



# Ob/Gyn News

July 2009



*Alan D. Bocking  
MD, FRCSC*

*Gordon C. Leitch  
Professor and Chair  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology*

## Message from the Chair

As the summer begins at the end of another very successful academic year it is timely to reflect on our department's collective accomplishments and begin to think about the future academic year which will be upon us again in a short two months.

The last six months have been quite remarkable, with many highlights provided in this newsletter. We appointed three new members to the department including Dr. Lillian Gien to the Division of Gynaecologic Oncology and Drs. Prati Sharma and Yaakov Bentov to the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Dr. Blake and I were pleased to be able to recommend to the Dean that Drs. Lisa Allen, Andrea Jurisicova, Kellie Murphy, and Artin Ternamian be promoted to Associate Professor and we are equally delighted to report that these recommendations were supported by both the Dean and the Provost. Congratulations to Lisa, Andrea, Kellie and Artin for this outstanding accomplishment.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to all of our graduating residents and fellows and wish them well in their future careers. We have welcomed 11 new residents to the program and I know I speak on behalf of our entire faculty that we very much look forward to their active involvement in our department's activities over the next five years. There are a number of members of our department who received important teaching awards through the last six months and in particular Dr. Adrian Brown who received the 2009 W. T. Aitkins faculty teaching award for individual teaching performance in the small group category. In addition, Dr. Filomena Meffe and Dr. Susan Wagner at St. Michael's Hospital received an award from the Faculty of Medicine for their outstanding leadership in advancing interprofessional education. This coincided with Dr. Meffe obtaining a grant from Health Force Ontario to expand her project focused on interprofessional education and interprofessional collaboration in maternity care. The department did extremely well in research funding this last year and these funding decisions are highlighted in the Research Corner section on pages 5 to 7 of this newsletter.

July 1 of this year marked the transition in leadership within two fellowship programs. Dr. John Kingdom has completed 10 years of outstanding service in providing leadership for the Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program. This culminated in his skilled stewardship in advancing the fellowship program from accredited without certification to accreditation by examination. On behalf of the whole department I would like to extend my sincere thanks to John for his role in making this fellowship program one of the most sought-after programs in North America and the world. Dr. Cynthia Maxwell will be taking over from John and we look forward to her providing new leadership within this already strong program. Dr. Ellen Greenblatt has also stepped down as Director of the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Fellowship Program and Dr. Barbara Cruickshank will be taking over from her. I would also like to thank Ellen for her outstanding leadership again in transitioning this Royal College program from accreditation without certification to accreditation with examination and we welcome Barbara to this new role.

The department's global health initiatives continue to expand. We were successful in receiving funding from the British Council through the Delphi grant process to implement the SOGC's emergency obstetrical care program (Alarm International Program) at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and subsequently in the surrounding region. Congratulations to all of our faculty who were involved in securing this grant as well as to our colleagues at Moi University, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital as well as Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

We ended the academic year by undergoing a strategic planning retreat on June 11 which was facilitated by Helena Axler. This was a very productive retreat with over 40 members of our department participating. A draft report from the retreat has been prepared by Helena

## Inside This Issue

- 1-2 Message from the Chair
- 2 Research Day 2009
- 3-4 Global Health News
  - Global Health Initiative with ASANTE
  - 2009 Global Health Research Conference
- 4 Awards, Honours & Achievements
- 5-7 Research Corner
- 7 Faculty Appointments/Promotions
- 8 Resident Corner
- 8 Departmental Acknowledgements
- 9-11 Inter-Hospital News & Events
- 11 Upcoming Events
- 12 Genesis Breakfast News



and this will be widely distributed to the department with a follow-up session in the fall where further input will be sought from members of the department who were not able to attend the retreat in June.

This year was also marked by the fiscal challenges facing the global environment. Although the department has weathered this well, we will continue to monitor the fiscal situation carefully. We are extremely grateful to our hospital partners as well as educational partners and philanthropic supporters for advancing our combined clinical and academic mission. We also saw the departure of Vivienne Hinds from the department as the Administrative Assistant to the Chair at the end of June. Vivienne has been in this role for many years and has been the initial contact for many people with the department. We wish Vivienne well in her retirement.

In closing I would like to thank all of our faculty and staff within the university department as well as our affiliated hospital sites for your unwavering commitment to the department and I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Alan D. Bocking

## Research Day 2009

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology 26th Annual Research Day took place on Friday, May 8, 2009. There were 14 oral and 58 poster presentations by trainees from the department, all of extremely high quality. We also heard an excellent Henderson Lecture, delivered by Dr. David L. Keefe, University of South Florida College of Medicine, USA, on the topic of "Burning the Candle at Both Ends – A Telomere Theory of Reproductive Aging".

We would like to thank everyone who participated and extend special thanks to all those faculty members who acted as chairs and judges.

The **2009 JW Knox Ritchie Research Awards** for best abstract/presentation by trainee category were awarded during the celebratory wine and cheese reception at the end of the day. In addition, the **Frederick R. Papsin Award** for postgraduate resident in final year of training, based on teaching ability, mentorship activities and leadership, as chosen by peers, was awarded to **Lynne Zolis**.

Congratulations to the winners in each of the categories as well as Dr. Zolis for this recognition by her peers. We would also like to commend all the participants, both oral and poster presenters, for their valuable contribution to the continued success of Research Day.

### 2009 JW Knox Ritchie Research Award Winners

**Clinical Fellow:** **Clarissa Bambao (Supervisor: M. Shier)** for Poster Presentation, G2, P16 ONCOPROTEIN AS A TRIAGE TOOL IN PATIENTS WITH LOW GRADE SQUAMOUS INTRAEPITHELIAL LESION OF THE UTERINE CERVIX: A PILOT STUDY. Clarissa Bambao, Golnar Rasty, Michael Shier.

**Graduate Student:** **Shadab Rahman (Supervisor: R. Casper)** for Oral Presentation, O8, PREVENTING THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF NOCTURNAL LIGHT EXPOSURE ON MOOD, COGNITION AND SEROTONIN SECRETION DURING SIMULATED SHIFTWORK CONDITIONS BY FILTERING SHORT WAVELENGTHS. Shadab A Rahman, Shai Marcu, Colin M Shapiro, Theodore J Brown, Robert F Casper.

**Post-Graduate Fellow:** **Sascha Drewlo (Supervisor: J. Kingdom)** for Oral Presentation, 010 GCM1 REGULATION OF SFLT-1 EXPRESSION IN FIRST TRIMESTER PLACENTAL VILLI: THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN DISORDERED TROPHOBLAST



*Dr. Alan Bocking with Dr. Keefe, Henderson Lecturer and Helen Robson, Research Day Coordinator.*

DIFFERENTIATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERE EARLY-ONSET PREECLAMPSIA. Sascha Drewlo, Dora Baczyk, John Kingdom.

**Resident:** **Kelly Chu (Supervisor: K. Murphy)** for Poster Presentation, K2, THE "DUC" TRIAL: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF IMMEDIATE VS. DELAYED CORD CLAMPING IN PRETERM INFANTS BORN BETWEEN 24 AND 32 WEEKS' GESTATION [Work in progress]. Kelly Chu, Kellie Murphy, Wendy Whittle, Rory Windrim, Prakesh Shah.

**Medical Student:** **Erika Frasca (Supervisor: O. Nevo)** for Poster Presentation, C1, EARLY TRANSVAGINAL ULTRASOUND AT 13-15 WEEKS IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN DETECTION OF FETAL ANOMALIES. Erika Frasca, Ants Toi, David Chitayat, Dan Farine, Karen Chong, Katherine Fong, Ori Nevo.



## Global Health initiative with ASANTE

*George and Wycliffe with Drs. Chemwolo (Consultant, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital - MTRH) and Dr. David Caloia (Field Director, ASANTE-RH). This photo was taken in February 2009 in the MTHR cafeteria in Eldoret, Kenya.*



Moi University medical students, George Ngare and Wycliffe Chitiatvi, completed their six week elective (5th Year) in Toronto during April-May, 2009. Annah Andavuki and Damaris Ndambuki also completed a six week elective in the Spring of 2008.



*Annah Andavuki and Damaris Ndambuki with Dr. Hillary Mabeya, Head of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital's Department of Ob/Gyn*

## 2009 Global Health Research Conference Focuses on Convergence of Maternal and Child Health: Global Perspectives

The 7th Annual Global Health Research Conference for 2009 theme was the Convergence of Maternal & Child Health: Global Perspectives and took place April 27 and 28 at the MacLeod Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine. The conference organized by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Centre for International Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health featured leadership initiatives, current research and perspectives on urgent challenges affecting global maternal and child care. Supporting partners included the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Italian Cultural Institute of Toronto & The Consulate General of Italy in Toronto, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital, Peter A. Silverman Centre at Mt. Sinai Hospital, SickKids International and the Lucille Teasdale and Piero Corti Foundation.

The opening event & reception, sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute, included remarks by Dr. Dominique Corti, daughter of Lucille Teasdale and Piero Corti, a Canadian

### *Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Panel*

**Alan Bocking**, Professor & Gordon Leitch Chair, UofT Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology; **Linda Redwood-Campbell**, Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine, McMaster University & Chair, International (Global) Health Committee at the Canadian College of Family Physicians; **Wendy Lai**, Medical Associate, MSF project –Jude Ann, Hospital in Port au Prince (Haiti); **Lauralee Morris**, Medical Associate DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS / MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF) – Canada; **Luis Sampaio**, Past Director, Primary Health Care, Ministry of Health, Brazil.



### *Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality Panel*

**Maring Ogwang**, Institutional Director, Lacor Hospital, Uganda; **Dan Sellen**, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, UofT; **Shoo Lee**, Pediatrician-in-Chief, Mt. Sinai Hospital & Head, Neonatology Division, UofT; **Edward Liechty**, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Indiana University.





surgeon and Italian pediatrician who in 1961 established the Lacor Hospital near Gulu in Northern Uganda. Included in the opening event were special comments by Dr. Jennifer Blake who recognized Dr. Paul Thistle's receipt of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons inaugural Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award. The conference programme included health care scientists and practitioners, policy makers and activists from different disciplines committed to improving health care for women and children across the world. Included were the following themes: perinatal and maternal morbidity and mortality, infectious diseases and ethics, law and cultural influences.

The 2009 John R. Evans Lectureship "Global Momentum for Improved Maternal Health-Intended Consequences" was presented by Dr. Dorothy Shaw, Senior Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs, University of British Columbia with closing address by Dr. Rebecca Cook, Professor and Faculty Chair, International Human Rights Co-Director, International Programme on Reproductive and Sexual Health Law, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto .

The Convergence of Maternal & Child Health created a unique and important gathering of leading innovators and researchers committed to mother and child health, with the intent of advancing multidisciplinary knowledge to impact and improve health care for communities, both at home and in the most disadvantaged parts of the world.

## Awards, Honours & Achievements




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*Congratulations to all who have received departmental, national and international honours and award. Well done!*

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**Dr. Adrian Brown** is the recipient of the [2009 W.T. Aitkins Faculty Teaching Award](#) for Individual Teaching Performance – Small Group category for his invaluable teaching commitment to small group teaching including, the Obstetrics and Gynecology Year 3 Clerkship rotation, the ambulatory community experience (ACE) and the undergraduate elective program. Dr. Brown received the Award at the Faculty of Medicine Educational Achievement Celebration in May. Congratulations to Dr. Brown on this outstanding recognition of his invaluable contribution to the department's undergraduate medical education teaching program.

The W. T. Aitkins Award is the most prestigious faculty award given for commitment to and excellence in undergraduate medical education. Winners of this award are selected from nominees identified in a faculty-wide process. The criteria for the awards are extremely rigorous, and each nomination requires extensive support from both peers and students. Documentation, student evaluation and peer evaluation are carefully reviewed for each nominee by a panel of faculty and students.

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**Dr. Mary Hannah** has been invited to become a Fellow *ad eundem* by the Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. This award acknowledges the major contributions that Dr. Hannah has made to the specialty and the wellbeing of women.

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In recognition of their commitment to training and education of our trainees, **Dr. Jackie Thomas** and **Dr. Wendy Whittle** received the Wightman-Berris Academy Individual Teaching Awards, Dr. Thomas for Undergraduate Teaching and Dr. Wendy Whittle for Postgraduate Teaching.

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**Dr. David M. Rosenthal** was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for his presentation, "Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy (TLH) Using the Colpo-Probe Vaginal Fornix Delineator" at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 57th Annual Clinical Meeting in Chicago in May.

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The award recipients and all nominees for the [2008 - 2009 Inaugural Awards of Merit for Excellence in Interprofessional Education](#) are as follows:

### [2008 - 2009 Award Recipients:](#)

Merit for Outstanding Leadership in Advancing Interprofessional Education

**Dr. Filomena Meffe** and Susan J. Wagner received Merit for Excellence in Interprofessional Education Teaching St. Michael's Hospital and Department of Family & Community Medicine, Interprofessional Education Working Group





## Research Corner



### Grants

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate all faculty who received grants during this year. It cannot be overstated how this research contributes to furthering the health and wellness of women and children around the world.

### DeLPHE grant

**Title of Project:** Emergency Obstetrical Training (EmOC) in Western Kenya

#### Applicants:

- Moi University School of Medicine (MUSOM) /Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), Eldoret , Kenya
  - Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Toronto, Canada
  - Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala , Uganda
  - The Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda (AOGU), Kampala , Uganda
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada , Ottawa , Canada
  - Donor Agency: British Council (UK) - Development Partnerships in Higher Education programme (DeLPHE)

**Budget Total:** £90,000 - £30,000 per year for three years

#### Brief Description:

During the project, the five partners will institute an Emergency Obstetrical Care (EmOC) program at MTRH/MUSOM in Eldoret , Kenya , and in the surrounding region. By the end of three years, we envision a strengthening of ties between the three universities, improved knowledge and application of emergency obstetrical care at MTRH and in the surrounding region and the institution of an evaluation program to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes in the catchment area.

By the completion of this time frame, the ALARM International Program in this region of Kenya should be self-sustaining, with the capacity to provide ongoing courses. If our objectives have been achieved, then attitudes and knowledge towards obstetrical care in the region will have become more uniform and more based in both evidence and a human-rights approach.

#### *December 2008 decisions*

**Dr. Filomena Meffe** was successful in obtaining a grant from Health Force Ontario, Interprofessional Care/Education Fund in the amount of \$315,563.36 for the project entitled "Strategic Directions in Interprofessional Education and Interprofessional Collaboration in Maternity Care". This project will focus on (1) expanding our undergraduate IPE curriculum beyond St. Michael's to other teaching sites in Toronto, (2) providing education in IPC to currently practicing maternity care providers at St. Michael's and (3) performing ethnographic studies of the culture of maternity care and how it influences the success of IPE and IPC endeavours.

#### *January 2009 decisions*

CIHR

**Adamson Lee** (Principal Investigator), Nagy Andras (Co-Investigator). Role of placental VEGF-A and FLT1/sFLT1 in placental vascularity, fetal growth, and maternal function in mice. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$1,028,010, 2008 – 2013.



**Brown Theodore J** (Principal Investigator), Ringuette Maurice J, Winegarden Neil A (Co-Investigators). Androgen modulation of TGF-beta in ovarian cancer cells. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$598,992, 2008 – 2012.

Jurisica Igor, **Oza Amit M** (Principal Investigators), **Colgan Terence J, Jurisicova Andrea**, Kislinger Thomas (Co-Investigators). Diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for epithelial ovarian cancer. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$643,742, \$2008 – 2012.

**Librach Clifford L, Kingdom John C** (Principal Investigators). Prediction of preeclampsia using an HLA-G gene single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP). Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$266,337, 2008 – 2011.

Levitan Robert D (Principal Investigator), Davis Caroline, Kennedy James L, Loucks Eric B, **Matthews Stephen G**, Meaney Michael J, Soares Claudio D, Steiner Meir A (Co-Investigators). Longitudinal study of food reward and obesity in young children: The role of gene-environment

interaction. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$780,390, 2008 – 2013.

**Matthews Stephen G** (Principal Investigator), Szyf Moshe (Co-Investigator). Transgenerational effects of antenatal glucocorticoid treatment: Mechanisms of programming. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$100,000, 2008 – 2009.

**Narod Steven A** (Principal Investigator), Ghadirian Parviz, Malkin David D (Co-Investigators). Genetic susceptibility to esophageal cancer. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$552,132, 2008 – 2011.

Retnakaran Ravi R, Connelly Philip W, Floras John S, Hanley Anthony J, **Sermer Mathew**, Zinman Bernard (Principal Investigators). The early natural history of cardiovascular disease at 4-years postpartum in young women with varying degrees of glucose intolerance in pregnancy. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$100,000, 2008 – 2009.

Stefanovic Bojana (Principal Investigator), **Sled John G**, Stanisz Greg J. Biophysics of functional MRI. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Operating Grant, \$276,264, 2008 – 2011.

#### *University of Toronto*

**Alarab May** (Principal Investigator), Bortolini, Maria. Expression of modulators of collagen and elastin remodeling in vaginal wall of postmenopausal women with severe pelvic organ prolapse. University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, Dean's Fund, New Staff Grant, \$10,000, March 1, 2009 – 2014.

#### *March 2009 decisions*

**Casper RF**. Can aromatase inhibitors reduce breast density, a biomarker of breast cancer risk, in postmenopausal women taking hormone therapy? Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Ontario Region Research Project Grant, \$449,889 total, 2009 – 2012.

#### *April 2009 decisions*

**Narod, Steven**. Risk factor analysis of hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance Operating Grant. \$297,900 per annum, \$1,489,5000 total, 2009 – 2014.

**Narod, Steven**. BRCA1, BRCA2 and ovarian cancer survivorship Canadian Cancer Society Research Grant. 2009/2010:



### Genesis Research Announcement

Genesis is pleased to announce the RBC Foundation/McArthur/Genesis Research Foundation Fellowship in Gynaecologic Oncology Award 2009

### Gynaecologic Oncology Award 2009



**Dr. Jacob McGee, MD, FRCSC**

Dr. McGee is a Clinical Fellow, Gynecologic Oncology, University of Toronto, Student, Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

**Thesis Summary: Obstetrical Outcomes Following Treatment of Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia**



\$131,648; 2010/2011: \$86,394, 2009 – 2011.

*June 2009 Decisions*  
CIHR

**Belsham, Denise D.** Molecular mechanisms dictating control of neuroendocrine function by estrogen. CIHR, Operating Grant, \$752,940, 2009 – 2014.

**Lye, Stephen J** (Principal Investigator), Adamson, Lee; Matthews, Stephen G; Pennell, Craig E (Co-Investigators). A Murine Model to Investigate the Mechanisms Underlying DOHaD. CIHR, Operating Grant, \$910,852, 2009 – 2014.

**Matthews, Stephen G** (Principal Investigator), Szyf, Moshe (Co-Investigator). Transgenerational Effects of Antenatal Glucocorticoid Treatment: Mechanisms of Program: Operating Grant. CIHR, Operating Grant, \$479,331, 2009 – 2012.

**Rossant, Janet.** Lineage development in the mouse blastocyst. CIHR, Operating Grant, \$1,012,210, 2009 – 2014.

*University of Toronto*

**Nevo, Ori.** The role of sFlt-1 heterodimers in the pathogenesis of preeclampsia. Dean's Fund New Staff Grants, University of Toronto, \$10,000, 2009.

*Physicians' Services Incorporated (PSI)*

Amsalem, Hagai, **Kingdom, John.** Decidual neutrophils a novel finding: Their role in second trimester placentation. Physicians' Services Incorporated, Resident Research Grant. \$ 15,000, 2009-2010.

**Berger, Howard:** Implementation And Integration Of A Unified Electronic Ultrasound Reporting System And Perinatal Health Care Record at St Michael's Hospital. AFP Innovation grant. \$108,000.

## Faculty Appointments/Promotions

### Changes in Fellowship Directors

(effective July 1, 2009)

Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) – **Dr. John Kingdom** stepped down from his role of MFM Fellowship Director. **Dr. Cynthia Maxwell** is the new MFM Fellowship Director.

Gynaecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) – **Dr. Ellen Greenblatt** stepped down as REI Fellowship Director. **Dr. Barbara Cruickshank** is the new REI Fellowship Director.

### Appointments

**Dr. Yaakov Bentov** – Assistant Professor

**Dr. Lilian Gien** – Assistant Professor

**Dr. Prati Sharma** – Assistant Professor

### Cross Appointments

**Dr. Shoo Lee** – Professor, Dept of Pediatrics

### Promotions

#### Lecturer to Assistant Professor

**Dr. Nicolette Caccia** – Assistant Professor

**Dr. Grace Liu** – Assistant Professor

**Dr. Rajiv Shah** – Assistant Professor

#### Assistant to Associate Professor

**Dr. Lisa Allen** – Associate Professor

**Dr. Andrea Jurisicova** – Associate Professor

**Dr. Kellie Murphy** – Associate Professor

**Dr. Artin Ternamian** – Associate Professor

## Appointment of Professor Stephen Matthews as Chair, Department of Physiology

We are delighted to inform you of Dr. Stephen Matthews's appointment as Chair of the Department of Physiology. Below is Dean Whiteside's announcement regarding this new appointment.

*MESSAGE FROM CATHARINE WHITESIDE, DEAN, FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
VICE-PROVOST RELATIONS WITH HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS*

It is with great pleasure that I announce the Provost's approval of the appointment of Professor Stephen Matthews as the next Chair, Department of Physiology effective April 1, 2009. Professor Matthews has served as the Interim Chair of the Department since July 1, 2008. Previously he held major leadership roles in the Department including chair of the Research & Innovation Committee and Undergraduate Medicine Education Course Director for Metabolism and Nutrition. He also leads a large CIHR-funded research group and a multidisciplinary program in Maternal Adversity, Vulnerability and Neurodevelopment (MAVAN) and has numerous research programs and collaborations underway including Fetal Blood Brain Barrier and Early Life Programming of Neuroendocrine Function and Behaviour. Professor Matthews has an extensive publication record and is currently supervising undergraduate, MSc, PhD students and post doctoral fellows. Please join me in congratulating Professor Matthews on his appointment.



## Resident Corner

### Resident Achievements

**Jamie Kroft** was awarded the SOGC/CNGOF Junior Member Award. Her co-authors include: Ambika Aneja (PGY-5), Jessica Tyrwhitt, Dr. Artin Ternamian (Staff Supervisor, St. Joseph's Health Sciences Centre)

This award is given to a Junior Member of the SOGC who participates in the Abstract Program during the Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM). The winner participates in an exchange program between the SOGC and the Collège National des Gynécologues et Obstétriciens Français (CNGOF) by attending the Collège's Annual Clinical Meeting. This reciprocal award also allows a French resident to attend the SOGC's ACM.

### 2009 Fellows

Congratulations to the fellows who completed their programs this year!

- Anjali Aggarwal
- Al Nihal -Riami
- Rebecca Arthur
- Clarissa Bambao
- Yaakov Bentov
- Shereen Chirayilkalam
- Lilian Gien
- Limor Gortzak-Uzan
- Katy Gouin
- Waldo Jimenez-Fiedler
- Steven Koenen
- Aisling Martin
- Sharon Maslovitz
- Alexandra Nevin
- Ahmed Sayed
- Neerja Sharma
- Suma Shastry

### 2009 Graduates

Congratulations to our residents who recently successfully completed the RCPSC Fellowship exams.

- Ambika Aneja
- Noor Niyar N. Ladhani
- Ingrid Savasi
- Amanda Selk
- Sarah Gail Wallace
- Lynne Ruddy Zolis

### 2009-10 New PGY1 Residents

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new residents starting on July 1, 2009.

1. Paulina Cybulska
2. Brian Ferguson
3. Helena Frecker
4. Louise-Helene Gagnon
5. Alice Han
6. Julia Kfoury
7. Kelsey Mills
8. Leslie Po
9. Laura Sovran
10. Priya Sharma
11. Evan Taerk

We would also like to bid farewell and best wishes to Narges Khoshnood who transferred out of our program.

## Departmental Acknowledgement

We would like to bid a heartfelt farewell to Vivienne Hinds, Secretary to the Chair. Vivienne retired at the end of June 2009. Vivienne was never one to enjoy the spotlight, but we are sure she appreciated the farewell luncheon on June 24 thrown in her honour. Vivienne was more than the Secretary to the Chair of the department. She worked with two Chairs of the department and could be depended upon for her wealth of knowledge, good cheer and humour. What's next for Vivienne? Vivienne plans to relax and spend more time with her grandchildren and family. Enjoy this next stage of your life, Vivienne. We will miss you!



*Vivienne at her farewell luncheon  
pictured with Drs. Ritchie and Bocking.*





## Inter-Hospital News & Events

### News from Mount Sinai Hospital

- Congratulations to **Dr. Rachel Spitzer** on the birth of her baby boy, Seth Lazer Kates, who was born in June.
- The new Mount Sinai Hospital Centre for Fertility and Reproductive Health at 250 Dundas St. West opened its doors on June 17. Joe Mapa and the honourable Minister of Health David Caplan were at the grand opening as well as many friends, colleagues and other guests.
- **Dr. Kimberly Liu** celebrates the birth of her daughter, Alexis Sara Barankin, born January 27, 2009. Congratulations Dr. Liu.

*Dr. Kimberly Liu and her daughter, Alexis Sara Barankin, born on Jan 27th*



### News from Sunnybrook Hospital

- **Dr. Romy Nitsch**, our Resident Wellness Coordinator, has returned from her one-year sabbatical in Australia.



*Dr. Rachel Spitzer with her new son, Seth, and husband at Seth's bris*

### News from Saint Michael's Hospital

- **Andrea Lausman** has been our head of L&D for 2 years now and implemented many positive team functions to meet our new acuity service. She also has found time to have three publications in peer-reviewed journals in the past six months, 3 accepted abstracts at scientific meetings and she will be celebrating one year in her new house.
- **Deborah Robertson** is becoming a nationally-recognized expert in vulvar diseases. She has participated in several scientific meetings and in her spare time, she is making a baby with a due date of late September. We wish her the best.
- **Sari Kives** has published three book chapters in the past six months, possibly a record for SMH obs/gyn. This while she finishes her Master's in clin epi this summer and on the side, she was married on June 9th.
- **Adelmo Martoglio** completed a cycling trip to raise money for cancer. His ride raised \$6000 for the cause. As another donation of time, energy and money, Adelmo worked very diligently at sending a colposcope to one of our gynecology colleagues in Guatemala City. It took much time, effort, a few battles and a lot of money, but they received the colposcope with gratitude in June. Thank you for your generosity Adelmo.
- **Guylaine Lefebvre** was recognized for her work in international health at the SOGC meeting in Halifax. She finishes her last year on Council and Executive and now moves on to Chair the

newly-formed Risk management Committee for gynecology at SOGC. She is also on the scientific committee for the FIGO meeting in Capetown and is hoping to see many of our faculty at the meeting.

#### Fellows:

- **Aisling Martin** completes her training with us this July and she has accepted a position in MFM in Ireland. We are sorry to see her go but know that her skills will serve her well in her promising career ahead.
- **Suma Shastry** has completed her 2-year gynecologic surgery fellowship with us and her presentation at SOGC was retained as one of four best. She has a staff position in St-John, NB, where she is expected to lead a minimally-invasive program. We wish her all the best.
- **Matthew Morton** starts his second and final year of the fellowship in gynecologic surgery. He recently participated in a charity squash tournament in Montreal, and finished first in his category. The tournament was featured in the Gazette, and included a picture of Matthew receiving his trophy. The tournament raised \$30,000 for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada and the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinic at the Jewish General Hospital.



## Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau following the footsteps of Dr. Bethune

Dr. Pairaudeau (NYGH) visited China again in April 2009 of this year where he gave talks in Beijing, and Zhan Jiang in the South. He also visited the Embassy in Beijing as well as the Consular Office in Ghuan Zhou. Dr. Pairaudeau visited the Beijing Medical Hospital last year and found upon his return that they are continuing to flourish. He is hoping to go back in September (H1N1 will hopefully disappear) so that Dr. Pairaudeau can continue with his educational projects, including hysteroscopy teaching and rounds in Mandarin and English. Plans are also underway for Dr. Pairaudeau to travel to Chong Qing our sister city in China. There are endless possibilities for Canadian MDs to go to China with the memory of Dr. Norman Bethune still fresh in the minds of older Chinese. Dr. Pairaudeau will keep us posted on his next trip to China.



*Dr. Pairaudeau about to enjoy a meal with (standing from left to right): Professor Meng, Professor Zhang (Chairman of the Dept), Dr. Ammy Liu Resident in Gynaecology*

### *Dr. Pairaudeau reflects on his experiences in China*

China has provided me with some of the most interesting experiences both from a medical education as well as cultural point of view. I returned to Beijing in April of this year 2009 to plan my medical project "Connecting with China" in September 2009. Working at North York General, we have many patients not just from Hong Kong but from mainland China. In fact many of my patients are from Beijing or Shanghai. I have found working in China very helpful in working day-to-day with Chinese patients in Canada. Mandarin is still a real challenge, but I have teacher, and continue to work on my writing and communicating skills.

I was invited back to The Beijing Medical Hospital to lecture as well follow up on my hysteroscopy course, I provided with the help of Professor Nick Leyland and Professor George Vilos in September 2008. As usual, I was well received, and had the opportunity to see how the faculty was doing. I was also able to observe Professor Zhang Yi perform advanced laparoscopy in both cancer and none cancer cases in the pelvis. I also visited Chong Qing our sister city for Toronto. There are 32 million people living in this amazing city. On to Ghuan Zhou in the South and then on to Zhan Jiang right down in the south west corner of China. Professor Zhang Fan Lan is the departmental chief, and another expert laparoscopist. The chance to see how other gynecologists operate and handle their patients is very helpful. At the moment, I am working on different projects, but at the time of writing this article, there is concern about H1N1 swine flu in China. I hope this will not delay my plans for September 2009.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SMFM: "THE PREGNANCY MEETING"

The Annual meeting of the SMFM (Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine) is the largest clinical meeting on pregnancy and hence it's new name "The Pregnancy meeting". In the last 20 years we have had an excellent representation at this meeting. The papers from UofT usually accounts for 40-50% of those from all sixteen Canadian Universities with Ob/Gyn programs. At this year's meeting, held in January 26-31, the University of Toronto again had an excellent representation with 11 papers from MSH, SHSC and SMH. **Ally Murji**, one of our residents, presented a paper he prepared under the supervision of **John Kingdom** on: "Sex linked association in placental function". This oral presentation showed quite convincing data that women are once again "the stronger sex". **Mat Sermer** was the only non-American course director and both he and **Rory Windrim** were the only Canadians selected to give such a course. The award for best research by a resident this year went to **Ally Murji** and **John Kingdom**.



## IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to announce the passing of **Dr. Heather Houston**, a former resident of the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She was a valued member of the Woman and Child Program at York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill. Dr. Houston passed away January 27, 2009 following a 2-year battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Dr. Houston's family, friends and co-workers. Dr. Houston provided York Central with many years of exemplary care. She will be sadly missed.

We wish to bid a sad farewell to **Dr. Robert Meikeljohn**. Dr. Meikeljohn practised and taught at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto from 1938 until 1940 when he enlisted and joined the Canadian 16th Field Ambulance, 4th Armored Division as a surgeon. After the war, in 1948 he was invited to join the staff at Toronto Western Hospital and became head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department from 1957 to 1970. Later, he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Toronto.

In 1957, Dr. Meikeljohn was instrumental in forming the Ontario Medical Association's section on obstetrics and gynecology which was formed to study and improve standards in obstetrical and gynecological practice in the province of Ontario. The section was involved in the formation of a province-wide committee to investigate maternal deaths in Ontario. Dr. Meikeljohn was invited to sit on the Maternal Welfare Committee in 1961. Over the next 20 years, Dr. Meikeljohn contributed to reducing the maternal death rate in Ontario. He travelled throughout the province teaching doctors the importance of care of mothers during pregnancy and childbirth. Dr. Meikeljohn retired from medicine in 1985.

Robert Blaikie Meikeljohn was born on Sept. 26, 1907, in Harriston, Ont. He died peacefully at home in Toronto on Dec. 2, 2008. He was 102.

## Upcoming Events



Mark your calendars!

### Continuing Medical Education Seminars at Mount Sinai Hospital

For further information please go to:

<http://www.mountsinai.on.ca/education/staff-professionals/cme/continuing-medical-education-seminars>  
or contact Elizabeth Gan at (416) 586-4800 ext. 2489.

Cesarean Section Update.....November 6, 2009  
Medical Disorders in Pregnancy.....November 7, 2009  
5th Annual Gynaecology Review Day.....December 11, 2009

### Pregnancy and Birth: Current Clinical Issues Annual Conference

The Centre for Mother, Infant, and Child Research  
A Unit of the Sunnybrook Research Institute  
Marriott Toronto Eaton Centre

525 Bay St., Toronto, ON..... Friday, September 11, 2009

### Faculty Development Half Day and Awards Reception

Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
89 Chestnut Street, Toronto, ON

### Research Day 2009 Abstract Deadline

Friday, March 5, 2010

### Genesis Breakfast

Thurs, April 22, 2010, 7:15 a.m. (To be confirmed)  
MaRS Building

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Day 2010

Friday, May 7, 2010  
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Northrop Frye Building, 1st Floor  
Victoria University, 75 Queen's Park  
University of Toronto  
For more information, please contact  
[Helen.Robson@utoronto.ca](mailto:Helen.Robson@utoronto.ca)



# GENESIS

Advancing women's health.

Offering high quality and timely women's health education sessions to the public is a critical part of the Genesis mandate as a medical research Foundation. According to our guests, the 18th **Genesis Awareness Breakfast** held on April 23, 2009 at MaRS was an extraordinary success in this regard.

A very special thank you to the members, alumni and associates of the Department of OB/GYN for continued support and partnership with Genesis toward the shared goal of better OB/GYN global healthcare for women.

8 pages of impressive Breakfast 2009 photos can be viewed on the Genesis website:

<http://www.genesisresearch.org/events/bf/bf2009-pics.htm>

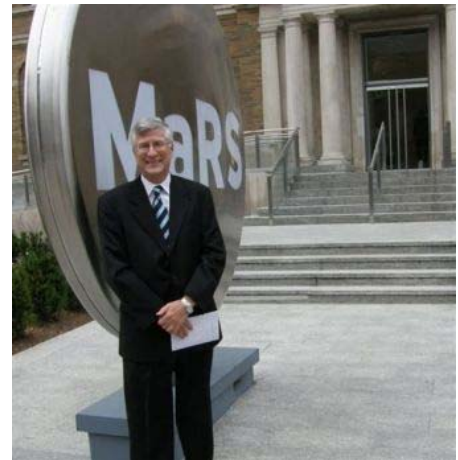
Here are a few to tempt you. Have a wonderful summer!

Beverly

Beverly Allen, CFRE  
Genesis Executive Director



*Guest  
Speaker and  
Genesis  
Fellow, Dr.  
Marcus  
Bernardini  
at  
the podium*



*Dr. Alan Bocking,  
Genesis Chair, in  
front of Mars*



*Genesis Breakfast Speakers, Trustees and Guests  
Seated: Denise Wilson, RBC, Dr. Joan Murphy, Dr.  
Barry Rosen*

*Standing: Beverly Allen, Dr. Jennifer Blake, Dr. Alan  
Bocking, Dr. Sandra Messner, Dr. Marcus Bernardini*



*University of Toronto, Dept. OB/GYN Residents and  
Guests*

*Seated: George Ngare, Wycliffe Soita Chitiavi,  
Aaron Yarmoshuk, Lynn Zolis*

*Standing: Ingrid Savasi, Dr. Isabella Caniggia,  
Antonella Racano*

*We hope that Genesis has become one of your favorite charities. Please consider making an on-line donation to Genesis using our secured website: <https://www.genesisresearch.org/donate/genesisform.htm>*