

Surgery e-NEWS

Timely news you can use

Fall 2022
Volume 1 Issue 1

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Surgery e-Newsletter

I am delighted to introduce this new McGill Department of Surgery e-Newsletter. This new initiative is part of efforts to improve communication and community across the Department's divisions and hospital sites.

The e-newsletter will be published every 3 months via our department website and as a PDF that you will receive by email. Our hope is that the e-newsletter will keep us all updated and informed on the latest news, clinical teaching updates, research activities, and upcoming events, as well as provide a channel to facilitate communication and collaboration. This first edition includes news from September through November including notable publications, new grants, new initiatives, student successes... things that our faculty and leadership submitted that may be of interest to all of us in the Department. I would like to thank Ms Carolynna Olha and Christina Raneburger for all their work getting this off the ground. ***Read More***

Academic Affairs

Research News

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Faculty Development

Women in Surgery

Divisional News

Cardiac Surgery

General Surgery

Orthopedic Surgery

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Thoracic Surgery

Urology

Vascular Surgery

Please Support the Osler Amphitheatre



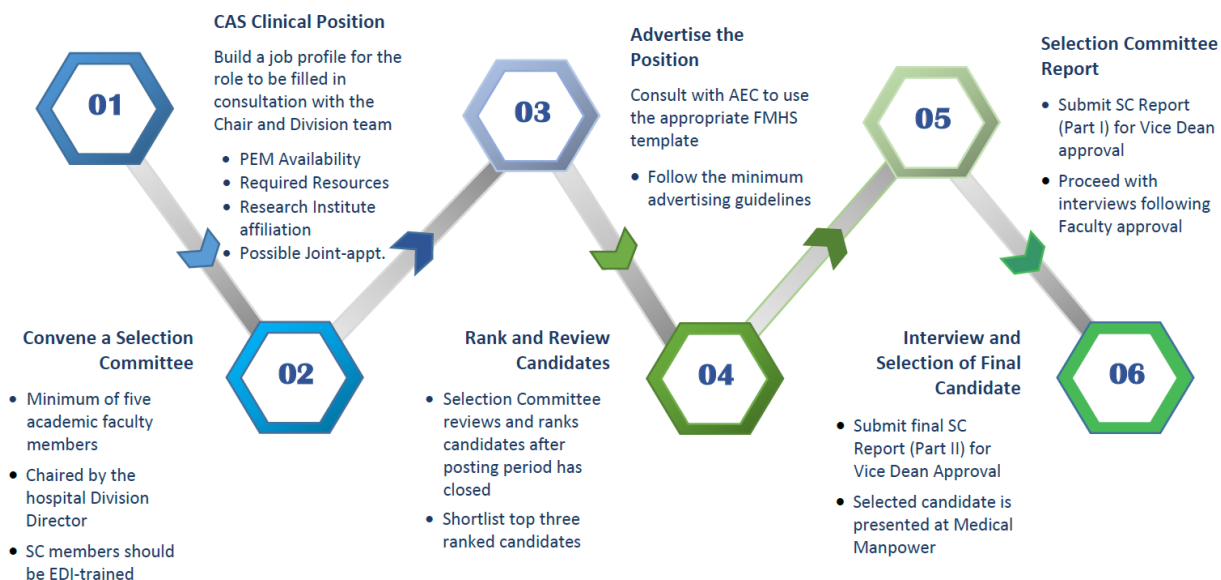
The Osler Auditorium has been closed since November 2020 due to a flood. We all have spent countless hours in the Osler as part of our Department's academic activities - grand rounds, visiting professors, town halls, academic half-day, lectures, meetings, orientation sessions, video conferences, research seminars... the list goes on and on. Now that we are emerging from the pandemic we need to go back to in-person and hybrid academic activities and the loss of the Osler has been very disruptive. A new Osler Auditorium has been designed, that would not only repair the damages caused by the flood, but would also modernize the amphitheatre to

current norms and standards. In the era of hybrid events, new equipment and infrastructure are vital. Also, it won't come as a surprise to anyone that all of the chairs need to be replaced. While the majority of the funding for the renovation will come from government sources, the MGH foundation has launched a campaign to finance part of the project. While all donations, of any amount, will help enormously, a donation of \$10 000 (which can be pledged over 5 years) will allow for naming a chair in the Osler. This could be for an individual, on behalf of a division or as a way to honour a mentor or a colleague.

Please consider a donation in **support of this important project**. All donations are welcome and will be recognized at the Osler Auditorium grand opening special celebrations. By the way, we are in a “friendly competition” with the other clinical departments to see who can provide the greatest support – I am confident that the Department of Surgery will prevail.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Policy on Recruitment for CAS Academic Positions

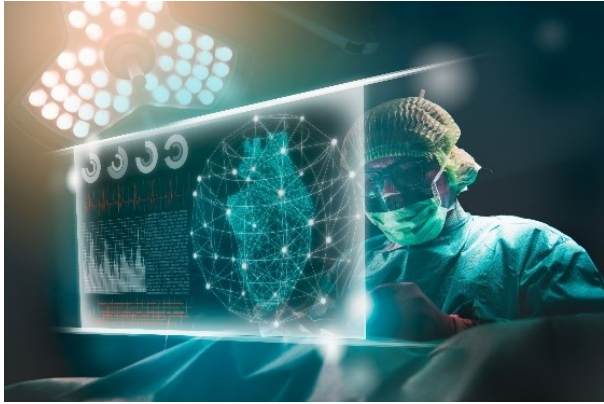


The Department Executive Committee has approved a new policy on academic recruitment for ranked CAS academics, across all sites. The goals are to increase transparency, widen the applicant pool and align with FMHS directives towards equity, diversity, and inclusion in the recruitment process. As a result, all new positions for ranked CAS clinical or CAS research must be advertised and managed according to the guidelines provided in the **Policy on Recruitment for CAS Academic Positions**. These recruitment processes are already well established in many leading surgical departments across North America and in other clinical departments at McGill.

For an illustrative overview of the steps in the recruitment process, please visit our website under **Faculty Development**.

RESEARCH NEWS

Surgical Innovation



The **Holo-Ray**, a cutting-edge holographic imaging technology platform, is one of the Department of Surgery's winning start-up initiatives. Co-founded by an interdisciplinary research team led by **Dr Renzo Cecere**, Director, Division of Cardiac Surgery, **Dr Amir Hooshier**, Director, Surgical Robotic Centre, and research assistant **Mr. Amir Sayadi**, this innovative cloud-based platform has been developed to generate three-dimensional (3D) holographic anatomical models of a patient's heart from traditional two-dimensional (2D) imaging scans.

Aided by robotics and mechatronics, the Holo-Ray platform generates 3D medical imaging to visually guide a surgeon more accurately, thereby minimizing the need to employ highly-invasive surgical procedures which in turn significantly reduces the risk of complications to the patient and cuts down on their recovery time.

At present, the Holo-Ray platform is focused on the cardiovascular system, but has further applications in surgical education, and additional anatomical structures where minimally-invasive interventional procedures are preferred to higher-risk surgeries with protracted recovery periods.

As the winners of the **2022 McGill Clinical Innovation Competition - "Marika Zelenka Roy Simnovation Prize"**, the co-founders of Holo-Ray have already reinvested their prize money to further support the development of this innovative technology, and will be seeking seed funding next to support its continued growth. Please visit the [Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning](#) and the recent feature in [Canadian Healthcare Technology](#) to learn more about this exciting advanced holographic imaging technology.

SURGICAL EDUCATION

Surgical Education Group



The Department of Surgery is launching a new **Surgical Education Group** that will meet (mostly virtually) every 4-6 weeks. The purpose of the group is to create a community of people linked by their common interest in Surgical Education. More specifically, the idea is to provide a forum for surgeons, education scholars and researchers to discuss research ideas, get feedback or input on education projects, and forge relationships and collaborations. The inaugural meeting was held on Oct 21, 2022, and it was a great first step in

bringing people together with a better understanding of what the needs are and how the group can serve the Surgical Education community. This group is chaired by Drs. Maryam Wagner and Carlos Gomez-Garibello. Email notifications will be sent out about meeting times and please let us know what your interests are and how this group can provide value to the Surgical Education community at McGill.

SURGICAL EDUCATION GROUP

Surgical Education Retreat

On September 20, 2022, we held our first in-person education retreat. The retreat brought together Program Directors, leaders in Undergraduate education, education scholars and Program

administrators. The retreat was first and foremost a much needed opportunity to connect and identify common concerns, areas of interests and potential opportunities for collaboration. The main themes that emerged, and that will serve as the basis for future meetings include: **Bureaucratization and workload, Recognition and role clarity, Surgical culture and pedagogy, Politics, and the Challenges of implementing change.** Our goal is to create a community of practice for this group whereby common tasks can be shared and there is support for creative projects. Huge thanks to Christine Raneburger and Carolynna Olha who organized and planned the retreat in addition to participating in it! The feedback from participants was very positive and we will continue to meet regularly to better understand some of these important and relevant issues.

JOIN US FOR A
MEETING OF THE
SURGICAL
EDUCATION
GROUP



- Share ideas about research in surgical education
- Listen and learn from colleagues and experts
- Discuss key issues in surgical education
- Present your research ideas
- Provide feedback on research ideas
- Engage with researchers and scholars in surgical education

Dr. Melina Vassiliou

Associate Professor (Clinical)

Associate Chair, Surgical Education

NOMINATIONS

Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Awards

CAME Certificate of Merit



Dr. Simon Bergman was nominated by the Department of Surgery for a CAME Certificate of Merit award in recognition of his innumerable contributions to Surgical Education at McGill, and in particular, to his many years of hard work and dedication in undergraduate education.

CAME Rising Star Award

The CAME Rising Star Award is “intended to recognize learners who have demonstrated a commitment and/or passion for medical education.”



Dr. Olivier Vaillancourt was nominated for the CAME Rising Star award for his contributions to Cardiac Surgery through the Residency Program and Simulation Committees and as an advocate for his fellow residents at the FMRQ. Dr. Vaillancourt is currently a fifth-year resident in Cardiac Surgery at McGill University who completed his undergraduate medical training at the University of Sherbrooke in 2018. His passion for surgical education developed early on in his residency, leading him to engage in high-fidelity simulation

and mentorship opportunities with junior trainees, and he intends to continue this work as he moves forward in his career.



Isabella Bozzo, a fourth-year medical student at McGill University, was also nominated for the CAME Rising Star award for her contributions to research and clinical innovation in orthopedic surgery. Prior to medicine, Isabella was designing biomedical devices and surgical simulation software during her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Mechanical engineering. This is where she first developed a passion for Orthopaedics.

Her ultimate goal is to apply her background in biomechanics research to innovate clinical tools that can improve patient outcomes as well as enhance surgical trainees' exposure to learning opportunities beyond the operating room.

In other news, we will be completely re-vamping the Surgical Education section of the website. Please let us know if you have ideas or aspirations for how the website can better serve our community. You can send your suggestions to surgeryeducation@mcgill.ca.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to the first year of Faculty Development!



This is a newly created position within the Department of Surgery. The primary role of the Associate Chair for Faculty Development is to support professional development for the Department of Surgery. The goal is for all McGill surgeons to have mentorship and opportunities to grow professionally throughout all phases of their careers (recruitment through retirement) as we work together to deliver world-class clinical care, research, and education. Our objective is to help you achieve your academic and clinical mission through the creation of learning opportunities that respond to your needs.

This year we designed the **Surgical Leadership Program** with expertise from the **Desautel Faculty of Management**, at McGill University. Our Planning Committee included Dr Tanzer, Dr Chaytor, Dr. Vassiliou, and of course, Christina Raneburger. This Royal College-

accredited program began in September and has been given over eight sessions, with "graduation" at the end of November. The first cohort of 16 learners includes a varied group of surgeons and researchers discussing key leadership qualities focusing on emotional intelligence, leadership styles, financial management, and conflict resolution. The Department intends to provide the Program on a regular basis, so don't worry if you missed the inaugural edition.

Our next Program will focus on providing effective teaching in the operating room. Please stay tuned..... If you would like to get involved or have ideas for Faculty Development, please contact **Dr. Lachapelle** directly.

Surgical Ergonomics and the Art of Maintaining Good Posture in the OR

Lastly, one of our objectives in Faculty Development is to keep you healthy and working! Surgical ergonomics is a relatively new area of study and we have known for a long time that Surgery is a risk factor for poor posture and

real injury. Take a look at this video for targeted stretching and strength training exercises to help improve your [Surgical Posture](#).

*Dr. Kevin Lachapelle
Associate Chair, Faculty Development*

WOMEN IN SURGERY

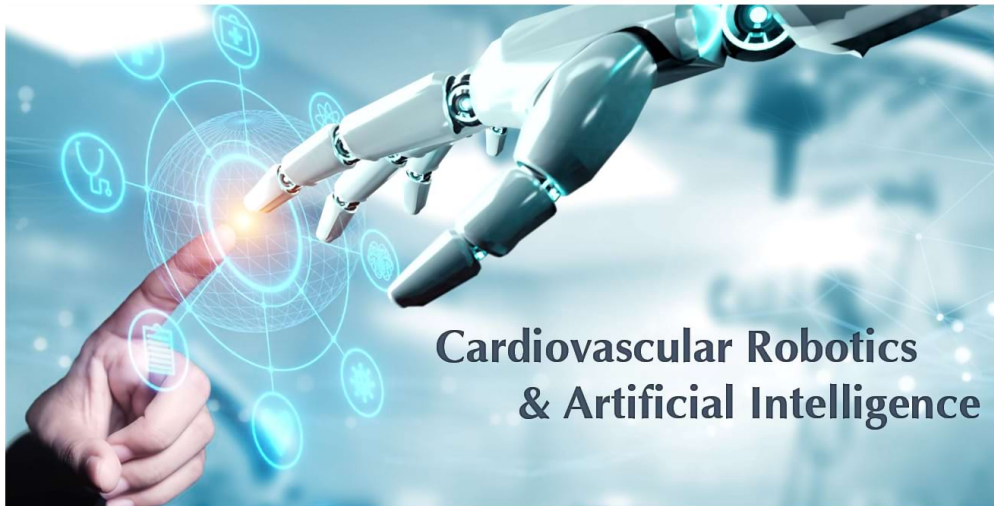
The **Women in Surgery** initiative, led by, Associate Professor **Dr. Marylise Boutros**, is a newly created group at McGill whose purpose is to create an open and safe space where women surgeons can share comradery, mentorship, and experience while exploring opportunities and challenges in a supportive environment.



On October 27, 2022, we were honored to have **Dr. Sharon Stein** for a fabulous and inspiring Inaugural Grand Rounds for the Department's Women in Surgery Initiative. Dr. Stein is a colorectal surgeon at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center and Associate Professor, Surgery at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and the past president of the Association of Women Surgeons. Dr. Stein's talk was on creating surgical leaders. She emphasized that we are all leaders in one way or another. She impressed upon us the need to be intentional and introspective regarding our leadership style, vision, and goals. Finally, she challenged us to continue to lift each other up and keep growing. [Click here for a video recording of her talk.](#)



CARDIAC SURGERY



Over the last decade, major technological breakthroughs have become highly influential in the operating room with regard to how surgical techniques are performed. Both AI and robotics can play key roles in helping surgeons make critical decisions and improve surgical performance during complex surgical procedures. The future of AI applications in high-tech operating rooms will use human-machine



cooperation to improve performance and patient safety. **Dr. Renzo Cecere** is collaborating with Amir Hooshidar, PhD, the Director of McGill's new **Surgical Robotics Centre (SRC)**, to develop a **Cardiovascular Robotics and AI research program**. This includes a team of engineers and trainees with expertise in biomedical devices, surgical robotics, mixed-reality, and medical software to develop innovative robotics and AI solutions for clinical needs in cardiovascular surgery.

Several innovative research projects currently underway include:

See-through blood: robot-assisted intracardiac navigation with deep learning.

- **Funding: [FRQS Audace grant](#)**

Robot-assisted dual-catheter cardiovascular intervention.

- **Funding: [MGH Foundation Research Award](#)**

Augmented-reality-based preoperative planning for intracardiac navigation.

- **[This project led to spinoff of Holoray, Inc. Co-Founded by A. Sayadi, R. Cecere, A. Hooshidar](#)**

AI-based differential diagnosis on holographic hearts

AI-based big data mining on the response of patient-driven cardiomyocytes to medication

Robot-assisted autonomous repair of structural heart defect

ACHIEVEMENTS

Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine Lab

Congratulations to **Ida Derish**, a PhD student currently enrolled in the Experimental Surgery program at McGill University under the supervision of Dr Renzo Cecere. She is a recipient of a MGH Foundation **CODE LiFE Research Award**, which includes the **Sara Louise King Award in Cardiology Research, Marjorie Cadham**



Award in Cardiology Research, and Inez and Willena Beaton Award in Cardiology. She has also recently been awarded **1st place** for her presentation at the **Division of Experimental Surgery Seminar Series**, and is the recipient of the **CIHR-Canadian Graduate Student Doctoral Award**. Her research interests focus on cardiac tissue regeneration methods, and stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes.

David Derish, a UGME student, was awarded the **Dr. Clarke K. McLeod Memorial Scholarship** in September. This scholarship is awarded to medical students to conduct full-time research during the summer term.



Dr Kevin Lachapelle

Associate Professor (Clinical)

Dr Lachapelle was senior author on a thought paper highlighting the future of Cardiac Surgery Training published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology. He also co-authored the **Procedural Skills Module**, with MSc student **Candidate Ricky Moran**, for the Royal College's Simulation Educators Training Course (SET Course). The SET course is online and given throughout Canada.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Khan, K., Caron, C. Mahmoud, I., Derish, I., Schwertani, A., Cecere, R. (2022). Extracellular vesicles as a cell-free therapy for cardiac repair: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled preclinical trials in animal myocardial infarction models. *Stem Cell Reviews and Reports*. 18(3):1143-1167.

GENERAL SURGERY



November 30 - Dec. 1st, 2022 – Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) program with upcoming Visiting Professor, **Dr. Anne Lidor**, Professor of Surgery, Chief of the Division of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, Director of the Advanced GI/Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, Department of Surgery/University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Annual Harvey H. Sigman Lecture in Surgical Education - November 16-17 2022

On November 17th, the Department of Surgery hosted the 16th annual **Harvey H. Sigman Lecture in Surgical Education** with Visiting Professor, **Dr. Adnan Alseidi**, Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, Vice Chair for Education, Department of Surgery, The University of California, San



Francisco. He gave an outstanding and inspiring grand rounds titled “*The Changing Landscape of Psychomotor Training_a focus on autonomy, entrustment, & the JOY of Surgery*”. For academic half day with the residents, Dr Alsiedi focused on oral examination preparation.

We have not yet recognized last year’s **15th Annual Sigman lecturer: Dr. Jo Buyske who is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Board of Surgery (ABS)**. She gave a wonderful grand rounds lecture via Zoom entitled: “*To Protect the Public and Enhance the Profession: Using Principles to Advance the Mission*”. She also spent our academic half-day with the residents, giving them a talk remotely entitled: “*Where are we, where have been and where we are going' regarding the future of surgery*”.

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

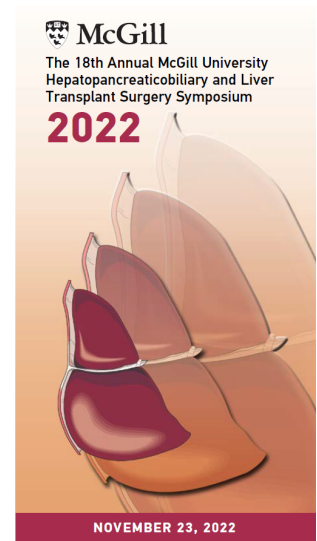
Annual Hepaticobiliary Symposium & Lectureship - November 23-24, 2022

The **McGill HepatoPancreatico Biliary & Transplant Surgery Program** hosted its 18th Annual Symposium on November 23, 2022, with Dr. Metrakos presiding over the symposium as Chairperson. The theme of this year’s event centered on Regenerative Liver Surgery, with invited keynote speaker **Dr.**



Erik Schadde, Associate Professor of Surgery at Rush University Medical Center Chicago. His keynote address, entitled “ *A farewell to ALPPS. The rise and fall of a very special surgical operation* ” was well received by the community of clinicians and researchers attending the

event. The goals of the symposium are to provide “physicians and nurse clinicians with the current data regarding diagnosis, treatment strategies, surgical techniques, and outcomes relevant to the management of patients with benign and malignant hepatic, pancreatic and biliary disease.”



ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations !

Dr. Marylise Boutros - will be the **Canadian James IV Traveler** for 2024

Dr. Sender Liberman – named a **Governor of the American College of Surgeons**.

Dr. Tarek Razek - named to the **Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence**

Dr. Melina Vassiliou – named **Adair Family Chair** in Surgical Education

Dr. Charlebois Assumes the Presidency of the Association Québécoise de Chirurgie (AQC)

Dr. Patrick Charlebois

Assistant Professor (Clinical)



Dr Charlebois has dedicated many years of service to the AQC, representing the interests of MUHC surgeons in several capacities, starting with the Association's Board of Directors, then serving on its Executive Committee for 15 years, and finally as President-Elect over the last year. Dr. Charlebois would like to acknowledge his predecessors, Dr. Sylvain Genest, Dr. Roger Grégoire, Dr. Mario Viens and Dr. Serge Legault for their commitment and mentorship. As he assumes the presidency, Dr. Charlebois pledges to defend the professional autonomy of surgeons and promote a work environment that supports a high-quality and accessible surgical practice, while enhancing the value of the surgical profession through fair remuneration. Dr Charlebois encourages AQC members to submit questions and suggestions to aqc@chirurgiequebec.ca. He can be reached directly at: p.residence-aqc@fmsq.org.

Save the Date!

The **53rd AQC Congress** will be held from May 18 to 21, 2023 at the Hilton Lac-Leamy in Gatineau.



Julio Flavio Fiore Junior, PhD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Director, [Surgical Scientist Program \(SSP\)](#)

Recent Speaking Engagement

Dr. Fiore recently served as a keynote speaker at the **50th European Society of Clinical Pharmacy Symposium** and was invited as a visiting professor at Charles University in Prague from Oct 24 to 26, 2022.

FUNDING



Dr. Ari Meguerditchian

Associate Professor (Clinical)

Dr. Meguerditchian has established a research fund for the **Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology (CSSO)**. This fund is offering operating grants to support innovative surgical oncology research by new and emerging researchers. **Deadline for applications is February 7, 2023.** Details can be found at: <https://www.ccsso.surgery/researchpublications-1>



Dr Peter Metrakos, MD

Clinical Professor in General Surgery

Génome Québec recently announced the results of their most recent competition, entitled: *Genomics Solutions in Health*.

As part of this competition, Dr. Peter Metrakos was awarded \$324,900 for his project entitled: **Liquid biopsy**



Genome Québec

to detect and monitor minimal residual disease in patients with colorectal cancer liver metastasis. For the complete list of awards, please visit [GenomeQc-Genomics_Solutions_in_Health](#)



- **Dr. Liane Feldman** and **Dr. Lawrence Lee**, with **Pepa Kaneva (MSc)** were contracted by the MSSS to establish the audit and feedback database to support the provincial implementation of ERAS pathways
 - **Dr. Stephan Robitaille** received the award for Best Presentation at the Canadian Association of General Surgery (CAGS)
 - **Dr. Marylise Boutros** won the Silver Scalpel Research Award
 - **Dr. Richard Garfinkle**, Resident, won the award for Best Presentation at CAGS.
 - **Dr. Jenny Moon**, Resident, won the Silver Scalpel Research Award
-

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Jamjoum G, Araji T, Nguyen D, **Meguerditchian AN**. Predictors of complication after groin dissection: A single center experience. **European Society of Surgical Oncology**. Bordeaux, France. October 19-21, 2022.
- Morena M, Ahisar Y, Wang X, Nguyen D, Rentschler CA, **Meguerditchian AN**. Are YouTube videos a reliable information source for young women with metastatic breast cancer? **2022 ASCO Quality Care Symposium**, Chicago, IL. (September 30 - October 1, 2022)
- Morena M, Ahisar Y, Wang X, Nguyen D, Rentschler CA, **Meguerditchian AN**. Are YouTube videos a reliable information source for young women with metastatic breast cancer? **Canadian Surgical Forum**, Toronto, ON, September 16, 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Predictors of pre- and post-treatment bowel dysfunction severity in patients with rectal cancer.** Robitaille S, Wang A, Liberman S, Charlebois P, Stein B, **Fiore JF Jr**, Feldman LS, Lee L. *Surgery*. 2022 Oct 15;S0039-6060(22)00710-3. doi: 10.1016/j.surg.2022.07.045.
- **Does the Low Anterior Resection Syndrome Score Accurately Represent the Impact of Bowel Dysfunction on Health-Related Quality of Life?** Wang A, Robitaille S, Liberman S, Feldman LS, **Fiore JF Jr**, Lee L. *J Gastrointest Surg*. 2022 Oct 17;1-8. doi: 10.1007/s11605-022-05481-z.
- **Histopathological growth patterns of liver metastasis: updated consensus guidelines for pattern scoring, perspectives and recent mechanistic insights.** *Br J Cancer*. 2022 Oct;127(6):988-1013. doi: 10.1038/s41416-022-01859-7. Epub 2022 Jun 1. PMID: 35650276
- **Ectopic FVIII expression and misfolding in hepatocytes as a cause for hepatocellular carcinoma.** *Mol Ther*. 2022 Oct 13;S1525-0016(22)00616-5. doi: 10.1016/j.ymthe.2022.10.004. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36242517

- Balvardi S, Kammili A, Hanson M, Mueller C, Vassiliou M, Lee L, Schwartzman K, Fiore JF Jr, Feldman LS. **The association between video-based assessment of intraoperative technical performance and patient outcomes: a systematic review.** Surg Endosc. 2022 Nov;36(11):7938-7948
- Lee L, Eustache J, Baldini G, Liberman AS, Charlebois P, Stein B, Fiore JF Jr, Feldman LS. **Enhanced Recovery 2.0 - Same Day Discharge With Mobile App Follow-up After Minimally Invasive Colorectal Surgery.** Ann Surg. 2022 Dec 1;276(6):e812-e818

PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY



The MUHC Division of Plastic Surgery is proud to welcome **Dr. Paul Cederna** as our winter session visiting professor and the **Martin Entin Lecturer on January 12, 2023**. Dr. Cederna is the Chief of Plastic Surgery at the top-ranked University of Michigan and a heavily funded researcher leading the field in innovative upper limb bioprosthetic development and surgery. He was also a recent president of the Plastic Surgery Foundation, our preeminent society for research support in Plastic Surgery in North America.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

McGill Orthopaedic RESEARCH Open House



The McGill University Orthopaedic Surgery Program had its annual Orthopaedic Research Open House on October 24, 2022. The research being performed across the Division was showcased. Basic science, robotic, virtual reality, clinical outcomes, and healthcare economics were among some of the highlights being featured. The purpose of this event is to help inspire residents, medical students, graduate and post-graduate students to get involved in orthopedic research!



37th Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery



On November 3rd, 2022, **Dr. Jason James Howard**, Assistant Chief of Staff Emeritus at the Nemours/Al duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington,

Delaware joined us for the 37th Annual Eugene Rogala Visiting Professor in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Howard is a Senior Attending Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon at Nemours Children Health in Wilmington, Delaware since 2019. He is a member of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, a member of the Australian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, the Pediatric Spine Study Group, Neuromuscular RIG, and the Cerebral Palsy Hip Outcomes Project II (CHOP II).



His clinical research areas of interest include neuromuscular disorders (cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophies), pediatric hip, pediatric spine, and foot deformities.

[*Learn More*](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Master Educator Award



The Orthopaedic Residency Program at McGill University recognizes **Dr. Stephane Bergeron** for his outstanding dedication to the promotion of anatomy knowledge and surgical approaches for our residents. Dr. Bergeron coordinated multiple Anatomy Summer Sessions for our resident cohort at the Shriners Hospital for Children – Canada, Simulation

Center. He organized a pre-anatomy session quiz, and supplied them with curated learning material. He is deserving of our *Master Educator Award*.



Dr. Joanna Przybyl, PhD

Assistant Professor (Research)
Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

Principal Investigator, Dr. Joanna Przybyl, has been awarded a grant from the **Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation** (DTRF, USA) and **Desmoid Tumour Foundation Canada** (DFC, Canada), for her research entitled, “*Targeting hexosamine biosynthesis pathway for the treatment of desmoid tumours*”. The amount of the award is \$130,000 USD (\$65,000 USD per year for 2 years).



Dr. Julien Montreuil and his supervisor **Mitch Bernstein** won the Resident Research Competition at the Annual Meeting of the Association d’Orthopedie du Quebec for their project on the episode of care costing of hip fractures. The quality of the three other papers in the competition was very high which speaks to the quality of this project and Julien’s presentation.



L to R: Chancellor Linda Hasenfrazt, Dr. Robin Poole, and President Dr. Alsn Shepard

Robin Poole CM, PhD, DSc

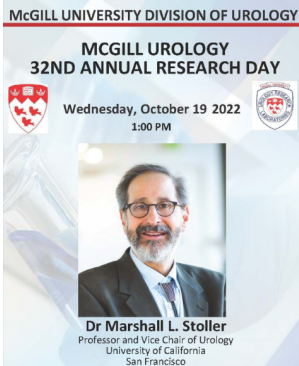
Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery

Dr. Robin Poole was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Western University "for his contributions to medical education and for his breakthrough research on cartilage that has paved the way to the early detection of osteoarthritis". This follows his award as a Companion of the Order of Canada which will be presented this coming December. **Congratulations Professor Poole!**

Read more on Dr. Poole’s career trajectory and accomplishments, please read this biographical portrait written by Cheryle A. Séguin, PhD - Associate Professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Western University

UROLOGY

McGill Urology 32nd Annual Research



Dr Simon Tanguay, Head of the McGill Division of Urology, and **Dr Simone Chevalier**, Director of McGill Urology Research, were pleased to host the **McGill Urology 32nd Annual Research Day** on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, with invited Visiting Professor **Dr. Marshall L. Stoller**, Professor and Vice Chair of Urology, University of California, San Francisco. Since 1990, the Division has hosted this annual research gathering allowing graduate students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, research associates, and assistants to present their research endeavors. [*Learn more*](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS



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.

Dr. Simon Tanguay, Professor and Chair of McGill's Division of Urology, for receiving the prestigious **Félix-Guyon Medal** at this years **42nd Congress of the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU)** which took place in Montreal from November 9 - 13.



Dr. Ioana Fugaru for winning the first place research prize at the **2022 Quebec Urological Association Annual Meeting**, for her project entitled: "*The Association of Cortical Transit Time (CTT) with Diuretic Drainage Time Parameters in Antenatal Hydronephrosis*"



The McGill Division of Urology, **Functional Urology Comprehensive Course** for PGY4 and PGY5 residents in Canadian Urology Programs was held virtually on October 14, 2022, under course Directors **Dr Lysanne Campeau** from the MGH, and **Dr Jacques Corcos** from the JGH.



FUNDING

Dr. Jacques Lapointe, Associate Professor, was awarded \$120K operating grant for 2 years from the Cancer Research Society (CRS) for his research project entitled "*Exploring the role of exomeres and supermeres in prostate cancer*"



Dr Cristian O'Flaherty

Professor

Dr Cristian O'Flaherty was awarded a four-year Operating Grant from the **Ministry for Science and Innovation (MICINN)**, Spain for his research project entitled: "*Regulation of the switch between glycolysis and the pentose phosphate pathway: reprogramming energetic metabolism to improve current techniques of stallion sperm conservation*". Dr. Cristian O'Flaherty, McGill University (Co-applicant), and Dr. Fernando Peña Vega, University of Extremadura, Spain (Principal investigator).



Dr David Labbé

Associate Professor (Research)

- **2022/09-2026/08** - *Precision nutrition increases efficacy of DNA-damaging therapies in prostate cancer*
- Department of Defense; Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) Investigator-Initiated Research Award – Partnering PI Option - \$2,000,000 (USD) Operating Grant

Invited Talks & Engagements

- **Labbé DP.** *MYC drives aggressive prostate cancer by disrupting transcriptional pause release at androgen receptor targets.* The Center for Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics, Cedars-Sinai, California (USA; Virtual), October 11th, 2022.
 - **Co-Chair; Organizing Committee**
FRQS Cancer Research Network (RRCancer), TFRI and QCC joint symposium
2022 Annual Meeting, September 23, 2022
 - **Co-leader; Genomics / Genetics / Epigenetics Working Group (2017/07-present)**
Prostate Cancer Foundation (**USA**)
Monthly meetings – Invites International Speakers – Session Chair
-

PUBLICATIONS

- ***Standards in semen examination: publishing reproducible and reliable data based on high-quality methodology.*** Hum Reprod, 2022 Oct 31; 37(11):2497-2502 (IF: 6.4)
- ***The stallion spermatozoa: A valuable model to help understand the interplay between metabolism and redox (de)regulation in sperm cells.*** Antioxid Redox Signal 2022 Sep;37(7-9):521-537,2022 (IF: 8.4).
- ***Redox Regulation to Modulate Phosphorylation Events in Human Spermatozoa.*** Antioxid Redox Signal 2022 Sept; 37:437-450, 2022 (IF: 8.4).

- **To bind or not to bind: Cistromic reprogramming in prostate cancer**; Shen, M.; Demers, L-K.; Bailey, SD.; Labbé, DP. *Frontiers in Oncology* (12)(2022) 963007 [invited review; doi: 10.3389/fonc.2022.963007 (September 23rd, 2022)]. IF2021 (5 Year): **6.122**

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Congratulations to Dr David Labbé's two students, recent Experimental Surgery graduate, **Ms. Michelle Shen** (M.Sc.), for winning 1st place Poster Presentation Prize at the **Experimental Surgery Graduate Program Research Day 2022** and to **Ms. Jiaxuan Li** (M.Sc.) for obtaining a one-year Bursary Award from the **100 Days Across Canada**. Kudos to recent graduate **Léa-Kristine Demers**, receiving her M.Sc. in Experimental Medicine. We wish them all success.

Congratulations to Dr Simone Chevalier's two students **Ms. Samira Rahimirad** (PhD candidate co-supervised by Dr Armen Aprikian) for obtaining a **\$12,000** studentship from the **McGill FMHS** in September, and to **Ms. Seta Derderian** (PhD candidate supervised by Dr Chevalier) for obtaining the **George Gurunian Memorial Award in Surgical Oncology** for her oral presentation on "*Identifying Therapeutic Options for Patients with Advanced Prostate Cancer Through Genes in Liquid Biopsies*" at **McGill Fraser Gurd Day**; and selected poster presentation at the **Celebration of Research and Training in Oncology (CORTO)** on "*Predicting clinical outcomes and identifying therapeutic options for patients with advanced prostate cancer through genes in liquid biopsies*".

VASCULAR SURGERY



Dr. Jason Bayne was an invited speaker at the **2022 National Capital Vascular Symposium**, in Ottawa on October 15, 2022. His talk was entitled: "*Common Femoral Artery Angioplasty/Stenting: This cannot be a good idea, can it...?*"

ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Heather Gill
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Dr Heather Gill completed her term as **Canadian Society of Vascular Surgery Research Chair** and has been nominated as the **2022 CSVS President-Elect** and will become President of the CSVS in Sept 2023.

RESIDENT & TRAINEE SUCCESS

Dr. Angela Kim (PGY-2) was awarded the **CSVS Resident Research Award** for her project entitled: “*Optimal Management of Infrainguinal Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia in Patients Lacking Consensus on Initial Revascularization Strategy*”, and won the **Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery ‘Best Resident Presentation’** for her presentation “*Timing of complications following carotid endarterectomy for symptomatic and asymptomatic carotid stenosis*”.

Dr. Ann Kinio (PGY-3) *Spinal Drain Complications for Advanced Aortic Surgery at a University Hospital Centre in Montreal, Canada.* Kinio AE, Konci X, Doonan RJ, Girsowicz E, Obrand DI, Steinmetz OK, Bayne JP, Mackenzie KS, Gill HL **Poster VAM/Podium CSVS. Sept 2022; The Impact Of Strict Perioperative Glycemic Control On Surgical Site Infections Following Lower Extremity Vascular Surgery: A Systematic Review; Poster Presented CSVS September 2022**

Dr. Sreedharan Kanathasan (PGY-3) has been appointed as Author, Junior Reviewer and Junior Editor for the **Society of Vascular Surgery’s Audible Bleeding Podcast**.



Joanne Abi-Jaoude (MS 4) Winner of the 2022 CSVS National Student Research Award for: “*The Influence of Resources and Job Demands on Burnout, Work Engagement, and Job Satisfaction in the Canadian Vascular Surgery Workforce*” – Supervisor **Dr. Elie Girsowicz**

Joanne Abi-Jaoude (MS 4) presented her research project entitled: “*The impact of obesity in peripheral arterial disease patients undergoing revascularisation: a systematic review and Meta analysis*” at the **2022 Annual Meeting of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS)**, Rome, Sept 2022 Supervisor **Dr. Elie Girsowicz**

Dr. Ahmed Naiem (PGY-5): *Severe Inframalleolar Disease Is Associated With Adverse Outcomes in Patients With Severe Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia* Naiem AA, Bergeron A, MacKenzie KS, Obrand DI, Steinmetz OK, Bayne JP, Gill HL, Girsowicz E. **Poster VAM/Podium CSVS Sept 2022; Emergent vs elective revascularization in patients with tissue loss.** Naiem AA, Bergeron A, MacKenzie KS, Obrand DI, Steinmetz OK, Bayne JP, Gill HL, Girsowicz E. **DFCON Poster:** September 2022

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

Mortality and Major Adverse Events Improve With Increased Institutional Experience for Fenestrated and Branched Endovascular Aortic Repair Doonan RJ, Bin-Ayeed S, Charbonneau P, Hongku K, Mackenzie K, Steinmetz O, Bayne J, Abraham C, Obrand D, Girsowicz E, Gill HL. *J Endovasc Ther.* 2022 Oct;29(5):746-754. doi: 10.1177/15266028211064813. Epub 2021 Dec 27. PMID: 34955066

Severe Inframalleolar Disease is an Independent Predictor of Adverse Limb Outcomes After Revascularization in Patients With Chronic Limb-threatening Ischemia Naiem AA, Bergeron A,



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