



December 2009

Message from the Chair



*Alan D. Bocking
MD, FRCSC
Gordon C. Leitch
Professor and Chair
Obstetrics and
Gynaecology*

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, it is once again a great pleasure for me to introduce our December Newsletter. Inside you will find the academic highlights of the last six months. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all those who have received honours and awards during this time period. I would particularly like to congratulate Dr. Lee Adamson as the 2009 recipient of the APOG Excellence in Research Award. This award is given annually to one investigator in a Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology from across the country and is a wonderful recognition of her leadership and research mentoring over many years. As President of APOG, I had the additional pleasure of giving Lee this award at our annual awards luncheon on December 5th.

The APOG Meeting this year was also highlighted by the introduction of the Cannell Lecture to the APOG Annual Meeting. Dr. Cannell was Chair of the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology from 1950-1965. The lecture was established in Dr. Cannell's name and had been traditionally given at the time of the SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting. The SOGC and the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health invited APOG to take over this lecture this year and of course we were delighted to do so. We also had the opportunity to reconnect some of the original members of the Cannell Club at a reception the evening prior to the lecture. The Cannell Club was established in 1963 by former residents and colleagues of Dr. Cannell. It was wonderful to see the continuing legacy that Dr. Cannell has left in academic obstetrics and gynaecology across our country. The lecture itself was delivered as part of our Interhospital Rounds Series by Dr. Richard Reznick, R.S. McLaughlin Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery here at the University of Toronto. Dr. Reznick presented an overview of recent changes and trends in surgical education and he has challenged our own thinking as to how we train future obstetricians/gynaecologists.

In the last six months considerable effort and energy has been devoted to refining our Department's Strategic Plan. A second retreat was held in September following the very successful retreat day in June. Over 70 faculty members, staff and trainees have participated in this process to date. Six Strategic Directions have been identified and the overall plan is currently being finalized. This will be circulated widely amongst the department and will serve as the framework for where we prioritize our activities over the next 3-5 years. I would like to personally thank all the members of the department who have contributed to this important process. We also had an opportunity to participate in Professional Development at the Faculty Development Half-Day in September. We were privileged to hear a very inspirational presentation on the training of clinician scientists by Dr. Norm Rosenblum, Director of the Clinical Investigator Program here at the University of Toronto. We also welcomed Dr. Jim Goodwin back to the department. Jim has been very helpful to me and the department in building the history documentation of the department. As many of you will know Jim is an outstanding writer and we are pleased to welcome him back.

As 2009 comes to an end, we look forward with great anticipation to further changes that will take place within our department in 2010. In particular, the Sunnybrook Department will be moving to the Bayview campus in September of 2010. There has been a tremendous amount of energy and work which has been ongoing to ensure a seamless transition both clinically as well as academically. The Maternal Fetal Medicine Division underwent an external review this past September and the reviewers, Dr. Patrick Catalano from Cleveland, Ohio, and Dr. Robert Gagnon from Montreal, reaffirmed the international excellence for which the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, is known. I would like to thank all of the members of the Division who participated in this review. In this newsletter there is an essay by Dr. Nick Paireudeau from North York General Hospital on his experiences in China during a trip this past fall. There are increasing opportunities for our department to collaborate and partner with our colleagues in China and we look forward to Nick's guidance and assistance in formulating these plans.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members of the department and staff at 92 College as well as at our affiliated teaching hospitals for their support over the past year and I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season.

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the Chair
- 2 2009 Department Awards
- 3 Awards, Honours & Achievements
- 4-5 Research Corner
- 5 Faculty Appointments
- 5 Resident Corner
- 6-8 Inter-Hospital News & Events
- 9 Upcoming Events



2009 Chair Awards 2009 Awards for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence

The department hosted its annual half-day Faculty Development and Department Awards Ceremony on September 30, 2009. Congratulations to all the award winners. Some of the award recipients are pictured on this page.

Chair's Awards

Elyse Lackie: Chair's Award for Undergraduate Teaching

Elyse Levinsky: Chair's Award for Postgraduate Teaching

Abheha Satkunaratham: Chair's Award for Postgraduate Program Dev't/Innovation

Knox Ritchie and Gareth Seaward: Chair's Award for Excellence in CME Course Coordination

Ori Nevo: Chair's Award for Outstanding Research Potential



Photo 1

2009 Awards for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence

Michele Farrugia, Mount Sinai Hospital

Grace Liu, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre/Women's College Hospital

Mary Melchior, St. Joseph's Health Centre

Deborah Robertson, St. Michael's Hospital

Kirsten Smith, North York General Hospital

Michael Sved, Mount Sinai Hospital

Melissa Tai, North York General Hospital



Photo 2

Photo 1: Dr. Elyse Lackie, Dr. Alan Bocking, and Dr. Jennifer Blake

Photo 2: Dr. Elyse Levinsky being congratulated by Dr. Alan Bocking, and Dr. Jennifer Blake

Photo 3: Drs. Alan Bocking, Michele Farrugia, and Filomena Meffe

Photo 4: Dr. Ori Nevo

Photo 5: Dr. Abheha Satkunaratham



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 3



Season's Greetings



Awards, Honours & Achievements



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

Dr. S. Lee Adamson was the 2009 recipient of the APOG Excellence in Research Award. This is a national award recognizing outstanding scientific leadership, research mentoring, creative effort and major research accomplishments of a Canadian researcher (or research group) active in APOG. The award was presented to Dr. Adamson at the 38th Annual APOG meeting held in Toronto on December 5, 2009.

Dr. S. Lee Adamson received the "Combined Undergraduate Large Class and Joint Undergraduate Small Class/Graduate Award" presented by the Department of Physiology on December 16th, 2009.

Dr. Isabella Caniggia received the "Innovative Course Design Award" presented by the Department of Physiology on December 16th, 2009.

Dr. John Kingdom was recently elected President of the Perinatal Research Society (PRS) for the 2010-2011 year. The PRS was established in 1969 to foster scientific interchange among people whose research interests are in the area of perinatal medicine and developmental biology. The society is unique because it actively supports graduate students, post-doc's, and clinical fellows to attend their annual meeting alongside more established investigators funded by NIH and CIHR.

Dr. John Kingdom won the best oral presentation prize for "heparin elevates maternal sflt-1 secretion and induces placental syncytial necrosis" at the 2009 European International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP) Congress held at Keble College Oxford, England, 10-12 September 2009. The work was done in his lab by **Sascha Drewlo**, **Dora Baczyk** and **Mara Sobel**.

Dr. Gordon Lickrish received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ontario Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists at its annual dinner in December for

his many years of contributions to the Health of Women in Ontario.

Dr. Elin Raymond won the "John H. Fowler Excellence in Teaching Award" from Toronto East General Hospital.

Dr. Wilf Steinberg is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ontario Medical Association this spring 2009. OMA Life Membership is awarded to those members who have made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Association, the medical profession and medical science, or common good at the provincial level.

Dr. Michael Sved was the 2009 recipient of the Carl Nimrod Educator Award which recognizes excellence, commitment, innovation and leadership in teaching knowledge, attitudes, and skills to the next generation of practitioners. This award was presented to Dr. Sved at the 38th Annual APOG meeting held in Toronto on December 5, 2009.

Dr. Jackie Thomas received the Wightman-Berris Academy Award for Individual Teaching in Undergraduate Education.

Dr. Wendy Wolfman has won the prestigious Practitioner of the Year Award from the North American Menopause Society. This award recognizes Dr. Wolfman's outstanding contributions to the field of menopause. She received the award during the NAMS 20th Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, on September 30-October 3, 2009.

Dr. Wendy Whittle received the Wightman-Berris Academy Award for Individual Teaching in Postgraduate Education.

Dr. Mark Yudin from St. Michael's Hospital, received both the CREOG National Faculty Award from the Obstetrics & Gynaecology's Senior Residents and the Fitzgerald Academy Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2009.





Research Corner



27th Annual Department Research Day May 7, 2010

The 27th Annual Department Research Day will be on FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Northrop Frye Hall, Ground Floor, Victoria University, 73 Queen's Park Crescent East.

Lecturer: **Jane Norman MD**

Professor of Maternal and Fetal Health,
University of Edinburgh, UK

Co-Director, Edinburgh Tommy's Centre for Maternal and Fetal Health Research

Abstract deadline: Friday, March 5, 2010

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

Adamson SL (Principal Investigator). The CMHD: an Integrated and Regional Platform for Improving the Modeling of Human Disease. Using models to develop treatments for human diseases. Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, Ontario Research Fund - Research Infrastructure program, \$6,523,359, October 2009

Baczyk DA (Principal Investigator), **Lye SJ** (Supervisor). DREAM-mediated regulation of GCM1 in the human and mouse placental trophoblast. CIHR, Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's Award, \$17,500, September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

Bainbridge, SA (Principal Investigator), **Adamson SL**, **Kingdom JC** (Supervisors). Effect of reduced placental expression of Glial Cell Missing-1 (Gcm1) on pregnancy outcome. CIHR Fellowship, \$28,333, September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011.

Iqbal M. (Principal Investigator), **Matthews SG** (Supervisor). Regulation of Multidrug Resistance in Endothelial Cells of the Fetal Blood-Brain Barrier. CIHR, Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships - Master's Award, \$17,500, September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

Letarte MV (Principal Investigator), **Murphy KJ** (Co-Investigator) Fifth Canadian Conference on Ovarian Cancer Research (CCOCR 2010), Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), Meetings, Planning & Dissemination Grant, \$12,500 September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

Loutfy MR (Principal Investigator), Margolese SL, **Yudin MH** (Co-Investigators). National HIV Pregnancy Planning Guidelines Development Team Meeting, CIHR, Meetings, Planning & Dissemination Grant: Institute of Infection and Immunity, \$16,146, September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

Matthews SG (Principal Investigator), Szyf M (Co-Investigator). Transgenerational Effects of Antenatal Glucocorticoid Treatment: Mechanisms of Programming. CIHR, Operating Grant, \$29,889, October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2012.

McGeer AJ (Principal Investigator), Allen VM, Bujold E, Coleman BL, Drews SJ, Johnstone J, Lee BE, Levy M, Loeb MB, Louie M, Manos SH, Mcneil SA, Money DM, **Murphy KE**, Taylor G, Zahariadis G. (Co-Investigators). Outcomes of Pandemic Influenza in Pregnancy (OPIP). CIHR, Catalyst Grant: Pandemic Outbreak Research Response, \$153,011, October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010.



Season's Greetings

Puligandla PS (Principal Investigator), Bouchard S, Brindle ME, Claydon JE, Laberge J-M, Lee SK, McMillan DDonald, **Ryan G**, Skarsgard ED, Von Dadelszen P, Yanchar NL (Co-Investigators). Canadian Pediatric Surgery Network Extension (CAPSNet-X), Meetings Planning & Dissemination Grant: Human Development Child & Youth Health, \$10,000, September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

Rossant J (Principal Investigator). Lineage development in the mouse blastocyst. CIHR, Operating Grant, \$101,221, October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2014.

Wen, Shi Wu (Principal Investigator), Coyle DA, Davidge ST, Fergusson DA, Fraser WD, **Kingdom JC**, Lee, SK, Perkins SL, Smith GN, Walker MC, Wells GA (Co-Investigators). Effect of folic acid supplementation in pregnancy on preeclampsia. CIHR Randomized Controlled Trials Program, \$705,290, October1, 2009 to September 30, 2014.

Wen, Shi Wu (Principal Investigator), Coyle DA, Davidge ST, Fergusson DA, Fraser WD, **Kingdom JC**, Lee, SK, Perkins SL, Smith GN, Walker MC, Wells GA (Co-Investigators). Effect of folic acid supplementation in pregnancy on preeclampsia. CIHR Randomized Controlled Trials Program, \$705,290, October1, 2009 to September 30, 2014.

Faculty Appointments

Dr. Mohamed Mitwally - Assistant Professor

Dr. James Goodwin - Associate Professor

Resident Corner

Dr. Jamie Kroft has won a 2009 North American Menopause Society (NAMS)/Duramed Pharmaceutical Inc. Medical Residents Excellence Award. The award recognizes and acknowledges 10 physicians currently in their residencies who have demonstrated excellence in their work in the field of menopause. Hearty Congratulations!

Dr. Amanda Selk is happy to announce the birth of her son, James Patrick McIntyre born October 10th at Mount Sinai, weighing 6 lbs 4 oz. Congratulations Amanda!

Dr. Lynne Zolis is thrilled to introduce you to the new love of her life! Jack Gerard Zolis was born on July 12th at 4:00 p.m. He weighed 6lbs 11ozs. Lynne had a very uneventful labour and baby Jack is doing great!



*Jack Gerard
Zolis*



*The happy couple, Lynne Zolis and her husband
Adam with baby Jack.*





Inter-Hospital News & Events

SHSC/WCH

Dr. Jennifer Blake has completed her second term as Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Women's College Hospital as of July 1, 2009. Dr. Blake, as Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, will continue to be responsible for all ongoing clinical and academic programs within the department at both sites.

Dr. Jerry Shime has accepted the position of Interim Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Women's College Hospital while a search committee is established to identify Dr. Blake's successor. Dr. Shime is well known at WCH. He is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Toronto and a highly respected academic and clinician. He served a full term as Chief of the Department at WCH prior to Dr. Blake's recruitment.

Obstetrical and gynaecological services that are currently provided at Women's College Hospital under the auspices of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre will continue until the program moves to Bayview Avenue in 2010. Dr. Shime will focus on development of the WCH Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, especially program planning, recruitment, and space planning until the permanent Chief is in place.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Shime to his new role and in thanking Dr. Blake for all that she has done during her term as Chief at WCH.

Dr. Richard Pittini recently returned from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where he had been working on a DelPHE project funded by the British Research Council. The project Dr. Pittini is working on is assisting the Faculty of Medicine at the Addis Ababa University in establishing their own simulation-based curriculum.

On Nov 18, 2009, **Dr. Herb Wong** performed a live telesurgery broadcast from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at Women's College Hospital to the AAGL 38th Global Congress of Minimally Invasive Gynecology in Orlando, Florida. The one-hour broadcast demonstrated the surgical procedure, "Laparoscopic Hysterectomy Using Suturing Techniques". The presentation was well received by the congress attendees. Assisting at the surgery were **Drs. Romy Nitsch** and **Janet Bodley**.

St. Michael's Hospital

Congratulations to **Dr. Deborah Robertson** on the birth of her baby boy. Baby William was born on August 28th, 2009 at 5 lbs, 5 oz.

Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre was a member of the scientific committee for the 2009 (FIGO) International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics World Congress meeting in Cape Town in October. Many people attended from UofT. There were more than 9000 participants overall, a great success providing attendees with a dramatic insight into the ongoing changes and issues in women's health care world-wide.

Toronto East General Hospital

Congratulations to **Dr. Elin Raymond** and Dan Berman on the birth of their second child, a baby boy, Eli Grame on Nov 19th 2009. All are well.

Dr. Brenda Woods completes her final term as Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at TEGH on Dec 31, 2009, and Dr. Murray Kroach will be Interim Chief as of Jan 1, 2010.

Ob/Gyn at TEGH welcomes **Dr. Roberta MacKenzie** as the newest member of the department.

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to announce the death of Mitchell (Alan) Goldbloom, husband of **Dr. Dana Soroka**. Mitchell Goldbloom died on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at Mount Sinai Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. Our deepest sympathies go to Dr. Soroka and her children and family. Donations may be made to the Mitchell Goldbloom Fund at Mount Sinai Hospital's Max and Beatrice Wolfe Children's Grief Centre 416-586-8203, Ext. 3936.



Season's Greetings



Inter-Hospital News & Events

Mount Sinai Hospital

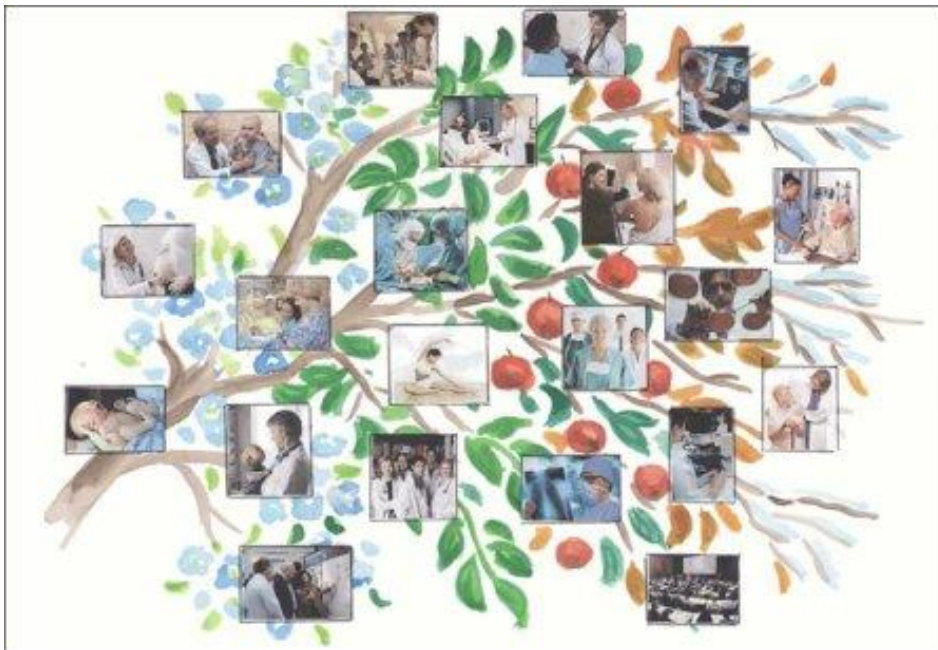
During Patient Safety Week (November 2 to 6), Mount Sinai staff voted for a wall mural design that illustrates the hospital's commitment to creating a safe, supportive environment for our patients, with a connection to staff health and wellbeing.

Congratulations to the MSH mural painters, **Dr. Rory Windrim**, Olena Berezovska, Anastasia Angelo, and Esther Denov who received 57 per cent of the votes for the top design honour in the Colours of Care Mural Contest. The team's painting of a tree in four seasons places focus on patient care, and illustrates the role of health-care works in providing compassionate care through all the seasons of life. The concept incorporates photographs to illustrate staff wellbeing and each stage of life.

The Colours of Care Mural Contest is a partnership between the Office of Patient Safety and the Department of Organizational Development.



*Mural Award Winners:
Olena Berezovsk, Anastasia Angelo, Dr. Rory Windrim, and Esther Denov*



The winning mural entry





Inter-Hospital News & Events



The China experience December 2009 Update Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau, North York General Hospital

I am continuing my endeavours to network with various medical communities in China. Since my last contribution, in the summer, I have been to China twice. I was over for two weeks in September, and I returned again in November for a follow-up on my activities in March and September.

I have been received with much respect, and a willingness to share Canadian and Chinese activities in obstetrics and gynecology. I continue to give talks mostly in English with a Chinese subscript. But I also have pin yin that allows me to ask questions to the audience. Not everyone speaks the national dialect Mandarin (putongua). In southern China, they much prefer to speak Cantonese.

My September visit was quite complicated. I had trips to Beijing, Chong Qing, and Shanghai mapped out. But with the H1N1 flu, my hosts in Beijing were not happy for me to be in Beijing, and certainly not in the hospital, before I had been in China for a good 7 days without illness. So I went to Hong Kong, then I flew up to Xing Xiang in Henna Province. In Xing Xiang I was met by Dr. Ying Pang, who had spent 6 months in Toronto, before going back home to be the chief at the 3rd affiliate Hospital. I was overwhelmed by the reverence to Dr. William McClure, who was a medical missionary before the 1900's. He has left a legacy in this area that was very much appreciated by all who lived there. The Hospital he built over a hundred years ago is now a hospital museum. If you go there, you must visit this place. Every Canadian of any religious persuasion should be proud of this important part of our Canadian Heritage, and the number of willing Canadians, who travelled all over the globe to help people in need. His son, Dr. Robert McClure, was also a doctor, and later became the Moderator of the United Church of Canada many years ago. Some of his family still live in Toronto.

From there, I met up with my Operating Nursing Colleague, Ms Quiwen Long and Ms Lynn Zhou in

Shanghai. They had been very helpful in assisting me in my hysteroscopy course in September 2008, with Professor Nicholas Leyland and Professor George Vilos. Shanghai is a very exciting city with over 18 million people. They have some very fine hospitals, and I was able to visit them, courtesy of Ms. Lynn Zhou, who is from there.

It was then on to Beijing for presentations and also to assist in English class. This was a most enjoyable experience, and one that I would like to continue with at the Beijing Medical Hospital.

I returned in November for the COGI Conference. I was able to present a paper for the Poster presentation on "How to give a presentation in China." I presented the poster to Beijing Medical Hospital after I left there. I then left for Chong Qing, having received an introduction from a Dr. Li who had colleagues in Chong Qing. I was met by Dr. Hong Yang, who is the Associate Professor in International Affairs at the Medical University. Chong Qing Medical University is anxious to set up exchanges at many different levels. I was able to bring many of these interests to the attention of the faculty in Toronto. I understand there have been communications from the University of Toronto to Chong Qing in the past. I believe there is an enormous opportunity to work together on numerous projects.

I then returned to Beijing to view different surgeries by the nationally well known Professor Zhang Yi, who came to Toronto last October on the Hysteroscopy course. I always leave with a respect for Professor Zhang's operative skills. She is not only an excellent Surgeon, but is very innovative. I am anticipating going next year to continue my quest for opportunities for Canadian Medical doctors to work with Chinese Medical doctors. I was most impressed by the University of Western Ontario Medical Students, who have been going to China, self-financed, in the summer since 2001.

My activities will still continue to explore new avenues for study in China, and give us in Canada some better understanding of our Chinese patients. I continue to marvel at the amount of medical knowledge that could come out of China.

And now for the future. What will it hold?

I am thrilled that there has been a thaw in relations with China and our Federal Government. I am hoping that Canada will get it right from now. This bodes well for the future.

Nicholas Pairaudeau



Season's Greetings



Upcoming Events

Abstract deadline for Research Day.....March 5, 2010

27th Annual Department Research Day
Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology May 7, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Northrop Frye Hall, Ground Floor
Victoria University
73 Queen's Park Crescent East
University of Toronto

