

December 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



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

As 2010 draws to an end, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our department's activities and contributions over the last six months, since the last newsletter. Many of these accomplishments are outlined in the pages that follow. However, I do want to pay particular attention to members of our department who have received awards of excellence for their research and teaching contributions. Many members of our department have also been successful in receiving research funding during a very competitive time for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

A number of individuals have joined the department as Lecturers and we welcomed Dr. Matt Gysler back to the department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Gysler is the Chief of Medical Staff at Credit Valley Hospital. This year also marks the departure of Dr. Nick Leyland to McMaster University. Nick joined the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1989, originally at the Toronto Hospital. He then was the Head of Gynaecology and Minimally Invasive Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital from 2001-2003. In 2003, he took over the role of Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St. Joseph's Hospital and developed a highly successful Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship. Nick has made immense contributions to our department over the last 21 years and is recognized nationally and internationally as an outstanding surgical educator. We will miss Nick, however, we wish him well in his new role as Chair of the McMaster University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Check Out Our **New** Sections

- [Undergraduate News.....Page 7](#)
- [Letters from Eldoret.....Page 10](#)

Inside This Issue

Message from the Chair.....	1
2010 Department Awards.....	2
Research Corner.....	4
Awards, Honours, & Achievements..	6
Faculty Appointments.....	6
Resident Corner.....	6
Undergraduate News.....	7
Inter-Hospital News & Events.....	7
Letter from Eldoret.....	10
Annual Holiday Wine & Cheese.....	11
Upcoming Events.....	12

The Annual Meeting of the Association of Academic Professionals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (APOG) was once again a very successful event. Dr. Crystal Chan received the APOG President's Grant for Resident Research and Dr. Roberto Romero gave a very stimulating lecture, which was joint with our department for the Cannell Lecture. It has been a real privilege for me to have been the President of APOG over the last two years.

This newsletter also includes a letter from Astrid Christofferson-Deb, Co-field Director for the AMPATH-Reproductive Health Program in Eldoret, Kenya. Astrid is a member of our faculty and is very active in supervision of our residents and students while onsite in Eldoret. She has recently submitted her PhD thesis in Anthropology at Oxford University at the same time as fulfilling her role as the Co-field Director. We welcomed Astrid to the department last year and look forward to many more reports from Eldoret. Astrid will be in Toronto from time-to-time and I would encourage you all to take the time to meet with her, should the opportunity arise. Nick Pairaudeau has also provided an update on his trip to China in October. Nick is a major ambassador for our department in Toronto and has been very helpful in establishing relationships with our colleagues in different parts of China. In closing, I would like to thank all the members of our department at all of our sites for their support over the last year and for your contributions on a daily basis to patient care, research and teaching.

I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season.

Dr. Alan Bocking



2010 DEPARTMENT TEACHING AWARDS



Please join us in congratulating the recipients of this year's teaching awards given to University of Toronto Obstetrics and Gynaecology faculty members for excellence in teaching and research. The awards were handed out at the department's recent Faculty Professional Development Day (FPDD) 2010 on October 13 at the Vaughan Estate on the Sunnybrook Hospital campus.

FPDD is an annual event for the department. We take this opportunity to celebrate, recognize and award excellence among our membership and discuss best practices and innovations in education and research.

Three categories of awards were handed out at the event; including the Master Teacher Awards, Undergraduate Teaching Awards and Chair's Awards. The award recipients are listed below. Some of the award recipients are also pictured on page 3.

2010 Master Teacher Award Recipients

Paul Bernstein, Mount Sinai Hospital/University Health Network

Adelmo Martoglio, St. Michael's Hospital

Mary Melchior, St. Joseph's Health Centre

Artin Ternamian, St. Joseph's Health Centre

The Master Teacher Award honours faculty members who have a primary appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and who have, to date, received a total of three Undergraduate Teaching Awards, demonstrating sustained excellence in undergraduate teaching and long-standing contributions to the education program.

2010 Chair's Award Recipient

There were seven Chair's Awards announced this year.

- **Danny Lovatsis** was the recipient of the Chair's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.
- **Nan Okun** was awarded the Postgraduate Teaching award for her outstanding and consistent contributions to resident teaching.
- **Lisa Allen** was the recipient of the Postgraduate Program Development/Innovation award for her outstanding contributions to program development and innovation in postgraduate medical education.
- **Marshall Barkin** received the Research Facilitation award for his demonstrated, outstanding dedication.
- **Andrea Jurisicova** received the Sustained Excellence in Research award.
- **Sari Kives** received the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Teaching Excellence award based on evaluations from participants at CME courses.
- **Wendy Wolfman** and **Harold Drutz** shared the Excellence in CME Course Coordination award, also given out based on the evaluations from CME course participants.

2010 Undergraduate Teaching Award Recipients

Paul Bernstein, Mount Sinai Hospital/University Health Network

Maja Gans, Toronto East General

Danny Lovatsis, Mount Sinai Hospital/University Health Network

Adelmo Martoglio, St. Michael's Hospital

Artin Ternamian, St. Joseph's Health Centre

Modupe Tunde-Byass, North York General Hospital

Arthur Zaltz, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

The Undergraduate Teaching Award is given to a faculty member, at our affiliate hospitals, who has received the highest teaching evaluation scores from our undergraduate medical students for the academic year 2009-2010.



Season's Greetings



(From left to right) 2010 Chair's Award Recipients: 1. Dr. Bocking with Drs. Wolfman and Drutz; 2. Dr. Barkin; 3. Dr. Juriscova; 4. Dr. Kives; and 5. Dr. Allen



(From left to right) 2010 Master Teacher Award Recipients: 1. Dr. Bernstein; 2. Dr. Martoglio; 3. Dr. Ternamian; 2010 Undergraduate Teaching Award Recipients: 4. Dr. Tunde-Byass; and 5. Dr. Zaltz

Faculty Professional Development Day 2010

Record Participation from Faculty

This year a record 64 faculty members and six staff participated in the annual Faculty Professional Development Day 2010 event presented by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Lectures and interactive workshops were presented by Dr. Jennifer Blake, Dr. Adrian Brown, Dr. Ted Brown, Dr. Crystal Chan, Dr. Karen Glass, Dr. Rick Penciner, Dr. Richard Pittini, Dr. Kaveh Shojania and Dr. Sarita Verma.

From the excellent feedback we received from our faculty, the event was a major success. They praised the program content, schedule, presenters, venue, staff and the food. Participants especially appreciated **Lectures that Sizzle** by Adrian Brown and Rick Penciner, commenting that the presentation was "very enjoyable and useful". The workshops were well-attended. One participant mentioned that we presented "excellent breakouts-would have liked to attend them all". We also received some great ideas for next year.

We would like to thank all of the presenters for their outstanding sessions and look forward to seeing you at our next event.



Dr. Sarita Verma presenting at the FPDD





RESEARCH CORNER



28th Annual Department Research Day May 6, 2011

The 28th Annual Department Research Day will be on **FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2010**, at Hart House in the University of Toronto, 7 Hart House Circle.

The Henderson Lecturer for Research Day 2011 is **Dr. Philip Castle**. Dr. Castle is currently Senior Tenured Investigator, U.S. National Cancer Institute, as well as the first, Executive Director of the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Institute (as of March 1, 2011).

Dr. Castle's topic for the Henderson Lecture will be: **Separating the Wheat from the Chaff: The Paradigm of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Cervical Cancer**.

For more information on Dr. Castle or details of Research Day, please check our website at:

<http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/Research/ResearchDay.htm> or contact Helen Robson at helen.robson@utoronto.ca.

Abstracts are due Friday, March 7, 2011. All requirements and forms will be posted in the New Year.

Grants

Bocking AD, Hemmingsen SM, Hill JE, Money, DM, Reid G (Principal Investigators), Dumonceaux TJ, Gloor GB, Links MG, O'Doherty KC, Tang PK, Van Schalkwyk JE, **Yudin MH** (Co-Investigators). The Vaginal Microbiome Project Team (VMPT). Planning Grant, CIHR, \$24,307, 2010 – 2011.

Bocking AD, Hemmingsen SM, Hill JE, Money, DM, Reid G (Principal Investigators), Dumonceaux TJ, Gloor GB, Links MG, O'Doherty KC, Tang PK, Van Schalkwyk JE, **Yudin MH** (Co-Investigators). The Vaginal Microbiome Project Team (VMPT). Emerging Team Grant: Canadian Microbiome Initiative, CIHR, \$218,750 per annum, September 2010 – August 2015.

Homer RL (PI), **Belsham DD**, Bradley DT, **Casper RF**, Floras JS, Frankland PW, Josselyn SA, Levine JD, Orser BA, Peever JH, Ralph MR, Sessle BJ, Stremler RL (Co-Investigators). Sleep and Biological Rhythms Team Grant, CIHR, \$2,000,000, November 2010 – October 2015.

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Retnakaran RR (PI), Connelly PW, Floras JS, **Sermer M**, Hanley AJG, Zinman B. The early natural history of cardiovascular disease at 4-years postpartum in young women with varying degrees of glucose intolerance in pregnancy. Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Research Grant, \$60,294, 2010 – 2011.

Silversides CK (PI), Siu SC, Colman JM, **Sermer M**. Investigation of the prognostic importance of natriuretic peptides in pregnant women with heart disease: A prospective observational cohort study. Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Research Grant, \$69,970.00, 2010 – 2011.



Season's Greetings

Publications

Please go to http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/Research/Research_Alerts.htm for a record of earlier publications.

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Kew S, Qi Y, **Sermer M**, Connelly PW, Hanley AJ, Zinman B, Retnakaran R. Relationship between short stature and postchallenge glycemia in pregnancy. *Diabetes Care* 2010 Dec;33(12):e173.

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Laguë MN, Detmar J, Paquet M, Boyer A, Richards JS, **Adamson SL**, Boerboom D. Decidual PTEN expression is required for trophoblast invasion in the mouse. *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab* 2010 Dec;299(6):E936-46. *Epub* 2010 Sep 21.

Madadi P, Joly Y, Avard D, **Chitayat DC**, Smith MA, Ross CJ, Carleton BC, Hayden MR, Koren G. Communicating Pharmacogenetic Research Results to Breastfeeding Mothers Taking Codeine: A Pilot Study of Perceptions and Benefits. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 2010 Dec;88(6):792-795. *Epub* 2010 Aug 25.

Margarido CB, Mikhael R, Arzola C, Balki M, **Carvalho JC**. The intercrystal line determined by palpation is not a reliable anatomical landmark for neuraxial anesthesia. *Can J Anaesth* 2010 Dec 3. [*Epub ahead of print*]

Mittal P, Romero R, Tarca AL, Gonzalez J, Draghici S, Xu Y, Dong Z, Nhan-Chang CL, Chaiworapongsa T, **Lye S**, Kusanovic JP, Lipovich L, Mazaki-Tovi S, Hassan SS, Mesiano S, Kim CJ. Characterization of the myometrial transcriptome and biological pathways of spontaneous human labor at term. *J Perinat Med* 2010 Nov;38(6):617-43. *Epub* 2010 Jul 14.

Narod SA. BRCA mutations in the management of breast cancer: the state of the art. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol* 2010 Dec;7(12):702-7. *Epub* 2010 Oct 19.

Proctor LK, **Whittle WL**, **Keating S**, **Viero S**, **Kingdom JC**. Pathologic basis of echogenic cystic lesions in the human placenta: role of ultrasound-guided wire localization. *Placenta* 2010 Dec;31(12):1111-5. *Epub* 2010 Oct 29.

Shah PS, Dunn M, **Lee SK**, Allen AC, Singhal N; the Canadian Neonatal Network. Early Opioid Infusion and Neonatal Outcomes in Preterm Neonates ≤28 Weeks' Gestation. *Am J Perinatol* 2010 Dec 2. [*Epub ahead of print*]

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Wright JK, Dunk CE, Amsalem H, **Maxwell C, Keating S, Lye SJ**. HER1 Signaling Mediates Extravillous Trophoblast Differentiation in Humans. *Biol Reprod* 2010 Dec;83(6):1036-45. *Epub 2010 Aug 25*.

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Alexandra Nevin Lam received the Excellence in Specialty Teaching of Family Medicine Residents Award in June 2010.

Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass received the Dr. Barry Tobe Award in June 2010.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Mathias Gysler – Assistant Professor

Dr. Aleksandre Corbey – Lecturer

Dr. Dini Hui – Lecturer

Dr. Joanne Ma – Lecturer

Dr. Georgina Wilcock – Lecturer

RESIDENT CORNER

Dr. Crystal Chan (CIP Program) won the APOG President's Grant for Resident Research and was presented with the award at the APOG Conference on December 4. It will go to fund her project on "Non-invasive markers of endometrial receptivity."

The APOG President's Grant for Resident Research is an annual women's health grant competition for obstetrics and gynaecology residents across Canada that provides funding for resident research projects. One grant is awarded each year.

Dr. Claire Jones (PGY4) was awarded the CFWH (Canadian Foundation for Women's Health) Resident Research Award.



Dr. Andrea Page and her newborn baby Owen

Owen William was born on Monday November 22, 2010 at Mount Sinai and weighed 7 lbs 14 oz. Congratulations to his parents **Dr. Andrea Page** (PGY5) and Graham Slaughter. Owen was delivered by **Dr. Jackie Thomas**.



Season's Greetings

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Accreditation

Every eight years, medical schools across North America undergo an accreditation process to confirm the quality of their education program leading to the MD degree. The University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine's next re-accreditation is scheduled to take place in May 2012, and there is considerable preparation to be done by faculty, students, and staff. As one of the most important certifications that the Faculty of Medicine must maintain, accreditation of Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) will be central to many of the developments and discussions that take place at all levels throughout the faculty over the next 18 months and beyond.

Further details can be found on the Accreditation website:

<http://www.md.utoronto.ca/about/accreditation.htm>

Mississauga Academy of Medicine

The Mississauga Academy (opening August 2011) will be a partnership between the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, University of Toronto Mississauga, the Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre. The new Academy will link with a vibrant community health care network and give students the opportunity to experience a wide range of general health care settings.

In preparation for a full 3rd year clerkship rotation cohort of medical students at the Mississauga Academy (scheduled for Fall 2013), a pilot was initiated to start sending medical students for part of their OB/GYN rotation to Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre.

From November 8-21 2010, two medical students from St. Michael's Hospital were on rotation at Trillium Health Centre and two medical students from Mount Sinai Hospital were on rotation at Credit Valley Hospital. According to preliminary faculty and student reports the rotations went well. Broadening the OB/GYN experience at the two sites will be a focus over the coming months.

INTER-HOSPITAL NEWS & EVENTS

NYGH

- Congratulations to **Dr. Sabrina Lee** and her husband Nick Li Wan Po on the birth of their son, Alexander James (Li Wan Po). Alexander weighed 8lb 3oz and was delivered by Dr. Paul Shuen at North York General Hospital on August 1, 2010. Dr. Sabrina Lee is the site coordinator at NYGH.

hospital building and the design was completed by Jack Diamond (of the Four Seasons Opera House). It is beautiful, functional and much improved over the previous facility.

St. Michael's Hospital

- **Dr. Sari Kives** received her Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from UofT this October.
- **Dr. Colleen McDermott** had a baby girl on November 24th weighing 7lbs 5oz. The baby's name is Camryn.
- **Dr. Filomena Meffe** received a second major grant for her research in interprofessional education.
- St. Michael's Hospital is pleased to announce the grand opening of their brand new Women's Health Ambulatory Centre. This new facility was made possible through the generous donations of their supporters, who together contributed a total of \$6M. The site is located at 61 Queen, across from the main

39th APOG Annual Meeting

Dr. Roberto Romero, Chief of the Perinatology Research Branch and Program Director for Obstetrics and Perinatology, Intramural Research, NICHD/NIH and Professor of Molecular Obstetrics and Genetics at Wayne State University presented this year's APOG/Cannell Lecture on The role of intra-amniotic infection/inflammation in pre-term labour and fetal injury. Among his key points, Dr. Romero addressed the relationship between infection and inflammation and fetal injury as well as the frequency of microbial invasion of the amniotic cavity in patients at risk for

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preterm birth and the microbial burden and diversity in intra-amniotic infection. The lecture was held at the 39th Annual Meeting of the Association of Academic Professionals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Marriot Hotel, Eaton Centre, in Toronto. This event was part of the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Interhospital Rounds 2010-11 series. Thanks to Duchesnay Inc. for their support. The event was a great success.

Mount Sinai Hospital

- On behalf of Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Mara Lucato and Wendy Austin presented the Mount Sinai Hospital **G.R.E.I. Fellowship Education and Research Fund** with a cheque for \$25,000 on March 31st, 2010. A special thank you to Ferring for their generous support. Ferring celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. Congratulations Ferring! (See picture at right).



From left to right: Wendy Austin, Mara Lucato, Dr. Ellen Greenblatt, Beth Gunn, Dr. Ted Brown, and Dr. Barbara Cruickshank

Combined ICS/IUGA Meeting, Toronto, August 23-27, 2010

From August 23-27, the Metropolitan Toronto Conference Centre (MTCC) was the site of a historical combined meeting of the International Continence Society (ICS) and the International Urogynecological Association (IUGA). These are the two largest international societies devoted to the healthcare of people with urinary and/or faecal incontinence and other pelvic floor problems. It was a momentous meeting, as ICS celebrated its 40th Anniversary and IUGA its 35th. This is only the third time that the two societies have had combined meetings.

Dr. Harold Drutz (Professor and Head of the Division of Urogynaecology) was the meeting Chairman, and Dr. Sender Herschorn (Professor and Chairman of the Division of Urology) was the Chairmen of the Scientific Committee. The registrants numbered 3525 health care workers from 75 different countries. It was a record-breaking attendance level for both societies. There were 48 workshops prior to the start of the scientific meeting and 1374 abstracts were submitted for presentation.

Dr. Drutz started off the meeting with a historical review of the first 35 years of IUGA (his talk was entitled, "From the Shoulders of Giants to the Cradle of New Beginnings") and Ted Arnold, Professor of Urology, from New Zealand followed with a history of ICS. Dr. Drutz chaired both a workshop and one of the State-of-the-Art Symposia on "Basic Science Research into Pelvic Floor Disorders: From the Bench to the Bedside". **Dr. May Alarab** was one of the faculty members participating at both these events, and she spoke on "Basic Science Research into the Genetics of Pelvic Organ Prolapse".

Dr. Maria Bortolini, one of the fellows in the Division of Urogynecology, Mount Sinai Hospital, won the Award for Best Oral Poster Presentation by a fellow for her paper, "Procollagen C Proteinase and LOX enzyme expression in vaginal tissue of women with and without pelvic organ prolapse". The authors were Bortolini MA, Shynlova O, **Drutz HP**, **Lye S**, and **Alarab M**.

A surprise presentation was made to Dr. Drutz from 25 of his current and former fellows who attended the meeting. The presentation read, "To Dr. Harold P. Drutz, In recognition of his priceless contributions to the field of Urogynaecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery in Canada and throughout the world. From the scholars he trained, mentored and inspired." This year the Division of Urogynaecology at Mount Sinai Hospital will graduate its 40th fellow.



Season's Greetings

News from China

In October, **Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau** visited Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing, hospitals in Chengdu, and the Shenzhen Maternity and Child Health Hospital in southern China. The following is his account of his experiences in China.

I flew to Singapore to meet Professor Charles Nge, who has an illustrious history as a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Singapore. I am hoping that a group of fellow obstetricians and gynaecologists from Toronto will go to one of their meetings in November in Singapore.

In Hong Kong, I was met by Dr. Jenson Zhang. Jenson had worked in Toronto in 2009 at Mount Sinai and the Hospital for Sick Children as a neonatology fellow. We went up to Mainland China to Shenzhen. He works at the Shenzhen Maternity and Child Health Hospital, a relatively new hospital, with over 13,000 deliveries a year. After reviewing the talks that I carried with me for China, we decided on 40 years of C section, presented both in English and Chinese. The talk went well. The general impression that I had was that the hospital was very keen to continue with a dialogue with the University of Toronto, and that funds would be found to make this happen.

I met Dr. Dexin Shen in Chengdu, in Sichuan Province in South West China. He was ably assisted with translation by his colleague Dr. Xiao. Later in my visit, I met with Professor Qiong Qin. Professor Qiong understands the issues of female health issues not only in China but also around the world. Canada has a fine reputation in Chengdu, particularly in medicine, and it would be a pity not to capitalize on this. The scope of work both in obstetrics and gynaecology was impressive.

I was soon off to Beijing. I gave a special talk to an out-of-town hospital near Beijing, where I spoke on "Hysteroscopy and its complications". Later, I returned to Beijing and spent time with Professor Zhang Yi as well as Professor Meng, at the Beijing Hospital, where I am an honorary Professor.

On my way back to Toronto, I spent some time with Dr. Vincent Cheung, who we all know very well, in Hong Kong. I found it fascinating to hear about his new position at the Queen Mary Hospital. He is also very involved in innovations in both obstetrics and gynaecology. He appears to be visiting many facilities not just in China, but recently in India.

I found the trip very interesting and I firmly believe that there is much to be learnt from our colleagues in this part of the world. I am hoping that we can move forward on many interesting areas that challenge our work every day. I anticipate that we will continue to work with these very enthusiastic faculty members who deal with an enormous number of patients.

I hope to be travelling again in April 2011.



Chengdu 2010 Dr. Dexin Shen in Chengdu, in Sichuan Province in South West China



With Mr. Hou Qing Zhong, President Shenzhen



With Dr. Jenson Zhang and Shenzhen Obstetrics Chief



With Shenzhen Hospital nurses and gynaecologists





LETTER FROM ELDORET

by Astrid Christoffersen-Deb



Leo ni afedhali kulilko jana....Translated from Swahili as today is better than yesterday, these five words have become my chorus in ward rounds at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital. Bringing smiles to the crowd of nurses, house officers, interns and students gathered at the bedside, these few words provide a useful reminder of a memorable patient since assuming my role in May this year and the challenges that exist in making facility deliveries 'safe' for pregnant women and their communities.

In one of my first weeks on call, I was asked to see 20-year-old Dorcas who was transferred for fever one day post-op from a Caesarean delivery at a district hospital. Like many women in Western Kenya, this first pregnancy was not planned, one that might not have occurred if Dorcas' local health facility had had the free contraceptive commodities that the government is meant to provide (currently there are national stock-outs of Jadelle, Copper IUCD and male condoms) or if she hadn't been pulled out of school by her family and put to work after Grade 8. During her pregnancy, she attended the four recommended antenatal visits but never had her blood pressure checked or her pregnancy visualized on ultrasound. Unlike the 70% of women in her area who deliver at home with a traditional birth attendant, she had saved sufficient funds from her job selling fruit at the market to deliver in the local district hospital. On the day that she went into labour, at a gestational age that she guessed was between 34 to 38 weeks, she made her way to the hospital with her mother and sister. Within hours of arrival, she realized something wasn't right when she noticed the blood pouring down her legs. With no trained GP or OB/GYN in house, she was seen by the labour nurse who recognized the danger sign of antepartum hemorrhage and urgently called for help from her mobile phone to the medical officer on call. Hours later, the medical officer arrived. No foetal heart tone could be detected, but Dorcas was alive, with the resuscitative efforts by her labour nurse. She was taken to the OR where a complete placenta previa was removed after delivery of a stillborn infant. Dorcas's family was no longer at her bedside. One

sister was busy donating blood to the otherwise empty bloodbank, while her mother was back in their village looking for funds to cover the now higher than expected hospital bill. They might otherwise lose the family home.

Dorcas must have lost a lot of blood. From her chart, it was not clear how many transfusions she had received. The op-note only made mention of A LOT of blood – in capital letters no less. By the time I saw her, she had been at MTRH for more than a week on antibiotics and the latest hemoglobin was no more than 4g/dl. Now at her bedside, she barely seemed alive, having not had the strength to leave her bed over the last week. Febrile, malnourished, she oozed venous blood from her wound. Promptly, we went to the OR to explore her wound, and realized that the medical officer must have been blinded by the sheer amount of blood. The lower aspect of the uterus had been sewn to the posterior wall of the uterus, while the upper portion of the uterus had been sewn to the inferior aspect of the rectus sheath. Yes, a Cesarean delivery had been performed, but certainly not safely.

Over the following month of her convalescence, Dorcas taught me the necessary Swahili lexicon to tell her to walk, eat, drink and be happy that today was



From left to right: Thanksgiving with our students Sarah Erdman (UofT Med'11) and Erica Daniel (GWU Public Health'11)

Front: Astrid with Jen Patchett (IU Med'11)



Season's Greetings

better than yesterday. More importantly, she pointed out to me the importance of quality of care in discussions of global health disparities. Without attention to the content of antenatal care, the availability and attitude of medical personnel, the context of women's reproductive lives and the safety of Caesarean deliveries, indicators such as MDGs provide a very incomplete picture. This year's news that the worldwide numbers of women dying in pregnancy may be less than previously thought provides little comfort to the reality of the many 'near misses' that take place. Thankfully, through donations, Dorcas was able to return home without having to submit the deed to her family's home to cover her hospital bill. I delight in her weekly Sunday calls. Last week, she confirmed that she intends to resume her studies in 2011.

Dorcas's 'near miss' leaves us much for which to be thankful. Since May, faculty visits by Heather Morris, Barry Rosen, Alan Bocking, Noor Ladhani, Rachel Spitzer, Joanne Ma and Nan Okun and student rotations by Lesley Hawkins, Tina Muehlethaler, Lonnie Embleton and Sarah Erdman have reminded me just how much things can grow here with dreaming and support. Leo ni afedhali kuliko jana...

ANNUAL HOLIDAY WINE & CHEESE PARTY

On Wednesday, December 8, the department held its annual holiday luncheon at 92 College St. Faculty, residents and fellows, colleagues and friends of the department celebrated the season with us. A good time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who pulled this together!

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday and
Have a Happy New Year!



Photo on left: Group shot, from left to right: Dr. Melanie Ornstein, Kelly Chu, John Kerr, Daniela Caprara, Ethan (Kelly's baby), Mary Miceli, Andrea Page (her baby Owen in the bassinet) and Helen Robson

Photo on right: Seated, Anastasia Angelo, Administrative Assistant to Drs Greg Ryan & Rory Windrim, and Dr. Olena Berezovska, Clinical Research Coordinator, both in MFM, at Mount Sinai Hospital





UPCOMING EVENTS

Abstract deadline for Research Day March 7, 2011

**28th Annual Department Research Day
Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology** May 6, 2011
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Hart House
University of Toronto



From left to right: Helen Robson, Research Coordinator, Maria Wowk, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, at the Annual Department Wine & Cheese Party



Dr. Philip Castle

Research Day 2011 Henderson Lecturer

The Henderson Lecturer for Research Day 2011 is **Dr. Philip Castle**, currently Senior Tenured Investigator, U.S. National Cancer Institute, and upcoming, as well as the first, Executive Director of the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Institute (as of March 1, 2011). Dr. Castle's training includes a Ph.D. in Biophysics and an M.P.H. in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University, as well as a post-doctoral fellowship at the NIH on the molecular biology of the zona pellucida, and a Cancer Prevention Fellowship at NCI. His interests include HPV, cervical/anogenital cancer, cancer prevention strategies, evidence-based medicine, and international health. He has published over 200 articles, is a lead researcher in a number of epidemiologic studies, and speaks and advises internationally. His accomplishments have been recognized in receiving the EUROGIN Distinguished Service Award, in 2007, the NIH Merit Award and in 2010 when he was awarded the highest honour of the ASCCP, the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award.



Season's Greetings