



The SQUARE



Message from the Chair

By Liane Feldman, MD

It was just over 100 years ago in 1923 that Edward William Archibald was appointed the first Chair of Surgery in McGill University's Faculty of Medicine. The centennial was celebrated with a wonderful event at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on February 29, 2024 ([Centennial Event](#)). No doubt the way surgery is practiced, taught, and investigated would in many ways be unrecognizable to Dr Archibald. Beginning with a handful of part-time faculty at two hospital sites, the RVH and MGH, the Department today includes over 290 full-time and part-time faculty members (30% of whom are women) training 180 residents and fellows and providing clinical care at three main teaching hospitals in Montreal and 21 affiliated sites across the province. Last year we published over 500 publications and held \$19 million in research funding. Since 2019, we've welcomed an amazing 27 new full-time surgeons and scientists, just at the Montreal sites, who are bringing new ideas and new creativity, and almost every division is actively recruiting.

Our centennial milestone provides an opportunity to reflect upon where we have come from and how the Department has progressed to the present day. And as part of the centennial year, Dr Meakins led a project to write the history of the first 100 years of our Department, which was accepted in the Canadian Journal of Surgery. This will be a valuable resource I am sure to all past, present, and future members of the McGill Surgery family.

In learning about our history, it is clear that while the size, breadth and diversity of our Department has changed remarkably over the past century, the core values of innovative clinical care, research, and education, established by the inaugural chair Dr Archibald 100 years ago, continue to this day. This is our strength that has enabled us to grow and continue to excel academically, as evidenced by our ability to continue to attract the best and the brightest ([See Dr Meakins article about Dr Archibald page 6 the last issue](#))

Who was Dr Archibald as a person and what are the values and legacy that the Archibald Professorship represents for us today? Archibald was an excellent student at McGill. Perfectly bilingual, he won the Gold Medal in Modern Languages in 1892 and graduated from medicine in 1896. He interned at the newly opened RVH for three years and then came down with tuberculosis in 1901, from which he recovered with no recurrence. This was followed by three years in Europe including time with Mikulicz at the University of Breslau after which he was appointed to the RVH as an assistant surgeon in 1904.

Archibald had a remarkable range of clinical interests. He was Canada's first neurosurgeon writing a 378-page monograph *Surgical Affections and Wounds of the Head* which became the standard text for a decade. He gave up neurosurgery with the recruitment of Dr Wilder Penfield in 1928. Dr Archibald served, as did many in the McGill Faculty of Medicine, at the renowned No. 3 Canadian General Hospital for 4 years in WWI (if you haven't read this CJS article on the history of this, then please do so immediately! (www.canjsurg.ca/content/61/1/8)).

([See continuation on page 3](#)) >

100 MONTREAL

INSIDE this issue:

Editors' Note	2
Fraser Gurd	4
ERAS	7
Maude Abbott Medical Museum	8
Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning	9
Otolaryngology-Head and Neck	10
Academic Affairs	14
Surgical Education	16
Faculty Development	17
Obituaries	51

DIVISIONAL SURGERY NEWS

Cardiac	20	Thoracic	42
General	23	Urology	45
Orthopedic	31	Vascular	49
Plastics	38		

Editors' Notes

It has been my good fortune to have been associated with The Square Knot for several years as part of its transition from more than 30 years ago. When I first took over, The Square Knot was converted from a written format to an online version which was new to me and somewhat overwhelming, but I took to it quickly because it gave us flexibility in terms of length of submissions and formatting.

I must thank the others in the past four years for their assistance, but I will say that the addition of Carolynna to the staff, and her own expertise has brought The Square Knot K to a professional level. I am grateful to Roger Tabah for having taken over the helm and wish him well. I am sure he will fashion his own style as I have over the years.

I wish him Godspeed in his new endeavor.

Farewell, my friends.



Harvey Sigman



For my first official duty as co-editor of this edition of The Square Knot, I would like to pay homage to my co-editor Dr Harvey Sigman who has announced his retirement as Editor with over ten years of

service to The Square Knot. In my brief association with The Square Knot, I have learned that the editorship of this publication is a thankless job and, hence, we owe Harvey Sigman a debt of gratitude for keeping the flame alive and for having passed it on brightly aflame. My concern is that I keep it so, for I lack Dr Sigman's insight and editorial expertise.

The McGill Department of Surgery is a clinical and research mammoth stretched across several campuses and includes at least seven divisions and umpteen sub-divisions. As a whole, the Department is charged with providing world class community service, resident and student teaching, and performing sophisticated research. It is a broad tableau for which The Square Knot serves as a newsmagazine of sorts to keep our Departmental Division members and alumni abreast of developments including, but not limited to, the following: appointments, retirements, kudos, novel clinical and research programs, obituaries, and academic activities in general.

Clearly, it is a challenge to include every tidbit of information from each and every niche. Any errors and/or omissions are a result of my ignorance. Therefore, I shall need the help of

each of you to keep Carolynna Olha and myself informed. Be proud of the Department of Surgery and feed us what we need to include in the upcoming issues.

Items concerning the McGill Department of Otolaryngology and McGill Department of Gynecology have usually NOT been included in previous editions of The Square Knot for the simple reason that, at the McGill level, these are recognized as two autonomous Departments distinct from the McGill Department of Surgery, which sponsors The Square Knot. Nonetheless, these are "cutting" specialties with whom we interact on a daily basis, and with whom we share beds and operating room resources at the hospital level. Thus, in the spirit of collegiality, The Square Knot shall on occasion welcome items related to these two McGill Departments. In the current edition of The Square Knot, Dr Sadeghi, McGill Otolaryngologist-in-Chief, has provided an update of the academic activities of his Department.

Along the same vein of fostering collegiality across our sister McGill Departments, the current issue includes an interesting article about the Maude Abbott Medical Museum, founded by Dr Richard Fraser of the Department of Pathology. A fitting tribute to a McGill giant.

Roger Tabah

(Chair's Message continued from page 1)

Pancreatitis was another passion and for many years he worked in the lab on the etiology and potential therapeutic approaches. He linked the biliary system and pancreatitis and thought that sphincterotomy could be a solution. However, thoracic surgery was his constant clinical interest throughout his career. He refined the techniques of thoracoplasty for the management of tuberculosis and was considered the master of the procedure. He also did the first pneumonectomy with individual ligation of the vessels and the bronchial stump in 1933.

So how did the McGill Department of Surgery come about? After WWI, the faculty was quite exhausted. An increase in private practice and reduction in research productivity was of concern to University leaders and led to restructuring of the Faculty of Medicine. Under the direction of newly appointed Dean C. F. Martin in 1923, Chairs of Medicine and Surgery were created, and Archibald was appointed as Chair of Surgery. At that time, the responsibility of the chair was limited to the surgical education of the medical students. He had nothing to do with recruitment, postgraduate training, or hospital administration. In fact, Archibald was not appointed surgeon in chief at the RVH for six more years but seemingly untroubled by the absence of a title, he went about the business of creating an academic Department of Surgery with an emphasis on education and research. With the involvement of the Dean, a grant was obtained and in 1929 the Department of Experimental Surgery was established. Dr. Arthur Vineberg was the first PhD. to graduate in 1933 with a degree in Experimental Surgery. Ninety years later, thousands of degrees in Experimental Surgery had been granted including 34 (27 MSc and 7 PhDs) in 2023 alone.

Archibald also made foundational contributions in surgical education. He established the Thoraco-Pulmonary Service, a combined multidisciplinary team with a training program for surgeons wishing to do thoracic surgery. Archibald and Dr. William Gallie from Toronto were the first two examiners in surgery for the Royal College. In this way, Archibald was involved with education at all levels with the structured training program he developed in thoracic surgery for medical students and trainees, and with his experience as an examiner. These all focused his thoughts on the need for standards in surgical training. These ideas were emphasized in his 1935 Presidential address to the American Surgical Association: "*Higher Degrees in the Profession of Surgery*". Immediately following his address, Evarts Graham formed a committee which led directly to the formation of the American Board of Surgery with the first examinations held in 1937.

In all these activities, Dr Archibald exemplified the characteristics of a remarkable academic surgeon and has been a role model for generations of McGill surgeons ever since. In this centennial year, marking the appointment of Dr Archibald as first Chair of the Department of Surgery, it was most touching to learn that Griselda Christmas, Dr Archibald's youngest daughter, funded a surgical research fellowship for our Department just before she passed away in 2023. About 25 of you completed the Leadership for Surgeons course held for a second year in association with the Desautels School of Man-

agement. Dana Wessel, Dr Archibald's granddaughter provided the generous support that will allow the Surgical Leadership program to continue.

So where are we 100 years after the beginning of academic surgery at McGill? This is a very exciting time to be involved in surgery in general as we are in a period of rapid evolution. Technologies that will have the greatest impact on patient outcomes in the coming years include, next generation surgical robotics that will be smaller, more agile, and less expensive; imaging, virtual reality and augmented reality for training, coaching and procedural rehearsal; big data, genomics and artificial intelligence driving increasingly personalized care; and novel interventions such as nano-surgery delivered by highly specialized, interdisciplinary teams. With the expansion of minimally invasive, robotic, endoscopic, catheter- and image-based approaches, the interfaces between surgery and other disciplines start to blur and the list of interventional specialties continue to grow as technology and imaging make this feasible.

In our centennial year of 2023, we put our new research strategic plan into action. A plan that was crafted by you and informed by thinking about the future of surgery and interventional healthcare. Consistent with this strategy, we evolved the name of our division of surgical research, our McGill graduate program and our research program at the RI-MUHC to be collectively known as "Surgical and Interventional Sciences". Since 1929, Experimental Surgery has served us very well, but now as we begin our second century we and our patients will benefit from the collaborations, new skills, new faculty members and students attracted by this new vision – we want a big tent in the Department of Surgery.

At the same time, our Department remains united by our values as surgeons and scientists – focused on patients, providing the best clinical care we can, and ensuring that we train residents and fellows to meet the range of needs they will encounter throughout their careers. Staying passionate about the discovery and innovation that addresses gaps and needs for patients, and that improve care delivery in the systems we work in. We also care about each other - in our labs, programs, divisions, training programs, committees, teams – we are a community that collaborates and supports each other through tough times but is also here to celebrate the good times.

I am so proud to be part of the McGill Department of Surgery. Every day as I walk around the OR, research, innovation, and teaching spaces, I am truly in awe of what you all accomplish often under very trying circumstances. Having the privilege to see the self-assessments of your work this past year - the publications, the competitive grants, the philanthropy that is attracted as a result of your work with patients and community engagement, the student successes, the local, national and international leadership roles – there is so much to be proud of and to celebrate.

Our job is also to be good ancestors – reinforcing and building the structures that will keep McGill surgery strong for the next century, as was done for us. ♦

33rd Annual Fraser Gurd Event — June 8th, 2023

By Liane Feldman, MD



Dr Melina Kibbe

Fraser Gurd Day is such an important moment in our academic calendar, with a chance to showcase highlights from our Department’s research and celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating residents and fellows. The last “normal”

Fraser Gurd Day was in 2019, when some of our graduates were first-year residents! The ways we mark these transitions is very important. Perhaps before, we took that a bit for granted. We were all thrilled to finally be back in-person this year at the Glen RI amphitheater, with an on-line option to enable even wider participation. There is no substitute for being together in-person as a community to learn and celebrate.

We were privileged to welcome **Dr Melina Kibbe** as our 33rd Annual Fraser Gurd Visiting Professor. Dr Kibbe is Dean at the University of Virginia (UVA) School of Medicine, James Carroll Flippin Professor of Medical Science, and Chief Health Affairs Officer at UVA Health. Prior to arriving at UVA, she was Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of North Carolina (UNC). Dr Kibbe is a vascular surgeon with significant experience with both open and endovascular surgery. Dr. Kibbe’s research interests focus on developing novel therapies for patients with vascular disease. She co-founded and is the chief medical officer for VesselTek BioMedical, LLC, a company that specializes in the development of medical devices to treat vascular disease. She has been continuously funded for her research since 2005. Dr Kibbe has authored

over 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts, review articles, and book chapters. She has received numerous awards, including the Society of Vascular Surgery (SVS) Lifeline Research Award, and multiple awards recognizing her leadership. She has also received an amazing 24 awards for teaching excellence as a faculty member. Dr. Kibbe has assumed many national positions of leadership, including acting as the current Editor in Chief for *JAMA Surgery*, serving as president for the Association for Academic Surgery, Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society, Association of VA Surgeons, and Surgical Biology Club II. In 2016, she was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine.

At Grand Rounds, Dr Kibbe spoke on “**Targeted Nanotherapeutics for Vascular Disease and Beyond**”, describing her evolution as a clinician-scientist and highlighting the roles that her many surgical trainees and graduate students have played in this work. This was followed by our annual research forum. We received over 100 abstract submissions for the



**Dr Liane Feldman and Fraser Gurd Visiting Professor
Dr Melina Kibbe**

CANCER RESEARCH

Co-Chairs

Drs Jonathan Cools-Latigue and Yifan Wang

Keynote: Dr Jonathan Cools-Latigue

“Tumour Derived Extracellular Vesicles and Lymph Node Metastasis; A Novel Inflammatory Stimulus Connecting the Primary Tumour to Regional Lymph Nodes”

LABORATORY SCIENCES

Co-Chairs

Derek Rosenzweig PhD and Ateeque Siddique

Keynote: Derek Rosenzweig, PhD

“Developing Smart Implants for Local Therapeutic Delivery Following Spine Metastasis Resection”

OUTCOMES AND EDUCATION

Co-Chairs

Drs Ipshita Prakash and Teodora Dumitra

Keynote : Dr Ipshita Prakash

“The Financial Toxicity of Cancer”

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

Congrats! Fraser Gurd Awards

annual research forum. **Dr Jake Barralet** and his team, including **Ms Micha Huynh**, **Maria Cortese**, and **Stephanie Branco**, created a program allowing for over 30 in-person presentations, highlighting the many areas of research and innovation in our department.

This was organized into three sessions with Cancer Research and Laboratory Sciences in the morning and Outcomes and Education following lunch. Each was chaired by a surgeon-scientist or research scientist in the department and co-chaired by a surgeon-scientist or research scientist in the department and co-chaired by a trainee in each field.

In addition to the in-person presentations, there were 20 pre-recorded Quickshot presentations available for viewing.



Dr John Antoniou

After a lunch break in the atrium, we took advantage of Dr Kibbe's insights as editor of JAMA Surgery (the highest impact factor journal in the field), as well as the presence of her husband **Dr Marco**

Patti, an internationally recognized esophageal surgeon, to convene an excellent symposium on "Everything you wanted to know about getting published but were afraid to ask". This included:

- Dr Melina Kibbe:** *Tips from an editor: how to get your paper published*
- Dr Marco Patti :** *Tips from an author: how to get your paper published*
- Jake Barralet PhD :** *Dispelling leadership myths in surgery*

Everyone appreciated the practical advice from all the panelists in this engaging and practical session.

I would like to congratulate all the speakers and presenters for the excellent quality talks and thank Dr Kibbe for sharing her knowledge, interacting energetically with each presenter, and inspiring us all.

The Department reconvened later that evening for the annual graduation banquet at the Ritz. We were pleased to also welcome new MUHC CEO **Dr Lucie Opatrny**

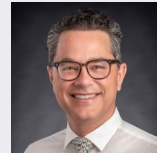


Dr Lucie Opatrny



L.D. MacLean Distinguished Achievement Award

[Dr Robert Turcotte](#)
Orthopedic Surgery



Outstanding Teacher Award, (Surgical Foundations)

[Dr Jean-Sebastien Pelletier](#)
General Surgery



Harvey H. Sigman Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award

[Dr Elie Girsowicz](#)
Vascular Surgery



[Dr Jason Bayne](#)
Vascular Surgery



[Dr Daniel Obrand](#)
Vascular Surgery



Kathryn Rolph Award

[Dr Lysanne Campeau](#)
Urology

AWARDS TO RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

Ross Adair Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence

[Dr Aslan Baradaran](#)

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

[Dr R. AlHaidey](#)

Kent Mackenzie Award for Educational Leadership and Excellence in Surgery

[Dr Salim Al Rawahi](#)

George Gurunian Memorial Prize

[Dr Ludovic Muttet](#) (Dr Renzo Cecere's Lab)

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

Fraser Gurd *continued*

(Continuation from previous page)

who addressed the group.

I would like to congratulate all the graduates and prize winners who truly exemplify excellence in clinical care, teaching and research, and are wonderful ambassadors for the McGill Department of Surgery.

LD MacLean Distinguished Achievement Award



The 2023 LD MacLean Distinguished Achievement Award was presented to **Dr Robert Turcotte** for his exemplary career having made sustained contributions to McGill University, the MUHC, and the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery. He recently was recognized by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences as part of

the Inaugural honoree cohort for the Academy of Exemplary Clinicians. In Dr Berry's letter to nominate him for that award, he stated that Dr Turcotte "embodies the qualities outlined in the description of this award, namely clinical expertise and exemplary professionalism, compassion, and advocacy for his patients and sarcoma patients across the province and the country." Dr Turcotte established the first dedicated sarcoma unit in Quebec at Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont, before moving full time to the Montreal General Hospital in 2003 as the Muller Chair and chief of Orthopaedic Surgery, and where he established and led the Orthopaedic Sarcoma Unit. This unit is recognized for its excellence in patient care and has become a leading research group in sarcoma genetics.

Dr Turcotte also served in many other leadership roles including as President of the Quebec Orthopaedic Association. He has received numerous recognitions including the Medal of Honour from the Société Française de Chirurgie Orthopédique et Traumatologie, the Canadian Orthopaedic Association Award of Merit, and the Founder's Award from the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society. His approach to patient care was greatly appreciated by his colleagues who in

2016, established the Robert Turcotte Award for Altruistic Patient Care for the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at McGill.

This award was made possible through a generous gift by Ms Kathryn Rolph, a patient of Dr Antoine Loutfi, to recognize the contributions of women surgeons in our Department.

Kathryn Rolph Award

This year's Kathryn Rolph Award goes to

Dr Lysanne Campeau, a clinician-scientist in the Division of Urology based at the JGH. Her areas of specialization include neurogenic voiding disorders and incontinence, as well as pelvic reconstruction.



Since joining our faculty in 2013, Dr Campeau established a completely new basic science research program and has demonstrated excellence in all aspects of her practice and career. She is an outstanding and extremely dedicated teacher, has an excellent publication and grant record, is involved in creating guidelines in her field, was the lead on the incontinence panel of the Quebec Network for Research on Aging, and has taken on numerous other leadership roles. In addition, Dr Campeau was awarded the prestigious 2019 American Urological Association Young Urologist of the Year Award in recognition for her outstanding contributions at this time in her career. Congratulations Dr Campeau! ♦

Here is the link to the [gallery with the photos](https://toraphotography.pixieset.com/frasergurddinnerandgraduatingceremonies/) from the event: toraphotography.pixieset.com/frasergurddinnerandgraduatingceremonies/





Enhanced Recovery After Surgery at the MUHC - Looking Back After 15 Years

By Liane Feldman, MD

Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) guidelines are evidence-based, standardized, and patient-centered multidisciplinary care pathways that integrate the multiple interventions in the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative periods. Implementation of ERAS programs reduce complications, hospital stay and cost, and improve measures of patient recovery, thereby improving the value of surgical care (i.e. outcomes that are important to patients relative to the cost of achieving those outcomes). It was 15 years ago (October 2008) that the Surgical Recovery (SuRe) team was first convened with the goal to implement “Multimodal Perioperative Care Plans” for the Department of Surgery. We have since become a recognized North American leader in ERAS, with 35 clinical care pathways now guiding perioperative care across all divisions at the MUHC (Table) and productive research programs focused on measurement and optimization of patient-reported outcomes of recovery, cost, and environmental impact. Building on this platform, ultra-short hospitalizations (same day discharge pathways), supported by remote digital health monitoring, have been safely implemented for selected patients undergoing complex procedures such as arthroplasty, benign foregut surgery, bariatric surgery, thoracic surgery, stoma closure, and colectomy. This is a good opportunity to look back on the history of how ERAS started at the MUHC and describe the exciting advances being developed for the next generation of ERAS.

More than 20 years ago, Professor Henrik Kehlet and his group in Copenhagen began reporting results of “Fast Track” surgery. His landmark article describing 60 patients undergoing open colon resection with his novel “multimodal rehabilitation program” was based on thoracic epidural, early feeding, and structured mobilization. Their median length of stay of only two days in the ERA, compared to our colectomy patients spending routinely a week or more in hospital, received a lot of attention. Professor Kehlet had been a visiting professor at the RVH several years beforehand, and I remember his lecture on the concept of using thoracic epidural for “pre-emptive analgesia” as one of

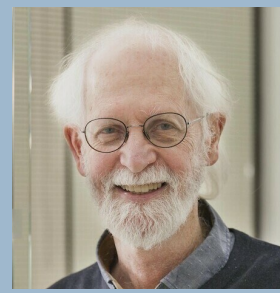


SuRe Team—Left to right: Dr David Hornstein, Diana Dawes, Michelle Bourgeois, Dr Liane Feldman, Debbie Watson, Sandra Di Fulvio, Oliver Cachero, Krista Brecht, and Eleanora Eckert

those talks that introduces a completely new and innovative approach. Dr Franco Carli, chair of the McGill Department of Anesthesiology and his team were performing surgical metabolism research and established a pilot project with Dr Patrick Charlebois and Dr Barry Stein to introduce a fast-track program for select colectomy patients. At the same time, the development and expansion of minimally invasive surgery, under Dr Gerald Fried, provided opportunities to streamline and standardize care for patients having less pain and less ileus after laparoscopic approaches, and his group introduced care pathways for foregut surgery.

These experiences resulted in the invitation for McGill to participate in early multidisciplinary consensus groups on fast-track surgery. We were asked to contribute a surgical textbook chapter on Fast Track Surgery, a revision of a previous chapter written by Professor Kehlet and Dr Douglas Wilmore (another giant in surgical metabolism research). It was my good fortune to be given the opportunity to write this chapter, despite my somewhat superficial knowledge of the field at that time. While I was somewhat intimidated to be revising a chapter written by true pioneers, I felt better when Dr Carli agreed to co-author this with me, as he was an actual expert! In reviewing the literature supporting multimodal care pathways, it was striking

[\(See continuation on page 18\) >](#)



The Maude Abbott Medical Museum

By Rick Fraser, MD

Professor of Pathology
Director of the Maude Abbott Medical Museum

McGill's Medical Museum originated in the early 1820s as a collection of specimens derived from autopsies performed by physicians associated with the Montreal Medical Institution, the forerunner of McGill's Faculty of Medicine. The Museum's pathology component was the repository for many specimens donated by William Osler between 1876 and 1884, during which time he performed autopsies at the Montreal General Hospital. Following the appointments of Francis Shepherd as Director of the Anatomy Museum in 1883 and Maude Abbott as Curator of the Pathology Museum in 1900, the Museum developed into one of the preminent such institutions in North America.



The Museum suffered a serious setback in 1907 when fire destroyed much of the campus medical building, including all its anatomy collection and two-thirds of its pathology collection. These were soon re-established by donations from other museums and from McGill's teaching hospitals, and the anatomy dissecting laboratory. All the resulting material was stored and displayed in a beautiful three-story area in the newly built Strathcona Medical building in 1909.

During the remainder of the 20th century, changing methods of teaching and the need for laboratory space led to a decrease in the use of both anatomical and pathological collections. By 2000, most of their

Ulcerating gastric carcinoma excised in 1924 by Dr. Edward Archibald, Surgeon-in-Chief at the Royal Victoria Hospital and first Chair of McGill's Department of Surgery.

material was unused, in storage or poorly displayed. Renewed interest in their historical value led the University to officially establish the Maude Abbott Medical Museum in 2012. Since then, the pathology and anatomy material has been consoli-



View of the west end of the main museum display room in the Strathcona Building. 2023

dated and archived, and a selection has been put on display in the Strathcona building.

The museum has also expanded its mission to acquire and preserve non-biological material of historical interest from McGill Medical Faculty Departments and Schools, other than Pathology and Anatomy. Its entire collection now numbers over 10,000 items, and includes material such as surgical instruments, diagnostic devices, and medical artifacts (e.g., medals, Montreal hospital postcards, etc.). In addition to teaching McGill students the principles of pathology and anatomy, this material is used to illustrate medical and historical topics to the public and school groups (approximately 2500 in-person visits and 20,000 website page views since April 30, 2023).



Bigelow medal awarded to Dr. Archibald in 1937.

The museum is open Tuesday to Friday from 13:00 – 17:00 and for special tours and events, such as Congress meeting soirees, by arrangement with the Director. Additional information – and an opportunity to help support the museum's activities by donating – can be accessed via its website by searching for "Maude Abbott Medical Museum" or linking to: www.mcgill.ca/medicalmuseum/. ♦



Our Simulation Centre is Out of This World

By Gerald M. Fried, MD

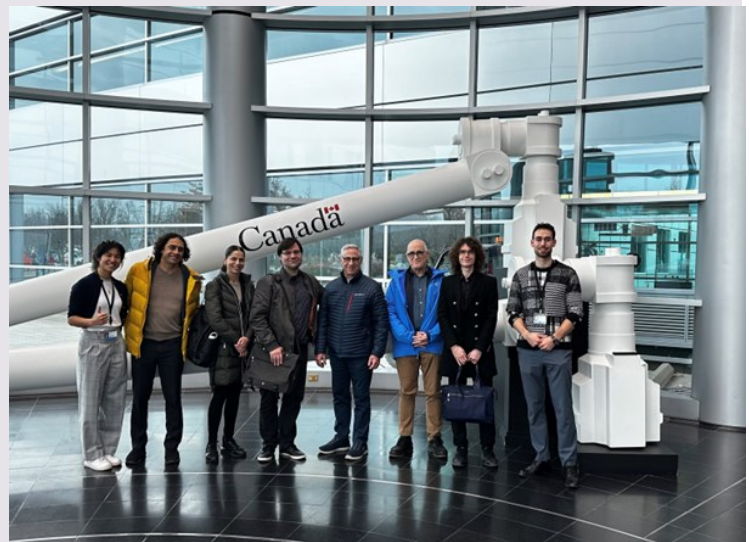
Associate Dean for Education Technology and Innovation
Director of the Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning

The Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning hosts the Canadian Space Agency's Health Beyond Initiative. After a period of relative quiet from NASA, the space program is entering into an exciting and dramatic new phase as it looks to deep space missions with the ultimate goal of a manned trip to Mars. As a step towards this goal, the plan is to return to the moon and start a colony there as a steppingstone to deep space exploration. The logistics of this plan are daunting since long-term habitation on the moon (384,400 km from earth) is dramatically different from long-term missions on the international space station (400 km from earth). Health care for astronauts dwelling for extended periods on the moon and management of medical emergencies are critical issues to be addressed in preparation for such missions.

Canada has earned a seat in space exploration, thanks in large part to the importance of the Canadarm, now in its 3rd iteration. The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) now sees an opportunity to increase its contribution further by making a bid to take the lead on health care for the Space

Beyond Program. This would involve healthcare training of astronauts, developing technology to support healthcare in deep space, and developing solutions to help manage emergencies. It is assumed that acute healthcare problems are more likely to occur during these long missions in an environment of reduced gravity and radiation exposure.

Dr Fried welcomes CSA to The Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning for the Deep Space Healthcare Challenge Demonstration Event



Visit to the Canadian Space Agency, L to R : Larissa Chiu (CSA), Dr Dan Deckelbaum, Leila Zahabi, Dr Gerald Fried, Dr Jeffrey Wiseman, Professor Jason Harley, and Tristan Richmond (CSA)

Healthcare will be complicated because communications will be plagued with delays due to the great distance, and

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We see this as an opportunity, not only to help the CSA, but also to make an important contribution to improving healthcare resources in these remote and challenging environments.

periods of time when complete loss of communication will likely occur.

As Canada bids to take on this role, the CSA has established a number of programs to demonstrate to the world that we have unmatched capabilities in this field. One such program is the Deep Space Healthcare Challenge (DSHC). In its initial phase, the CSA put out a call to vendors to develop technology aimed at supporting healthcare in deep space. Led by Dr Dan Deckelbaum, the Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning participated in a competitive bidding process to become the center for evaluating such technologies, and we were thrilled to secure this contract. On November 21, 2023, we welcomed the CSA, the five finalist vendors, and a distinguished jury for a

[\(See continuation on page 11\) >](#)



News from Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

By **Nader Sadeghi, MD**

Professor and Chair
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, McGill University
Director, McGill Head and Neck Cancer program

The Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (OTLHNS) has been thriving and expanding on its tradition of excellence in education, clinical care, and research. Research productivity in the Department is at an all time high with an international reputation for driving change through investigator-initiated innovations in surgical care, particularly in head and neck cancer.

Our head and neck cancer team of scientists and surgeons have five active ongoing grants from CIHR (4) and the Cancer Research Society (1). Our functional genomics laboratory, led by **Dr Sampath Loganathan**, hosted seven graduate students and a post-doctoral fellow in 2023. A new publication from the laboratory in the [Journal Frontiers in Oncology](#) (October 2023), enhances our understanding of HPV oncogenesis by demonstrating how long-read sequencing in oropharyngeal cancer is used to reveal diverse patterns of high-risk human papillomavirus integration.

The head and neck cancer team, in collaboration with **Dr Julia Burnier's** lab at the RI-MUHC, is leading the liquid biopsy field in cancer detection, response to treatment, and surveillance. Our team's research in circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) application in oropharyngeal cancer was published in August 2023 in [Cancer Medicine](#), and showed that ctDNA effectively detects response to treatment. Furthermore, our liquid biopsy team at the RI-MUHC received philanthropic support of \$1,000,000 early in 2024 to develop liquid biopsy applications in head and neck cancer.

Since my return to McGill, I have been working on the investigator-initiated NECTORS (Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy and Transoral Robotic Surgery) trial with our team, pioneering a new paradigm for treating HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer. The NECTORS paradigm is now drawing international attention and is widely recognized as a McGill-driven innovation.

Our recent publications from the NECTORS trial in [JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery](#) (December 2023) show that this treatment strategy, in addition to oncologic effectiveness [previously demonstrated](#), also preserves patients' quality of life based on the patient-reported

outcomes.

I was an invited speaker at the [IFHNOS 7th World Congress](#) in Rome to present our approach to oropharyngeal cancer with NECTORS. This was followed by an invited panel presentation on this innovation at the [11th International Conference in Head and Neck Cancer](#), sponsored by the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS), and held in Montreal in July, 2023. Bringing this conference to Montreal and hosting it was also a major achievement for our Department. As a result, the Department was highly visible at the conference, with 17 original research presentations and our faculty participating as panellists. I co-chaired the full-day Robotics Symposium during the AHNS 2023, along with **Dr Chris Holsinger** from Stanford, covering robotic surgery's current state and future prospects in head and neck cancer.

Dr Sabrina Wurzba (LDI) and I (RI-MUHC) are investigating the tumour and circulating immune microenvironment to investigate the immune-mediated mechanism in the NECTORS paradigm in HPV-oropharyngeal cancer. This work is ongoing and supported by CIHR.

Our team is highly engaged in the Canadian Head and Neck Collaborative Research Initiative. Led by **Dr Michael Hier**, a major research paper on managing low to intermediate-grade salivary gland malignancies was published in [Cancer](#) (July 2023). Our team, led by **Dr Richard Payne**, is also leading the Quebec national program for molecular testing in indeterminate thyroid nodules. Our program is also grateful for the support of the Rossy Cancer Network towards head and neck cancer integration and quality improvement across McGill.

Lastly, the **new MUHC cochlear implant (CI) surgery program**, serving western Quebec, is another milestone of surgical development in 2023. This joint effort between McGill University and University de Montreal is housed at the MUHC. In its inaugural year of 2023, we performed 76 cochlear implants in adults and 56 implants in children.

[\(See continuation bottom of next page\) >](#)

(Gerald M. Fried continued from page 9)

demonstration event at our centre. It was an amazing event, and we felt immense pride hosting it on the premises.

The next phase will be the design of containers, like those that are hauled by semi-trucks, placed on rail cars, and on freighter ships. Each container in the competition will showcase integrated technology that would serve as the medical care hub on the moon. Our responsibility will be to provide feedback to the vendors, set criteria for their assessment, and to prepare plans for testing these modules in remote areas of Canada, which are traditionally underserved. Our trauma and global surgery teams have long supported healthcare in the remote areas of Quebec and underserved areas of the world. They are very attuned to the needs and strategies to provide remote care. We see this as an opportunity, not only to help the CSA, but also to

make an important contribution to improving healthcare resources in these remote and challenging environments.



Dr. Mehran Anvari from the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation (CSii) at McMaster demonstrates the Development of an Autonomous and Tele-operable Medical Robot for Ultra Rapid Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment of Early Cancers and Other Needleoscopic Interventions



Professor Tamara Carver, Director of the EdTECH Office at the Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning explains the office's capabilities to Dr David St-Jacques, Canadian Astronaut

Our team was invited to the CSA on December 1 to prepare for this next challenge. This presented a fantastic opportunity to witness the remarkable work being done by the CSA, to cultivate relationships with the CSA team, and to engage in discussions about strategies regarding this exciting initiative aimed at enhancing Canada's contribution to the next frontier. ◆

To learn more about the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences **Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning**, please visit: www.mcgill.ca/medsimcentre/

(News from OTLHNS continued from previous page)

The CI research team, led by **Dr Alexandre Lehman**, was successful in the CIHR fall 2023 competition, receiving \$345,000 in support for his research in hearing impairment. Lastly, **Dr Sampath Loganathan** was successful in the fall CIHR competition, receiving \$450,000 for his study on HPV infection and the risk of oropharyngeal cancer development. ◆

Dr Sadeghi is also Chief Otolaryngologist at the MUHC, and an Investigator for the Cancer Research Program at the Research Institute of McGill University Health Centre.

Dr. Jonathan L. Meakins inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

By Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our esteemed colleague, Dr. Jonathan L. Meakins, for being honored as a Laureate of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2022. Regrettably, we overlooked the opportunity to acknowledge this prestigious achievement in our previous issue. The subsequent article has been reprinted from the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame site.


On September 29, 2021, William L. Orovan MD, Chair of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF), announced the 2022 inductees to the CMHF, including our own Dr. Jonathan L. Meakins, OC MD DSc FRCS FACS.

An international leader in surgical research and innovation, Dr. Meakins has transformed surgical thinking and practice, improving outcomes for patients worldwide. A pioneer in the immunology of surgical infections, his seminal work demonstrated the relationship between weakened immune responses and poor surgical outcomes leading to significant improvements in assessment and nutritional support for surgical patients. After a career spanning nearly 30 years as an outstanding academic surgical leader at McGill University, including Surgeon-in-Chief at the Royal Victoria Hospital and Chair of the Department of Surgery at McGill, Dr. Meakins was recruited to Oxford University in 2002 as Nuffield Professor of Surgery. The only Canadian to be honoured with this prestigious appointment, Dr. Meakins provided lasting contributions through his leadership of the Balliol Colloquium, an international consortium exploring basic principles and guidelines for the introduction of innovations in surgical practice, now a basic reference to guide the introduction of new techniques and technology in surgery. Member of numerous learned societies in executive leadership roles, Dr. Meakins influenced professional surgical practice and mentored many generations of surgical residents providing a powerful role-model for academic surgeons everywhere.

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

Jonathan L. Meakins
OC MD DSc
2022 INDUCTEE



 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame
Temple de la renommée
médicale canadienne

accomplishments. Pioneers in their field, they are role models who inspire young Canadians to pursue careers in the health sciences. “The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame is proud to welcome these six individuals whose outstanding contributions to health have made Canada, and the world, a better place,” said William L. Orovan MD, Chair of the CMHF. “Their impact is well documented, and they have earned their place alongside our 143 Laureates.

These Canadian and international leaders will be celebrated at a ceremony held in association with The University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine on June 17, 2022, in Ottawa, Ontario. “As a national leader in medical, biomedical, and public health education, and a world-class research institution committed to social accountability, equity, diversity and inclusion, the University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Medicine is honoured to host this prestigious event celebrating leadership in advancing human health,” says Dr. Bernard Jasmin, dean of the uOttawa Faculty of Medicine. “We are excited to highlight the achievements of these individuals who share our vision of leading innovation for a healthier world.” The 2022 Induction Ceremony is presented by the Canadian Medical Association with medical student sponsor MD Financial Management Inc. Locally, up to 40 medical students are invited to attend the ceremony.

“There’s never been a more important time to recognize those who work in the medical profession. I’m honored at the opportunity to salute this year’s inductees,” says Dr. Katharine Smart, Canadian Medical Association President. “Their leadership and tremendous contributions to our profession is an inspiration for today and tomorrow’s profession.” ♦

healthnews.mcgill.ca/dr-jonathan-l-meakins-inducted-into-the-canadian-medical-hall-of-fame/



CASE REPORT

First McGill Thyroid Radiofrequency Ablation

By Dawn Anderson, MD

Non-surgical methods of treating neoplasia have existed since the discovery of radioactive isotopes, but technological advances are now allowing for precise energy delivery to a more diverse array of tumours. RFA (Radio Frequency Ablation) has been used for decades to treat a wide range of problems. In South Korea and Europe, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken on the RFA of thyroid nodules, and there are published Guidelines in several countries regarding case selection and procedural details.

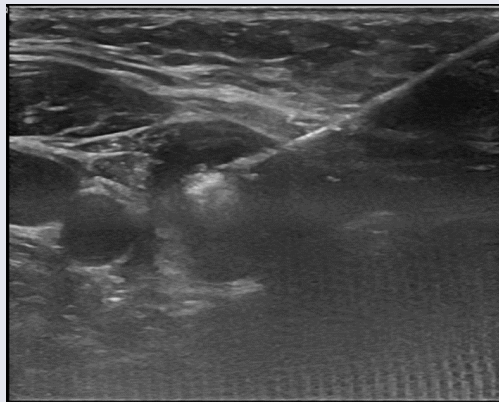
An RFA generator to treat thyroid nodules using a slender needle-tipped electrode inserted through a 2 mm puncture in the skin (*STARmed Vivo RFA Generator*) was approved in Canada in March of 2023.

Dr. Dawn Anderson, as an Assistant Professor in Surgery and Oncology at McGill University, has always been fascinated by the idea of de-escalating cancer therapy, such as sentinel node harvesting replacing axillary node dissection for many breast cancers, and Oncotype, which allows for safe avoidance of chemotherapy in many breast cancers as well. Currently on Sabbatical leave from her position as Divisional Director of Surgical Oncology at St. Mary's Hospital, she has been actively learning about the biology and technique of thyroid RFA in local and international settings over the past two years, along with a McGill-trained General Surgery and Endocrine Surgery colleague, Dr. Cassandre Benay. On August 17, 2023, the first of six patients were treated in Quebec by this duo, the first team in Quebec (second in Canada) to undertake this procedure, and the first by a McGill Surgeon.

Patient FP, a 61-year-old euthyroid female patient with comorbidities including prior pneumothorax and obstructive sleep apnea, was concerned by a growing thyroid nodule,

biopsy benign, increasing in volume by 50% over a 2-year period. She was experiencing neck discomfort from the change in the nodule volume and was concerned about the growth, the need for ongoing monitoring, and the possibility of someday requiring lobectomy under General Anesthesia. She underwent RFA of the nodule under local anesthetic block with mild sedation and was thus able to talk with the team during the procedure. She went home the same day

on a short course of steroids and oral analgesics. She remains euthyroid post-procedure, had no short-term complications, and an Ultrasound one month later showed that the nodule had already shrunk by 59%. We look forward to expanding our capabilities to treat patients who can benefit from this non-invasive therapy for appropriately selected thyroid nodules. ♦



Dr. Anderson grew up in Manitoba and completed her MD and BSc (Med) undergraduate research degree at the University of Manitoba. After a Special Mixed Surgical Internship in Winnipeg, she went to the University of British Columbia where she completed a General Surgical Residency and spent five years working in underserved communities in rural BC. She then came

to Montreal for a Fellowship in Surgical Oncology at McGill and joined the McGill Departments of Surgery and Oncology as an Assistant Professor. Based at St. Mary's Hospital, her clinical focus is on detection and treatment of Breast and Thyroid cancer, with a priority on collaborative care with Medical and Surgical Oncology colleagues enrolling patients in clinical trials. Keenly interested in Resident Education, she spent several years as CTU Director at SMH and as a member of the Residency Program Committees for both General Surgery and Surgical Oncology.



Academic Affairs



McGill Department of Surgery

WELCOME

In Academic Affairs news, six new academic members have joined the Department of Surgery since July 2023.

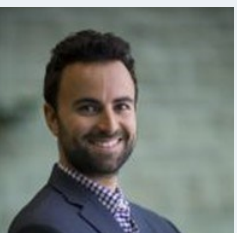
Dr. Maria About Khalil joined the **Division of General Surgery** July 1, 2023 as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)**. She



completed her general surgery residency at McGill in 2021. During her residency, she also pursued a Master's degree in Epidemiology under the guidance of Dr. Marylise Boutros.

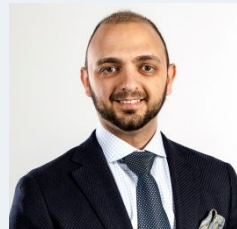
Afterward, Maria joined the Colorectal Surgery Fellowship program at McGill, where she successfully completed her PhD in Experimental Surgery, focusing on the surgical management of C. difficile colitis.

Maria is excited to have joined the general surgery department at St. Mary's Hospital, where she has a predominantly colorectal surgical practice. Outside of work, Maria loves to spend time with her family. She is the proud wife of Mihiran and mother of Raphael and Lia. Throughout her training and beyond, her family and friends have provided invaluable support.



Dr. Anthony Bozzo was recruited to the **Division of Orthopedic Surgery** as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)** and began working with Dr. Robert Turcotte and Dr. Ahmed Aoude at the MUHC/ MGH Sarcoma Unit on July 1,

2023. Prior to completing his Orthopaedic residency at McMaster, Dr. Bozzo completed his medical studies at McGill. Then, after completing a two-year fellowship at Sloan-Kettering in New York, he entered doctoral studies in artificial intelligence.



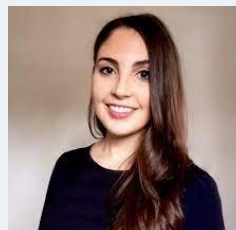
Dr. Roy Kazan joined the **Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery** as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)** on July 1, 2023. He was recruited to fill an available position at the MUHC and will focus his expertise

on our expansive post-bariatric population at the Lachine site. He has a Masters in Biomedical Sciences from Université de Montreal and a PhD in Experimental Surgery from McGill and is returning to the MUHC after completing a fellowship in post-bariatric reconstruction at the University of Pittsburgh.



Dr. Jason Khoury, a former student of McGill's training program, joined the **Division of Orthopedic Surgery** on July 1, 2023 as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)**. He will be working with the

sports surgery team at St. Mary's and Lasalle Hospital after completing two fellowships. The first was in upper-body surgery at the University of Western in London, and the second (knee surgery) at the University of Ottawa. He also completed his master's degree in Quality and Security Improvement.



Dr. Maude Trépanier joined the **Division of General Surgery** at St-Mary's Hospital as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)** and colorectal surgeon on August 14, 2023. She completed her General Surgery residency at McGill University in 2022.

During her residency, she completed a Master's degree in Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health with a focus on prehabilitation before surgery. She then completed a Colon and Rectal Surgery fellowship at Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Her Fellowship was heavily focused on robotic surgery and the surgical management of inflammatory bowel disease.

Academic Affairs



McGill Department of Surgery

WELCOME



Dr Dominick (Dino) Zammit joined the **Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery** on August 1, 2023 as an **Assistant Professor (Clinical)**. He has been recruited into a new pediatric position

in plastic surgery and will focus on craniofacial/plastic surgery at the MUHC (MGH-MCH sites). He has an MSc in Experimental Surgery from McGill and is returning following completion of his fellowship in adult and pediatric craniofacial surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Congrats! **PROMOTIONS**
2023



Dr. Anthony Albers
Associate Professor (Clinical)
Division of Orthopedic Surgery



Dr. Livia Garzia
Associate Professor (Research)
Division of Orthopedic Surgery

The Surgical and Interventional Sciences program welcomes a new outstanding researcher, Dr Amir Hooshiar.

Dr. Hooshiar's expertise is in the development and validation of next-generation surgical robots and AI-based decision support systems. He has an MSc (2009) and BSc (2007) in biomedical engineering from Amirkabir University of Tehran (Tehran Polytechnic). He served as a Medical Device Expert at the Medical Device Bureau of Iran (2009 – 2014) until he joined the Robotic Surgery Lab at Concordia University (2015 – 2021). His doctoral research was on haptics-enabled robot-assisted surgical systems for cardiovascular intervention for which he was recognized among the 2018 Top Canada Researchers by NSERC and received the 2018 NSERC Gilles-Brassard Doctoral Prize for Interdisciplinary Research.



Dr. Hooshiar joined the Department of Surgery as a Post-doctoral Researcher in 2021. During his training at McGill, he spearheaded multiple interdisciplinary collaborations with the faculty at McGill which led to multiple successful funding acquisition from the MGH Foundation, McGill University, and federal and provincial research funding agencies, i.e., NSERC and FRQ.

Thanks to the Montreal General Hospital Foundation's generous support, Amir founded and directs the Surgical Performance Enhancement and Robotics (SuPER) Centre as an integral part of the Department's "Future of Surgery" initiative. The SuPER is poised to become the top translational surgical robotics and surgical AI centres in North America through continuous collaboration with surgeons, clinical staff, science and engineering faculty members, and MedTech partners. ♦

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Surgical Education

By **Melina Vassiliou, MD**

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

Rebuilding Relationships for a Thriving Surgical Culture

In recent decades, the leaps in surgical science and technology have been paralleled by much needed education reforms—reforms that were essential in enhancing support of our learners and upgrading both learning and working environments. These advances have undoubtedly improved patient outcomes and the caliber of clinical care we deliver.

Yet, despite these advancements, we often seem to be falling short of the expectations we have of each other. Many surgeons who trained in decades past grapple with a sense of loss—an intangible but deeply felt departure from the steadfast dedication that once stood at the heart of our profession. Meanwhile, current learners sometimes view these experienced professionals as rooted in bygone methods, and slow to embrace current surgical education paradigms.

As we charted a course through reforms and revolutions, our strides toward greater efficiency and oversight may have come with unforeseen costs. As learners became more empowered, and assessments more robust, many faculty started to slowly disengage, providing less risky, albeit less meaningful feedback for fear of consequences. At the same time, at the greater societal level and for many different reasons, there has been a rise in individualism and an overall decline in resilience. In surgery, the divide between learners and faculty seems to be ever-widening and both groups are feeling the impact. Such trends are not mere side effects, but rather reflections of a pressing need for a cultural recalibration—a renaissance in how we learn, teach, and connect.

What we face is a crisis of disconnection, where loneliness, isolation, and anxiety prevail. Healthcare workers and learners are increasingly reporting mental health issues, decreased job satisfaction, and consequently, a decreased

capacity for empathy—all of this impacts patient care and threatens to unravel the fabric of our healthcare systems. We must strive to create an environment where our teams feel valued and heard, where we are attuned to the needs of patients, learners, teams, and ourselves. What would it feel like if we could almost continuously exceed expectations—not just of our patients, but of each other? By fostering genuine relationships and taking the time to really know each other, and have compassion for our different experiences, we will not just adapt, but thrive - which is the real recipe for sustainable excellence.

Compassion transcends virtue; it's a critical skill for survival as a healthcare professional – it is what attracted us to this work and the thing we all have in common. It's the catalyst for improved patient outcomes, the buffer against burnout, and the driver of economic efficiency. To reconstruct our healthcare communities and restore trust within our educational and health systems, we must perform small consistent acts that build trust while respecting the diverse perspectives and challenges within our ranks. The 'Next Big Thing' in healthcare education isn't a groundbreaking technology or a revolutionary surgical technique—it's the recognition that our humanity is as indispensable as our clinical and research skills. We must champion an ethos where technical prowess and human connection are not separate but inextricably linked, where compassion, community, and a commitment to relationism are interwoven into our daily practice. This is the foundation upon which we can build the future of healthcare education—a resilient one that honors our legacy and crafts new traditions for the betterment of our patients and our teams. ♦



Faculty Development

By **Kevin Lachapelle, MD**

Vice Chair, Academic Affairs, McGill Department of Surgery

The Faculty Development group had a productive Fall 2023, marked by two significant activities that underscore our commitment to advancing surgical education and leadership within our department.

2nd Annual Department of Surgery Leadership Program



In partnership with Desautels Management, we successfully conducted the second annual Department of Surgery Leadership Program from September

to December 2023. This seven-module course, designed specifically for the surgical environment, offers a hands-on approach to leadership theory and practice. For the first time, we extended an invitation to our anesthesia colleagues, enriching the program with diverse discussions and insights.

Feedback highlighted the practicality and usefulness of the course, particularly appreciating the increased number of in-person sessions over virtual interactions. Buoyed by this positive response, we are planning to conduct all sessions in person next year, promising an even more engaging and effective learning experience.



Surgical Teaching and Readiness Course (S.T.A.R.)

The Faculty Development group is also thrilled to announce the completion of the Surgical Teaching and Readiness Course (S.T.A.R.). This video-based, interactive half-day workshop is designed to enhance the teaching skills of our faculty in the operating room. Through sharing experiences, tricks, and tips, the course aims to foster a collaborative learning environment. The inaugural course is scheduled for February 8, 2024, and has already reached full capacity, reflecting the high level of interest and anticipation among our faculty.

These initiatives reflect our dedication to fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement, ensuring our department remains at the forefront of surgical education and practice.



The next session of the [Leadership Program](#) will launch again in **September 2024**.

Thank you to all STAR members, Mitch Bernstein, Jason Harley, Melanie Peterkin-Dube, Melena Vassiliou, and Sarkis Meterissian! ♦

(ERAS continued from page 7)

that this simple concept of integrating and standardizing care around patients, rather than around clinician silos, was so obviously effective as a vehicle for introducing evidence into practice, decreasing undesirable variability, and thereby improving outcomes.

I pitched the idea to the Chief of Surgery, the late Dr Mostafa Elhilali, that we should deliver our perioperative care by creating and implementing multimodal pathways throughout the entire Department. Thankfully, he didn't stifle my enthusiasm for the project but in his wisdom, asked me for a written proposal for a pilot program. In this letter dated September 3, 2008, the stated goal was to "organize a collaborative, multidisciplinary group committed to optimizing perioperative care at the Montreal General Hospital. Specifically, it will include ... the psychological and physical preparation for surgery, including written patient information, evidence-based intraoperative and postoperative care protocols, including management of pain, nutrition, prevention and treatment of nausea/vomiting, guidelines for ambulation and discharge criteria, and others..."

Dr Elhilali assigned a dedicated nurse to oversee the one-year pilot project, and in October 2008 we had the first meeting of the working group with Debbie Watson, a preop clinic nurse, as the newly minted clinical care pathway coordinator. This group expanded into the SuRe (Surgical Recovery) steering committee that Dr Carli and I co-chaired for more than a decade, which originally included Eleanora Eckert (nutritionist), Michelle Bourgeois (physiotherapist), Diana Dawes (epidemiologist- helped with literature searches to identify best evidence), Dr Gabriele Baldini (anesthesiologist), Sandra Di Fulvio (patient flow coordinator), André Bonnici (Assistant Chief Pharmacist), Donna Stanbridge (MGH Perioperative coordinator), Oliver Cachero (nurse manager general surgery) and Krista Brecht (clinical nurse specialist- pain). This multidisciplinary group ensured that we had all the necessary clinical expertise from the people on the ground required to be able to evaluate current care, identify possible gaps with best evidence, and more importantly, where we might predict barriers to implementing any new approaches. We prioritized common procedures at the MGH which had relatively long hospital stays. We performed literature searches to identify the

evidence and/or existing guidelines, then the steering committee worked with the division chief or their delegated champion to create the pathway, including patient education, nursing standards, medical orders, and medical prescriptions. A key element was working with the MUHC patient education office to create a patient version of the pathway that would be engaging at an appropriate literacy level with a care map and benchmarks for in-patient stay, including a target discharge date. The target was based on the literature and discharge criteria but was generally significantly shorter than the length of stay at the time. The SuRe program coordinator would then shepherd all of this through the multiple committees required to get this into practice. An important orientation was that patient caregivers, preop and ward nurses, anesthesiologists, surgeons, and trainees, would all be giving patients consistent information that would become the standard of care.

The first SuRe pathway, for esophagectomy, was launched in June 2010, followed by an expanded colorectal surgery pathway in August 2010, and a prostatectomy pathway in November 2010. Subsequently, 2-3 new pathways were introduced each year and established pathways were also reviewed every few years. These ranged from relatively simple outpatient hernia surgery to very complex-like cardiac surgery (launched July 2023). In addition to creating specific pathways, the SuRe group also created collective orders to standardize the approach to common issues across the department, including preoperative fasting guidelines, thromboprophylaxis, surgical site infection bundles, and postoperative urinary retention. We are fortunate to have longstanding institutional support for the coordinator position which allows for its sustainability. Debbie Watson's MGH coordinator position became permanent in 2010, and a second position was added for the RVH in 2014 with Claudiane Poisson taking on that role. A similar steering committee was established at the RVH, with Dr Prosanto Chaudhury as chair.

The SuRe program also established mechanisms to evaluate results, at first focused on length of stay. This was tracked through a shared excel file that was populated by the preop nurses and the unit nurse managers. This also allowed the data to be shared with the

(See continuation on next page) >

(ERAS continued)

front-line nurses and staff which enabled us to address the concern that the new rapid discharge was not just resulting in more readmissions. These data made it clear that the hospital stay was immediately reduced by being able to discharge patients without complications on the target day, several days earlier, and with less variability than prior to the pathway implementation. Many clinical groups also published their results, contributing evidence supporting the clinical and cost effectiveness of ERAS for colorectal, lung, esophageal, and prostate surgery, with the cost effectiveness analyses led by Dr Lawrence Lee as part of his doctoral research. We also contributed several randomized trials on the effectiveness of specific care pathway elements, including patient mobilization and opioid free analgesia (led by Prof Julio Fiore Jr), and the impact of a digital health application on adherence. We were recognized as a centre of excellence by the ERAS Society, being the first in North American to use the ERAS Society Interactive Audit System, and we received a “Leading Practice” citation from Accreditation Canada in 2013. More recently, the Quebec health ministry has looked to ERAS as a strategy to increase surgical access and capacity by reducing complications and hospital stay, and the MUHC has been contracted to establish the audit platform to support implementation in all hospitals across Quebec. Ms Pepa Kaneva, research coordinator at the Steinberg-Bernstein Centre for Minimally Invasive Surgery, has been leading the database creation. Both Debbie Watson and Claudiane Poisson are working on MSSS projects in ERAS implementation and dossier santé numérique, respectively. We welcomed Sonia Sandberg as the new MGH coordinator and will soon welcome a second coordinator at the RVH.

What is next for ERAS? Dr Lawrence Lee and the colorectal surgery group have successfully implemented same-day discharge for hundreds of patients having colorectal resection or stoma closure surgery, supported by remote monitoring via digital health applications. This program was a recent finalist for the Prix d’excellence de l’administration publique du Québec and expansion

of the remote monitoring/patient portal to support ultra-short hospitalization was recently funded by the ministry. Prof Fiore’s work to develop a novel patient-reported outcome measure of patient recovery is nearing completion and will fill an important gap in evaluating ERAS. His group’s work on opioid-free analgesia is ongoing and supported by significant CIHR funding.

Finally, in October 2023, we opened a dedicated 8-bed ERAS unit on the newly renovated 16th floor of the MGH. This unit has already decrease cancellations, improved patient flow, and helped us further innovate to improve perioperative care. It is hard to believe that 15 years has passed since the beginning of this program, but it gives me a great sense of pride to see how this patient-centered interdisciplinary approach has truly become part of our culture. ♦

Table: ERAS pathways 2008-2023

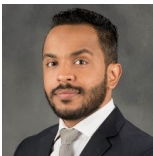
Montreal General Hospital	Royal Victoria Hospital
Esophagectomy	Colorectal
Colorectal	Liver resection
Lap cholecystectomy	Nephrectomy
Hip and Knee Arthroplasty	Prostatectomy
Spine day surgery	Thyroidectomy
Umbilical & Inguinal hernia	EVAR
Bariatric surgery	Radical cystectomy
Hip fracture	Minimally invasive hysterectomy
Gastrectomy	Ovarian Cancer debulking
Head and neck cancer	Lap cholecystectomy
VATS lobectomy	Kidney transplant
Thoracotomy pulmonary resection	Pancreatectomy
Abdominal wall reconstruction	Vascular bypass
Ankle fracture	Breast reconstruction
Hemorrhoidectomy/fistulectomy	Major head and neck surgery
Benign esophageal surgery	Inguinal hernia
Hip & knee arthroplasty- Same Day Discharge	Live donor nephrectomy
Bariatric – Same Day Discharge	Cardiac Surgery
Colorectal – Same Day Discharge	



Division of Cardiac Surgery

Cardiac Surgery Residency Program

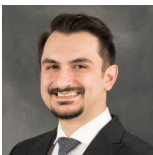
Graduates 2023



Dr Ali Alakhtar

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

Ali is presently pursuing a **Structural Heart Fellowship** at Washington University at St. Louis and is looking forward to his future as an academic hybrid surgeon.



Dr Ziyab Sarfaraz

Ziyab Khan Sarfaraz is a highly motivated and accomplished cardiac surgery resident with a passion for excellence in healthcare. Graduating in the top three of his class from Arabian Gulf University, Ziyab completed three years of general surgery residency in Oman before dedicating himself to cardiac surgery. Driven by his desire to make a difference, he embarked on a six-year journey at McGill University, where he obtained extensive training and expertise in cardiac surgery. Ziyab is known for his strong work ethic and meticulous attention to detail, which have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and patients alike. His goal is to use his skills and knowledge to provide his patients with the best possible care and help them achieve optimal health outcomes.

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

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



Dr Rasha Al-Nadabi

Rasha Al Nadabi finished her medical school in Oman at Sultan Qaboos University, and joined the McGill cardiac surgery residency program in 2017. She completed a Masters in

Experimental Surgery in 2019.

Dr Raji Alsobhi



Dr Nasser Aljerayed

Complex Adult Cardiac & Valve Surgery Fellow

Dr. Nasser Aljerayed is a highly qualified and experienced cardiac surgeon with an impressive academic and professional career. He earned his MBBS degree from the Faculty of Medicine, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2002 and completed his clinical internship in 2003. He pursued further education and training in France, earning a French Board of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (DESC) degree in 2010, and a University Diploma of Heart Valves Surgery (DU) in 2009. Dr. Nasser Aljerayed has been registered and categorized by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties as a senior registrar in cardiac surgery since 2010 and as a consultant in cardiac surgery since 2017. He served as the head of Card Surgery Department at King Saud Medical City in Riyadh

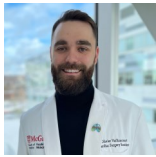
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Cardiac Surgery Residency Program *continued*

from March 2019 until August 2021. Currently, he is a fellow in the Cardiac Surgery Department at McGill University's Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, Canada, completing his Complex Adult Cardiac and Valve Surgery Fellowship since August 2021.

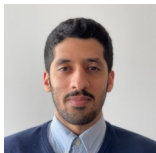
He completed a fellowship in Complex Adult Cardiac and Valve Surgery at McGill University's Royal Victoria Hospital in 2023. Nasser is currently pursuing a fellowship in Multi-disciplinary Heart Failure, Cardiac Transplantation, and Mechanical Circulatory Support at McGill University.

NEW CHIEF RESIDENTS



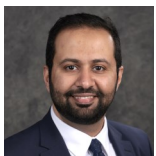
Dr. Olivier Vaillancourt

Dr. Olivier Vaillancourt is one of our new chief cardiac surgery residents. While at McGill, Dr. Vaillancourt earned the **CAME Rising Star Award** and the **Edmond D. Monaghan Principles of Surgery Award**. He's also been honored with the Teaching Award from McGill's cardiac surgery program. Dr. Vaillancourt's main clinical interests are complex valvular surgery and mitral valve repair. He is committed to pursuing advanced valvular surgery training at Northwestern University in 2024. After his fellowship training, Dr. Vaillancourt will join the cardiac surgery division at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Montréal (CHUM).



Dr. Alqasem Al Mosa

Dr. Alqasem Al Mosa obtained his medical degree from King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS) in Saudi Arabia, after which he joined the Saudi cardiac surgery program regulated by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS). He then secured a scholarship for training abroad and joined McGill's Division of Cardiac Surgery in 2018. During his training, he acquired a Master of Science degree in Experimental Surgery and contributed multiple publications in the field of cardiac surgery. Dr. Al Mosa has a keen interest in congenital heart surgery and aims to pursue a career in this field. Outside the operating room, Dr. Al Mosa enjoys cooking, making surgical illustrations, and hiking.



Dr. Mohammed A. Alharbi

Dr. Mohammed A. Alharbi, a cardiac surgery resident from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, earned his medical degree at Dammam University. Following a year as a general surgery resident, he pursued cardiac surgery due to its technical challenges and the immediate and profound impact on patients' lives. Dr. Alharbi is now a holder of a master's degree in surgical

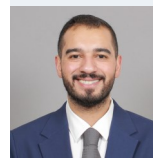


Division of Cardiac Surgery

education from McGill University, and he presented two abstracts at the American Association of Thoracic Surgery meeting in Los Angeles in May 2023.

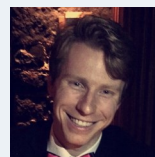
Passionate about advancing coronary care, he wants to specialize in minimally invasive coronary surgery. His research interests include coronary artery bypass outcomes and surgical simulation training. When Dr. Alharbi returns to his home university as an assistant professor, he aspires to lead in providing advanced coronary artery disease management and mentoring surgical residents through simulation. Beyond the medical realm, Dr. Alharbi enjoys planning family camping trips, pursuing personal hobbies like simulation racing, and working on his sports car; which he finds equally fascinating as cardiac surgery.

WELCOME



Dr. Adel Alqabandi

Dr. Adel Alqabandi is from Kuwait. He completed his medical degree at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain. During medical school, he performed a research project regarding the use of Methylene Blue dye for refractory vasoplegic syndrome. Following medical school Adel pursued a one-year internship in Kuwait where he rotated through different medical and surgical specialties. He has always been interested in surgery and how one can change a person's life with just their hands. His interests lie in Aortic surgery and robotic heart surgery. Adel was motivated to become a surgeon after watching cardiac surgeons fix a heart in a few hours and save a patient's life. His goal is to acquire the best surgical skills training and knowledge necessary to provide his patients with the best possible treatment and care. Outside of medicine, Adel enjoys spinning, yoga, and music. Unlike most people, Adel really enjoys rainy cloudy days!



Dr. Klaudiusz Stoklosa

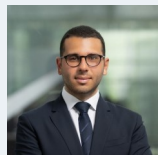
Dr. Klaudiusz Stoklosa was born in Canada with deep cultural roots in the highlands of Poland. He completed his Honours undergraduate degree in Anatomy and Cell Biology at McGill University prior to completing his medical school training at the University of Toronto. A man of diverse backgrounds, Klaudiusz grew up working in home renovation before and

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

WELCOME



throughout medical school. It was during those experiences that he developed a keen interest in using his hands to solve problems and bring his customer's vision to life, aspects that amplified his interest in the human body and ultimate surgery. Klaudiusz trained as a rural family medicine resident in Northern Ontario (NOSM) prior to transferring into the cardiac surgery program. He has a strong interest in global surgery, amplified through his experiences working in Northern Ontario. Klaudiusz hopes to integrate global surgery into his career while also finding ways to break down barriers for Canadians living in rural, Northern, and remote regions with respect to cardiac surgery access and postoperative care. He is interested in all aspects of cardiac surgery and hopes to narrow his scope over the next few years. Outside of the hospital, Klaudiusz enjoys staying active by running, cycling, playing tennis, and mountain hiking. He hopes to one day climb Mount Everest and perform an operation in space.




Dr. Jeremy Levett

Dr. Jeremy Levett is a cardiac surgery resident at McGill University. Born in Montreal, Jeremy completed his medical education at McGill University in 2023 and was the recipient of the


J.W. McConnell Scholarship and **Alexander D. Stewart Graduation Prize**, awarded to the member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the Faculty, presents in every respect the

highest qualifications to practice the profession. Jeremy has dreamt of becoming a heart surgeon, scientist, and innovator since a young age. Always hopeful and curious in nature, sensitive to the human condition, and fascinated by research and innovation, cardiac surgery and cardiovascular medicine have been a natural progression to Jeremy's passions. With a strong interest in innovation and clinical epidemiology, Jeremy is the author of over eight publications, a textbook chapter, and has given over 20 invited presentations globally. Jeremy is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Stenoa**, a healthcare technology startup focused on delivering innovative solutions that streamline care coordination and improve patient outcomes. Stenoa was the winner of the **Hakim Family Innovation Prize** at the McGill Clinical Innovation Competition in 2020. It has since launched the first mission-critical care coordination, secure communication, and analytics platform for myocardial infarctions, received its


certification by Quebec's Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux for provincial deployment, and is routinely used for myocardial infarction care across tertiary hospitals and pre-hospital systems in Quebec. Jeremy is also the Founding Chair of the **McGill University World Restart a Heart Campaign**, a public health initiative aiming to inspire and empower individuals to respond to cardiac arrest, which achieved global success and reached over 1,000,000 people. Jeremy sits on several steering, advisory, and accreditation committees at McGill University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Jeremy is excited to be pursuing his aspirations of becoming a cardiac surgeon-scientist and innovator, and embark on the lifelong journey of mending the human heart.


MCGILL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

34TH ANNUAL FRASER N. GURD VISITING PROFESSOR



PROF. JOHN V. REYNOLDS
MAY 30th, 2024
OSLER AMPHITHEATRE
(MGH SITE)
ZOOM ACCESS:
<https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/88569222005>



Scan here for the McGill Department of Surgery website



Division of General Surgery

21st Annual LD McLean Visiting Professor in General Surgery



The 21st annual LD McLean welcomed **Dr. Dorry Segev**, Professor of Surgery and Epidemiology, and Vice Chair of Surgery at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and NYU Langone Health. He also the founding director of the **NYU Center for Surgical and Transplant Applied Research (C-STAR)**.

An accomplished clinician and researcher, Dr. Segev was the first to demonstrate the survival benefit of incompatible kidney transplantation across the United States and was responsible for the first HIV-to-HIV transplants in the United States. He was also the first to demonstrate poor immunogenicity to COVID vaccines in the immunocompromised, work for which he received a Letter of Commendation from **Dr. Anthony Fauci**. His NIH-funded research includes kidney exchange, desensitization, long-term donor risk, access to transplantation, expanding transplantation including HIV+ donors, geographic disparities, post-transplant outcomes, COVID vaccines, and the intersection between transplantation, gerontology, and cognitive decline. With over 750 peer-reviewed research articles, Dr. Segev is **ranked #1 worldwide** in organ transplantation expertise and influence by **ExpertScape**. Having mentored over 100 graduate students, residents, and faculty, Dr. Segev is the only surgeon in the US funded by an NIH/NIAID Mentoring Grant.

Reflecting on his contributions to health care, Dr. Segev was recently elected into the **National Academy of Medicine**. For his creativity and broad reach of his contributions, he received a prestigious **Global Thinker Award** from Foreign Policy Magazine and was named an **Innovator of the Year** by **TIME**

Magazine. His work has directly influenced policy, including two Congressional bills (the Norwood Act for kidney exchange and the HOPE Act for HIV-to-HIV transplants), and has been regularly featured in widely read media including several front-page features in the New York Times.

The evening banquet was held at the Four Seasons Hotel and culminated with the presentation of our **graduating residents**. We were very privileged to share in the celebration of their successes along with their families and loved ones. Traditionally, we recognize our residents and faculty's commitment to research, clinical and teaching excellence with the following awards:



The Outstanding Undergraduate Resident Teaching Award:
Dr. Luai Al-Marzouki and Dr. Josie Cipolla

The David Owen Undergraduate Teaching Award:
Dr. Yasmin Halwani

CAGS Excellence in Teaching Award:
Dr. Ikhtiyar Al-Tubi and Dr. Ali Safar

Outstanding Fellow Teaching Award:
Dr. Abdulaziz Ali

Outstanding General Surgeon Postgraduate Teaching Award:
Dr. Sinziana Dumitra

The Julius Gordon Research Traveling Award:
Dr. Neyla Boukhili

Excellence in Leadership Award:
Dr. Natasha Caminsky

The Roger Tabah Excellence in Teaching Award:
Dr. Nadia Safa

The Mavin Wexler Clinical Excellence Resident Award:
Dr. Richard Garfinkle

The Marvin Wexler Clinical Excellence Staff Award:
Dr. Sender Liberman



Division of General Surgery

17th Annual Harvey H. Sigman Lecture in Surgical Education

November 1-2, 2023

Last November, the Department of Surgery hosted its 17th annual Harvey H. Sigman Lecture in Surgical Education with Visiting Professor **Dr Jacob A. Greenberg**, Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery, at Duke University.



Dr. Shannon Fraser with
Dr. Jacob Greenberg

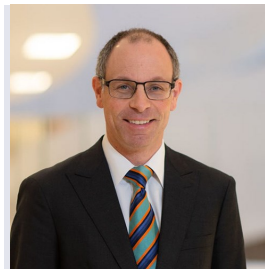
Dr Greenberg gave an outstanding and inspiring Grand Rounds titled **“Surgical Psychology 101”**. At the academic half day with the residents the day before, Dr Greenberg gave a talk titled **“Tips to Successful “Teaching” in Surgery”**, focused on teaching in surgery with numerous practical tips. He then put each of our chief residents in the hot seat by giving them mock orals in front of their peers. No better way to get prepared for the stress of the real exam!



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

33rd Annual Cedars Cancer Foundation Edward J Tabah Visiting Professor in Surgical Oncology

April 19 -20, 2023



On April 19-20, 2023, the Division of General Surgery at the MUHC and the McGill Department of Oncology welcomed **Dr David Gyorki** as the 33rd Cedars Cancer Foundation Edward J Tabah Visiting Professor in Surgical

Oncology. Dr. Gyorki is a consultant Surgical Oncologist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Center and Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Melbourne, Australia. His main research interest is in melanoma immunology, in particular the tumor-immune microenvironment.

Dr Gyorki is involved in several clinical trials in both melanoma and retroperitoneal sarcoma, and is co-P.I. of a number of surgical trials as well as novel therapeutics. As a member of the ASCO expert panel on Systemic Therapy for Melanoma, he is heavily involved in that organization's guideline development.

On the 19th of April, Dr Gyorki lectured on **“The importance of global collaboration to improve outcomes for patients with soft tissue sarcoma”**, followed by a two-and-a-half-hour session with the residents and fellows featuring debates and case presentations. The following day, the topic of his Surgical Grand Rounds presentation was **“Neoadjuvant therapy for melanoma: the culmination of a decade of progress in melanoma immunotherapy”**.

2nd Annual Florence Flinker Visiting Professor in Colorectal Surgery

On November 15th and 16th of 2023, the Division of General Surgery at the MUHC and the Colorectal Service welcomed Dr. Jamie Cannon, Professor of Surgery at the University of Alabama (UAB) at Birmingham, as the Cedars Cancer Foundation 2nd **Annual Florence Flinker Visiting Professor in Colorectal Surgery**. Dr Cannon serves as program director for the colorectal surgery fellowship in Birmingham and is active in ASCRS. She is a renowned expert in robotic surgery, teaching worldwide, and is Director of UAB's General Surgery Residency Robotic Surgery Curriculum.

On November 15th, Dr Cannon presented her experience with Robotic Surgery in the surgical treatment of Crohn's disease. This was followed by two sessions with the residents and fellows consisting of lively debates and “reverse mock orals”. The following day, she hosted Surgical Grand Rounds and spoke of robotic surgery of rectal cancer.



From L to R: Jeff Shamie, Dr. Anthony Bismar (colorectal fellow), Dr. Huda Alanbar (colorectal fellow), Dr. Jamie Cannon, and Dr. Sender Liberman

5th Annual Philip H. Gordon Visiting Professor
June 14-15 2023



Division of
General Surgery



We were thrilled to welcome **Professor Neil Smart** to McGill and the Jewish General Hospital as the 2023 Philip H Gordon Visiting Professor in Colorectal Surgery.

Professor Neil Smart is an Academic Colorectal Surgeon at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital in the United Kingdom. He is currently an Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Exeter Medical School where he has developed collaborative translational research projects with basic scientists which have enabled Exeter to become one of the largest contributors to multicenter trainee collaborative studies. He co-runs the Exeter Surgical Health Services Research Unit, an active research program where he supervises surgical research fellows and UEMSS students producing numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals, culminating in presentations at national and international meetings. He sits on the Data Monitoring and Trial Steering Committee of several NIHR studies. His clinical interests include rectal cancer, hernia prophylaxis, incisional hernia

repair, abdominal wall reconstruction and parastomal hernias. He is chief investigator of the NIHR funded CIPHER study on parastomal hernia and a specialty advisor to NICE for mesh and stomas. His interest in teaching and training surgical learners has led him to become an external examiner for doctoral theses at several universities in the UK and internationally. He is a clinical supervisor to surgical trainees at various levels at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. He is an Affiliate of the Faculty of Surgical Trainers of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He is active in medical publishing, providing peer review for over a dozen surgical journals as well as peer review of grant submissions for NIHR, MRC and AMRC -affiliated bodies.

Since 2019 he has served as the Editor-in-Chief of Colorectal Disease, the official journal of the ACPGBI, ESCP, AACP and MSCRS.

Philip H. Gordon, MD, FRCSC, FACS, Professor of Surgery and Oncology at McGill University was the 1st Director of Colorectal Surgery at the Jewish General Hospital from 1974-2012. This lecture was established in recognition of Dr. Gordon's life-long devotion and contributions to Colorectal Surgery locally, nationally, and internationally.

WELCOME

Dr. Karyne Martel joins the Division of General Surgery

Dr Martel first obtained a bachelor degree in biomedical science from Université de Montréal before starting her medical training at the same institution. After graduating from medical school, she pursued her specialization in General Surgery and later completed a fellowship in General Surgical Oncology at McGill University. After practicing for many years in the community, Dr Martel was recruited as academic staff for her experience in breast oncology and acute care surgery.

Dr Martel is currently an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Oncology at the Jewish General Hospital where she specializes mainly in breast and melanoma surgery. Her main focus is breast oncoplastic surgery in the treatment of breast cancer. She has gained additional training from the School of Oncoplastic Surgery and the Brazilian Society of Mastologia, and she is a member of the Oncoplastic Breast Consortium.



Congrats! Accomplishments

Dr. Nancy Morin appointed new Program Director of the Colon and Rectal Surgery Program.



Dr. Nancy Morin holds the rank of Full Professor of Surgery at McGill University. Her specialty interests include surgical and endoscopic treatment of colon and rectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, diverticular disease, and anorectal disorders.

She earned her medical degree at McGill University, in Montreal, Canada, and subsequently completed her residency in General Surgery at McGill. Her subspecialty training in Colorectal Surgery was obtained at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

She is certified by the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada and the College des Medecins du Quebec in General Surgery and Colon and Rectal Surgery. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Colon and Rectal.

Dr. Morin is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada and The American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. She has sat on several Committees of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. She is an examiner for the Colorectal Surgery exams of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada and the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. She sits on the administrative council of the Association Quebecoise de Chirurgie and is a member of the Canadian Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery.

WELCOME

General Surgery Residency Program

NEW 2023-2024 Residents



Husain Alabdallahman

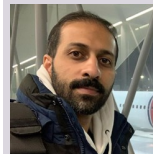
Dr. Alabdallahman graduated from Kuwait University with a BSc in Medical Sciences in 2018 and an MD in 2021. He worked at Farwaniyah Hospital as an assistant registrar.

Away from work, he is an athlete, and used to compete in Olympic weightlifting and CrossFit competitions, and he likes watching true crime documentaries.



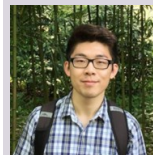
Saud AlButhi

Dr. Al Buthi was born and raised in Riyadh. He completed his medical degree at KSAU-HS, Saudi Arabia before joining McGill General Surgery. Saud's interests outside of medicine include traveling, watching movies and soccer.



Hashem Busalha

Dr. Busalha graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and worked as an assistant registrar in General Surgery Farwaniya in Jaber Hospital in Kuwait. On his free time he likes to watch and play football (soccer) and exploring new places he has not visited before.



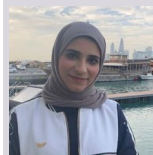
Alex Chen

Dr. Chen did his BSc in Biomedical Sciences & Computer Science in his hometown of Ottawa and his medical degree at McGill. Outside of the hospital, Alex enjoys playing board games, rock climbing, playing guitar and piano.



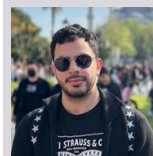
Victoria Hayman

Dr. Hayman is from Montreal and completed a BSc in Physiology and graduated medical school from McGill University. Outside of medicine Victoria's hobbies include hiking, spinning, baking, keeping her balcony plants alive and hanging out with her cat, Evie.



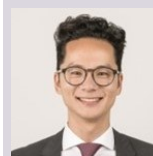
Fatemah Husain

Dr. Husain is from Kuwait and graduated from Kuwait University. Away from work, she enjoys skydiving, travelling, and watching movies.



Abdulaziz Kabli

Dr. Kabli graduated from Kuwait University with a BSc of Medical Sciences and an MD after which he completed an internship in Mubarak Hospital. Outside of medicine, he enjoys traveling, exploring new places, reading, watching movies, and playing video games.



Andrew Meng

Dr. Meng completed his BSc in Pharmacology and his MD at McGill University. Andrew enjoys playing sports (soccer, tennis, and volleyball), climbing, cooking, and listening to music.

General Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME



Ahmed Safar

Dr. Safar graduated from Kuwait University with a degree in Medical Sciences in 2018 and an MD in 2021. In his free time, Ahmad enjoys spending time with his family, playing soccer, squash, padel, and traveling.

NEW 2023-2024 Fellows



Abdulrahim Abdulmomen

Dr. Abdulmomen is from Saudi Arabia and completed his medical school at IMSIU, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He completed his surgical training at Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University in Saudi Arabia in 2020, and then worked as a general surgery specialist for two years. His clinical interest lies in the field of Hepatopancreaticobiliary (HPB) Surgery. The complexity of HPB surgery encouraged his motivation to become an HPB surgeon.

Back home, he lives and works in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia. Unlike the general population of the eastern province, the numbers of HPB surgeons are very limited. Therefore, it is his goal to give back to his community and younger generations of surgeons and provide them with high quality HPB care and service. He aims to implement MIS HPB, including Robotic HPB. There are currently no centers in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia performing robotic HPB, so his goal is to be the first to implement these procedures back home. Outside of work, he loves playing video games and is also a big fan of football (soccer), his favorite team is Real Madrid.



Dr. Abdulaziz Ali

Dr. Abdulaziz Ali is a Kuwaiti native and a product of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for his undergraduate medical education. His academic journey led him to McGill, where he completed his general surgery training, earning certifications from both the Canadian and American Boards of Surgery.

He refined his skills further through a Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Fellowship and is currently wrapping up his second fellowship in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery at McGill. This journey brought him back to Kuwait, where he is thrilled to start his role as an Assistant Professor at Kuwait University, directly impacting the training of medical students.

His dedication to the medical community goes beyond clinical practice. He proudly participated in the Surgical



Division of
General Surgery

Foundation Committee during his McGill residency, contributing to the growth of aspiring surgeons.

Outside the operating room, he maintains a strong passion for bodybuilding and nutrition, a commitment that persisted through the challenges of residency, showcasing his dedication and resilience.



Sultan Almuallem

Dr. Almuallem came from Saudi Arabia and completed his residency training in General Surgery in beautiful Atlantic Canada at Dalhousie University. Then he joined the Bariatric Surgery Fellowship program at McGill University. His goal is to practice surgery with passion and ambition, and not only as a job. Translating the experience he gained from Canada to Saudi Arabia, is his next step... He also loves playing soccer and fishing!

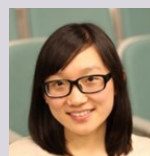


Amro Jastaniah

Dr. Amro S. Jastaniah is from Saudi Arabia. He graduated from Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. After completing his general surgery board in 2019, he worked on staff in general surgery back home and was appointed as the program director for the general surgery program, as well as the OR director in his hospital. In 2023, he joined the McGill Surgical Oncology Fellowship program.

For Amro, surgery is an art that gives him the privilege to offer patients life-saving, life-prolonging, and pain-relieving treatments. He enjoys teaching residents and medical students and guiding them through their residency training journey while maintaining their well-being.

After completing his fellowship, he aspires to focus his career on upper GI malignancies, sarcoma, and HPB surgery. Outside of the surgical field, he enjoys outdoor adventures, photography, and scuba diving.

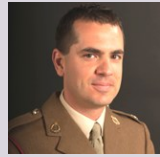


Jing Yang Elaine Tang

Dr. Tang was born in Chongqing, China, before moving to North America. She obtained her undergraduate medical degree at Western University in London, Ontario, where she also completed her General Surgery residency and a Critical Care Medicine fellowship. She has an interest in quality improvement, with a focus in surgical education, medical ethics, and palliative care. Outside of medicine, she enjoys home improvement projects, food, photography, and literature. She also has two young kids at home, so most of her spare time is spent chasing them around.

General Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME



John Whitaker

John Whitaker graduated from Nottingham University medical school and completed General Surgery training in the UK. He was awarded an outstanding thesis prize for a PhD in Global Health at King's College London, researching trauma health system evaluation strategies in low- and middle-income countries. As a British Army Officer, he undertook general duties in Germany and was deployed to operations in Afghanistan. His academic interests lie at the intersection of Military Medicine, Global Health, and trauma health system research. He serves on the UK's Centre for Defense Engagement faculty and Academic Department for Military Surgery and Trauma. During surgical training, he undertook several short-term surgical care delivery missions with the NGO Hernia International in sub-Saharan Africa. He also led surgical training capacity building workshops with the NGO Mercy Ships in several sub-Saharan African countries. Prior to joining the British Army, he worked in a mission hospital in rural Madagascar and served as a trustee for a UK charity supporting this endeavor. He is married to Emily, has two young children, and enjoys water polo and cricket.

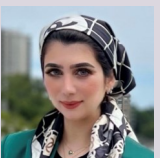
Shamlan AlQinai
Nhayan Abdulla

Colorectal Surgery Residency Program



Dr. Liza Abraham

Dr. Liza Abraham completed her medical school and general surgery residency training at the University of Toronto. In her free time, she enjoys watching basketball, spending time with her family, and biking.



Dr. Abrar Alhashemi

Dr. Alhashemi graduated from Kuwait University with a BSc in Medical Sciences and MD before joining and graduating from the McGill General Surgery program in 2023.

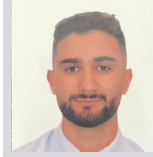
She is currently pursuing a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at McGill University, after which she will be returning to Kuwait to establish her Colorectal practice and become one of the first female Colorectal Surgeons.

She is an active member of SAGES, specifically involved in panel discussions in the field of Colorectal Surgery. Dr. Alhashemi also enjoys mentoring medical students and general surgery residents in their medical training and has been an active member in the Association of Women



Division of
General Surgery

Surgeons-Kuwait and McGill Chapter. Outside of work she has a passion for fashion, design and enjoys lots of shopping.



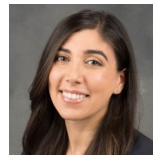
Dr. Anthony Bismar

Dr. Bismar pursued his medical studies and completed his surgical residency at the University of Sherbrooke. With a fervor for the outdoors, he thrives on activities like skiing, horseback riding, and various sports in nature, including biking. Beyond his surgical pursuits, Dr. Bismar is actively engaged in medical education and exhibits a strong interest in surgical leadership.

Graduates 2023



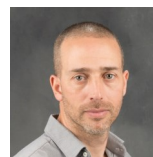
Colorectal Surgery Residency Program



Dr. Maria Abou Khalil

Maria completed her general surgery residency at McGill in 2021. During her residency, she also pursued a Master's degree in Epidemiology under the guidance of Dr. Marylise Boutros. Afterward, Maria joined the Colorectal Surgery Fellowship program at McGill, where she successfully completed her PhD in Experimental Surgery, focusing on the surgical management of C. difficile colitis. Maria is excited to have joined the general surgery department at St. Mary's Hospital, where she has a predominantly colorectal surgical practice.

Outside of work, Maria loves to spend time with her family. She is the proud wife of Mihiran and mother of Raphael and Lia. Throughout her training and beyond, her family and friends have provided invaluable support.



Dr. Alon Wachtel

Alon commenced his medical education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, followed by the successful completion of his general surgery residency at Kaplan Medical Center. He then pursued a colorectal fellowship, successfully concluding it at McGill University in July of 2023. Under the guidance of Dr. Marylise Boutros, Alon engaged in clinical research as part of his professional practice.

Alon is married to Rotem and is the proud parent of three boys named Yair, Neta, and Geva. They have returned to Israel, where Alon is actively practicing both general and colorectal surgery.

General Surgery Residency Program



Division of General Surgery

Graduates 2023

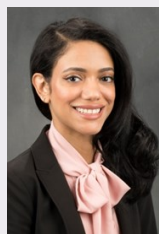


General Surgery Graduating Chiefs



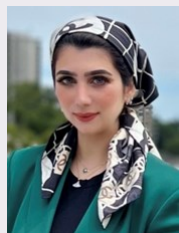
Graduating Fellows June - August 2023

Bariatric Surgery:	Najla ALGhaithi
Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS):	Abdulaziz Ali
Advanced MIS Training in HPB Surgery:	Michael Neumann
Transplant, Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery:	Jennifer Kalil
Advanced Thoracic and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgical Oncology:	Joseph Seitlinger James Tankel
Trauma Surgery:	Shamlan ALQinai Ayalon Rotem
Surgical Simulation:	Nadja Benmohamed



Dr. Nasra Albusaidi

Nasra obtained her medical degree from Sultan Qaboos University in Oman before joining McGill General Surgery in 2018. During her residency she was an active member of the resident body serving as VP-social of the McGill General Surgery Residents Committee. She participated in clinical research under the supervision of Dr. Sinziana Dumitra & Dr. Marylise Boutros. She enjoys café hopping, hanging out with dogs & retail therapy. Nasra will be pursuing a Colorectal Surgery fellowship at the University of Ottawa.



Dr. Abrar Alhashemi

Abrar graduated from Kuwait University before continuing on with her surgical training and joined the McGill General Surgery family in 2018. Abrar participated in clinical research under the supervision of Dr Marylise Boutros and has been an active member and speaker at SAGES, particularly in the field of Colorectal surgery. She is an active member of the Association of Women Surgeons- Kuwait and McGill Chapter mentoring young medical students. In her spare time Abrar loves shopping and everything related to fashion. After completing her residency, she will pursue a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at McGill University.



Dr. Hatim ALSulaim

Hatim ALSulaim was born and raised in Unaizah, Saudi Arabia. He obtain his medical degree from King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Before coming to Montreal, he completed a Master of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. During his time in Baltimore, he presented his research focusing on surgical outcomes at several surgical societies' meetings and has resulted in multiple publications.

Hatim joined McGill General Surgery Program in July 2018, where he developed interest in minimal invasive surgery techniques managing variety of conditions along the GI tract and abdominal wall. After his residency, he will be pursuing a fellowship in minimally invasive and bariatric surgery at the University of Toronto. Upon completion, he will head back to his hometown and will be joining Qassim University with the goal that the added skill set and training he posses will help establishing a bariatric center and will have positive impact on the available expertise at the University newly establish center. He truly believes that he would not have made it without the support of his parent, his wife Thana, and his kids Osama, Almothana, and Faisal.



Dr. Alen Anton

Alen is originally from Ottawa, Ontario where he completed his undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences in 2013. He then went on to join McGill University's MDCM program and started General Surgery residency in

General Surgery Residency Program

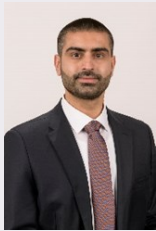
Division of General Surgery

Graduates 2023



General Surgery Graduating Chiefs

2017. He participated in Surgical Education Research during his training under the supervision of Dr. C. Mueller and Dr. L. Lee. He enjoys playing soccer and trying out new restaurants. After residency, he will be starting a fellowship at McMaster University in Minimally Invasive Surgery.



Dr. Aqeel Ashraf

Aqeel Ashraf obtained his medical degree from Kuwait University before joining the McGill General Surgery residency program in 2018. He participated in clinical research under the supervision of Dr. S. Dumitra. During his residency, he developed a great passion for transplant and hepatobiliary surgery. After graduating, he will pursue his training in abdominal transplant surgery in Indianapolis.



Dr. Teodora Dumitra

Teddy was born in Romania. She obtained her MD at Université de Montréal before joining the McGill General Surgery program in 2015. During residency, she also obtained a Master in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and PhD in Experimental Surgery under the supervision and mentorship of Dr. Liane Feldman. After residency, she will be pursuing a prestigious fellowship in Complex Surgical Oncology at Cedars Sinai in Los Angeles. Upon completion, Dr. Dumitra will be returning to McGill as an academic Surgical Oncologist. She would not have accomplished so much in the last 8 years without the continuous support of her parents, sister, and husband Stephen.



Dr. Giuseppe Frenda

Giuseppe obtained his medical degree from McGill University. After completing 2 years of General Surgery residency at the University of Ottawa, he continued his surgical training at McGill in 2019. Giuseppe is interested in minimally invasive surgery. He participated in clinical research under the supervision of Dr. Sinziana



Dumitra, where he completed a master's degree in clinical epidemiology under the clinician-investigator program at McGill. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends. After residency, Giuseppe will pursue a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Richard Garfinkle



Richard joined the McGill General Surgery residency program in 2015. During his surgical training, he completed a Master's in Epidemiology and a PhD in Experimental Surgery under the supervision of Dr. Marylise Boutros, focusing on the outcomes of patients undergoing colorectal

surgery. In

addition to obtaining both provincial and federal research funding, Richard has received numerous presentation and teaching awards. He is an active member of SAGES and is the current candidate member on the SAGES Board of Governors. Richard is also a proud husband to Rebecca, and father to Ezra and Lola. Next year, he will be heading to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, for his Colorectal Surgery fellowship.



Dr. Brent Hopkins

Brent is a Montrealer who completed medical school at McGill University and continued into the General Surgery Program. He completed a Master's in Epidemiology during his residency under the supervision of Dr. Lee. Next year, he will be a fellow in Trauma and Acute Care

Surgery at the University of Toronto. Brent has a passion for outdoor activity including rock climbing, cross-country skiing, and canoe camping. He can be spotted on Mont-Royal, where is often walked by his dog in the early morning.



Dr. Nadia Safa

Nadia obtained her medical degree from McGill University in 2016 before joining the McGill General Surgery residency program. During her residency, she pursued a Master's degree in Epidemiology under the supervision and mentorship of Dr. Sherif Emil, with a focus

on clinical outcomes in pediatric surgery. Outside of the operating room, she enjoys baking, travelling, and spending time with family and friends. Following residency, she will be completing a fellowship in Pediatric General Surgery at McMaster University.

Division of Orthopedic Surgery



Tribute to Dr. Mulder and the 1993 Stanley Cup Champions: Over \$1.5M raised!

Reprinted with permission from the MGH Foundation: www.mghfoundation.com/en/news/



Dr. David S. Mulder surrounded by his loved ones and the Stanley Cup on November 9, 2023.

MONTREAL (November 9, 2023) It is with pride and enthusiasm that the Montreal Canadiens' family and the Montreal General Hospital Foundation joined forces to honour Dr. David S. Mulder and the 1993 Stanley Cup champions at a grand event held at the Bell Centre tonight.

The evening was an opportunity to celebrate Dr. Mulder's distinguished career at the Montreal General Hospital and his 60 years with the Club, including 24 years as Head Team Physician. Inspired by the celebration of Dr. Mulder's career and the community involvement of our organizations, this unique fundraising gala raised more than \$1.5M. The funds raised will be allocated to the Montreal General Hospital Foundation, the Serge Savard Fund of the Fondation de l'Université de Sherbrooke and the Emergency Centennial Fund for the Montreal Canadiens Alumni.

"I am delighted to see the business, sports and philanthropic communities come together to celebrate Dr. Mulder's illustrious career and, by the same token, pay tribute to our 1993 Stanley Cup champions for what remains an unforgettable moment in franchise history" said Owner, President and CEO of Groupe CH and Honorary Chair of the event, Geoff Molson. "It's a privilege for us to host this celebratory event at the Bell Centre, which has made it possible to donate \$1.5 million to charities near and dear to all of us. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the donors and our honorary committee that played a key role in the success of this evening. Last, but certainly not least, I salute the truly exceptional career of Dr. Mulder, who dedicated

(See continuation on next page) ▶

(Mulder continued from previous page)



Division of Orthopedic Surgery



much of his life to our team and our players.”

Beyond the game of hockey

“Dr. Mulder’s legacy extends beyond the rink. His key role in establishing the trauma network in Quebec in 1993 was exemplary. The Dr. David S. Mulder Trauma Center is a testament to its great impact on health care. The funds raised on this occasion will allow us to invest in a whole new generation of scientists who are following in Dr. Mulder’s footsteps,” said Stephanie Riddell, President and CEO of the Montreal General Hospital Foundation.

Heal, Help, Win

“The relationship that has united the Montreal General Hospital and the Canadiens for more than a century has positioned us at the forefront of medical care for elite athletes and the entire population. While the Montreal General Hospital provides life-saving care, the Canadiens organization is giving back a hundredfold by supporting a number of new projects. I am extremely grateful for the

opportunity to have worked with Canadiens throughout my career and it is an honour to support the next generation of physicians to push the boundaries of medicine for the benefit of all,” said Dr. David S. Mulder.

The event was also the ideal opportunity to salute the achievements of the 1993 Stanley Cup champions as this year marks the 30th anniversary of this historic moment! It was in a festive atmosphere that some of the greatest Canadiens fans had the chance to meet some of these star players and celebrate their remarkable triumph.

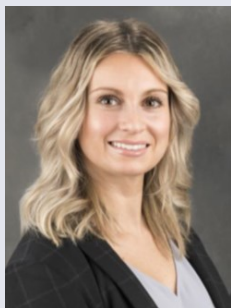
Hand in hand to victory

Serge Savard, General Manager of the 1993 Montreal Canadiens’ championship team, took the opportunity to emphasize that success is always a team effort. This vital collaboration also unites the organizations that were involved in this event.

“A leader first leads by example; he sacrifices himself for his team. And it takes several of them to achieve success. It takes 20.” Serge Savard, General Manager of the 1993 Montreal Canadiens Stanley Cup champions.

In addition to this evening, an online silent auction, open to the public, also took place from November 1 to 9, to the enjoyment of hockey fans, who took advantage of this opportunity to purchase, among others, items autographed by the legendary players of the 1993 team. ♦

WELCOME



Dr. Alexandra Bunting

Orthopaedic Trauma & Adult Reconstruction

We are very happy to announce the hiring of Dr Alexandra Bunting to our active staff at the Montreal General Hospital. Dr Bunting is a graduate of the University of Ottawa’s Medical School and Orthopaedic Training Program

where she was highly regarded for her intelligence, discipline and surgical skill. She then completed fellowship training in Complex Arthroplasty of the Hip and Knee in Adelaide,

Australia before joining our Orthopaedic Trauma team as Clinical Fellow. Her work ethic, intelligence, and technical rigour made her an ideal addition to our team. She is completing a Masters in Surgical Robotics and Artificial Intelligence which is the focus of her research program. We look forward to a successful career as an academic surgeon. In December, Alex and her husband announced they were expecting their first child. She will return from maternity leave in the Spring of 2024.

WELCOME

Dr. Justin Drager Assistant Professor

The Division welcomes paediatric surgeon Dr. Justin Drager. After completing his residency at McGill University, he went on to pursue three years of fellowship (Trauma at the University of Missouri, Shoulder and Elbow at the University of Chicago, and Paediatric Orthopaedics at the University of Ottawa) before joining the Paediatric Surgery team at the Montreal Children's and Shriners' Hospital. Justin has a master's degree in Experimental Surgery and plans to continue his exciting research on cartilage.



Mrs. Hartley Dutczak and
Dr. Justin Drager

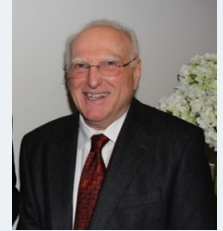
Division of Orthopedic Surgery



Best Wishes!

Dr. Eric Lenczner retires from the MGH

After 40 years of service at the Montréal General Hospital, Eric Lenczner formally retired in November 2023. Athletes of all levels, from amateur to professional, have received his care during the course of his career. He was chosen as the team surgeon for the McGill varsity teams, the Montreal Canadiens, and the Alouettes. He was presented with the Laval Leclerc Award from the AOQ and the LD MacLean Award from the Department of Surgery in recognition of his contributions to numerous regional, provincial, and national organizations. We hope that his retirement will be healthy and plenty of time to spend with Linda, his wife, and his children and grandchildren.



Dr. Lawrence Lincoln resigns from St-Mary's.

Dr. Larry Lincoln resigned from St. Mary's Hospital in July 2023. He attended medical school and completed his residency at McGill University. He started practicing Orthopaedics in 1988 and has been involved in teaching within the McGill Division of Orthopaedics since 1992, initially at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Since 1996, he has worked as a member of the Orthopaedic Team at St. Mary's in arthroscopy and joint replacement surgery.



Congrats! Accomplishments



Rahul Gawri Assistant Professor

Co-director, Regenerative Orthopaedics
and Innovation Laboratory

Alice L. Jee Young Investigator Award

We're delighted to announce that Rahul Gawri has been honored with the prestigious **Alice L. Jee Young Investigator Award** by the **Orthopaedics Research Society (USA)**. This recognition was presented at the **50th Musculoskeletal Biology Workshop** in July 2023, in acknowledgment of his research project entitled "*Advancement of fracture healing outcomes through the innovative inorganic polyphosphate-releasing thermoresponsive hydrogel*" and its profound impact on the field of bone bioengineering.

Noteworthy Grants

Dr. Gawri was awarded two notable grants as Principal Investigator in June 2023. For his project entitled *Immunoattractant and mitoprotective roles of inorganic polyphosphates*, he was awarded a **5-year NSERC Discovery Grant**. In collaboration with co-investigators, **Dr. Paul Martineau** and **Dr. Derek Rosenzweig**, he also received a grant in the amount of \$50K from the **Réseau de Thérapie Cellulaire, Tissulaire et Génique du Québec (ThéCell)** for his project entitled "*Biomechanical Priming of Primary Human Anterior Cruciate Ligament Cells for Tissue Engineering Applications*". **Well done!**

EVENTS

3rd Annual Orthopaedic Research Night



The Division of Orthopaedic Surgery held its 3rd annual Research Night at the Bellini Medical Building on Monday October 23rd, 2023. Over 80 participants attended this informal event to discuss research with members of the 10 active research labs within the Division. The event has been a successful recruitment strategy to attract post-graduate students, medical students, and residents to join our successful research programs.

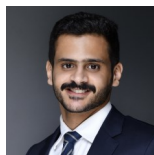


The Division of Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program welcomed five new residents at the start of the 2023-2024 academic year.



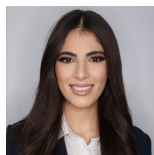
Dr. Mohammed Aldeghaither

Dr. Mohammed Aldeghaither was born in Saudi Arabia and completed medical school at King Saud University. Prior to joining the McGill Orthopedic Surgery Residency program, Mohammed worked for 15 months in Riyadh as a resident in King Abdelaziz Medical City in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. While at McGill, Mohammed aspires to focus clinically on the surgical aspects of Orthopedic Trauma and Spine and aims to pursue a fellowship program to further his training in the field, with an objective to be more involved in research. Outside of residency, Mohammed enjoys playing sports, watching movies and travelling.



Dr. Khaled Alrajhi

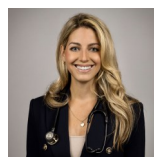
Dr. Khaled Alrajhi, born and raised in Kuwait, graduated from the faculty of medicine at Kuwait University in 2021. Orthopedic surgery captured his interest from the outset due to the immense satisfaction it provides and the marvel of the human body's mechanics in facilitating movement. His clinical and research interests lie in sports medicine and upper extremity. Beyond the realm of medicine, Khaled can often be found exploring the world whenever opportunities arise, capturing moments with his iPhone camera.



Dr. Isabella Bozzo

Dr. Isabella Bozzo, originally from Canada with Italian roots, pursued medical education at McGill University after completing a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. Inspired by the dynamic nature of surgery, she was drawn to its technical challenges and collaborative environment. With a background in biomedical engineering, her interests led to ongoing research projects aimed at enhancing diagnostic capabilities in orthopedics. Particularly passionate about pediatric orthopedics, Isabella finds joy in treating young patients and guiding them back to an active lifestyle. Isabella aspires to become an academic surgeon, imparting knowledge to future generations and contributing to scientific advancements. In the short-term, she looks forward to gaining exposure to various surgical specialties, while longer-term aspirations include establishing her career in an academic setting. With experiences ranging from surfing in Hawaii to cycling in the Italian Alps, Isabella

brings a diverse perspective to her surgical journey. Outside of medicine, Isabella enjoys indulging in culinary explorations, traveling, and sports.



Dr. Christina Jenny Greenfield

Dr. Christina Jenny Greenfield, a Canadian corporate lawyer and first-year resident in Orthopaedic Surgery at McGill University, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Ottawa in 2015, achieving a civil law degree and subsequently passing the Quebec Bar in 2016. Her legal career began at the Montreal law firm of Davies, Ward, Phillips, & Vineberg, followed by valuable international experience at the top-tier M&A law firm, Corrs, Chambers, Westgarth in Sydney, Australia.

In 2017, Christina attained her Juris Doctor from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Apart from legal pursuits, she is committed to education, serving as a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Canadian Law, resulting in a nomination for the Christopher Knapper Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2018, Christina embarked on a new path by enrolling in medical school at the University of Montreal. Fueled by a passion for enhancing an individuals' quality of life, she chose to specialize in Orthopaedic Surgery. Her residency at McGill University signifies the beginning of a chapter where she will leverage her unique blend of legal and medical expertise. Christina is motivated by the solution-focused nature of Orthopaedic Surgery and its profound impact on patients' overall well-being. As a dynamic and forward-thinking professional, she is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Rheema Ahmad Alfadhil (King Saud University, SA)



NEW Fellows



Dr Mohammad Abu Haneya

Dr Mohammad Abu Haneya was born in Jerusalem, graduated from the University of Jordan School with a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in 2013, and pursued Orthopedic residency at Hadassah University Hospital from 2016 to 2022. During his residency, Mohammad was chosen as Excellent Resident of the Year in 2019. He completed a one-

Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME

Division of
Orthopedic Surgery

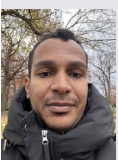


NEW Fellows *continued*

year fellowship in Arthroplasty at Hadassah University Hospital in Israel and is currently pursuing an additional year of fellowship in Arthroplasty at Saint Mary Hospital.

Being accepted into the Orthopedic Residency program at Hadassah Hospital was truly a momentous day and nothing short of a dream come true for Mohammed. He credits working with many inspirational attendings in helping him become the clinician he is today. His years of residency made him realize that as an orthopedic surgeon, his role isn't limited to only performing surgeries, but equally important is the connection he develops with his patient during their therapeutic journey, a relationship he knows will facilitate their recovery.

His commitment to ensuring that his patients receive the best possible care is demonstrated in his dedication to providing exceptional patient management and treatment. He has gained valuable experience working at various esteemed medical centers, including Clalit Medical Center in Jerusalem and Bikor Rofeh Medical Centers in Tel Aviv. In addition to his clinical work, Mohammed has been actively involved in academic activities, having conducted and participated in various basic science and clinical orthopedics research projects. He believes that his academic, professional, and personal skills, in combination with his dedication to the field will surely make him an exceptional Arthroplasty Orthopedic surgeon. Outside of medicine, Mohammed enjoys many sports like swimming, squash, and tennis. He speaks Arabic, English, and Hebrew, and sees himself as a curious lifelong learner and traveler, having traveled to many countries around the world.



Dr. Amur Salim Al Riyami

Dr. Al Riyami graduated from Sultan Qaboos University in Basic Health Sciences in 2008 and an MD in 2011. He completed his specialization in Orthopedics in 2023 at Khoula Hospital, Oman, before joining the Foot and Ankle Fellowship program at McGill University and the Jewish General Hospital.



Dr. Dimitris Dimitriou

Dr. Dimitris Dimitriou was born in Cyprus and pursued medical school at Athens Medical School, Greece. Prior to joining the McGill Arthroplasty Fellowship program, Dimitris completed his residency and a fellowship in Zurich,

Switzerland. His desire to pursue surgery was inspired by the challenging opportunities, required discipline, and the ability to perform under enormous pressure. In the case of orthopedic surgery, he wanted to improve a patient's mobility and quality of life. He has published over 70 peer-review articles and received many notable awards, including the Venel-Prize in 2020 for best clinical paper published in Switzerland, and the Harold-Vasey award for best written orthopedic examinations in Switzerland. Dimitris is interested in hip and knee arthroplasty and hopes to contribute to the field of orthopedics through his clinical practice and innovative research pursuits. Outside of orthopedics, Dimitris enjoys working out at the gym, skiing, hiking, and spending quality time with his family. Fun fact, Dimitris is always on time, just like a Swiss watch!



Dr. Alan Katz

Dr. Alan Katz was born and raised in New Jersey, USA. After university, where he majored in biology, he moved to Israel and studied medicine at

Technion School of Medicine. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, Israel, where he was Chief Resident and the head of the Orthopedic Physicians-Assistant Program. He joined the Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship program at McGill specifically to learn cutting-edge techniques from experts in the field and receive valuable hands-on experience. Outside of medicine, Alan enjoys spending time with his family, playing basketball and football, and tending to his fruit trees.



Dr. Vanessa Morello

Dr. Vanessa Morello was born and raised in Marostica, a small village in northern Italy. After graduating from Med School in Trieste, she left Italy to pursue a specialization in orthopedic

surgery in Geneva, Switzerland, earning her Specialty Diploma in 2023. For the last few years, Vanessa has been focusing on adult Ortho Trauma, operating up to five days per week, along with managing and teaching residents and medical students. She has a particular interest in pelvic trauma and looks forward to being involved in a few research projects in the field. Having lived in Italy, New Zealand, Spain and Switzerland, Vanessa speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish.

Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME

Division of
Orthopedic Surgery

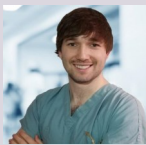


Chief Residents



Dr. Lucy Luo

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



Dr. Simon Martel

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

FELLOWSHIP	NEW Fellows
JGH Arthroplasty	Mohammed Ali Alhasson
JGH Arthroplasty	Dimitris Dimitriou
JGH Arthroplasty	Ibrahim Almazrui
JGH Foot & Ankle	Amur Salim Al Riyami
SMH Arthroscopy	Saud Alfayez
SMH Arthroplasty	Mohammad Yousef Abuhaneya
Pediatrics & Limb Deformity	Mohammed AlOtaibi
Pediatrics & Limb Deformity	Alan Katz
Pediatrics & Limb Deformity	Nadav Rinott
Pediatrics & Limb Deformity	Peter Staunton
Pediatric Orthopaedic Spine & Scoliosis	Abdullah Alshammari
MGH Arthroplasty	Hashem Alali
Ortho Oncology, Complex Lower Limb Reconstruction and Osseointegration	Nabil Algarni
MGH Trauma	Vanessa Morello
MGH Oncology	Omar Alrifai
Integrated Spine Fellowship	Uri Barak
Sports Medicine & Arthroscopy Research & Clinical	Yahav Levy



Graduates 2023



Dr. Faisal Alfayyadh

Dr. Faisal Alfayyadh graduated with honors from the College of Medicine at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He started his Orthopedic Surgery Residency at McGill in 2018. Throughout his journey, Faisal received various awards

including the prestigious Pierre Dupuis award for outstanding teaching. Furthermore, Faisal was honored to represent McGill at the American Orthopaedic Association leadership conference in 2022. Upon graduation, Faisal will be pursuing a fellowship in Adult Hip & Knee Reconstruction at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Ultimately, Faisal will be heading back to join the Orthopedic department at

King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Faisal dedicates all his success to his parents for their endless support, his siblings for their constant inspiration, and his loving wife, Lama, for her unconditional love.



Dr. Abdullah Alshammari

Dr. Abdullah Alshammari completed his MD from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Bahrain. In 2018, he joined the McGill Orthopaedic Surgery Residency. Dr. Alshammari will be pursuing a fellowship in Pediatric Spine at McGill University followed by a second year of Adult Spine Fellowship, prior to heading back to his home country, Kuwait.

Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program



Graduates 2023

Division of
Orthopedic Surgery



EVENTS

Our Resident Social events are a crucial part of our curriculum as we strive to promote resident wellness and team spirit within the program. We held two social events this past summer.

Our 6th annual McGill Orthopaedic Surgery Bicycle Ride & Brunch was held on August 12, 2023, with 15 staff and residents in attendance.

Orthopaedic Surgery Resident Retreat

On August 19th, the Orthopaedic Residency Program held their Annual Resident Retreat. It was a day full of adventure and camaraderie starting with white

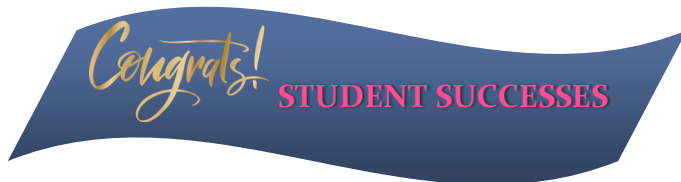


water rafting on the class 3 and 4 rapids of the Rouge River. Comfort zones were challenged, memories were made, and everyone got wet. Afterwards, they enjoyed a BBQ meal and warmed up around the fire and hot tubs. The fun continued with sand volleyball and horseshoes as the residents enjoyed their time together away from the hospital.



Dr. Julien Montreuil

Dr. Julien Montreuil completed his medical school training at *Université de Montréal* before entering McGill University Orthopaedic Surgery residency program. He also completed a Master's in Musculoskeletal Biomedical Sciences. In his free time, Julien enjoys cycling, backcountry skiing and hockey. Through his dedication to teaching and approach to patients, Julien hopes to foster a positive work environment for his colleagues. Consistently aiming for efficiency, innovation, and value-based healthcare, Julien strongly believes that every resident can enrich the clinical, research, and educational pillars of the Orthopaedic Division. Julien hopes to solidify McGill's strong reputation as a premiere centre for orthopedic training, particularly in the fields of Musculoskeletal Oncology and Complex Reconstruction. He plans on pursuing the remainder of his career in Montreal where he can rejoin his family and friends.



McGill Ortho Residency Program - Resident Research Awards

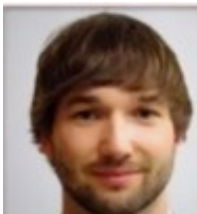
2023 Orthopaedic Resident Research Award Winners:



R3 Carl Laverdière



R1 Isabella Bozzo



R4 Simon Martel

27th Annual Canadian Connective Tissue Conference

Congratulations to Dr. Gawri's graduate students for winning the following awards at the 27th Annual Canadian Connective Tissue Conference (CCTC), held in June 2023.

Tarek Klaylat - Reducing Barriers Award

Rachad Aita - Travel Award

Rayan Ben Letaifa - Best Poster Presentation

Prix Benoit-Morin de l'AOQ 2023 Recipient Dr. Muadh AlZeedi

Dr. Muadh AlZeedi presented his Research Paper at the Annual Meeting on September 28, 2023.





Division of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mirko Gilardino, MD
Division Director



Joshua Vorstenbosch, MD, PhD
Residency Program Director



Anie Philip, PhD
Research Director

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

As a leader in surgical education, our residency training program attracts the finest trainees from across the

country that participate in the complex, tertiary cases referred to our centre. Our Division is proud to graduate three to four highly trained Plastic Surgeons per year along with one Craniofacial Surgery subspecialty fellow. Combined with a highly productive and dedicated full-time research team and infrastructure, McGill Plastic Surgery oversees numerous MSc and PhD students annually, and continues to produce a high volume of peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.

Taken as a whole, McGill Plastic Surgery embodies the true nature of a high-level academic surgery program, encompassing innovative patient care, surgical education and training of future plastic surgeons and pioneering research.

Mirko Gilardino

EVENTS

The Neville & Vivienne Poy Fellowship in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery



It is with great enthusiasm that the McGill Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery announce the creation of a new fellowship thanks to a generous endowment by Dr. Neville Poy and Senator Vivienne Poy.

The Neville and Vivian Poy Postdoctoral Fellowship in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Leadership will be one of the first true Academic Aesthetic Surgery fellowships in Canada, and will involve both clinical

research and technical exposure in the field. The fellowship director, Dr. A. Nikolis, along with our experienced faculty will ensure that this fellowship provides state-of-the-art training and exposure by leaders in the field of Plastic Surgery.

The first fellow will begin in July 2025!

EVENTS

Annual Visiting Professor

Richard J. Warren MD, FRCSC

June 9, 2023



Dr Richard J. Warren is a Clinical Professor of Surgery and past Chairman of Plastic Surgery at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. He is the founder and Medical Director of the Vancouver Plastic Surgery Center, with a practice that focuses on aesthetic surgery of the face and breast.

Dr. Warren is a native of British Columbia where he attended university and Medical School. He did a rotating internship in California, residency in British Columbia and a fellowship in Virginia before joining the faculty at UBC. He is the past Chairman of Plastic Surgery with the Royal College, past president for both the Canadian Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and the Northwest Society of Plastic Surgeons, and previous Director of Education for the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

Dr. Warren has written multiple scientific publications, 15 textbook chapters and was the Editor of the Aesthetics Volume for Neligan's 6 volume text. He has been the visiting professor at 23 different Universities and has given over 500 presentations around the world. He is the recipient of several awards including the Wallace Wilson Leadership Award from the University of BC, the Ralph Millard Award from the Canadian Aesthetic Society, the President's Medal and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

NEW Program

Thanks to the support and fundraising efforts of the Cedars and MGH Foundations, the McGill Division of Plastic Surgery will be starting a surgical lymphedema program with the addition of a new microscope and specialized equipment. This multidisciplinary team will add to the existing well-established MUHC Medical Lymphedema program and will be spear-headed by **Dr. Josh Vorstenbosch** on the Plastic Surgery side in conjunction with **Dr. Sarkis Meterissian** and **Dr. Anna Towers**.



Division of
Plastic, Reconstructive &
Aesthetic Surgery

Martin Entin Guest Lecturer

Mitchell H. Brown, MD

December 14, 2023



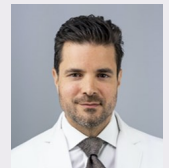
Dr. Mitchell H. Brown, is a Professor in the Department of Surgery, past Program Director of the plastic surgery training program and current Chair of the Division of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery at the University of Toronto.

The focus of Dr. Brown's plastic surgery practice is primarily on reconstructive and aesthetic breast surgery and body contouring.

Dr. Brown is the Founder of Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day, an advocacy initiative to raise awareness for options in breast reconstruction. Dr. Brown is the Chair of the Toronto Breast Surgery Symposium, Canada's largest annual meeting focused on plastic surgery of the breast. He is a member of the Canadian Society for Aesthetic (Cosmetic) Plastic Surgery, the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons, The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, The American Association of Plastic Surgeons, and the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

Congrats! Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Dr. Gilardino** on his promotion to the rank of Professor of Surgery and Pediatric Surgery this past spring!



Dr. Josh Vorstenbosch has stepped in as the Plastic Surgery Residency Program Director, taking over for **Dr. Stephanie Thibaudeau** who was awarded the prestigious McGill Faculty Honour List award in June 2023!

Kudos to both of them for their outstanding work and dedication to our residency program!

WELCOME

Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery Residency Program

Plastic Surgery – Craniofacial Fellow



Dr. Mohammed Almarghoub

Dr. Almarghoub obtained his medical degree from King Abdulaziz University and completed residency training in plastic surgery at King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Saudi

Arabia. Prior to beginning his Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship at McGill University, we worked an attending surgeon for two years at King Abdullah University Hospital.



Division of
Plastic, Reconstructive &
Aesthetic Surgery



Dr. Charles Arcand

Dr. Charles Arcand, a certified family physician from Université Laval, transitioned to McGill's plastic, reconstructive, and aesthetic surgery program after serving as an attending physician in rural hospitals for two years. Simultaneously, he pursued an M.Sc. in clinical sciences with a focus on tissue engineering, while actively contributing to the enhancement of medical and surgical education. Dr. Arcand played a pivotal role in expanding clinical exposure for medical students at Université Laval. Beyond medicine, he finds joy in skiing, cycling, and mastering the art of cuisine.

The Division welcomes three new residents for the 2023-2024 academic year.



Dr. Maithaa AlShamsi

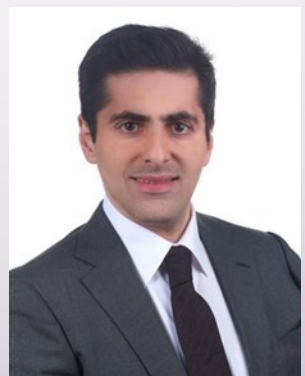
Dr. Maithaa AlShamsi obtained her medical degree from United Arab Emirates University. She was inspired to pursue plastic and reconstructive surgery training after seeing how a reconstructive surgery has restored a family member's quality of life. In her free time, she enjoys painting, puzzle games and traveling.



Dr. Caroline Esmonde-White

Dr. Caroline Esmonde-White was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario. After high school, she moved to Montreal to attend McGill University, studying Cognitive Sciences. She then went on to complete a Master's Degree at Université de Montréal in Molecular and Cellular Medicine. After working as a medical writer for a year, she moved to London, Ontario to pursue medical school at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University. She is delighted to return to McGill University for her residency training in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. In her spare time, she loves trying new recipes, travelling, and staying active with running and yoga.

NEW 2023-2024 Chief Resident



Dr. Abdulaziz AlRashid

Dr. Abdulaziz AlRashid, originally from Kuwait, completed his secondary school and medical education in the UK before deciding to move to Canada to continue his surgical training. This experience was transformative, shaping him into a compassionate and skilled physician and surgeon. Driven by a commitment to healthcare and wellbeing of patients, he aims to bring his knowledge and expertise back to Kuwait, contributing to advancements in medical practices and improving patient care through innovative surgical solutions. His passion lies in making a positive impact on the healthcare landscape and the well-being of everyone living in Kuwait.

Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
Residency Program



GRADUATES 2023



Dr. Tyler Safran

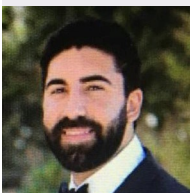
After graduating medicine from McGill University in 2018, Dr. Tyler Safran went on to join the McGill Division of Plastic Surgery as a resident. He additionally completed a MSc. in Experimental Surgery under the supervision of **Drs. Dionisopoulos** and **Vorstenbosch**. He has an interest in alloplastic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



Dr. Myriam Caruso MacDonald

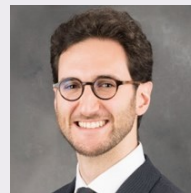
Dr. Myriam MacDonald is a Brazilian plastic surgeon who moved to Canada with her family and decided to retrain and practice here. Her main interests are breast surgery, aesthetics, and patient satisfaction. After graduating she will be doing a breast reconstruction fellowship at University of Ottawa.

Craniofacial Fellow Clinical Fellow



Dr. Peter Alam

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



Dr. Arturo Vela Lasagabaster

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



Division of
Plastic, Reconstructive &
Aesthetic Surgery

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Division of Thoracic Surgery

OUR TEAM



Dr. Lorenzo Ferri
Division Director



Dr. Jonathan Cools-Lartigue



Dr. David Mulder



Dr. Jonathan Spicer
Advanced Thoracic & Surgical
Oncology Fellowship Director



Dr. Carmen Mueller
Specialty Director of Education
Steinberg Centre for Simulation
and Interactive Learning



Dr. Sara Najmeh



Dr. Mathieu Rousseau



Dr. Christian Sirois

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

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

comprehensive esophageal and gastric cancer program in Canada.

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



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FOUNDATION

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Publications



WELCOME

Division of
Thoracic Surgery

New Researcher Dr. Trafford Crump

The McGill Department of Surgery Division of Thoracic Surgery would like to officially welcome our esteemed colleague Dr. Trafford Crump.

Dr. Trafford Crump is a distinguished researcher specializing in thoracic surgery, currently serving as a valuable addition to the Department of Surgery at McGill University. With a rich educational background and extensive qualifications, Dr. Crump brings a wealth of expertise to his role as an Associate Professor (Research) and Jarislowsky Foundation Chair in the Division of Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Crump's academic journey began with a strong foundation in evaluative clinical sciences, culminating in a Ph.D. from Dartmouth College under the mentorship of Dr. Hilary Llewellyn-Thomas. Following this, he embarked on a post-doctoral fellowship at the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research at the University of British Columbia, working alongside Dr. Jason Sutherland. It was during this period that Dr. Crump became intrigued by the logistical hurdles associated with integrating patient-reported outcomes into point-of-care settings. Leveraging his understanding of these challenges served as the foundation for his research program strategically aligned with real-world clinical limitations.

Motivated by a desire to improve patient outcomes and quality of life, Dr. Crump's current research in thoracic surgery focuses on collecting and analyzing data from patients to understand their symptoms, treatment preferences, and experiences. His primary area of focus is esophageal cancer, where he explores patient-reported endpoints to enhance personalized care and treatment outcomes.

Throughout his career, Dr. Crump has been involved in several notable research projects. During his post-doc at UBC, he co-led a project collecting patient-reported outcomes from individuals undergoing elective surgery. This innovative approach provided valuable insights into patient perspectives, enhancing our understanding of the surgical wait times and their impact on postoperative outcomes. Additionally, he

contributed to the establishment of the Alberta Prostate Cancer Research Initiative, which created a comprehensive registry for prostate cancer research, yielding impactful scientific and clinical research. Both projects demonstrate the feasibility and significance of systematically collecting patient-reported outcomes for rigorous research and informing policy decisions.

Dr. Crump's research has led to significant contributions in his field, particularly in understanding the complexities surrounding the use of patient-reported outcomes. He has shed light on the challenges involved and proposed strategies to address them, bringing the field closer to realizing the potential of personalized clinical practice.

A member of the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus, Dr. Crump has received prestigious awards and recognition for his work, including the Jarislowsky Foundation Chair in Thoracic Surgery and the Herbert S. Lang Award in Oncology and Surgery.

Dr. Crump remains actively engaged in the scientific community, collaborating with colleagues, and staying abreast of the latest advancements in thoracic surgery research. In fact, his commitment to staying informed on the latest advancements in his field prompted him to co-found "hipp.ai," an app designed to provide personalized updates on newly published peer-reviewed clinical research that can be tailored to an individual's specific interests and clinical specialty.

Outside of his professional pursuits, Dr. Crump enjoys running with his family and indulging in near-future sci-fi literature and media. Looking ahead, his goals within the division of thoracic surgery encompass modernizing approaches to collecting patient-reported endpoints, developing personalized risk prediction models, and innovating methods for integrating these models into clinical care seamlessly.

Dr. Trafford Crump's dedication to rigorous research and commitment to improving patient care position him as a prominent figure in the field of thoracic surgery research, with the potential to make enduring contributions in the years to come. ♦



McGill Annual Symposium on Upper-Gastrointestinal Cancers – October 28, 2023



For the 6th year, the Division of Thoracic Surgery were pleased to host a very successful Annual Symposium on Upper-Gastrointestinal Cancers ! This symposium aims to gather gastroenterologist, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, researchers and other healthcare professionals from across the world, in order to share their expertise on esophago-gastric carcinomas.

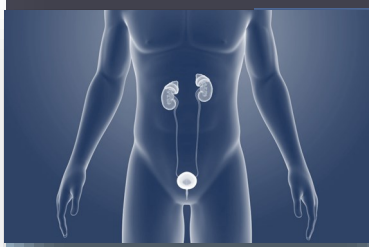
This year we welcomed a total of 14 guest speakers hailing from across the globe - from Amsterdam University Medical Centre in the Netherlands, Levan Cancer Institute in Belgium, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard in the United States, Limoges University Medical Centre in France, Universita Vita-Salute San Raffaele Hospital in Italy to name a few. ♦

From left to right – standing

Dr. Uma Sachdeva – Massachusetts General Hospital, **Dr. Matthew Stachler** University of California San Francisco, **Dr. Jonathan Yeung** University of Toronto, **Dr. Thierry Alcindor** (organizing committee), **Dr. Brandon Huffman** Dana-Farber Institute, **Dr. Mark Van berge Henegouwen** Amsterdam University Medical Center, **Dr. Charles Ménard** Université de Sherbrooke, **Dr. Jérémie Jacques Limoges** University Hospital , **Dr. Lorenzo Ferri** (organizing committee), **Dr. Joanne Alfieri** (organizing committee), **Dr. Karen Haustermans** University Hospital Leuven, **Dr. Andrew Seely** University of Ottawa

From left to right – seated

Dr. Riccardo Rosati Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele Hospital, **Dr. Serge Mayrand** (organizing committee) **Dr. Suzanne Gisbertz** Amsterdam University Medical Center, **Ms. Teresa Tiano** My Gut Feeling – Stomach Cancer Foundation of Canada, **Dr. Mai-Kim Gervais** Université de Montréal, **Mr. Jan Almanzor** My Gut Feeling – Stomach Cancer Foundation of Canada, **Dr. Samuel Klempner** Harvard Medical School



Division of Urology

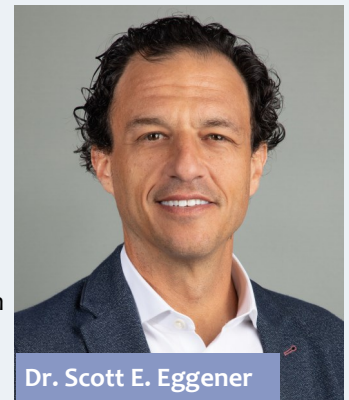


McGill 33rd Annual Urology Research Day by Dr Simon Tanguay

Dr Simon Tanguay, Professor and Head, McGill Division of Urology and **Dr Simone Chevalier**, Professor and McGill Director of

Urology Research held the 33rd McGill Urology Research Day November 8, 2023 at the RI-MUHC's Drs. Richard & Sylvia Cruess Amphitheatre at the MUHC Glen site.

Since 1990, the Division has hosted an annual research gathering allowing graduate students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, research associates and assistants to present their research endeavors. The central theme this year was on Prostate Cancer under the direction of **Dr. Armen G. Aprikian**, Professor of Surgery and Oncology and **Dr. Rafael Sanchez-Salas**, Associate Professor, McGill Division of Urology. They were delighted to welcome visiting professor, **Dr. Scott E. Eggener**, the Bruce and Beth White Family Professor of Surgery, from University of Chicago Medicine, Illinois. It was a privilege to hear Dr. Eggener who gave a state of the art presentation entitled "Debunking Myths about Prostate Cancer". This was followed by 29 scientific presentations, moderated by **Dr. Cristian O'Flaherty**, Professor, McGill Department of Surgery. With close to 120 people in attendance, students, residents, and fellows were able to



Dr. Scott E. Eggener

present interesting clinical cases from each subspecialty and showcase their innovative research projects to peers, providing a glimpse of the quality and breadth of research being done on various themes related to urological disorders.

The research day continued with a congratulatory dinner ceremony held at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre Atrium Glen site where awards were presented for the best presentations to Post Doctoral Fellow Dr. Eva Michaud (**Dr. Wassim Kassouf**), Ph.D. Student Mr. Diego Loggia (**Dr. Cristian O'Flaherty**), Medical Student Mr. Anindyo Chakraborty, (**Dr. Sero Andonian & Dr Fadl Hamouche**). The jury was composed of Dr. Eggener, **Dr. Peter Chan** (McGill Professor and Director of Male Reproductive Medicine), **Dr. Teruko Taketo** (Professor of Urology), **Dr. Mohammad ElSherbini** (Director, Urology Residency Program, McGill Associate Professor of Pediatric Urology, Surgery) and **Dr. Simone Chevalier**. Dr. Tanguay presented Dr. Eggener a gift on behalf of an appreciative McGill Division of Urology. The evening concluded with closing words by Dr. Tanguay, congratulating everyone who participated by thanking the organizers Drs. O'Flaherty and Chevalier, to Pharmaceutical partners for their continuous and generous support, and particularly **Ms. Chrysoula Makris** whose indispensable contribution throughout the years has made the McGill Urology Research Day a successful and memorable event.

33rd McGill Urology Research Day Award Recipients



L to R: Dr Kassouf, Dr Michaud, Mr. Chakraborty, Mr. Loggia, Dr O'Flaherty, Dr Chevalier, Dr Sanchez-Salas, Dr Eggener, and Dr Tanguay

Dr Scott Eggener is the Bruce and Beth White Family Professor of Surgery, Vice-Chair of Urology, and co-director of the High Risk and Advanced Prostate Cancer Clinic at the University of Chicago. He specializes in the care of patients with prostate, testicular, and kidney cancers. His research has resulted in over 300 publications, is the Associate Editor at the Journal of Urology, has chaired or participated in multiple ASCO/AUA cancer guideline panels, and is a long-time executive board member of International Volunteers in Urology. ♦

Urology Residency Program

WELCOME

New Chief Residents 2023-2024

**Dr. Ahmad AlShammari**

Dr. Ahmad AlShammari received his medical degree from Kuwait University and did his postgraduate work at Dundee University before joining the McGill Urology residency program. His interest in international surgery dates back to his time as president of the Kuwait Medical Student Union, during which he oversaw several medical mission trips to Africa. During his time in residency, he was democratically chosen as chief of external affairs, a position of leadership and great responsibility. His wife, Reem, deserves all the credit in the world for the unwavering support she has given him throughout his residency. When he's not working, he and Reem enjoy re-discovering the joys of parenthood through quality time with their kids, Mefarreh and Montaha (Monana-Banana). After being encouraged by his professors at McGill, he has decided to specialize in reconstructive urology after completing his residency.

**Dr. Ali Albaghli**

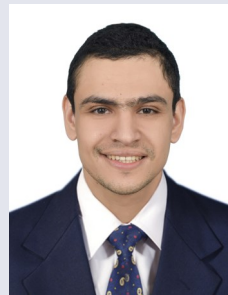
New Infertility & Andrology Fellow 2023

**Dr. Rabea Akram**

Dr. Rabea Akram is from Saudi Arabia. He completed his MD degree at Umm Al Qura University, Mecca, Saudi Arabia and his residency training at the King Faisal Hospital and Research Center, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He completed his 2-year Infertility and Andrology fellowship with the McGill Division Urology in June 2023.

Division of
Urology

New Residents 2023-2024

Dr. Mohammed Aleid Phto**Dr. David Bouhadana****Dr. Hisham Al Hinai****Dr. Neseef AlNeseef**

Graduates 2023

Congrats!

**Dr. Mohammed Alessa**

Dr. Mohammed Alessa completed his medical education at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. He joined the McGill Urology residency program in 2018. During his residency training, he worked on a few research projects involving bladder preservation and trimodal therapy predictors in bladder cancer. He is currently completing a fellowship in urologic oncology at the University of Ottawa. During his free time, he enjoys cycling, traveling, and hiking.

(See continuation on page 48) >

Congrats! Accomplishments

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



Cristian O'Flaherty DVM, PhD

Full Professor
Department of Surgery Division of Urology

NEW APPOINTMENT:

Dr. Cristian O'Flaherty was elected member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Andrology (ASA) for the period 2023-2026.

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS:

Hao-Yu Liao, O'Flaherty C. [Lysophosphatidic Acid Signalling Regulates Human Sperm Viability via the Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase/AKT Pathway](#). Cells 12(17):2196, 1-12, 2023.

Petrone O, Sera ni S, Yu B, Filonenko V, Gout I, O'Flaherty C. [Changes of the Protein CoAlation Pattern in Response to Oxidative Stress and Capacitation in Human Spermatozoa](#). Int J Mol Sci 24 (15), 12526, 2023.

Björndahl L, Esteves S, Fertlin A, Jørgensen N, O'Flaherty C. [Improving standard practices in studies using results from human semen examination](#). Andrology 11(7):1225-1231, 2023.

Carvelli L, Hermo L, O'Flaherty C, Oko R, Pshezhetsky A, Morales C. [Effects of Heparin- \$\alpha\$ -glucosaminide N-acetyltransferase \(HGSNAT\) inactivation on the structure and functions of epithelial cells and immune cells of the testis and epididymis and sperm parameters in adult mice](#). PlosOne, PLoS One. 27;18(9):e0292157, 2023.

INVITED SPEAKERSHIPS:

Keynote Speaker at the **3rd AndroLATAM Meeting**. Virtual Conference of the Latin American Network of Andrologists, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 13, 2023. Oxidative stress impacts on sperm function and fertility potential. Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 13, 2023.

Invited Professor for the postgraduate course for physicians specialized in reproductive medicine, organized by the **Argentinean Society of Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology**. Lecture title: "**Reactive oxygen species and oxidative stress in human sperm function**". Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 29, 2023.



Division of Urology



Dr David Labbé, PhD

William Dawson Scholar
Associate Professor, Department of Surgery,
Division of Urology

Dr David P. Labbé received the **Young Investigator Award Society** for Basic Urologic Research (**SBUR - International**) in November 2023. This Award is given to SBUR members who are under the age of 45, that have made significant contributions to Urologic Research.

He was also awarded a **\$4,248,000 Operating Grant** as a **Principal Investigator** from the **Terry Fox Research Institute**, Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network for his research entitled "**Precision lifestyle to optimize prostate cancer treatments**", along with co-investigator and colleague **Dr. Armen Aprikian**.

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS:

Vialard, F.; Allaey, I.; Dong, G.; Phan, MF.; Singh, U.; Hébert, M-J.; Dieudé, M.; Langlais, D.; Boilard, É.; Labbé, DP.; Olivier, M. [Thermoneutrality and severe malaria: investigating the effect of warmer environmental temperatures on the inflammatory response and disease progression](#); Frontiers in Immunology 14 (2023) 1128466

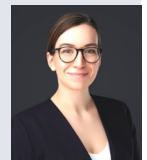
He, Y.; Goyette, M-A.; Chapelle, J.; Boufaied, N.; Al Rahbani, J.; Schönewolf, M.; Danek, EI.; Muller, WJ.; Labbé, DP.; Côté, J-F.; Lamarche-Vane, N. [CdGAP is a Talin-binding protein and a target of TGF- \$\beta\$ signaling that promotes HER2-positive breast cancer growth and metastasis](#); Cell Reports 42(8) (2023)

Division of Urology Awards



Division of Urology Resident Leadership Award Dr. Francis Petrella

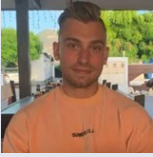
Douglas D. Morehouse In-Training Achievement Prize **Dr. Ioana Fugaru**



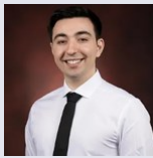
MAKE a GIFT in support of
[Medicine—Friends of Surgery](#)



Under the supervision of Dr Cristian O'Flaherty, PhD



PhD student, **Steven Serafini**, was awarded the **Aaron & Susan Lieberman & Family Award in Urology Research**, from the Montreal General Hospital Foundation. He also was awarded a **Graduate Excellence Award** from the **Experimental Medicine** Division, McGill University.



MSc student, **Diego Loggia**, was awarded **Best Oral Communication** at the 33rd Urology Research Day held on November 8, 2023. He also won the **2023 RI-MUHC Desjardins Studentship Award in Child Health Research** for his studies on citrate metabolism during sperm capacitation.

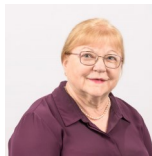
Under the supervision of Dr David P. Labbé, PhD

MSc student, **Luisa Bacca**, was awarded the **Arthur Judson Fellowship** from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, McGill University in the amount of **\$10,000**.

MSc student, **Yiming Mao**, was granted the **McGill Claude Gagnon Urology Research Studentship** worth **\$12,500**.

Under the supervision of Dr Simone Chevalier, PhD

Professor, McGill Urology Director of Research
Leader of the Urologic Oncology Research Team at
the Cancer Research Program



PhD student, **Ms. Sedigheh Sadat Mortazavi**, was awarded the **Dr. Henry R. Shibata Fellowship** from the **Cedars Cancer Foundation**, (\$10,000) and **100 Days Across Canada award** (Urology/prostate cancer specific) (\$12,5000).

Under the supervision of Dr. J-P Capolicchio, MDCM, FRCSC, FAAP

Director, Division of Urologic Surgery at the
Montreal Children's Hospital



PGY5 resident, **Dr Ioana Fugaru**, won the **Clinical Research Prize** at the annual meeting of the **QUA** this fall for the second year in a row, this time for her work entitled "**Flow Index of Children During Urodynamic Testing**".

Urology Residency Program

Graduates 2023

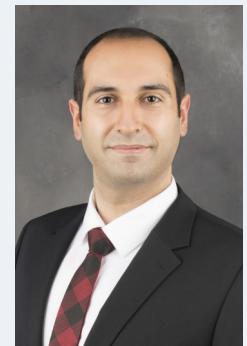
Congrats!



Dr. Ioana Fugaru



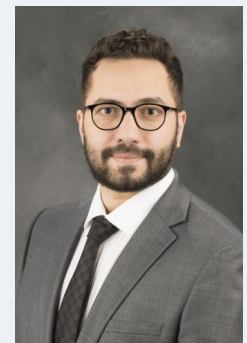
Dr. Toufi Hassan



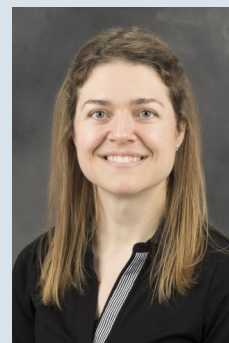
Dr. Charles Hesswani



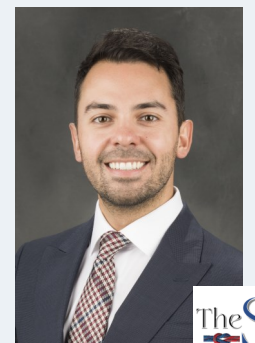
Dr. Abdulghani Khogeer



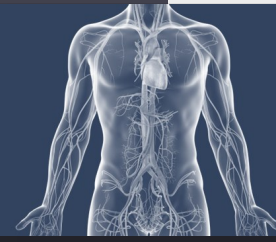
Dr. Nathalie Nicolas



Dr. Francis Petrella



Division of Vascular Surgery



Congrats! Accomplishments



Dr. Heather Gill

Associate Professor Dr. Heather Gill, is the current 2023-2024 President of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery.

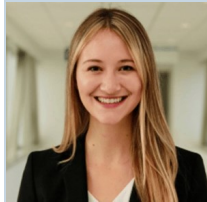
Dr. Elie Girsowicz

Assistant Professor Dr. Elie Girsowicz has been appointed Program Director of the McGill Vascular Surgery Residency.



Student

SUCCESS



Dr. Xheni Konci

Dr. Xheni Konci (PGY-2) was awarded the 2023 CSVS Resident Research Award for her project entitled:

“Validation Of The Comprehensive Complication Index In Vascular Surgery For Open Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair”

Vascular Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME

NEW Resident

NEW Fellow



Dr. Morgan Gold

Dr. Morgan Gold was born and raised in Montreal, Canada, where he attended medical school at McGill. During his second year, he discovered vascular surgery and the wide array of diseases they treat and the positive impact they have on patients. His research interests

lie in the realm of surgical sustainability for which he recently published a paper in JAMA Surgery. He hopes to extend his research in this field to vascular surgery. He is excited to be pursuing his vascular surgery training at McGill, where he can learn to be a well-rounded medical and surgical specialist in vascular diseases. Outside of medicine, Morgan enjoys swimming, reading classic literature, and spending time with his family and friends.



Dr. Haitam Hater

Dr. Haitam Hater is from Israel and completed medical school at the Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Chisinau, Moldova in 2014. He then completed his residency and board examination in vascular surgery with excellence at the Chaim Sheba

Medical Center, Tel-hashomer, Israel. Following his residency, Haitam worked as a vascular surgery specialist at the Rabin Medical Center, Beilinson; one of the largest hospitals in Israel. He is currently expanding his training in endovascular surgery as a fellow in the Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Surgery Fellowship

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

Vascular Surgery Residency Program

WELCOME

program at McGill University. Actively engaged in research, he has published six papers, as first or second author in peer-reviewed journals, on advanced aortic endovascular intervention and peripheral vascular disease endovascular treatment and presented his research at different international medical conferences. Haitam believes that one of the best aspects of being a vascular surgeon is the ability to work, communicate and collaborate with different disciplines in the medical field. Vascular Surgery also spans diverse patient demographics and clinical settings, fostering collaboration and expertise among surgeons. Haitam looks forward to the McGill Aortic Fellowship's invaluable support in expanding his expertise. His ultimate goal is to bring his advanced endovascular aortic surgery skills back to his home country in order to enrich patient care and surgical capabilities at his hospital. Haitam is also a musician and outside of medicine he enjoys playing Middle Eastern music on his keyboard. ♦

Graduates 2023



Graduating Resident (June 30, 2023)



Dr. Ahmed Naiem

Dr. Naiem completed his M.D. degree (Distinction with Honors) at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman. He then moved to Montreal and completed the integrated vascular surgery residency at McGill University. During residency, he was nominated for the 2019

Bayer-Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Research Award. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications focusing on chronic limb-threatening ischemia. Dr. Naiem has also received the 2022 Kent MacKenzie Award for Educational Leadership and Excellence in Surgery and the 2021 McGill University Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) Surgery Resident Teaching Award. He will be moving to the University of California, San Francisco for a fellowship in limb preservation.

Division of
Vascular Surgery

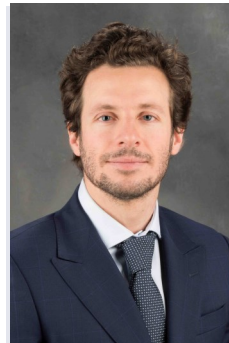


Graduates 2023



Graduating Fellow (June 30, 2023)

Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Surgery Fellow



Dr. Vicente Mosquera Rey

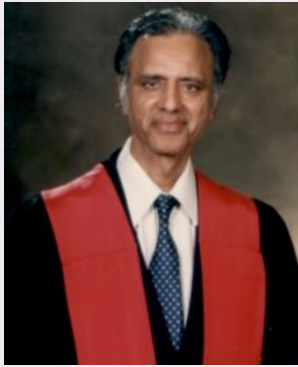
Dr. Vicente Mosquera Rey graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Universidad CEU San Pablo, Madrid, Spain. Between 2016 and 2021, he completed his residency training in Vascular Surgery at a high-volume department at the Asturias University Central Hospital (HUCA) in the North of

Spain. He also pursued two external rotations at Barnes-Jewish Hospital (St. Louis, MO, USA) and Asklepios Klinik Langen (Frankfurt, Germany). Before starting the Fellowship in Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Surgery at McGill University, he worked for a short period as an attending in the Basque Country. Upon completion of this postgraduate fellowship program, Vicente plans to join the Hospital Clínico Universitario San Carlos, a reference center in Spain for cardiac and vascular diseases, where he aims to provide high-level advanced aortic and peripheral interventions to his vascular patients.

Follow the McGill University Division of Vascular Surgery on Twitter



Obituaries



Dr. Mohammad Saeed Chughtai
Jan. 1, 1935 – May 24, 2023

Dr. Mohammad Saeed Chughtai passed away on May 24, 2023, at St-Mary's Hospital where he dedicated his entire professional life.

Dr. Mohammad Chughtai was born in Sialkot, Pakistan in 1935, and in 1957, he completed his Medical School at the prestigious King Edward Medical College in Lahore. After concluding his "house job" in 1959, Dr. Chughtai made a bold decision to travel across the world to Montreal, Canada to pursue a one-year internship at McGill University. Being one of a few immigrants in this cohort, his colleagues included McGill surgery greats Dr Ed Monaghan and Dr Harvey Sigman.

Dr. Chughtai was then accepted into the General Surgery residency program at McGill. During his residency, he worked under great surgeons such as Dr Fraser Gurd and Dr LD McClean. In 1965, he was accepted into the Cardio-Vascular and Thoracic (CVT) Surgery residency program, under the directorship of legendary Cardiac surgeon Dr ARC Dobell. At the time, he was only the second resident to train in this prestigious program, the first being Dr Ed Charette in 1964.



During his CVT residency at the Montreal Chest Hospital, Dr. Chughtai also worked with Thoracic Surgery greats Dr Dag Monroe and Dr Jim Wilson.

In 1968, Dr. Chughtai was a part of a milestone surgical event at McGill University, the first Heart Transplant, led by Dr Dobell.

After completing his CVT Training, Dr Chughtai was hired on staff at St. Mary's hospital in 1969, where he worked for 48 years until he retired in 2017.

Dr. Chughtai was the only Thoracic Surgeon at St. Mary's hospital. He practiced during the same era as other great McGill Thoracic Surgeons including Dr David Mulder at the Montreal General Hospital, Dr JE Morin at the Royal Victoria Hospital, and Dr Nate Sheiner at the Jewish General Hospital.



During his years at St. Mary's, Dr. Chughtai had a busy practice encompassing all General and Thoracic Surgery cases. He was the sole Vascular surgeon at St-Mary's until Dr Carl Emond joined him.

Dr. Chughtai was also a pioneer in founding the Emergency Department at St. Mary's,

which he also led for many years.

It must be noted that Dr. Chughtai suffered a stroke in 2007, yet he continued to be academically engaged, attending MGH Grand Rounds regularly, and clinically active by running the "Surgical Clinic" while operating with his left hand for 10 additional years.

Dr. Chughtai was a highly respected physician and surgeon, known for his masterful clinical skills and meticulous surgical technique. He had an unmatched dedication to his work, and an exemplary bedside manner.

Dr. Chughtai leaves behind a legacy of having trained many of the current ED physicians at McGill, and of course many generations of surgeons, including his son, Dr. Talat Chughtai.

He will be greatly missed by St. Mary's and the McGill Surgical community, and of course by his family, to whom he always made time for and a priority outside of his work. ♦

Obituaries



John Kenneth MacFarlane 1938 - 2023

Dr. John MacFarlane died peacefully on November 10, 2023 after being diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) just a few days earlier.

John was born in Montreal in 1938, the eldest child of Dr. Kenneth and Marion MacFarlane. A native Montrealer, he was the son of a celebrated ob/gyn who practiced at the MGH. After graduating from Westmount High, he completed an undergraduate degree with a major in English in 1959 at Princeton. He then returned to Montreal to attend McGill Medical School, graduating in 1963.

It was during his time at McGill that John met the love of his life and his best friend, Marian MacDougall, whom he married just as he was finishing his degree. After completing a residency in General Surgery, John then did a fellowship as a McLaughlin scholar at Houston's MD Anderson. He then

returned to Montreal to establish a practice in General Surgical Oncology at the Montreal General Hospital.

In 1984, John was recruited as Surgeon-in-Chief at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. He was an early advocate of laparoscopic surgery and is best remembered for his academic contributions in the field of rectal cancer. The first-ever Canadian elected as president of the Pacific Coast Surgical Group, John also served terms as president of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons and the North Pacific Surgical Association.

He was driven by kindness and compassion and was generous with his attention to others. He took as much pride in others' accomplishments as in his own and was curious about everyone and anything. John was a polymath, an accomplished pianist, an avid skier, a frustrated golfer, and an occasional salmon angler who was just plain fun to be around.

Donations in John's name may be made to one of two programs: McGill Med '63 Scholarship Fund or the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award.

www.alumni.mcgill.ca/give/index.php?allocations=23M63C.
terryfoxawards.ca/donate/



Dr. C. Emerson Brooks April 27, 1934 – November 3, 2023

This past November we lost one of the titans of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery with the passing of Dr Emerson Brooks.

Dr Brooks had a long and illustrious career at the Montreal General Hospital, retiring in 1996 after serving in many key administrative roles. He was a long-standing Residency Training Program Director before taking over as Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the MGH after the untimely and unexpected loss of Dr Jo Miller. Dr Brooks was instrumental in ensuring the growth and expansion, as well as the dedication, of the Jo Miller Laboratory in honour of his predecessor. Under his guidance and the work of Drs

Michael Tanzer and Dennis Bobyn, the Jo Miller Lab developed an international reputation in the realm of arthroplasty. Dr Brooks was instrumental in the naming of the MGH as a Level One Trauma Centre and ensured it had the human and material resources to undertake this critical role in our health network. The ongoing success of this mission is a testament to his foresight.

Following his retirement from active duty at the MGH and after a brief spell in Prince Edward Island, Dr Brooks continued to share his wisdom and insight with the orthopedic team at St Mary's Hospital where he practiced as a Surgical Assistant. His reputation as an expert technician and insightful surgeon thus spread to a new group of surgeons and continued to be shared with a new generation of residents.

In closing, on behalf of all the members of our Division, I would like to extend my thoughts and prayers to Dr Brooks' widow and sons on their loss.

Next Issue ...



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Write to us!
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We want to hear from our readers !
If you have any information you want published in
THE SQUARE KNOT, comments about our newsletter
or suggestions, we want to hear from you!

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Associate Editor
Creative Design & Layout

*All photographs courtesy of
The McGill Department of
Surgery*

FOR SUBMISSIONS AND GENERAL QUESTIONS

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