 2011, arriving on Sunday evening March 18th in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.

Surgery in the Land of "One Thousand Hills"

Participation in the Rwanda – McGill surgical program

By Antoine Louffi MD, FRCS, FACS

The following morning, our day started with the signing out round. All emergency cases seen and managed over the weekend were presented. This was followed by ward rounds. It was an eye opener and a quick reminder about the complexity of the surgical conditions, the advanced stage of the diseases and the scarcity of basic resources. I also saw their capacity to be innovative in providing the best needed care they can, especially with the full participation of the families.

The surgical curriculum is well structured, with participation of the residents, students, faculty members and expatriate surgeons. A protected teaching time one day per week, where all residents must attend, even the ones working in other hospitals (King Faysal) in Kigali or in different cities like the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Butare (CHUB), is a positive addition to the surgical training program.

I was greeted at the airport by Dr. Georges Ntakiyiruta, chairman of the Department and chief of surgery at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (CHUK), the main teaching hospital.

Since my first visit last year, I noticed that the teaching room at the CHUK is better equipped with computers and internet access, despite that almost all residents have their own laptops. There was also improvement in the teaching rounds, which are better attended, better structured, and better prepared.

In addition, and despite the shortages of essential materials, the operating room is running better. The working relationship with the Anesthesia Department is excellent inside the operating theatres and during the joint journal club meetings, which started during my stay in Rwanda and, hopefully, will continue.

As a visiting surgeon, in addition to participating in teaching meetings, I operated two days a week, assisting senior residents and some attending surgeons. I did ward rounds, and saw some outpatient consults.

Acute abdomen is still the most common surgical emergency, second only to injuries from road accidents.

The Rwandan surgeons are very knowledgeable about the surgical conditions encountered in their milieu, but they are overwhelmed, not only by the number of cases to care for, but also the number of residents and students to teach.

We were often about 15 students and residents around a patient's bed. It was difficult to make them participate in the discussions about the patient's condition and even more in the clinical examination of a given pathology during these ward rounds.

My participation (clinical and academic) needed adaptation of my lectures and comments to their existing facilities and the stage of the disease, such as relying more on good ►

► history, appropriate physical examination and clinical judgment than on ultrasound and CT scan. Indeed, the acute abdominal cases are almost always in a very advanced stage with distended abdomen and bulging, tender Douglas pouch easily confirmed by digital rectal examination, not needing additional investigation.

One take home lesson is to address the management of acute emergencies early on at the district hospital level, and organize proper transfer to teaching hospitals when needed. This was discussed with the surgical faculty team.

In fact, the Rwandan Ministry of Health has requested the development of an emergency surgical training program of one year duration, in addition to the current full surgical program. I had the privilege to assist Dr. Ntakiyiruta and the Dean of the medical faculty in the development of such a draft proposal, pending acceptance by the Ministry of Health.

Kigali is a city full of life and activities. The Burbon café is a place to meet locals and expatriates over a good large cup of coffee and hook-up to the internet; has the hotel des “Milles Collines” has a relaxing 5 à 7, and the Serena hotel is too close to the CHUK to be missed. A hour and a half trip to Butare will show you university life in Rwanda, and on the way part of its old history. But most of all, you should

not miss seeing the genocide museums, especially the one in Kigali, with its heart breaking children section. The Rwandan have learned, and decided to move on with their lives and, I dare say, make the most of it in terms of reconciliation and progress. And they are succeeding.

In closing, I would like to thank the Rwandan-MUHC Centre for Global Surgery Program for giving me the opportunity to participate and share in their “infectious” enthusiasm to make it happen. ♦

Antoine Loutfi MD, FRCSC, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery and Oncology, McGill University



Dr. Loutfi and the medical staff at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali (CHUK)

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On May 3rd, 2012, **Dr. Claude Deschamps**, Joseph I. and Barbara Ashkins Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, was the 44th Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery. At Surgical Grand Rounds in

Stikeman Visiting Professorship 2012

By Emma Lisi

the Osler Amphitheatre of the Montreal General Hospital, Dr. Deschamps spoke on *Quality and Safety in the Surgical Practice at Mayo*. This was followed by laboratory and clinical research presentations by the residents of both Divisions. After lunch, Dr. Deschamps had an informal meeting with the residents, followed by more presentations by residents and alumni. The alumni from



Dr. Claude Deschamps

out of town who attended this year's event were **Drs. James Dutton, Reza Mehran and Garrett Walsh**.

The annual banquet was held at the University Club in honour of the Visiting Professor and our graduating residents – **Dr. Hamad Al Habib and Dr. Gordan Samoukovic**.

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. Deschamps as the 2012 Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery. ♦

Obituaries

DR. DARRELL DAVID MUNRO (1919-2012)

Dag Munro died on March 14, 2012 in his 93rd year. He was one of the few remaining graduates of the McGill Diploma Course in Surgery that was established after WWII to prepare young veterans for surgical careers in a program that included rotations through the MHG, RVH and MCH. He developed an interest in chest surgery --- a focus at McGill since the days of **Archibald** and **Gurd** and later **Sandy Macintosh** and **Eric Macaughton** --- and spent

a year at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis which at the time was the Mecca of chest surgery due to the pioneering work of **Evarts Graham** and later his associate **Tom Burford**, with whom Dag was associated. Returning to Montreal in 1952 he joined the surgical staff of the Royal Victoria and the Royal Edward Hospitals, the latter subsequently becoming the Montreal Chest Hospital.



Dr. Darrell David Munro

This was the period when streptomycin became the first effective antibiotic against the *tubercle bacillus* and surgical resection of pulmonary lobes and even whole lungs destroyed by tuberculosis

was thereby enhanced. But such operations were often extremely difficult due to the extent of infection. Decisions on the timing and type of operations were made at weekly medico-surgical conferences and Dag made life-long friendships with chest physicians like **Peter Pare** and **John Meakins**. Dag was chief surgeon at the Montreal Chest from 1964 to 1984, always in close association with his associate **James Wilson**.

Dag had been trained in bronchoscopy at Barnes and Wilson at Ann Arbor and they did all the bronchoscopies at the Chest for many years. Always keen to adopt any sensible technologic advance he was one of the first to use stapling devices to secure transected bronchi and to use the fiberoptic flexible bronchoscope which was greatly superior to the rigid scope in that it allowed visualization of the major bronchial segments and was so much better tolerated by patients.

Throughout his career Dr. Munro was also the principal thoracic surgeon at the RVH and here his focus was the treatment of lung cancer. Early convinced of the relationship between smoking and lung cancer he organized an anti-smoking program at the Chest Hospital. At the RVH he was appointed coordinator of Planning and Development in the late 60s, a task which he organized with diligence and demonstrated his strong administrative talent.

In 1965 he led a team performing Canada's first lung transplantation, a feat that required admirable inter-personal relationships to orchestrate the planned surgery on the donor and recipient. Dag was always supported by enthusiastic trainees and never more so than in the performance and post-operative care of this patient.

So much for the surgeon. What about the man? He was open in the sense that he was non-secretive. He was frank. He expressed himself clearly. He had energy. He had charisma. He was fun. He had patience as a fly-fisherman. He was good with his hands not only as a surgeon and fisherman and wood-worker but also as a landscaper working with the flowers, shrubs and trees on his hillside property in Ste. Agathe. Always popular and convivial his joy in the last four decades derived from his dear wife **Micheline Groleau**.



Dr. Claude Gagnon

DR. CLAUDE GAGNON

It is with great sadness and regret that we learned of the passing of our dear friend, colleague, and McGill Professor of Surgery, **Dr. Claude Gagnon**, on May 14th 2012, after a long fight against Parkinson's disease. Dr. Gagnon was full professor in the Department of Surgery and an active researcher in the division of Urology for over 25 years. He served as Director of Urology Research from 1984-2004 and was instrumental in the opening in 1984 of the first Urology research facilities at the Royal Victoria Hospital. This

constituted a basis for further developments in Urology research across McGill Hospitals and Research Centres and solidified a vision of biomedical research which flourished and led to a culture of world-class research be it in infertility, voiding dysfunction, and urologic cancers. Dr. Gagnon's academic success is measurable in several ways including his international recognition as an expert scientist who significantly contributed to the area of sperm motility and capacitation. Several of his numerous graduate students and fellows followed in his path and pursued their own careers as faculty members devoted to andrology research around the world. Claude left serene knowing that the furrow he traced is growing wider, so that his dream survives through his Urology and McGill colleagues and friends. In recognition of Claude's legacy, the Urology Studentship program and the top award given at our annual McGill Urology Research Day will be named after him. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Québec Parkinson's Foundation. ♦

By Anthony R.C. Dobell, MD, FRCS

By Michael P. Laplante, MD, FRCS

Support the McGill Department of Surgery

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he McGill Department of Surgery is recognized nationally and internationally for its excellence in surgical education, research and innovation, and high quality patient care. Graduates of our surgical training programs in General Surgery, Cardiac Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Urology, Plastic Surgery, Thoracic Surgery and Vascular Surgery have become our ambassadors around the world; many have risen to prominent leadership positions in their institutions.

As an alumnus of the McGill Department of Surgery, we hope that you look back on your time at McGill with appreciation for the training you received, with fondness on the friends that you made, and that you continue to be proud of your connection to McGill. Many of you have expressed the feeling that your professional relationship with the McGill Department of Surgery has enhanced your reputation with colleagues and patients.

We invite you to express your appreciation by supporting the academic mission of the Department of Surgery. Your help will ensure that McGill will continue to be at the forefront of patient care, education and research. Your support will help the Department to flourish and grow, and to prepare for the future.

Funds donated to the Department of Surgery will support research and teaching initiatives, provide resources for students, residents and fellows, and will enhance our ability to keep you informed about McGill Surgery through *The Square Knot*.

The future of The McGill Department of Surgery as a truly great department depends more than ever on gifts from private sources. We sincerely hope that you will become a McGill Department of Surgery supporter and, by doing so, help us to continue our tradition of leadership and extraordinary accomplishment.



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On behalf of the Department of Surgery, I thank you for your support.

Gerald M. Fried, MD
Edward W. Archibald Professor and Chairman
McGill Department of Surgery

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