

THE SQUARE

As with the McGill Department of Surgery and the McGill University Health Centre, there has been much change over the past couple of years within the McGill Division of Thoracic and Upper GI Surgery. Several significant events, both intrinsic and

Division of Thoracic Surgery Thrives on New Challenges



Dr. Lorenzo Ferri

extrinsic, during this time have conspired to impact the division – chief amongst them include the opening of the Glen site in and the Health Ministry’s centralization of thoracic surgical oncology. Change can often bring about a sense of unease, as one gets comfortable with the status quo. However change also offers the greatest opportunity to impact improvement, and the Division of Thoracic and Upper GI Surgery has embraced the latter sentiment. The opening of the Glen site of the MUHC led to a relative evacuation of clinical programs from the MGH, and the division took advantage of this situation to move into a recently renovated combined office/clinic space on L8 that best suits our academic, clinical, administrative and teaching mandate. With all the surgeons offices immediately adjacent to the clinic and clinical research staff, the new location

facilitates communication between the faculty and fosters the clinical research that has long been the foundation of the division. With remarkable support from philanthropy, namely the **Jarislowsky Foundation**, we have been able to create a specialized clinic within this setting that offers “one-stop shopping” for patients in which investigations and treatment plans can be rapidly generated during one visit. This patient-centric approach has greatly expedited the management of patient suffering from chest and upper GI cancers.

By Lorenzo Ferri, MD

With the centralization of thoracic surgical oncology in Quebec, the McGill Division has grown significantly over the past 3 years, both in terms of personnel and patients. The number of surgeons within the division have rapidly increased from 3 to 7, welcoming new recruits **Jonathan Spicer, MD, PhD** (from MD Anderson in 2015), **Jonathan Cools-Lartigue, MD, PhD** (from Memorial Sloan Kettering in 2018), **Carmen Mueller, MD, MEd** (from University of Toronto and McGill in 2015 – Associate), and **Mathieu Rousseau, MD** (from Stanford in 2018 – Associate). ▶

(See continuation on page 3)



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
NEWSLETTER
MCGILL UNIVERSITY
SPRING/WINTER 2019

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he theme of my editorial is usually based on the content of the current Squareknot issue. I wish to alert our readers that the next Squareknot will be dedicated to celebrating the

Editor's Note

By Harvey Sigman,
CD, MSc, MDCM, FRCS, FACS

30th anniversary of the publication. The transformation of the Square Knot from its humble origins in 1989 to the professional production of today mirrors the accomplishments which have occurred within our department of surgery over the past 30 years and complemented by a most impressive array of talented new surgeons. This is what impressed me most as I reviewed and edited the present issue. Importantly, I strongly urge you to send us any observations, comments or memories related to any of the material in these old Square Knots so that they can be included in the next issue, a special anniversary one.



Dr. Harvey Sigman

To complement the above, a new Square Knot website - <https://mcgill.ca/squareknot/> - is available for all to see. It will allow easy and complete access to all our archival material. I encourage you to visit the site and to share with us your reflections on where we have come from and where we are at present. I wish to acknowledge the expertise and creativity of Ekaterina Lebedeva and Ildiko Horvath who have spearheaded these exciting events.

Support the McGill Department of Surgery !



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

The future of The McGill Department of Surgery as a truly great department depends more than ever on gifts from private sources. Such donations can be made ONLINE by credit card via The Montreal General Hospital Foundation at :

<https://www.mghfoundation.com/donate/make-donationonline-form/>



Enter your donation amount and check the box "Other", and type in McGill Department of Surgery Alumni Fund. Fill in the "Donor information" as appropriate. Charitable receipts for Canadian tax purposes will be issued by the MGH Foundation. ♦

Gerald M. Fried, MD
Chairman, McGill Department of Surgery

► This increase in surgical personnel was required to match the expanded clinical volume managed by the division. In the past 12 months, we have performed over 450 major lung

Thoracic Surgery

Continued from page 1

resections, 80 esophagectomies, and 50 gastrectomies – representing over a 400% increase in surgical procedures for these malignancies over the past 10 years – making the McGill Division of Thoracic and Upper GI Surgery one of the busiest in North America. To address unmet clinical needs in the thoracic surgical oncology patient population, members of the Division have spearheaded numerous innovative initiatives including introducing organ-sparing endoscopic approaches to early malignancies of the foregut, enhanced recovery programs for pulmonary resection, and subxyphoid approach to pulmonary resection.

Additionally, thanks to the pioneering work of Jonathan Spicer, we have taken a leadership position in investigating the role of immunotherapy in the neoadjuvant setting for both lung

and esophageal cancer. The increased clinical volume fuels a robust clinical, translational, and bench research program and the McGill Thoracic Surgery and Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Research Laboratories has grown in parallel. In 2018, we were fortunate to recruit two accomplished and talented scientists into the division to compliment the research performed by the attending surgeon-scientists. **Veena Sangwan, PhD** joined our group as cancer cell biologist from the McGill Goodman Cancer Research Centre, and **Sven Bailey, PhD**, a bio-informatic scientist specializing in epigenetics, joined the Division in 2018 from the University of Toronto. This recent surge in research personnel has fostered incredible scientific energy and excitement that is paying dividends in terms of peer-reviewed funding. As detailed elsewhere in this edition of the Square Knot, over the past year the division has been fortunate to secure important grants from the American Surgical Association (**Dr. Jonathan Spicer**) and Cancer Research UK (**Drs. Lorenzo Ferri** and **Veena Sangwan**) in addition to several others. continue to flourish in the years to come. ♦

Five Competitive Research Grants in 2018 !!

The Division of Thoracic Surgery has been strong with its research lab and **Dr. Jonathan Spicer** has had great success in 2018 by obtaining competitive research grants.



Dr. Jonathan Spicer

2018-2021

EXACTIS

“Personalize my treatment for non-small cell lung cancer patients”
\$65,000 (CAD) / year Role: PI

2018-2020

CANCER RESEARCH SOCIETY

“Immune consequences of CXCR2-mediated neutrophil recruitment to non-small cell lung cancer: Paving the way to neutrophil-based therapeutic combinations.”
\$60,000 (CAD) / year x 2 years / Role: PI

2018-2021

McGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOUNDATION
DR. RAY CHIU DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD

“The Role of Neutrophil Extracellular Traps in Cancer Metastasis”
\$50,000 (CAD) / year x 3 years / Role: PI

2018-2020

TERRY FOX RESEARCH INSTITUTE

“Montreal Cancer Consortium”
\$2,000,000 (CAD) over 2 years / Role: Collaborator

2018-2020

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE, SCIENCE ET INNOVATION
FONDS D'ACCÉLÉRATION DES COLLABORATIONS EN SANTÉ
“Québec Cancer Consortium”
\$10,000,000 (CAD) over 4 years / Role: Collaborator

Thoracic Surgery Researchers Receive Major International Funding

Researchers from the Division of Thoracic surgery are part of a multinational team led by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), whose project was recently selected for funding through Cancer Research UK's (CRUK) Grand Challenge competition — an international funding initiative that aims to address some of the biggest global challenges in cancer research. The multidisciplinary team will receive 20 million British pounds (nearly 34 million Canadian dollars) over four years to explore the links between chronic inflammation and cancer.

The project, known as STrOmal ReprograMing (STORMing Cancer) Provides New Directions to Prevent and Revert Chronic Inflammation, aims to find novel ways of treating cancer caused by inflammation and to develop new options to prevent cancer from developing in high-risk patients with chronic inflammatory diseases.



L to R: Ioannis Ragoussis, PhD - McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre. Veena Sangwan, PhD - RI-MUHC Division of Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Lorenzo Ferri, RI-MUHC (co-PI) Division of Thoracic Surgery.

The team, which includes scientists, clinicians and patient advocates from the United States, Canada, Israel and the United Kingdom, will focus its efforts on understanding how chronic inflammation drives some of the most aggressive forms of cancer. ♦

2018 Soirée gala en or Raises \$2.7M

The Program for Innovative Therapeutics in Chest and Esophago-Gastric Cancers is committed to developing and bringing patients the latest in cancer treatment options. As one of the largest thoracic surgical oncology programs in North America, our team delivers cutting-edge care to patients suffering from lung, esophagus, and stomach cancers, from Montreal as well as regions across Quebec and Eastern Canada.

Surgery for these diseases within the McGill Health Administrative Region covering over 50% of the Province is conducted solely at the Montreal General Hospital, however the McGill Division of Thoracic Surgery partners closely with medical oncology and radiation oncology services in the Cedars Cancer Centre at the MUHC Glen site as well as the Jewish General Hospital and numerous hospitals across Montreal and Quebec. ♦



Thanks to the 2018 Soirée en Or gala and other activities, we raised an amazing \$2.7 million to support the service!

Upper Gastro-Intestinal Cancers symposium, October 13th 2018

The 2nd Annual Symposium on Upper Gastro-Intestinal Cancers was held on October 13th, 2018. Over 100 participants attended this successful event and we had 7 distinguished leaders in gastroenterology, medical oncology, radiation oncology and thoracic surgery, who presented a vast array of topics on Upper GI malignancies. The visiting professors consisted of **Dr. Nasser Altorki** (thoracic surgeon) from Cornell University, **Dr. Tanius Bekaii-Saab** (medical oncologist) from the Mayo clinic, **Dr. Wayne Hofstetter** (thoracic surgeon) from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, **Dr. Steven Lin** (radiation oncologist) from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, **Dr. John Reynolds** (thoracic surgeon) from the Trinity College Dublin, **Dr. Prateek Sharma** (gastroenterologist) from the University of Kansas, and **Dr. Rebecca Wong** (radiation oncologist) from the University of Toronto. We were also honored to have presenters from Heidelberg University, McGill University, Université de Montréal and University of Ottawa. This one-day event aimed at gathering healthcare professionals of different disciplines to share their insights and latest research in the clinical management of esophageal and gastric diseases. We invite you to save the date for the **3rd Annual Symposium on Upper Gastro-Intestinal Cancers** which will be held on **October 19th, 2019** in Montréal, Canada. ♦

For more information and details, please visit:
<https://mcgill.ca/thoracic/symposium>



Welcome New Recruit



The Division of Thoracic and Upper GI Surgery welcomes its newest recruit – **Jonathan Cools-Lartigue MD, PhD**

We are delighted to announce that **Dr. Jonathan Cools-Lartigue** has joined the staff of the Division of Thoracic and Upper GI Surgery at the McGill University Health Center in September 2018. Dr. Cools-Lartigue will have both clinical and surgical duties based at the Montreal General Hospital and will be part of the Gatineau/Hull Hospital Thoracic clinic group.



Dr. Jonathan Cools-Lartigue

Dr. Cools-Lartigue completed his residency in General Surgery as well as a PhD thesis in Experimental Surgery at McGill University in 2016. He then went on to become the chief administrative cardiothoracic fellow at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in conjunction with the New York Presbyterian Hospital in Thoracic Surgery concentrating on esophageal cancer and completed his fellowship in 2017. ♦



New Appointment Dr. Mirko Gilardino Director, Division of Plastic Surgery

The Department of Surgery is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Mirko S. Gilardino** as Director of the Division of Plastic Surgery at McGill University and Director of

the Division of Plastic Surgery (adult services) at the McGill University Health Centre, as of February 1, 2019. He will replace Dr. Lucie Lessard who has led the Division of Plastic Surgery so ably for many years. We all

want to thank Dr. Lessard for her hard work, wisdom and vision in this leadership role.

Dr. Mirko S. Gilardino is currently an Associate Professor of Surgery at McGill. He received his MD from the McGill University Faculty of Medicine, completed six years of Plastic Surgery residency and a Master's Degree in Experimental Surgery at McGill University. He then went to Philadelphia for fellowship training in Complex Craniofacial Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania), the No.1 ranked pediatric hospital in the United States. He is certified in plastic surgery in both Canada and the United States.



Dr. Mirko Gilardino

Dr. Gilardino has served as Director of the Plastic Surgery Residency Program at McGill for 8 years and is actively involved in surgical education and training of residents. He has an active research portfolio and has received several peer-reviewed grants for his research in bone regeneration, surgical education and simulation, reconstructive surgery/wound healing and surgical innovation. He has over 50 publications and book chapters and has supervised dozens of research students, often in collaboration with other divisions of surgical research.

Since 2008, Dr. Gilardino has been the Director of the H.B. Williams Craniofacial and Cleft Surgery Unit at the Montreal Children's Hospital, where he performs complex pediatric craniofacial reconstruction and directs the multi-disciplinary team committed to providing state-of-the-art care for children born with facial anomalies.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Gilardino on his appointment to these important positions. ♦

Congratulations to Dr. Gerald Fried!

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r. **Gerald Fried**, the Edward W. Archibald Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at McGill has been selected to receive a Meritorious Service Cross (Civil Division), to be presented by the Governor General of Canada.



Dr. Gerald Fried

The Meritorious Service Decorations are an important part of the Canadian Honours System and highlight remarkable achievements that are accomplished over a limited period of time. The cross was originally created in 1984, for members of the military. In 1991, a medal was added to the military division, and both the cross and medal were introduced for civilians. They are given to recognize remarkable contributions

in many different fields of endeavour, from advocacy initiatives and health care services, to research and humanitarian efforts.



"It is an enormous honour and truly humbling to be awarded the Meritorious Service Cross," says Dr. Fried. "It is recognition, not of my personal contributions, but of the efforts of a team with whom I have had the privilege to work over the past 25 years. They have inspired me, taught me, and held me to the highest standard".

Re-published from <https://bit.ly/2G9Gn3Q>

Dr. Gerald M. Fried was recently elected **Chair of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons (ACS)** during the College's annual Clinical Congress, held in Boston, October 21–25, 2018.

In his role as Chair of the Board of Regents, Dr. Fried will work closely with the ACS Executive Director David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS, and will chair the Regents' Finance and Executive Committees. The College's 24-member Board of Regents formulates policy and is ultimately responsible for managing the affairs of the College. The Board's diversity and variety of experiences and interests among its members enable the Regents to represent views related to myriad issues in contemporary surgery. ♦

Re-published from <https://bit.ly/2lqllQd>

Call for applications – Class of Medicine 1970 Educational Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation

Faculty members in the Faculty of Medicine are encouraged to apply for the **Class of Medicine 1970 Educational Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation**.

Organized through the new Institute of Health Sciences Education, this award was created in order to contribute to scholarship and educational excellence in the Faculty of Medicine through innovation and the support of effective methods of teaching and learning.

This award is designed to support a faculty member who wishes to learn and/or further develop a skill that can be directly applied to the education of McGill medical students and residents. This award may also be used to support the training of an outstanding young individual, such as a fellow or junior faculty member, who has demonstrated a particular aptitude and interest in the scholarship of teaching.

The subject of study may be new teaching methods to be used in the classroom, simulation laboratory or clinical setting, all of which have the potential to enhance the medical school experience.

The award will be in the amount of \$7,000. The support could be applied to professional development or to securing protected time from clinical responsibilities.

Deadline for Applications: May 31, 2019, for funds to be awarded in September 2019. ♦

[Click here](#) to learn more about the award, application requirements, and next steps.

Division of Pediatric Surgery

Dr. **Jean-Martin Laberge** has been awarded the 2019 Montreal Children's Hospital Recognition Award. Formerly called the lifetime achievement award, it represents the highest honor given to a physician at the Montreal Children's Hospital by their peers. The award is in recognition of Dr. Laberge's 35+ years of service to the hospital, its patients, and its staff. Dr. Laberge will receive the award in a formal ceremony at the MCH Spring Fling in May.

Dr. Sherif Emil has been appointed the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation Chair in Pediatric Surgical Education and Patient and Family-Centered Care in the Faculty of Medicine. This Chair will be used to launch a new era in pediatric surgical education and patient-centered care at the Montreal Children's, including new educational programs for residents and fellows and new clinical programs, to include pediatric enhanced recovery after surgery and patient-reported outcomes.

The new **Canadian Consortium for Research** in Pediatric Surgery (CanCORPS) was launched in 2018 and is currently undergoing the final contracting phase among the 15 Canadian pediatric surgery divisions that constitute the Consortium. The Consortium leadership is anchored at the Montreal Children's

with Dr. Sherif Emil serving as Consortium Chair, **Dr. Pramod Puligandla** serving as Steering Committee member, and **Ms. Elena Guadagno** (pediatric surgery research project manager) serving as National Coordinator.

The Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons celebrated its 50th anniversary at its September 2018 meeting. As part of the celebration, a day was dedicated to CAPS Founders. **Dr. Frank Guttman**, one of the CAPS founders (4th from the left front row in the picture) was honored in a genuinely moving ceremony. Dr. Guttman, past chief of pediatric surgery at McGill and the Montreal Children's Hospital recently moved to Toronto to be closer to family.

In March 2019, Dr. Sherif Emil undertook his 4th pediatric surgery mission to the Africa Mercy, the world's largest civilian hospital ship, currently docked in Conakry, Guinea. Dr. Emil was accompanied by surgery resident, **Dr. Kathryn Larusso**, the current Jean-Martin Laberge fellow in global pediatric surgery. Their blogs were posted on the facebook page of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. A live video session with Dr. Emil and Dr. Larusso was broadcast from the pediatric ward of the Africa Mercy. This video, also posted on the Royal College site, was viewed by more than 12,000 people within one week of its posting. It can be seen here:

www.facebook.com/TheRoyalCollege/videos/2051828164864513/



CAPS Founders

Division of Urology

Congratulations to **Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim** (research fellow) for receiving the CUA-SIU International Scholarship Grant during the Annual Canadian Urological Association meeting this past June in Halifax.

The **7th Annual Mostafa Elhilali Visiting Professorship in Endourology and Minimally Invasive Urology** was held on **April 25 & 26, 2018** with **Dr. Mantu Gupta**. Dr. Gupta is Professor of Urology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Chair of Urology at Mount Sinai Roosevelt and Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospitals, and Director of Endourology and Stone Disease for the Mount Sinai Health System. Dr. Gupta gave two state-of-the-art lectures on *The Challenge of PCNL in 2018: How to Continue Pushing the Boundaries of Minimally Invasive Surgery While Tackling More and More Complexity?* and *Endourological Management of UTUC in 2018: Who, When, and How*.

Drs. Simon Tanguay and Peter Chan, with the administrative support of Ms. Ordonelli from the Division of Urology, organized the **12th MUHC Men's Health Day on June 14, 2018**, Father's Day week. The goal of the event is to bring awareness to the general public various health conditions that are either exclusively or more commonly found in men. Among these conditions are prostate cancer, voiding dysfunction, erectile dysfunction, hypogonadism, testis cancer, infertility, hypertension, dyslipidemia and metabolic syndrome. In addition to information on prevention and early detection of these conditions, the organizers provide free health evaluation on-site to eligible men including blood pressure and fitness evaluation, urinalysis, prostate examination and a variety of blood tests when indicated. For more than ten years this full-day event has been held in various shopping centers. This year, with the support of the MUHC and once again the Cedars Cancer Foundation, this event was held for the 2nd time at the MUHC Glen site. The Division of Urology brought in a team of staff including nurses, administrative assistants, medical and nursing students, residents, fellows and Urologists, all as volunteers, to conduct the various activities. Various patient support groups including the (Cedars Cancer Foundation, Procure, Prostate Cancer Canada Network, Abbott Nutrition and Quebec Cancer Foundation) have set-up information booths on site. Despite the rain, we still had a high number of attendances. The organizers would like to thank all the volunteers who made the event possible and would further like to invite other divisions to form partnership to organize future activities that could increase public awareness of various important health conditions, with the aim to promote prevention and early detection that can ultimately improve the quality of life of the public.

Congratulations to **Dr. Wassim Kassouf** for being appointed to the Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Urology. Dr. Kassouf succeeded to the late **Dr. M. M. Elhilali** to hold this prestigious Chair.

Dr. Freddy Hamdy was the **13th Annual Urologic Oncology Visiting Professor on October 24 & 25, 2018**. Dr. Hamdy is the Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Head of the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Oxford, UK. Dr. Hamdy gave two state-of-the-art lectures on *The ProtecT and CAP Trials: What Have We Learnt So Far?* and *Comic Opera is Dead: Surgical Research is Alive and Thriving*.

Dr. Maurice Anidjar was appointed Chief of Urology at the Jewish General Hospital in September 2018. Dr. Franck Bladou relocated to Bordeaux, France to pursue an academic position at the University of Bordeaux. We thank him for his leadership and achievements during his term at the JGH. He clearly positioned the JGH Division of Urology as a leader in innovation and research.

McGill Urology held its **2nd Annual Canadian Chief Resident Functional Urology Comprehensive Course** that was held on **August 24-25, 2018**. This course was organized by **Drs. Campeau and Corcos**. It was a very successful 2-day event attended by 20 chief urology residents from all training programs across Canada and 7 guest faculty members.

McGill Urology also held its **18th Annual Canadian Senior Resident Uro-Oncology Course on October 18-20, 2018** at the Omni Hotel in Montreal. It was a very successful 2-day event attended by 34 Urology chief residents from across Canada and 13 guest faculty members. This year's guest lecturer was **Dr. Brant Inman**, Associate Professor and Vice Chief of Urology at Duke University, North Carolina. Dr. Inman is a recognized international authority in the field of genitourinary oncology.

Congratulations to **Dr. Alice Dragomir** who was promoted to full-time Associate Professor (Research) in the Department of Surgery.

Congratulations to **Dr. Alexis Rompré-Brodeur (R5)** for receiving 1st place prize essay: *Immune Checkpoint Inhibition with Radiation in Bladder Cancer: In Situ and Abscopal Effects* at the **70th Annual NSUA Meeting in Toronto, October 2018**.

NEW RECRUITS

We are pleased to inform you that the Division of Urology recruited **Dr. Melanie Aubé-Peterkin** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Urology. Dr. Aubé-Peterkin completed a fellowship in adult and pediatric reconstructive urology at the East Virginia Medical School. She will bring a new expertise in urethral and genito-urinary reconstruction as well as BPH surgery. ♦

McGill Urology Research

Together with **Dr. Simon Tanguay**, Chief, Department of Urology at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and Director, Division of Urology at McGill, we are most pleased to have held a very successful 5th Research Mini-Symposium. The theme was devoted to the Prostate Cancer Trajectory. The event took place on Monday December 3rd, 2018 at the Drs. Richard & Sylvia Cruess Amphitheatre of the Research Institute (RI) of the RI-MUHC.

This forum was scheduled just after the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month of November and PROCURE, a time for all of us to recognize and acknowledge the work being pursued to confront this deadly disease for too many men. The structure and initial goal of the program was that we capture “a narrative” perspective on prostate cancer, from “its beginning to the end of life”, allowing the audience to truly understand the challenges of ongoing research, according to stages of disease, and the immense task remaining to achieve.

New development and recent discoveries of ongoing research projects within university hospitals across Québec were presented. I would like to particularly thank our invited guest speakers, **Dr. Robert Day** (University of Sherbrooke), **Dr. Frederic Pouliot** and **Dr. Paul Toren** (University of Laval), **Dr. Fred Saad** and **Dr. Dominique Trudel** (University of Montreal) along with our McGill Urology Faculty clinicians and scientists, **Dr. Simon Tanguay**, **Dr. Armen Aprikian**, **Dr. David Labbé** and **Dr. Jacques Lapointe** for their excellent research presentations. Their participation has unified us to better understand the disease from early to late stages and challenges of survivors living with prostate cancer. We anticipated that these novel findings will pave the way to a brighter future, opening research opportunities and encouraging closer collaborations to accelerate discoveries to prevent, detect and treat the disease. The Mini-Symposium did raise a lot of interest, with a high record of

attendance with over 165 attendees. By the enthusiasm and positive feedback received from those who have attended the symposium and from those who heard about the symposium, it being a highly successful event, it reassures us that our initial goal was reached. We can be proud of the research ongoing in our university hospital centers by scientists and clinicians who always keep in mind the wellbeing of patients. This successful occasion was a great opportunity for attending faculty members, fellows, residents and graduate students, and representatives of pharmaceutical companies to get an update on diverse research topics. We hope that this will translate in the creation of new links and solidify existing ones. As members of the biomedical community, we all wish to give hope to patients struggling with prostate cancer and their family.

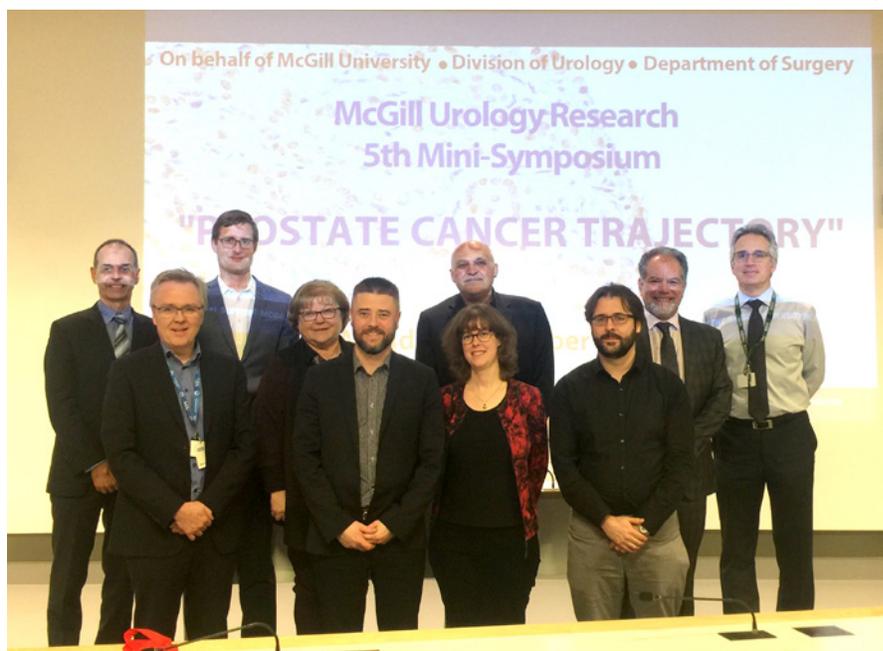
In closing, I would like to thank **Dr. Bruce Mazer**, Executive Director of the RI-MUHC and **Dr. Armen Aprikian** Director of Cancer Care Mission, Head, Department of Oncology, MUHC and to Dr. Simon Tanguay for their financial support. I wish to acknowledge **Ms. Chrysoula Makris** for her continuous contribution and dedication for successfully organizing and coordinating the event. ♦

For more information and details, please visit:

<https://mcgill.ca/thoracic/symposium>

Simone Chevalier, PhD

*Professor, Department of Surgery (Urology), Medicine and Oncology, McGill University
McGill Urology Director of Research
Leader of the Uro-Oncology Research Team*



Speakers



Dr Armen Aprikian
McGill University



Dr Frédéric Pouliot
Université Laval



Dr Simone Chevalier
McGill University



Dr Fred Saad
Université de Montréal



Dr Robert Day
Université de Sherbrooke



Dr Simon Tanguay
McGill University



Dr David Labbé
McGill University



Dr Paul Toren
Université Laval



Dr Jacques Lapointe
McGill University



Dr Dominique Trudel
Université de Montréal

PROGRAM **MINI-SYMPOSIUM ON THE PROSTATE CANCER TRAJECTORY: FROM INITIATION TO END STAGE**

4:00 pm	Welcoming Remarks	Dr. Simon Tanguay / Dr. Simone Chevalier
4:05 pm	Prostate Cancer Prognosis and Treatment: of Grade and Intraductal Carcinoma	Dr. Dominique Trudel
4:25 pm	Update on the PROCURE Prostate Cancer Biobank as a Precious Tool for Research	Dr. Armen Aprikian
4:45 pm	Dietary Factors and Obesity in Prostate Cancer Development and Progression	Dr. David Labbé
5:05 pm	Sex Steroids as Biomarkers of Prostate Cancer Resistance During Androgen Deprivation Therapy	Dr. Paul Toren
5:25 pm	Identification of RNA- and DNA- Based Signatures to Predict Prostate Cancer Outcome	Dr. Jacques Lapointe
5:45 pm	Health Break and Light Dinner	
6:15 pm	Identification of a New Circulating Biomarker	Dr. Robert Day
6:35 pm	Detection of Prostatic Metastases with PSMA Ligands	Dr. Frédéric Pouliot
6:55 pm	Assessment of Tumor Heterogeneity Through Liquid Biopsies	Dr. Simone Chevalier
7:15 pm	Treatment of Advanced Prostate Cancer: Where Are We and Where are We Going?	Dr. Fred Saad
7:35 pm	Prostate Cancer Survivorship	Dr. Simon Tanguay
8:00 pm	Closing Remarks	Dr. Simon Tanguay / Dr. Simone Chevalier

Division of Orthopedic Surgery

FIRST ANNUAL GOLDEN BONE RESIDENT COMPETITION

The Golden Bone Resident Competition took place during the AO Basic Fracture Course, part of Academic Half Day Teaching on Thursday October 4th, 2018. It was organized by **Dr. Anthony Albers** and **Dr. Mitchell Bernstein** who have enriched the resident learning experience by creating an exciting competition, testing resident knowledge.

There were seven teams of residents competing against one another for the Golden Bone trophy, their name on a plaque, hockey tickets and most importantly bragging rights. This year residents competed by fixing a broken radius and humerus. The competition took place in the Shriners Hospital Simulation Centre. ♦



Dr. Albers and Dr. Bernstein stand proudly with this year's winners: Dr. Julien Montreuil (R1– McGill), Dr. Bayan Ghalimah (R2–McGill), Dr. Razmig Barbarian (R4-Sherbrooke), and Dr. Roxane Heroux-Legault (R4-Sherbrooke)



McGill Orthopaedic Research Night

For the first time, the Division of McGill Orthopaedics hosted a Wine & Cheese Research Night on Monday October 28, 2018 where all **McGill Orthopaedic Research Labs** from

the various hospitals had the opportunity to showcase their research to **attract Medical Students, potential Master Students and Residents** to be involved in research. This inaugural event was a huge success and will become an annual event. Our 2nd Annual McGill Orthopaedic Research Night is slated for Monday October 28th, 2019. ♦



Visiting Professors

50 Years of Stikeman Visiting Professorships

May 10th, 2018 was the 50th Anniversary of the annual Stikeman Visiting Professorship to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery.



Dr. G. Alexander Patterson

Dr. G. Alexander Patterson, the Joseph C. Bancroft Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, was our special visitor. At Surgical Grand Rounds in the Osler Amphitheatre of the Montreal General Hospital, Dr. Patterson spoke on *Evolution of Thoracic Surgery*. As this was our 50th anniversary, part of the morning session were laboratory and

clinical research presentations by the residents of both Divisions. This was followed by presentations by staff and alumni. After lunch, the presentations by alumni were special recollections celebrating the Division of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery since its inception.

This special occasion was well attended by staff and alumni from North America. Alumni who attended this year's event were Drs. **Tom Burdon, Michael Dewar, Jim Dutton, Lee Errett, Wael Hanna, David Latter, Guy Lemire, Danny Marelli, Reza Mehran, Richard Novick, Andrew Seely, Alan Turnbull, and Garrett Walsh.**

The annual banquet was held at the Mount Royal Club in honour of the Visiting Professor and our graduating resident – **Dr. Mohammad Alrefai.**

It was a pleasure to have Dr. Alex Patterson on this special occasion as the 2018 Stikeman Visiting Professor to the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery. ♦



33rd Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor

The Pediatric Orthopaedic Division was pleased to welcome **Dr. Michelle James** as its **33rd Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor** on Thursday November 8th, 2018. Dr. Michelle James is currently a Professor and the Chief of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery at University of California Davis School of Medicine. She is the Chief of Staff of Orthopaedic Surgery of the Shriners' Hospitals for Children, Northern California. Dr. James is well known for her outstanding academic career, and her work in promoting women surgeons. She is a world expert in treating pediatric hand and upper extremity conditions. She received multiple awards for her charity and education work, including the Golden Apple Award of Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) organization.

Shortly after arriving in Montreal, Dr. James "broke the ice" with an informal Resident-only dinner. The following day, Dr. James commenced the academic presentations with Orthopaedic Surgical Grand Rounds at the Shriners Hospital on, *Pediatric Hand Surgery in a Resource Poor Environment*.

The day continued with many pediatric upper extremity case presentations and discussions, including upper limb trauma, congenital conditions, brachial plexus injuries and deformities of the hand and upper limb. This was followed by the Annual Pediatric Orthopaedic Division Dinner at the Crowley Arts Center. The events concluded following the dinner. The entire Division was left with plenty of food for thought and was honored to have Dr. James visit our institution and share her wisdom. ♦



The 19th annual Steinberg-Bernstein Visiting Professor

W

e were excited to welcome **Dr. Archana Ramaswamy, MD, MBA** as our 19th annual Steinberg-Bernstein Visiting Professor in Minimally Invasive Surgery,

November 28-29 2018. Dr. Ramaswamy is a proud McGill graduate, having completed medical school and General Surgery residency here. She then went on to a minimally invasive and bariatric surgery fellowship at Emory University. Dr. Ramaswamy is currently Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Minnesota and a staff surgeon at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center where she serves as director of the surgery clerkship and associate program director for the general surgery residency. Prior to this she worked at the University of Missouri School of



Dr. Archana Ramaswamy

Medicine for 7 years where she was the MIS/bariatric fellowship director, moving to the University of Minnesota in 2012. She obtained a healthcare MBA from the University of St Thomas in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Ramaswamy is internationally recognized for her expertise in hernia and foregut surgery, and she lectures and presents widely. Dr. Ramaswamy is on the Board of Directors of The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) where she has served on multiple committees, including chair of the Communications Committee and co-chair of the Open to MIS task force. She has also served in several leadership roles at the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Ramaswamy's itinerary began with a tour of the Glen site, followed by meetings with the MIS research residents and fellows. After a lunch with the General Surgery Residents, Dr. Ramaswamy lectured on "Inguinal Hernia Recurrence". We then had an afternoon of research talks, videos and case presentations. The entire group of attendings, residents, fellows, students, research associates and graduate students enjoyed dinner at Le Pois Penché. The next morning, Dr. Ramaswamy delivered grand rounds on the topic of "Robots and Hernia Repair – Not just fake news".

The entire group enjoyed all the activities and especially the opportunity to learn from one of our own! Thank you to **Maria Cortese** and **Pepa Kaneva** for organizing this very successful visit. ♦

Upcoming Fraser Gurd Day

**June 13, 2019, MGH
(Osler Amphitheatre)
Save the Date!**



*Dr. Barbara Lee Bass
Visiting Professor*

BARBARA LEE BASS MD, FACS, is the Chair of the Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital and Weill Cornell Medicine holding appointments as the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Presidential Distinguished Chair and Professor of Surgery. A leader in surgical education, Dr. Bass is the founding executive director of MITIE; the Methodist Institute for Technology,

Innovation and Education, a state of the art education and research center that has hosted over 55,000 health care providers including 13,000 surgeons in practice for retooling simulation-based surgical training in emerging surgical technologies and procedures. Her research programs in computational surgery, health services research, and surgical oncology has been funded by the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation and other national foundations throughout her career. She was a founding member of the research program that led to the development and dissemination of NSQIP, the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, in the VA Health Care System and in the private sector within the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Bass has held many leadership roles in American surgery including Immediate Past President of the American College of Surgeons, Chair of the American Board of Surgery, President of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, and the Society of Surgical Chairs. She serves on the editorial boards of the *Annals of Surgery* and the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* and many others in the past. Dr. Bass has received numerous honors in her career including the Olga Jonasson and Nina Starr Braunwald award of the Association of Women Surgeons, the Founder's Medal of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and the Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Surgeons. She has been awarded honorary fellowships by the Royal College of Surgeons – England (FRCS), the Royal College of Surgeons – Ireland (FRCSI), and the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa (F-COSECASA). Dr. Bass' general surgery practice is focused on endocrine and breast surgery. ♦

Dr. **Elif Bilgic**, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Surgery, and **Dr. Melina C Vassiliou** have received the Medical Education Research Grant by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for their work in developing an advanced laparoscopic suturing simulation program.

KUDOS !!

Dr. Laura Marie Drudi, MD, CM, MSc, Vascular Surgery Resident, McGill University received in February 2019 the McGill MedStar award for the work entitled "Association of Depression With Mortality in Older Adults Undergoing Transcatheter or Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement" which was a collaboration between Vascular Surgery, Cardiology and Epidemiology.

Dr. Jonathan Spicer was awarded the American Surgical Association Fellowship Award. This award is designed to support early career surgeon scientist and is worth \$150,000 (USD) given over a 2 year period and is one of the most prestigious surgical awards given by the oldest North American surgical society. This is only the 3rd ASA fellowship award given to a Canadian and the second given to a McGill surgeon. The first was granted to Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg in 1988.

Dr. Sarkis Meterissian was elected in October 2018 to the Academy of Master Surgical Educators of the American College of Surgeons as an Associate Member. The aim of the Academy is to recognize and assemble a cadre of Master Surgeon Educators of national and international renown who will work closely with the ACS Division of Education to advance the science and practice of avant-garde surgical education and training.

The goals of the Academy include defining megatrends in surgical education and training; steering advances in the field; fostering innovation and collaboration; supporting faculty development and recognition; and underscoring the critical importance of surgical education and training in the changing milieu of health care. Sarkis was part of the Inaugural Class.

In February Sarkis took over as Acting Program Director of General Surgery. Sarkis had been PD from 2001-2007 prior to becoming Postgrad Dean. Teaching residents is what he loves most so it is without hesitation that he accepted to step in at a difficult time. ♦



Academy of Master Surgical Educators of the American College of Surgeons – Members and Associate Members, 2018



Graduating Chiefs 2019



DR. HUSSAM ALAMRI graduated medical school from King Saud University and hails from the land of Saudi Arabia. During his residency at McGill, Hussam developed a talent for minimally-invasive surgery (MIS), with interests in Bariatrics, and Complex Hernia Surgery. He is known as the “hernia-whisperer” and is always eager to share video recordings of his famous eTEP/eTAR cases. When he is not busy with laparoscopic instruments, he is usually helping someone with a computer-related issue. During his training, he was an active member of the McGill General Surgery Residents Committee and received the division of surgery Excellence in Leadership Award. He also enjoys spending time with friends watching football and soccer games. And while he is a fan of the NFL, he cheers for the wrong team - the Cincinnati Bengals. After the completion of his General Surgery Training, he will be staying with the program to complete his fellowship in bariatric surgery, where he is sure to serve as a mentor to future generations of minimally-invasive surgeons.



DR. MOHSEN ALHASHEMI completed a medical degree and a Master’s degree in molecular medicine at Trinity College in Dublin (Ireland). In 2014, he joined the general surgery residency program at McGill university, and while he has not seen the sun since, he still greets everyone with a big smile. His research interests are in recovery and outcomes after surgery, and his work during residency has resulted in multiple publications and international presentations. He also received the best undergraduate teaching award, and he was an active member of the McGill General Surgery Resident Committee (MGSRC), always supporting resident training. He is known throughout the program as a world-class debater, always expanding on the art of intraoperative negotiation, and furthering relations between surgical subspecialties. In August, he will begin fellowship training in Minimal Invasive Surgery at McGill, and plans to further pursue a fellowship in Bariatrics surgery before heading back to Kuwait to work at Kuwait University. Mohsen wouldn’t have made it this far without the support of his wife Zainab, and his kids Zahraa, Hashem, and Fatima.



DR. NAWAF ALSHAHWAN received his medical degree from King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Shortly after that he joined the McGill division of General Surgery as a resident in the summer of 2014. During residency, he was blessed to marry his lovely wife Njood. Nawaf completed a masters of science in experimental surgery under the supervision of Dr. Shannon Fraser looking into the costs of surgical complications. He will be pursuing a combined trauma and critical care medicine fellowship after his

residency training and will join the King Saud University hospital’s trauma and acute care surgery unit afterwards.



DR. PHIL VOURTZOUMIS was born and raised in Chomedey, Laval and grew up among the Greek community of Montreal. Phil is an avid McGillian; he received his Bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and completed his medical training at McGill University, before pursuing his dream of becoming a surgeon. He joined the General Surgery residency program, and soon thereafter, became famously known as “Phil from McGill” among the general surgery community across Canada. Phil is a passionate believer in social justice and has a heightened sense of responsibility toward his community; he is one of the co-founders of the “Pink in the City” foundation, a non-profit organization that raises awareness and funds for the fight against breast cancer. Phil has also received several teaching awards for his dedication to the residents and medical students. He is a strong leader for the residents and this was shown by his role as resident site Chief for the Royal Victoria Hospital and as the President of the McGill General Surgery Resident Committee. He also was part of the Surgeon Scientist program working on his Master’s degree under the supervision of Dr. Lorenzo Ferri. His work focused on understanding the mechanism of neutrophil mediated cancer metastasis. Despite his extremely busy schedule of being a learner, teacher, leader, and his daily Instagram posts of basically everything that goes on in his life, and the occasional live singing - Dr. Phil managed to build a family with his lovely wife Evie and have two beautiful kids – Bobby and Sia. After his residency, he will be heading to London, Ontario, to pursue a fellowship in MIS & Robotics followed by a Bariatrics and Metabolic Surgery fellowship.



DR. PHILIPPE PACI was born and raised in Montreal. He completed his medical school at McGill before joining the General Surgery program. During residency, he completed a Master’s degree in Epidemiology under the supervision of Dr. Liane Feldman. His thesis focused on the management of acute calculous cholecystitis, particularly looking at predictors of non-operative management at the MUHC. After the completion of his General Surgery training, Philippe will be moving to Rochester, Minnesota to pursue a fellowship in Multi-Organ Abdominal Transplant at the Mayo Clinic. Philippe is an aggressive Patriots and Tom Brady fan. In fact, there are rumors that he wore his Patriots scrub cap everyday since the beginning of residency. Some say he even sleeps wearing it! Phil is an inspiration to all his colleagues, who will always remember his famous words: “It is what it is.” ▶



► **DR. YASEEN AL LAWATI** was born and raised in Muscat, Oman. In his quest to claim the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, Yaseen decided to pursue a career in surgery. He obtained his medical degree from Cardiff University in the United Kingdom in 2010 before joining the general surgery program at the Oman Medical Specialty Board. He voyaged across the seas to Montreal in the summer of 2014 to start his general surgery residency at McGill University. Little did he know that winter was coming but he was prepared. At first, this tall giant looked fierce and hungry to shine but it was quickly seen by his peers that he was a gentle giant and amazed everyone with his encyclopedia knowledge. During

his training, he was awarded the Steven-Norvell CAGS award and the CAGS Best Teacher award. He participated in clinical research under the supervision of Dr. Lorenzo Ferri. Having protected the wall for 5 years against the white walkers, Yaseen has shown that hard work and dedication pays off. He will be pursuing a fellowship in Thoracic Surgery at the University of Ottawa. He would not have achieved any of his accomplishments without the support of his parents, his superstar wife, Mariam (who is also a general surgery resident!), and his two girls, Reem and Samar. Yaseen will be missed and he leaves us with this quote by George R.R. Martin - "... a mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge." ♦

Sky Service

Personal Reflections by Dr. Michael Churchill-Smith

It was a Saturday morning in July, 1989. My kids were at each other in a sand box when Russ Payson, President of Skyservice Aviation dodged the flying debris and, out of the blue, asked me if I would be interested in putting together a medical team to repatriate hospitalized patients from Florida to Quebec. Being Chief of the Emergency Department at the Montreal General Hospital, a job that was already giving me ulcers, Russ mistakenly thought that I actually knew something about air transport. Our conversation led to a terse expression of disinterest.



Dr. Michael Churchill-Smith

Upon further reflection, I wondered whether his offer might be an incentive and help with ER staff retention. I called Russ back and told him I would give it a try.

Today, 30 years later, over 25,000 medical evacuations have been successfully completed, transporting sick patients from every continent except Antarctica, and having travelled as far north as Nanisivik, the northern tip of Baffin Island to as far south as Rio Grande, Argentina. Patients have ranged in age from 24 weeks to over 100 years old, and approximately 40% have been ICU cases. Greater than 400 medical and surgical residents (PGY3 or higher) have been trained through our Aviation Medicine Program since 1996 which includes several current clinical leaders at McGill.

Aeromedical transport has its own set of unique challenges as it is a harsh and unforgiving environment at 40,000 feet. Vigilance, anticipation, and autonomy are 3 key requirements. The following 2 missions are meant to illustrate some of the hard lessons that we have learned over the years and also the new demands placed on us as a consequence of the ever evolving world of 21st century medicine.

In February 1990, we received a call from the Baffin Island hospital in Iqaluit to transport a 28 week infant to the Montreal Children's Hospital. It was our 1st winter and our first neonatal transport. The team consisted of an ER pediatric nurse, pediatrician, and inhalation therapist. The Citation 1 jet aircraft landed at 2am to big winds and -45 C degrees. The team (with portable incubator) scurried into the ground ambulance and left for the hospital whereby the pilots turned off the engines and rested. 2 hours later, the ambulance returned with baby and mother. It sidled up to the plane door and the team rapidly transferred the incubator into the aircraft and locked it in place.

It took 10 minutes to start the frozen plane and 30 more minutes to achieve an internal temperature of 20 degrees C. By that time, all the plastic tubing connected to the infant had cracked necessitating immediate replacement. A calm team with nimble, white hands saved the day and baby made it safely to the Children's 4 hours later. There were many lessons. On the aviation side: planes on the ground under such conditions have 3 choices: a) place the plane inside the hangar b) remove all transmission oil and bring it inside or c) don't turn the engine off at all (today's preferred option). On the medical side: a) create a specialized ramp with tracks in order to slide the incubator directly into the aircraft b) design special insulating materials for all medical tubing and c) carry multiple extras of all accessory equipment. It was a tough lesson but one we have never forgotten. ►

► Fast forward to February 2019. A 60 year old truck-driver from Montreal was admitted with a STEMI to a hospital in central Pennsylvania. After a PCI, an Impella device was placed in order to support the left ventricle. Unfortunately, it had to be removed as the patient developed an ischemic leg. Despite multiple inotropes and vasopressors, the patient remained in cardiogenic shock and was subsequently placed on V-A ECMO with the goal of transitioning him to VAD therapy.

At the time of transport, his condition was complicated further by significant bleeding from the arterial cannulation site. The transport team included a perfusionist, respiratory therapist, critical care nurse and a McGill intensivist. Immediately prior to initiating transport, the ECMO circuitry was changed to match the receiving hospital's ECMO system. The patient was then successfully transported while fully ventilated, on V-A ECMO and being transfused in flight in order to maintain hemodynamic stability.

Today, McGill's Aviation Medicine Program is recognized internationally for both its experience and clinical excellence. If there is a complicated long distance mission to be completed, we are very often the first call. When rotary wing (helicopter) transport finally comes to Quebec, and it will, both the McGill hospitals and the University will be ready.

A final word of deep gratitude goes out to **Emidio Farias, Sam Simone** and **Dr. Dev Jayaraman** for their passion and commitment in helping to maintain the highest standards over the greater part of 25 years. ♦

Dr. Michael Churchill-Smith
Associate Professor of Medicine
Chair of the Board of Directors,
Chief Executive Officer of Montreal Medical International Inc. (MMI),
President of its parent and sole shareholder,
Optimal Health Care Foundation



THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE 2019

MEDICINE WITHOUT DOCTORS?

Disintermediation and Patient Agency

MAY 08 & 09 2019 - 9h30

Jewish General Hospital, B-124
3755 Cote Ste Catherine
Montreal, Quebec H3T 1E2

Disintermediation' in healthcare, removing the doctor from the diagnostic or therapeutic event or activity, a result of ever-evolving technological change in medicine, communications and society overall. The shifting away from the live human medical professional who has been given responsibility for problem diagnosis, treatment-type decision-making and how healthcare is delivered, represents a freedom. Not unlike the demise of brick and mortar bookstores, some see the current tech trends as eliminating the direct doctor-patient relationship, most often deemed an important human contact factor offering knowledge and reassurance to concerned patients. A myriad of new do-it-yourself free mobile technologies are available to the general population and give a perception of control to the patient, they empower the user with access to knowledge as well as a responsibility previously bestowed upon the medical practitioner.

Disintermediation in medicine however has a long history, reaching back to at least before the twentieth century, making the monopoly of the medical profession in healthcare relatively recent. This professional monopoly replaced a more open model

of medical pluralism before the nineteenth century, in which patients were able to choose from among a range of possible options. One of them was patients' self-treatment, which was a frequent practice in traditional societies.

This 4th workshop in the series on *'The Impact of Technological Change on the Surgical Profession'* brings together international and national medical practitioners, social scientists, historians, all recognized researchers to provide a larger perspective on the topic of disintermediation in medicine. This event provides the opportunity to identify the stakes of this trend for the various groups involved (patients, practitioners, educators, technology providers, society overall). The knowledge resulting from this gathering will help situate recent developments within a larger historical context and elaborate how possible future trends of an increased role of patient agency in healthcare will impact medical training, practice, patient treatment and quality of care. ♦

Event full details web site:

<https://www.itc2019disintermediation.com>

4th Impact of Technological Change 2019


Hôpital général juif
Jewish General Hospital

MEDICINE WITHOUT DOCTORS?

Disintermediation and Patient Agency

The Speakers:



Kirsten Gardner, PhD
University of Texas SA



Jeremy Greene, MD, PhD
John Hopkins University



Jenna Healey, PhD
Queen's University



Kelly Holloway, PhD
University of Toronto



Thomas Schlich, MD, PhD
McGill University



Yue Li, PhD
McGill University



Faith Wallis, PhD
McGill University



Olivia Weisser, PhD
University of
Massachusetts Boston



Lawrence Rosenberg, MD, PhD
McGill University

Modern technology has provided a powerful independence to patients allowing them easy access to medical information before they ever consult a doctor. Various health-related mobile applications empower patients with knowledge and tools to control and assess their own health outside of the consultation room. Some see this rapidly evolving health-related technology as cause for concern, others, as a move towards a more democratic approach to healthcare.

The goal of this 4th workshop in the series on the Impact of Technological Change on the Surgical Profession, and on the medical profession overall, is to identify the impact of 'disintermediation' in medicine, how bypassing the middle-people affects patients, practitioners, educators, students, and technology providers. We will look at how recent technological developments are situated within a larger historical context so as to clarify how possible future trends towards an increased role of patient agency in their own healthcare will influence medical training, professional practice, patient diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes.

May 8th & 9th, 2019 - 9hr - 16hr30 - Jewish General Hospital
3755 Cote Ste Catherine, B-124, Montréal, Québec H3T 1E2

Registration : Barbara.Reney@mcgill.ca

Obituaries

B

oth **John Mort PhD** and **Peter Roughley**

By **Robin Poole PhD, DSc.**

PhD died in the latter part of 2018 within a few months of each other: both suffered unexpected heart attacks. Suddenly we lost two outstanding scientists, world leaders in the study of the proteolysis of the extracellular matrix of musculoskeletal tissues, especially articular cartilage in arthritis and the intervertebral disc. They were mentors, teachers and collaborators of great distinction.

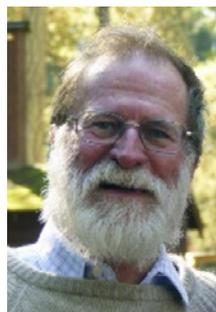
John, along with his wife Dr. Anneliese Recklies, and Peter joined me in 1977 as members of the newly established Joint Diseases Laboratory (JDL) at the Shriners Hospital. I had been appointed Director by Dick Cruess prior to my arrival early that year with the laboratory under construction on the third floor. I appointed Peter in Cambridge, England where we both worked in the Strangeways Research Laboratory, a world leading research institute in the study of skeletal development and joint disease. Following a post-doc with Roger Mason he then did another post-doc with Alan Barrett, a world authority in the field of proteolysis. John was a McGill graduate in biochemistry with a PhD from McMaster and a post-doc at Western, also with expertise in the area of proteolysis. Peter had trained in Nottingham, England in chemistry and only switched to biochemistry after his PhD. Although trained as a biochemist, John also became a molecular biologist.

Their common interests in proteolysis, proteoglycans and cartilage degradation, and their command of cutting edge methodology, led to an outstanding collaboration that complemented their individual work and spanned just over 40 years. They became great friends. It was difficult to keep them apart. Having started his career in JDL, Peter later moved into the Genetics Unit when more space opened up with the move of Dr. Michel van der Rest to France.

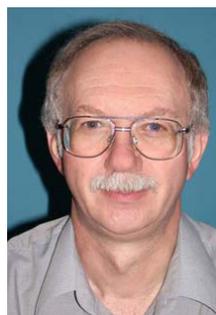
Peter's seminal work on the structure and degradation of human cartilage proteoglycans, especially aggrecan, in development, ageing and arthritis, became a classic demonstration of the importance of working with human tissues to study and understand human disease. These interests extended to inborn

errors of metabolism, a rare identifiable occurrence in the case of aggrecan as it is such an essential molecule, providing the hydration, form and compressive stiffness of the tissues that contain it. His work attracted much attention and led to him and John becoming involved in many collaborative studies of the degeneration of the intervertebral disc, now a field of great importance in Experimental Surgery. For this work Peter received international awards.

John Mort, an original thinker and experimentalist, a perfect counter to Peter's more systematic approach, established him as a world authority on the ways whereby protease chew apart their substrates and how this might be regulated therapeutically. He was fascinated by cysteine proteinases such as cathepsins B and K. These are enzymes that ordinarily were thought to operate within cells in lysosomes digesting substrates internalized by the cell. But his early work, with his wife Anneliese Recklies, greatly extended my earlier work and showed how they could be secreted and play an extracellular role in pathology. John went on to use molecular biology to express individual proteases and then change their active sites by site-directed mutagenesis. Thereby their mechanisms of action could be deduced. He also pioneered the preparation of anti-neoepitope antibodies to cleavage sites in aggrecan and link protein so that the cleavage sites and proteases involved could be identified in situ in healthy and diseased tissues. John's knowledge and the reagents and enzymes he had prepared resulted in many worldwide collaborations. His expertise was recognized by his appointment to the editorial board of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (the preeminent journal in his field) for over 20 years until his death. Peter was also in great demand as a reviewer.



Dr. John Mort



Dr. Peter Roughley

Peter and John unselfishly helped others with their extensive knowledge and the supply of reagents, proteoglycans, proteases and antibodies. Peter taught a course in the Department of Biochemistry each year with meticulous attention to detail. He probably had some of the best slides and handouts available.

As to their home lives, Peter was an avid reader of thrillers and adventure stories, played badminton in his earlier years for his university and later bridge: he loved watching British soccer matches beamed by satellite and spending time with Sheila his dear wife and their children. Peter had a very dry sense of humour. He had us all in fits with his talk about The Deep End of the Poole when I "retired". In the last 10 years he developed a love of sailing on Lake St. Louis where he died doing something he loved. He was a very proud grandfather. ►

► In contrast John, with his wife Anneliese, was once an avid caver or spelunker. This started in his graduate school days at McMaster and came to an end with the arrival of their children. His small frame enabled him to slide through holes throughout North America and Mexico denied to others. Together they discovered a new amphipod that their caving friends named Reckless Mortipod. John never drove a car since “he couldn’t see the point” living in a big city. In fact he died in the backseat of their car as they were driving to a family dinner. He was a terrific handyman able to fix most things, including a progressive rebuild of their home in Pointe Claire. Another avid reader, mostly non-fiction, he always had something to read with him, usually scientific I would bet.

Peter became a full Professor and Professor Emeritus on retirement. John, an Associate Professor, again “couldn’t see the point” when I tried, many times, to recommend him for further promotion which he richly deserved. Sadly, that CV was never forthcoming. Anneliese later told me that he was very happy and content doing what he loved. So I guess I had done my job providing him with the resources and protected environment he required. He was a lovely gifted man but with a mind of his own. Their graduate students and post-docs couldn’t have had more knowledgeable, caring and committed scientists to guide them in their studies.

Peter and John’s collaboration complemented their individual research. They were both extremely productive in terms of publishing their work in leading journals. Peter, being very organized with a clean desk and very systematic in all he did, was a perfect complement for John, equally immersed in his work but with papers everywhere. But he always knew where they were. Peter made sure that their collaborative studies were written up in a timely manner.

For so many of us at McGill and worldwide this is a great personal loss. It was far too early for us to lose two great scientists, educators and role models, two very special people who contributed so much to our knowledge and understanding of the structure of the musculoskeletal system and its pathology. We will be paying tribute to them this spring with their students, colleagues and collaborators coming from around the world. An initial tribute was paid this February at an international meeting of the Orthopaedic Research Society in Austin, Texas. ♦

Robin Poole PhD, DSc.,
Professor Emeritus, McGill University
Director, Joint Diseases Laboratory (1977-2006)
Member, Division of Experimental Surgery

Nominate a Canadian Health Hero

**2020 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame
 Deadline for induction Monday, June 10, 2019**

Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Laureates are Canadian citizens whose outstanding leadership and contributions to medicine and the health sciences, in Canada or abroad, have led to extraordinary improvements in human health.

Their work may be a single meritorious contribution or a lifetime of superior accomplishments. Pioneers in their field, they are role models who inspire young Canadians to pursue careers in the health sciences.

The CMHF perceives health leadership to be inclusive of many professions and roles including doctors, researchers, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, policy makers – to name only a few. Nominations of Canadians, living or posthumous, who meet the criteria from the many aspects of health are encouraged.

Up to six individuals may be selected for induction annually; only one individual may be inducted posthumously each year.

Canadian citizens from across health professions within Canada and across the globe may be recognized for their work in one or more of the following categories:

1. Leadership in building excellence in health for Canadians and the world
2. Leadership in health promotion, illness prevention and care
3. Leadership in research with national and international recognition for a scientific contribution

For more information about our nomination process:

www.cdnmedhall.org/nominate

[CLICK HERE](#) For tips on how to create a compelling nomination:

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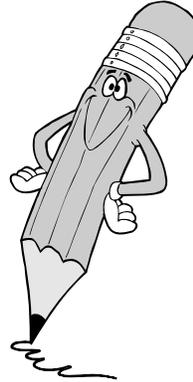
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