



December 2008

Message from the Chair



*Dr. Jennifer Blake,
MD, MSc, FRCSC
Acting Chair*

From 92 College Street we would like to wish you all success and happiness in the coming year. As I reach the end of these six months sitting in for Dr. Bocking, I look back on an extraordinary privilege which has allowed me to get a glimpse of our whole department, and it has left me with a deep sense of pride. From our residents to our faculty engaged in clinical care, teaching, and research, whether in downtown or in community settings, our dedicated and able support and administrative staff, we are blessed to have a group of people dedicated to excellence and ongoing innovation and development ensuring the best possible care and outcomes for our patients. At this time of year we are happy to acknowledge and thank everyone for their extraordinary service, but truly our thanks are not confined to the holiday season.

Last year was marked by its successes and exciting new ventures. Among the most exciting of new ventures is the department's venture into a strong and effective partnership with Moi University in Kenya. We have had the privilege of having trainees and faculty from Moi join us in Toronto, and our faculty who have had the chance to travel to Kenya have come back with a sense of contributed meaningfully to a worthwhile project. We are grateful for the support given to this project whether in your time, donated medical supplies or generous financial support. We have committed to helping equip the new maternity hospital in Moi, so you can expect to hear more about fundraising!

Equally exciting has been the ongoing planning for expansion of education into the community, where we are so fortunate to have so many excellent clinicians and educators, and many alumni from our own residency programme.

We have also had some very sad and difficult times as a department. The unexpected death of one of our postgraduate residents, Dr. Neelam Sierra was a tragedy that affected all of us, but none so much as her fellow trainees. As a department struggling to cope with the tragedy, I witnessed the great strength and caring that links us. Our thoughts remain with her family. Her memory is very much with us.

2009 promises to be an exciting new year. With Dr. Bocking's return we will be revisiting our strategic plan, ensuring that we move forward and maintain our position of pre-eminence as a department. There will be the events that each year punctuates our calendar: an exciting roster of city-wide speakers, clinical science evenings, and a new series of workshops to help our faculty prepare for their three-year reviews and ready themselves for promotions. We look forward to a stimulating Research Day (May 8 2009, see inside for details), and then to kicking back for the annual BBQ in June 2009. There is something for everyone, and we hope to see all of you over the coming months.

Dr. Jennifer Blake

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FACULTY & ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP & CELEBRATORY DINNER

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

The Faculty & Alumni Professional Development Workshop took place at Hart House on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 with over 75 faculty and alumni attending and wide-ranging presentations from International Women's Health to Distributed Medical Education. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. André Lalonde on "International Women's Health: the role of the Obstetricians & Gynaecologists".

Following the Faculty & Alumni Professional Development Workshop, the department hosted its annual awards ceremony at the Celebratory Dinner.



Dr. André Lalonde, Guest Speaker, Faculty and Alumni Professional Development Day

At the dinner, the department was proud to present a new award, the **MASTER TEACHER AWARDS**. This award was presented to **Drs. Elaine Herer, Adrian Brown and Fay Weisberg**. A hearty and well-deserved congratulations! Sponsor Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals was well represented by Ms. Karen Johnson and Ms. Adria Fabiani, who helped to present the Bayer Healthcare Awards for Teaching Excellence. Listed below are the award winners:

Chair's Awards:

Undergraduate teaching: **John Kingdom** (MSH)
 Postgraduate teaching: **Richard Pittini** (SHSC/WCH)
 Outstanding research potential: **Wendy Whittle** (MSH)
 Sustained excellence in research: **Mathew Sermer** (MSH)
 Research facilitation: **Wendy Wolfman** (MSH)
 Postgraduate program development/innovation: **Gareth Seaward** (MSH)
 Excellence in CME course coordination: **Mark Yudin** (SMH), **Paul Bernstein** (MSH), **Fay Weisberg** (SHSC/WCH)

2008 Bayer Healthcare Awards for Teaching Excellence:

Adrian Brown (NYGH)	Herb Wong (SHSC/WCH)
Jason Dodge (MSH)	Suzanne Wong (SJHC)
Perry Phillips (TEGH)	Mark Yudin (SMH)
Rory Windrim (MSH)	

Master Teacher Awards:
Drs. Elaine Herer (SHSC/WCH)
Adrian Brown (NYGH)
Fay Weisberg (SHSC/WCH)



Season's Greetings



Faculty and Alumni Workshop
 For a pictorial record of the event, the **Alumni Day Photo Album**, please go to the department website:
<http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca>



Master Teachers: Drs. Elaine Herer, Adrian Brown and Fay Weisberg are honoured.



African Dance & Drum Class
 (Faculty of Music, UofT)
 entertain at the Celebratory Dinner.



Awards, Honours & Achievements



Congratulations to all who have received departmental, national and international honours and awards

At the 33rd Annual International Urogynecological Association (IUGA) meeting in Taipei, Taiwan (Sept 15-17, 2008) **Dr. Harold Drutz**, the only Canadian to have served as president of the Society (1994-96), was given a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for "his ongoing contributions to the advancement of the society and the global improvement of healthcare for women with pelvic floor disorders."

Dr. John Kingdom and **Dr. Cindy Maxwell** passed the first Canadian National Subspecialty Board Examination in MFM.

Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre received an honorary fellowship to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for her contributions in women's health. Her fellowship *ad eundem* was presented at the RCOG meeting in Montreal in September 2008.



Dr. Artin Ternamian received the 2008 Kurt SEMM Award for Excellence in Pelviscopy, offered by an educational grant from the Foundation of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, at the annual AAGL meeting in October 2008. Dr. Ternamian is pictured above (centre) with co-authors Dr. G. Vilos and Dr. B Abu-Rafea.

Dr. Paul Thistle was the first recipient of the inaugural Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award, the most recent addition to our awards and grants program. Members of the College paid tribute to Paul Thistle, MD, FRCSC, an exceptional physician who embodies the spirit of this prestigious new award. He currently serves the people of rural Africa as a gynaecologist and obstetrician at the Salvation Army's Howard Hospital in Glendale, Zimbabwe.

Dr. Thistle, a graduate of the University of Toronto, exemplifies the physician competencies outlined in the CanMEDS Framework. Not only does he provide medical expertise, he communicates to colleagues and the world about situations that deserve our attention and our support. He collaborates with others and manages the scarce resources at Howard Hospital. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Thistle noted that "Old Mother Howard's cupboards are often bare," yet he and others have continued to keep its doors open when other health care institutions have closed.

Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass was conferred the honour of Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in September, 2008, in Montreal, at the 7th Annual Scientific Meeting of the RCOG/ ACOG and SOGC.

Dr. Kim Liu successfully completed her REI fellowship, as well as her Masters in Legal Studies, and is now on staff at MSH, Division of Reproductive Sciences, UofT.

News from APOG

Dr. Alan Bocking commenced his term as President of the Canadian Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (APOG) as of December 2008.

Dr. Adrian Brown received the Carl Nimrod Educator of the Year Award for the University of Toronto. This award was presented at APOG's 37th Annual Meeting held in Toronto on December 5-7, 2008.





Research Corner



career for his scholarship, clinical skills, research and teaching. He is a reviewer for numerous leading medical journals, and has authored over 100 original scientific papers, as well as over 20 book chapters and reviews. Dr. Keefe's most recent research involves reproductive aging and stem cell biology.

For more information, please contact Helen Robson at helen.robson@utoronto.ca or check our website at <http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/Research/ResearchDay.htm>. All requirements and forms will be posted in the new year.

Grants

CIHR (Awarded July 2008)

Caniggia, Isabella, Jurisicova, Andrea / Post, Martin. The role of Bcl-2 family members in regulating placental cell fate. CIHR, \$151,410, 5 years.

Casper, Robert F, Brown, Theodore J / Shapiro, Colin M. Prevention of Circadian Rhythm Disruption by Nocturnal Light Exposure, CIHR, \$143,607, 3 years.

Henkelman, R Mark (PI), Co-applicants: Josselyn, Sheena A / Lerch, Jason P / **Sled, John G.** MRI of learning and memory. CIHR, Average annual operating amount: \$134,667, 5 years.

Lambe, Evelyn K. Cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying development and plasticity of prefrontal attention circuitry, CIHR, \$143,605, 5 years.

Weksberg, Rosanna (PI) Roberts, Sheila (Wendy) G / Scherer, Stephen W. Methylation Profiling in Autism. CIHR, \$186,196, 3 years.

26th Annual Department Research Day May 8, 2009

Research Day 2009 will take place on Friday, May 8, 2009 at Emmanuel College, Victoria University, 75 Queen's Park, in the University of Toronto. This event provides an opportunity for department trainees (fellows, residents, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and medical students) to present their research and for faculty and others to enjoy a broad sweep of topics from all areas of obstetrics and gynaecology and from all institutions affiliated with the department.

The call for abstracts will go out in January 2009 and abstracts are due on **Monday, March 2, 2009**.

The Research Committee is pleased to announce that **Dr. David L. Keefe** will present the Henderson Lecture on Research Day, speaking on the topic, "Burning the Candle at Both Ends – A Telomere Theory of Reproductive Aging". Dr. Keefe is the James M. Ingram Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of South Florida College of Medicine. Dr. Keefe's expertise is in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. A graduate, magna cum laude, from Harvard, he received his specialty training at Northwestern and Yale Universities. He has received several prestigious awards over his

Dan Nayot, a PGY2, was successful in obtaining a grant from the recent Canadian Foundation for Women's Health competition named "Menopauseandu.ca" for an application entitled "Can Aromatase Inhibitors Improve the Diagnostic Sensitivity and Specificity of MRI to Detect Breast Cancer in Menopausal Women?" His co-applicants were Dr. Noha Mousa, Dr. Pavel Crystal and **Dr. Robert Casper**.

Dr. Mark H. Yudin received a grant from the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR) for \$23,172.62 for a project entitled, "Canadian physician attitudes regarding pregnancy, reproductive care choices, and access to fertility services among HIV-positive individuals or couples."

Publications

As always, our faculty has been busy producing research publications throughout the year. For a list of this year's publications, please contact Helen Robson, at Helen.Robson@utoronto.ca. Look forward to this list as a Quick Link on the home page of the department website and a monthly email update from the Research Committee in the new year.



Season's Greetings

Research Corner (cont'd)

GENESIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION Kenya Fund Donors



The Department of OB/GYN/Genesis Research Foundation/Eldoret, Kenya International Fund is a very exciting new fundraising initiative and joint programme at the Moi University in Kenya, as part of the ASANTE consortium. This is a collaborative partnership for which we can all feel exceedingly proud.

Donors to the Department of OB/GYN/Genesis Research Foundation/Eldoret, Kenya International Fund are sincerely thanked and gratefully acknowledged for their contributions:

To contribute to the KenyaFund, please obtain a KenyaFund donation form at: <http://www.genesisresearch.org/grants/kenya2008.htm>. The form can then be faxed or mailed to Genesis.

Research Announcement

Due to the generosity of our donors, Genesis is pleased to announce the following recent research award recipient:

Genesis Scholarship Award 2009



Antonella Racano

Government of Ontario/R. Howard Webster Foundation/Genesis Research Foundation/Physiology Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology at the University of Toronto 2008/2009

Thesis: The Role of Factor Inhibiting HIF-1 (FIH-1) in Normal and Pathological Human Placentae

For more details about Antonella's thesis:

<http://www.genesisresearch.org/grants/grants0809.htm>

Resident Corner



Eve Fried, a PGY5 resident, celebrates the birth of her baby with faculty member **Dr. Jackie Thomas**. Pictured above.

We wish to bid farewell and good luck to **Ms. Cindy Sinclair**, former Education Coordinator of the Postgraduate Program. Cindy accepted a position at OISE in early September as Assistant to the Chair of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education. Her enthusiasm and hardworking nature will ensure she achieves success in all her future endeavours. She served the department for 10 years and we will indeed miss her drive and dedication to the department.

Happy New Year from Genesis

We sincerely hope that you will consider making a donation to Genesis this year. For your convenience, you may choose to donate on-line with our secured website at:

www.genesisresearch.org/donate/donate.htm

We hope you had a happy holiday and send our best wishes for a healthy and cheerful 2009 from everyone at Genesis

Beverly Allen, CFRE, Genesis Executive Director.





Department News & Events



Dr. Rachel Spitzer with Dr. Hillary Mabeya, Head of the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital's Department of Ob/Gyn. Dr. Spitzer is handing over a LEEP machine donated by ConMed through our Division of Gyne Oncology and arranged through Dr. Barry Rosen.

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital Collaboration

Dr. Rachel Spitzer visited with colleagues at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital's Department of Ob/Gyn for three weeks. In addition to clinical work, she focused on essential administrative and research work in order to help advance collaboration. Dr. Spitzer furthered work done by Dr. Alan Bocking to select and order labour and delivery beds as well as planning for a new Mother Baby Hospital for a surgical skills lab for trainees. Dr. Spitzer also met with Ob/Gyn residents coming to Toronto on elective in the fall of 2009, and worked with Toronto resident, Dr. Sarah Sinasac, helping to supervise her clinical and research work.



Dr. Alan Bocking with members of the Department of Reproductive Health at Moi University School of Medicine and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya during the final year medical student exams.

Dr. Sarah Sinasac and Dr. Hillary Mabeya doing a urinary diversion procedure for severe obstetric fistula at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya.



IN REMEMBRANCE

We are saddened by the loss of Dr. Lowell Langille, who passed away October 29, 2008. Dr. Langille was appointed full Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology and cross appointed to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He was Senior Scientist, Toronto General Research Institute, University Health Network and served as Director of Research. Dr. Lowell was a well-loved teacher and an excellent mentor. He will be greatly missed and we extend our sincerest sympathy to his family.

Faculty Appointments

Dr. Paul Chang – Lecturer
 Dr. Waldo Jimenez-Fiedler – Assistant Professor
 Dr. Sabrina Lee – Lecturer
 Dr. Kimberly Liu – Assistant Professor
 Dr. Edward Ryan – Lecturer
 Dr. Kirsten Smith – Lecturer

Faculty Promotions

Dr. Rachel Spitzer – Assistant Professor



Season's Greetings

Inter-Hospital News & Events

In September 2008, **Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau (NYGH)** gave a hysteroscopy course to Visiting Professors, Drs. Yi Zhang and GuiHua Shen from Beijing Medical School, China. The impetus for the course came from a visit to the Beijing Hospital in November 2007. The Sept. 2008 event was supported by the UofT Ob/Gyn department and was very well received.

Dr. Pairaudeau has since made a follow-up visit to China in October 2008 and plans are underway for another trip in 2009.



Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau with colleagues and visiting Professors Drs. Yi Zhang & GuiHua Shen (Beijing Medical School)



Drs. Yi Zhang & GuiHua Shen's visit to the Skills Lab at Mount Sinai Hospital



Drs. Yi Zhang & GuiHua Shen (Beijing Medical School) & Head Nurse Ms Long (NYGH)

St. Michael's Hospital

The department at **SMH** has been very busy through the past 18 months, developing plans for a new ambulatory centre. The SMH Foundation generously raised 4.5 million dollars to be used for renovating the ambulatory experience in women's health. The new facility will be on two floors at 61 Queen St., across the street from the main hospital. Construction will start in February 2009 with hopes to open the new centre in 2010. In the meantime, all ob/gyn clinics will take place in the main hospital, in temporary quarters.

Congratulations to **Dr. Sari Kives**, who is engaged to be married. The wedding will take place in early June. She is also the proud new owner of a beautiful home.

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

As anyone can see the cranes are now finished their work, and building has now proceeded to the finishing of the interior of our new home on the Sunnybrook Bayview campus. That means that all attention is now firmly fixed on the move date of 2010, and all of the planning that goes into the move.

WCH is starting its planning for Gynecology in their soon to be constructed new ambulatory hospital.

Dr. Romy Nitsch has been spending the past year in New Zealand, keeping in close touch with the department, and working on her Master's in Ethics. **Dr. Lisa Merovitz** has been covering Romy's practice.

Dr. Herb Wong completed the Stepping Stones programme, and is taking on new teaching responsibilities within the residency programme.

We welcome **Fran Jackson** as the departmental administrative assistant. Fran came to us from Bloorview Macmillan. She has made many friends throughout the hospitals in her first short few months with us, and we are all glad to have her with us.





Upcoming Events

Abstract deadline for Research DayMarch 2, 2009

18th Genesis Awareness BreakfastApril 23, 2009
See right for details.

26th Annual Department Research Day
Dept. of Obstetrics and GynaecologyMay 8, 2009
Emmanuel College, Victoria University
75 Queen's Park, University of Toronto



Dr. David L. Keefe

*2009 Henderson Lecturer,
26th Annual Department
Research Day*



Programme Focus

Breast and Ovarian Cancers: Where do we go from here?

For topic details, please see this link:

<http://www.genesisresearch.org/events/bf/bf2009b.htm>

Save the Date!

18th Genesis Awareness Breakfast

Thursday, April 23, 2009, 7:15 a.m.

at the MaRS Discovery District

www.marsdd.com

101 College Street, Toronto, Ontario

To read more about Genesis Breakfast 2009 speakers
and topic details, visit

<http://www.genesisresearch.org/events/events.htm>

GUEST SPEAKERS



*Barry Rosen, MD,
FRCSC*



*Marcus
Bernardini, MD,
MSc, FRCSC*



*Sandra J. Messner,
MD, MSc, FCFP*



Season's Greetings