The academic year 2007-2008 has indeed been another period of outstanding accomplishments by members of our department, contributing to the combined research, teaching, and clinical mission. The department went through an extensive external review process that involved many members, and the preparation of reports highlighting the activities over the last 5 years. The review culminated in a report from Dr. Robert Liston from UBC and Dr. Michael Nelson from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. The report was highly laudatory of the many strengths of the department and ranked us in the top 10 departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the world. I am indeed extremely honoured and privileged to serve as the Chair of what is truly a great department.

This year also saw a number of members receiving prestigious awards that are highlighted in this newsletter. In particular, John Challis has been named 2008 University Professor. This is a very fitting tribute to John’s extraordinary contributions to our department, the Department of Physiology, and the University of Toronto community. We are saddened to lose John to B.C., but he will continue his association with our department through his collaborative research. We wish him well in his new position.

I was pleased that the Provost approved my recommendation that Rory Windrim be promoted Professor and Wendy Wolfman Associate Professor, effective July 1, 2008. Congratulations Rory and Wendy. Research Day was once again a great success, with an inspiring lecture from Dr. Andrew Berchuck demonstrating the powerful influence that the genomic era is having on our ability to accurately diagnose and more effectively treat important clinical conditions such as ovarian cancer.

Our education programs have been busy with excellent performance by our students, residents and fellows. For those who are graduating, we wish them all well in their future professional careers. Our ASANTE Reproductive Health Program in partnership with Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya was launched this year and we have had a number of successful student and faculty exchanges. Many thanks to David Caloia, Rachel Spitzer and Heather Morris, who have been instrumental in making this program a success.

In closing, as many of us head off to Calgary for the SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting, I would like to thank each and every faculty member, staff and trainee for their support over the last 5 years. I look forward to another 5 years with great excitement and enthusiasm. Dr. Jennifer Blake will be the Acting Chair of the department from July to December and I know that you will give her the same support as you have given me. I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Alan D. Bocking
Research Day 2008

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology celebrated its 25th Annual Research Day on Friday, May 2, 2008. The event highlighted all the exceptional talent we have in our department and our trainees presented orals and posters in a mix of clinical and basic science topics. In total, there were 12 oral and 57 poster presentations. An excellent Henderson Lecture was delivered by Dr. Andrew Berchuck, Director, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, from the Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, USA, on the topic of “Individualized ovarian cancer treatment and prevention in the genomic era”.

Thanks to everyone who participated and a special thanks to all those faculty members who acted as chairs and judges.

The 2008 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. We are pleased to announce the following recipients:

Clinical Fellow: Marcus Bernardini
Supervisor: Allan Covens
Poster presentation: Evaluation of Two Management Strategies for Preoperative Grade 1 Endometrial Cancer

Graduate Student: Maryam Yeganegi
Supervisor: Alan Bocking
Oral Presentation: The Stimulating Effect of LPS on Cytokines and Prostaglandin-Endoperoxide Synthase 2 (PTGS2) in Human Placental Trophoblast Cells is Dependent upon the Sex of the Fetus.

Post-Doctoral Fellow: Christine Wong
Supervisor: Robert Casper
Poster Presentation: How to Get More from Umbilical Cord Blood Cells

Resident: Taymaa May
Supervisor: Theodore J Brown
Oral presentation: Gene Expression Profiles Linking Serous Low Malignant Potential Tumors with Micropapillary Features to Low Grade Serous Carcinoma of the Ovary

Medical Student: Sue Jin Kim
Supervisor: Wendy Whittle
Poster presentation: The Utility of the Isolated Choroid Plexus Cyst on Prenatal Ultrasound to Detect Fetal Aneuploidy

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 Shereen Chirayikkalam.
Dr. Dave Caloia has received a grant for one of the 2007 SOGC/FPRSH (Foundation for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health) Millennium Fellowships for Community Physicians. This grant will allow Dr. Caloia to fund an 8-week fellowship on the repair and rehabilitation of obstetric fistula at our Kenyan partner institution, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital. The amount allocated for this award is $15,000, and the host institution providing the traineeship receives a $1,000 donation.

John Challis Named as a 2008 University Professor

Dr. John Challis (Departments of Physiology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Medicine) has been named a 2008 University Professor. The University recognizes unusual scholarly achievement and pre-eminence in a particular field of knowledge through the designation of University Professor. Professor Challis served as Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost of the University of Toronto from May 2003 to June 2007 and was formerly the Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health. Professor Challis was recently appointed as the President and CEO of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research in British Columbia. The Foundation was established by the BC government to improve the health and well-being of British Columbians through the support of excellent health research.

Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre has been awarded a fellowship ad eundem from the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She will be introduced for admission to the fellowship at the Royal College meeting in Montreal on September 21, 2008.

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Joan Murphy has been awarded the inaugural J. Douglas Crashley Chair in Gynaecologic Oncology Research. Dr. Murphy is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Toronto and Head of the Department of Gynaecologic Oncology at the University Health Network. She is a trustee of the Genesis Research Foundation and Toronto Ovarian Cancer Research Network.

Dr. Ori Nevo has been named as the recipient of the Phyllis Mary Garton Professorship in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at SHSC. This professorship is designed to provide base support to a promising researcher with the department during the first two years of his/her appointment.

Shadab Rahman, a student of Dr. Bob Casper, was awarded a Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) Doctoral Award from CIHR for 3 years.

Dr. Paul Thistle has been honoured with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award. This award acknowledges and celebrates a Canadian physician whose actions exemplify altruism and integrity, courage and perseverance in the alleviation of human suffering worldwide. This award recognizes Dr. Thistle’s work on the front lines with a rural population that has suffered the ravages of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa. Dr. Thistle has been the Chief Medical Officer of the Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe for the past 12 years.
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.

**Dr. Nicolette Caccia** was recently awarded funding from the Instructional Technology Courseware Development Fund (ITCFD). She is the principal investigator of the project, entitled, Development of a Web-based Course Covering the Basics of Common Problems in the Delivery of Sub-Specialty Care in Paediatric & Adolescent Gynaecology for Obstetrics & Gynaecology Post-Graduate Trainees at the University of Toronto. Additional information on the ITCDF competition can be found on the web at [http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/link/itfund.htm](http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/link/itfund.htm)

**Dr. Sarah Ferguson** has received a grant from NCIC. The title of the project is: Development of an Internet-Based Support Group for Sexual Problems Due to Gynecological Cancer. The authors of the grant include: Classen, Catherine; Ferguson, Sarah - PMH; Urowitz, Sara; Wiljer, David; Chivers, Meredith; Mitchell, Sheryl; Barbera, Lisa; Young, Colleen. This grant is important as the subject is often neglected in gynecological care, but is a subject that is very important to our patients.

**Dr. Ellen Greenblatt**, co-investigator with Dr. David Hodgson, the principal investigator, received a grant from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation for $330,391 (over 3 years). The title of this research study is Fertility in Young Breast Cancer Survivors – Novel Assessment of Ovarian Reserve.

The Faculty Research Grants Committee has awarded **Dr. Andrea Jurisicova** $20,000 for her project entitled, Mouse Model of Ovarian Cancer.

**Dr. Ori Nevo's** STIRRHS-APOG scholarship has been renewed for the second year beginning March 1, 2008.

**Dr. Barry Rosen** received a grant from The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). The title of the project is Synoptic OR Notes in Ovarian Cancer. This grant is for the purpose of developing and disseminating synoptic OR note capabilities across Canada using either a program developed in Alberta, WebSMR, or the program developed at UHN/PMH, eCancercare. The value of synoptic OR notes is to improve quality of care as it relates to information transfer. Synoptic OR notes have a greater reliability of being comprehensive as compared to usual dictated OR notes.
Faculty Appointments/Promotions

Appointments

Dr. Michelle Wise - Lecturer
Dr. Melissa Tai - Lecturer
Dr. May Alarab - Assistant Professor
Dr. Marcus Bernardini - Assistant Professor
Dr. Deborah Robertson - Assistant Professor

Promotions

Dr. Rory Windrim - Professor
Dr. Wendy Wolfman - Associate Professor

Re-Appointment of Dr. Alan Bocking as Chair of the Department

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

It is with pleasure that I announce the Provost's approval of the re-appointment of Professor Alan Bocking as the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Toronto, commencing July 1, 2008 for a second five-year term. Professor Alan Bocking has demonstrated outstanding leadership in his first five years as the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. The department recently received an extremely positive external review. The reviewers noted that under the strong and respected leadership of Dr. Bocking the department's faculty and leadership team have done an amazing job at building synergy, innovation, and unity of purpose across the many sites for care, teaching and research. They concluded that Dr. Bocking has facilitated the growth of the department to become one of the top ten Obstetrics & Gynaecology departments in the world. They noted that there is a bright future for ongoing excellence in the department under the leadership of Dr. Bocking. Please join me in warmly congratulating Professor Bocking on his remarkable accomplishments and wishing him every success in his second term as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Professor Jennifer Blake has been appointed as Acting Chair from July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 while Professor Bocking is on administrative leave. Professor Blake has taken major leadership roles in the department and has been active at the national level with the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, the Medical Council of Canada, the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Departmental Acknowledgements

Educational Partnership Program

We gratefully acknowledge the continued commitment and support from our educational partners for the past year.

PLATINUM SPONSORS:
- Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals
- Merck Frosst
- GlaxoSmithKline

SILVER SPONSORS:
- Ferring Pharmaceuticals
- Organon Canada Ltd

GOLD SPONSORS:
- Janssen-Ortho Inc.
Resident Achievements

Dr. Karthika Devanajan is the recipient of the 2009 E.W. Wight, M.D. Memorial Award, NYGH. This prestigious award is very competitive and is awarded to a resident who has displayed qualities of compassion for patients, with a devotion to proper patient care.

Dr. Sarah Wallace was in the Best of 4 Category at the SOGC meeting in Calgary for her poster submission, Pathologic Findings in Asymptomatic and Symptomatic Postmenopausal Women Undergoing Hysteroscopy, (Supervisor Dr. Heather Shapiro), on endometrial thickening (a chart review over several years). Sarah was also best of 4 last year at the SOGC Meeting in Ottawa.

Dr. Marie Czikk (PGY3)
For her research study, entitled: Identification of Candidate Pathways in Intrauterine Growth Restriction: Important First Step Towards Disease Etiology, she was awarded a grant of $19,500 for a one year resident research project, from the Physicians’ Services Incorporated Foundation. Co-investigators are: Drs. John Kingdom, Lee Adamson, Sarah Keating, and Isabella Caniggia

Dr. Yoav Yinon (MFM Fellow)
For his research study, entitled: ‘Understanding the Mechanisms for Increased Cardiovascular Risk In Women With A History Of Severe Pre-Eclampsia – An Assessment Of Postpartum Endothelial Function’. This study received a grant of $20,000 for a one-year project, Physicians’ Services Incorporated Foundation. Co-investigators are: Drs. Michelle Hladunewich, Ori Nevo, and John Kingdom

Dr. Taymaa May – Congratulations to Taymaa on the successful completion of her M.Sc. degree.

Congratulations go to 3 of our residents who have now published articles in peer-reviewed journals. Drs. Clarissa Bambao, Anjali Aggarwal and Lynne Zolis must be applauded for their hard work and dedication as these articles were written during their 3-month colposcopy rotation. It takes a special effort to produce articles of this quality while training on such a busy rotation. Bravo!


Ob/Gyn Graduates
Congratulations to our Class of 2008!
• Anjali Aggarwal
• Farid Abdel-Hadi
• Clarissa Bambao
• Shereen Chirayilkalam
• Eve Fried
• Stacey Grossman
• Samuel Ko
• Kiram Sahi
• Richard Stein

2008 New Residents
We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new residents starting on July 1, 2008.

PGY1
• Stéphanie Backman
• Geneviève Bouchard-Fortier
• Daniela Caparra
• Salikah Iqbal
• Naana Afua Jumah
• Narges Khoshnood
• Shannon Moore
• Lamide Oyewumi
• Jing Qin
• Lindsay Shireff
• Noushin Khoshbakht

PGY2
• Mara Sobel (transferred from Family Medicine)
• Melanie Campbell (transferred from Family Medicine)

We would also like to bid farewell and best wishes to the following three residents who have transferred out of our program:

PGY1:
• Tasleem Murji (transferred to Family Medicine)
• Giselle Salama (transferred to Medicine)
• Kathryn Swan (transferred to Family Medicine)
Inter-Hospital News & Events

News from TEGH

Congratulations to Dr. Melissa Tai, who has been made a Clinical Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the U of T.

Also congrats to Dr. Maja Gans, who was awarded the much coveted Dr. John H. Fowler Excellence in Teaching Award from TEGH for 2008.

News from SMH

- Bridget Lynch, Head of the Midwifery Division of the Ob/Gyn department at SMH has just been named President of the International Confederation of Midwives. She is the first Canadian to hold this position.

- Dr. Gita Singh successfully completed her fellowship in Women’s Health at SMH on June 30th. She is the first Women’s Health fellow at SMH. She will continue her work with Arlene Bierman on the Power Study, reflecting reproductive health issues as part of the women’s health report card to the Ministry.

- Dr. Aisling Martin is the proud mother of a third child. She delivered her son on a Monday and attended the MFM meeting at Sinai 48 hours later. She is planning to take a bit of maternity leave and then will return to SMH to complete her research as a clinical associate/fellow.

- Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre ends her term as President of the SOGC at its meeting in Calgary later this month. She will continue serving on SOGC Executive and Council as immediate past president until June next year. There are already 700 registrants for the meeting in Calgary, with excellent representation from U of T.

INTER-HOSPITAL ROUNDS GO HIGH TECH!!

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy inter-hospital rounds, they will be WEBCAST LIVE from Cummings Auditorium starting this fall. User ID’s will be distributed, so you can log on live and enjoy the rounds from the comfort of your office, or in a designated auditorium at your hospital. They will be interactive (via email), live and WILL QUALIFY FOR CME CREDITS.

FAQ

1. How will I know where to log on?
   A web link will be distributed for 1-2 weeks before the rounds.

2. What will it be like?
   An example of the rounds can be seen by following this link.
   http://alex2.sunnybrook.ca/Mediasite/Viewer/?peid=43df86cc3db4e6c4a3fdd8b5b75e9

3. How will you know that I am watching for my CME credits?
   You will be given a user ID to log on with so it can be tracked.

4. How can I ask a question?
   Via email that will be given out as rounds start to a blackberry in the audience.

5. Can I see them live?
   All inter-hospital rounds will be live, and the location will be posted in advance – a live audience is always appreciated.

6. Can I watch them at my hospital with my friends?
   Hospitals that are not hosting the live rounds will have their auditorium set up with a computer and a screen to watch as a group.

7. When does it start?
   The first inter-hospital rounds will be on September 19, 2008.

8. Can I watch it later if I miss the live feed?
   The rounds will be downloaded onto our department’s website to watch at your leisure.
Upcoming Events

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.

Infectious Diseases in Obstetrics & Gynaecology.................. June 6, 2008
Advances in Female Pelvic Medicine and
Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery...........................................July 10-12, 2008
Fetal Medicine Update 2008...........................................October 24-25, 2008
Challenges in Intrapartum Care......................................November 8, 2008

Mark your calendars!

Faculty and Alumni Professional Development Workshop
and Celebratory Dinner (See Save the Date! page 9)...........October 15, 2008
Research Day 2009 Abstract Deadline.............................March 2, 2009
Genesis Breakfast...........................................Thursday, April 23, 2009, 7:15 a.m.
(See page 10 for details)
26th Annual Research Day 2009....................................May 8, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Emmanuel College, 1st Floor
Victoria University, 75 Queen’s Park
University of Toronto

Inter-Hospital Rounds Schedule for 2008-2009
The Inter-Hospital Rounds will be webcast live starting this September.
(See details on page 7)

Dr. Janet Rowan.......................................................September 19, 2008
Dr. Charles Rodeck.....................................................October 24, 2008
Dr. Garnett Anderson...............................................November 14, 2008
Lecturer: TBA............................................................December 12, 2008
Dr. Mark Walker......................................................January 16, 2009
Dr. Eric Jauniaux.......................................................February 13, 2009
Plans are well underway for a joint faculty and alumni professional half-day event to be held October 15, 2008, at the University of Toronto’s Hart House. Topics to be covered include Teaching, Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Community setting and Global Health. The workshops will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will conclude with a guest lecture by Dr. André Lalonde, Executive Vice President, SOGC. A reception and dinner will follow. We hope that you will be available to participate in this exciting event. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect with former faculty and residents.
Genesis Breakfast News

The 17th Genesis Awareness Breakfast, held on Thursday, April 24, 2008, 7:15 a.m. at the MaRS Discovery District was a triumph, according to the many reports received from our Breakfast guests and Corporate Sponsors.

Here are a few photos from Breakfast morning to tempt you to visit the Genesis website and view more digital memories of Breakfast 2008.

On Another Note:

Dr. Jenny Blake and Dr. Alan Bocking
Genesis Breakfast 2008 at MaRS

As Dr. Bocking departs on July 1 for his six-month research leave, Genesis remains in the very capable hands of Dr. Jennifer Blake, serving as Acting Chair, concurrently with her role as Genesis Vice-Chair.

I can only reiterate the thoughtful, well deserved and timely message from Dr. Whiteside about Dr. Bocking’s re-appointment as Chair, Department of OB/GYN and Dr. Blake’s appointment as Acting Chair as a similarly applicable expression about their critical roles at the Genesis Research Foundation. Genesis is a better Foundation under the dedicated and remarkable leadership of Al and Jenny. We are very fortunate.

Beverly Allen, CFRE, Genesis Executive Director

We are already starting to organize Breakfast 2009. We invite our many Department OB/GYN friends to join us.

Thursday, April 23, 2009, 7:15 a.m.
18th Genesis Awareness Breakfast
MaRS Discovery District
101 College Street, Toronto, Ontario
Details to follow.

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