

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

Ob/Gyn News



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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is a privilege to provide this introductory message to our Department's Winter Newsletter. As you read through the next pages, you will see what a wonderful Department we have in terms of our Human Resources, whether they are Faculty, Staff, Postgraduate Trainees or Undergraduate Medical Students. Over the last nine years, our Department has grown from 120 to 220 Faculty located at six University of Toronto Fully-affiliated and nine Community-affiliated Hospital Sites. This is truly extraordinary growth and is a reflection of the breadth and depth of talent we have. This newsletter highlights the many award recipients this year and I congratulate all of the Teachers and Investigators who have been recognized in this way. I particularly would like to acknowledge Mark Yudin who received the APOG Carl Nimrod Educator of the Year Award for our Department at the APOG annual meeting in December.

The transition to 2012 has brought a number of changes in leadership within our Department. Jennifer Blake has completed 12 years as Chief of the Department at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (SHSC). We all thank Jenny for her tremendous commitment to our clinical and academic programs during this time. She will continue as an active member of our Department as the Director of Faculty Development with her clinical base at SHSC. We welcome Art Zaltz as the new Interim Chief at SHSC. Heather Shapiro will be completing her term as Director of the Postgraduate Education Program at the end of February and I am delighted that Donna Steele will take over this important role. Heather and Donna are working closely together to ensure a seamless transition. We thank Heather also, for her outstanding and unwavering commitment to our Department.

Steve Lye was successful in receiving a highly competitive \$1 million Connaught Challenge grant from the University of Toronto to facilitate the establishment of an Institute of Human Development. This is an outstanding accomplishment and it is gratifying to see one of the key strategic directions for our Department embraced by the University at large. The AMPATH-Reproductive Health Program continues to expand and flourish and Astrid Christoffersen-Deb, our Field Director has provided an inspiring account of some of the activities in Eldoret over the last six months. Barry Rosen continues to be a leader in program development in the area of Gynecologic-Oncology at Moi University School of Medicine and is making great strides in establishing a Gyn-Oncology Fellowship Program there, which would be the first in East Africa.

Our Department was also very fortunate to receive a generous donation from the family of the late Dr. Thomas Riley, a long-standing member of our Department, to establish the Dr. Thomas G. Riley Clinical Investigator Award. This donation adds to our ability to achieve another of our Department's strategic goals, that being, to increase the number of residents enrolled in the Royal College CIP program. This past six months also saw the opening of the Mississauga Academy with the first cohort of Undergraduate Medical Students starting. We are grateful to our colleagues at both Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre for welcoming Senior Medical Students on a trial basis for two-week periods and the feedback from staff as well as students has been very positive.

In closing, I hope that you will feel the same sense of pride that I do when you read about all of the accomplishments and activities of members of our Department in this newsletter and I would like to thank all of our staff, faculty and trainees for their hard work on behalf of the University, the Faculty of Medicine and our Department - 2012 is shaping up to be an even more productive year.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Alan Bocking

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Faculty Professional Development Day 2011



Faculty Professional Development Day (FPDD) is an annual event created to celebrate and recognize members of our department and is one of the few opportunities to gather together, says Dr. Alan Bocking, Chair, Ob-Gyn. We discuss best practices and innovations in education through a series of lectures and interactive workshops, and several categories of awards are given out.

FPDD took place on October 26 at the Vaughan Estate on the Estates of Sunnybrook and according to participants, Dr. Jennifer Blake, Program Coordinator and Associate Chair, Ob-Gyn, created an excellent program.

Speakers included **Dr. Matt Gysler**, Chief of Medical Staff at the Credit Valley Hospital, who gave the keynote lecture on *The View from Mississauga*, about the new academy of medicine. **Dr. Martin Schreiber**, Senior Academic Coordinator of the Undergraduate Medical Education Accreditation coming up in May 2012, gave a lecture on *Undergraduate Medical Education: Getting Ready for Accreditation*. The series of workshops presented, included: *Social Responsibility: What is our role?* by Drs **Alan Bocking**, **Barry Pakes**, and **Prof. Vicki Van Wagner**, *Clerkship Matters: Why we need to know about T-RES?* by **Dr. Filomena Meffe**, *Career Development: Promotion Preparation* with **Drs Lisa Allen**, **John Kingdom** and **Richard Pittini** and *Collegial Conversations* with **Dr. Janet Bodley**. All received excellent feedback with comments, including:

"Great facilitation of discussion and audience participation."

"Outstanding speakers. Great afternoon."

"Organization & planning were good."

Teaching Awards

Awards for undergraduate teaching, Chair's Awards and Master Teacher Awards for contribution to excellence in education in the 2010-11 academic year were announced at FPDD 2011.

2011 Master Teacher Award Recipients



Dr. Windrim (left) and Dr. Dodge - Master Teachers

The **Master Teacher Award** is presented to a faculty member who has a primary appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and who has to date received a total of three Undergraduate Teaching Awards demonstrating sustained excellence in undergraduate teaching and long-standing contribution to the education program. This year the recipients of the Master Teacher Award were **Dr. Rory Windrim** and **Dr. Jason Dodge**.

2011 Undergraduate Teaching Awards

The **Award for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence** is given to faculty members at the department's affiliate hospitals, who have received the highest teaching evaluation scores from our undergraduate medical students for the recent academic year. There were seven recipients of this year's award: **Dr. Rory Windrim**, Mount Sinai Hospital, **Dr. Sabrina Lee**, North York General Hospital, **Dr. Sybil Judah**, St. Joseph's Health Centre, **Dr. Tatiana Freire-Lizama**, St. Michael's Hospital, **Dr. Richard Pittini**, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, **Dr. Tara MacLeod**, Toronto East General Hospital, and **Dr. Jason Dodge**, University Health Network.

Ryley Family Donates \$250K to Ob-Gyn



Mr. Tom Ryley (left) with Dr. Bocking at Faculty Professional Development Day

The celebration of excellence among the members of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was made even more special with the announcement of a \$250,000 gift to the department at the annual Faculty Professional Development Day event on October 26, 2011.

Mr. Tom Ryley, the son of the late Dr. Thomas Ryley, former long-standing member of the Department, handed over a cheque for \$250,000 which will be matched by the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) to provide a \$500,000 endowment for the Dr. Thomas G. Ryley Clinical Investigator Award. The funds will support residents in Obstetrics and Gynaecology who are enrolled in the Clinical Investigator Program.

"This is a very generous gift from the Ryley family, for which we are extremely grateful," says Dr. Alan Bocking, Gordon C. Leitch Chair, Ob-Gyn and host of FPDD.

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS

2011 Chair's Awards

This year eight **Chair's Awards** were given out. **Dr. Janet Bodley** received the award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. **Dr. Jacqueline Thomas**, Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching, **Dr. Heather Shapiro**, Excellence in Postgraduate Program Development/Innovation, **Dr. May Alarab**, Outstanding Research Potential, **Dr. Sari Kives**, Excellence in Research Facilitation, **Dr. Kellie Murphy**, Sustained Excellence in Research, **Dr. Wendy Whittle**, Excellence in CME Teaching, and **Dr. Jacqueline Thomas**, Excellence in CME Course Coordination.



Chair's Award recipients: (from left) Drs Alarab, Bodley, Shapiro, and Thomas



Undergraduate Teaching Award recipients: (from left) Drs Freire-Lizama, Judah, Lee, Macleod and Pittini

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS cont'd

*Dr. Jennifer Blake*

Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Blake, Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, U of T, on being named one of [Canada's Top 25 Women of Influence](#) for her leadership in the field of health sciences by Women of Influence Magazine. The award puts her in the company of women such as Heather Reisman, CEO, Indigo Books & Music Inc., Mary Jo Haddad, President

& CEO, The Hospital for Sick Children, and Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario—also recipients of this year's award in various categories.

The inaugural ranking of the Top 25 seeks to recognize Canada's top female influencers.

*Dr. Shoo Lee*

Dr. Shoo Lee, who is cross-appointed to our department, was recently appointed **Scientific Director for the CIHR Institute of Human Development-Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH)**. His mandate will be "to obtain funding for a national pregnancy/birth cohort study with a focus on both the physical and social environments and their effects on long-term child health and development, and a continued emphasis on re-

productive and child health services and policy research. IHDCYH will also maintain its focus on human development, including biological, neurocognitive, behavioural, and social development".

The Department congratulates Dr. Lee, and we very much look forward to working with him in this new role.

Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre received the inaugural Chair of Women's Health jointly between SMH and UofT. This Chair will help support work in gynaecologic surgery, innovation and education.

University of Toronto faculty working in Africa travelled to Washington, DC where they successfully secured a prestigious **Saving Lives at Birth** grant for their project "Addressing the Fourth Delay: Improving community-based accountability for MNH; Moi University School of Medicine; Eldoret, Kenya".



Maternal, Newborn and Child Health core members at Saving Lives at Birth, Washington, DC (from left): Julia Songok, Louis Fazen, Astrid Christoffersen-Deb and Laura Ruhl

Dr. Astrid Christoffersen-Deb is a 2011 recipient of the inaugural **Grand Challenges Canada Rising Stars in Global Health** prize for her project, "mHealth for Maternal and Newborn Health: Clinical decision support for community health workers in Western Kenya," which aims to link women and infants to care through the use of clinical decision-support on mobile phones.

Dr. Mark Yudin, Assoc Prof, U of T Ob-Gyn & Reproductive Infectious Diseases) is the recipient of the **2011 Carl Nimrod Educator Award** from the Association of Academic Professionals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (APOG).

Dr. May Alarab was one of five members elected to serve on the **International Urogynecological Association Scientific Committee**.

Dr. Lilian Gien is a recipient of the **Gynecologic Oncology Group's 2012 Young Investigator Award** for "Examining the Paradigm for Treating Systemic Therapies in Recurrent and Advanced Cervical Cancers". Her award is to fund her cervical cancer project using ancillary data from the GOG.

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS cont'd



Dr. Murphy and
Dr. Fung-Kee-Fung

Dr. Joan Murphy was presented with The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada (GOC) Presidential Medal Award by Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, GOC President, at a ceremony on June 25, 2011, for her contribution to the development of the specialty.

In his speech, Dr. Fung-Kee-Fung referred to Dr. Murphy as a "pathfinder for women," having been the first woman President and the first woman Secretary-Treasurer of the Society. She was the first Head of Gynecologic Oncology in the newly developed Department of Surgical Oncology at UHN, the first Chair in Gynecologic Oncology Research at UHN, the first research Chair position to be held by a gynecologic oncologist in Canada, the Douglas J. Crashley Chair in Gynecologic Cancer Research, and the first research Chair with a focus in cervical cancer research.

Dr. Murphy is involved in ovarian and cervical cancer research and is an advocate for screening and vaccination. She has chaired the national HPV network and has been nominated Lead in Ontario for cervical cancer screening and prevention.

INTER-HOSPITAL NEWS & EVENTS

St. Joseph's Health Centre

Dr. Hani Akoury is the new Chief and Program Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St. Joseph's as of July 1, 2011.

St. Michael's Hospital



The provincial MOHLTC announced a new 17-storey patient care tower to be constructed at the north-east corner of Queen and Victoria Streets, along with significant renovations to the older parts of SMH.

Ob/Gyn plans to make use of the Allan Waters Family Simulation Centre facility unveiled in Oct as part of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, for skills development and research.

Dr. Colleen McDermott was named Head of our Division of Pelvic Medicine and Minimally-Invasive Surgery at SMH.

Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre is the Chair of the Medical Advisory Council for SMH, 2011-2013.

Dr. Sari Kives gave birth to a baby boy in June, named David. She and her husband Allen are adjusting well to parenthood.

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Dr. Arthur Zaltz will assume the role of Interim Chief, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, effective January 1, 2012. Dr. Zaltz began his career at Women's College Hospital in 1987 and has held several leadership roles throughout his career, including Site Chief for the department at Women's College, Site Director of the Postgraduate Program, and Sunnybrook Departmental Finance Committee Chair.

We also acknowledge the leadership that **Dr. Jennifer Blake** has provided the Department over many years and wish her well in her new position that she has taken on at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Dr. Blake will also continue her work with our University Department as Director of Faculty Development.

Dr. Janet Bodley will take on the role of Postgraduate Medical Education Site Director.

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS cont'd

Toronto East General Hospital

Toronto East General Hospital Obstetrics department, under the leadership of its chief, **Dr. Leke Badmos**, has partnered with their Ophthalmology department to start the first Amnion banking service in Ontario. The first amniotic membrane donation was carried out at TEGH, labour floor, in Nov 2011. Amniotic membrane has a lot of ophthalmic uses and this has always been shipped from other provinces for use in Ontario over the years.

Dr. Anjali Aggarwal is the latest addition to the Ob-Gyn staff at TEGH. She was trained in our department and had further training in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. She joined the East General team in July 2011 and was recently appointed Lecturer within the faculty. Please join us in welcoming Anjali to the East General team.

Dr. Aggarwal is also the Undergraduate Medical Training representative/coordinator for TEGH effective Sept 7, 2011, replacing Dr. Tara Macleod, and will complement Dr. Maja Gans on the committee.

Dr. Melisa Tai is the winner of the 2011 Dr. John Fowler Residents Teaching Award at TEGH. This is an annual teaching award presented to the three best resident teachers among all the MDs. We are all proud that one of this year's recipients is from our department. Congratulations to Dr. Tai.

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

PRIMARY APPOINTMENTS IN OB/GYN

Assistant Professor

Dr. Ann Malinowski
Dr. Danielle Vicus

Lecturer

Dr. Anjali Aggarwal
Dr. Yolanda Kirkham
Dr. Jamie Kroft
Dr. Jan Scheeres
Dr. Eliane Shore
Dr. Nina Venkatarangam

RESEARCH CORNER

Grants



Prof Stephen Lye

Dr. Stephen Lye, Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Physiology, and Associate Director of the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital is the recipient of the inaugural \$1 million **University of Toronto Connaught Global Challenge Award**, to be used not only to fund a research cluster but will also jumpstart the development of a new research institute.

The new Institute for Human Development "is an exciting initiative, in that it integrates the research of investigators from multiple disciplines and backgrounds to focus on how developmental trajectories impact our lives from the earliest stages of development through to adulthood," said Dr. Lye. "By understanding how to modify these trajectories, we hope to improve health, optimize learning and enhance the relationships and social functioning of our children as they develop."

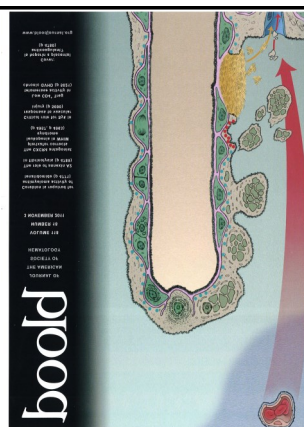
The Institute will examine factors such as genetics, early experiences and the environment, and how they influence individual potential and health outcomes.

Dr. Lye, a world leader in women's and infants' health, is conducting a multidisciplinary research study that will identify specific mechanisms by which an individual's genetic makeup affects response to adversity early in life and develop interventions to maximize child health and well being. The project's co-senior investigators are Carl Corter of human development and applied psychology at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), Alison Fleming of psychology at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), Jennifer Jenkins of human development and applied psychology at OISE, **Stephen Matthews** of physiology and Marla Sokolowski of biology at UTM.



Dr. Mark Yudin, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, was awarded a three-year, \$900,000 **CIHR Emerging Team Grant**. Dr. Yudin is co-principal investigator on the project, "Interdisciplinary HIV Pregnancy Research Group: care and research to optimize HIV-positive women's health during preconception, pregnancy, and motherhood," along with Dr. Mona Loutfy and Dr. Lena Serghides. The grant period began in spring 2011. The grant is investigating preconception, pregnancy and postpartum issues among HIV+ women, including angiogenic factors in blood and placenta, and incidence and correlates of postpartum depression.

Drs **John Kingdom** (MSH) U of T Professor & Rose Torno Chair in Ob-Gyn) and Sascha Drewlo made the front cover of the November 2011 volume of *Blood Journal* (The American Society of Hematology) for their review article "Is heparin a placental anticoagulant in high-risk pregnancies?" covering the results of four original articles they published this year. The article can be viewed online at www.bloodjournal.com.

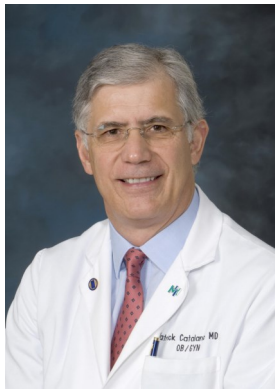


Cover of *Blood Journal*,
Nov 2011

Kingdom JC, Drewlo S. Is heparin a placental anticoagulant in high-risk pregnancies? *Blood* 2011 Nov 3;118(18):4780-8. Epub 2011 Aug 25. Review.

29th Annual Research Day—May 4, 2012

We are pleased to announce that the Henderson Lecturer for the 29th Annual Department Research Day will be Dr. Patrick Catalano, Professor and former Chair of the Department of Reproductive Biology at MetroHealth Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.



Patrick Catalano, MD

Dr. Catalano received his medical degree from the University of Vermont College of Medicine and is certified in general Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Doctor Catalano's interests include obesity, diabetes and metabolism in pregnancy. His research includes the longitudinal evaluation of women before and throughout pregnancy to determine the short- and long-term effects of maternal obesity and diabetes on both the mother and her fetus; he has been the recipient of continuous National Institute of Health funding since 1987. Dr. Catalano is associated with numerous professional organizations, including the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and the American Diabetes Association. He has over 140 peer-reviewed publications and has won many prestigious awards, including the recent Agnes Higgins Award from the March of Dimes.

Dr. Catalano's keynote lecture entitled "**Maternal Obesity and Pregnancy: Much Ado about Something,**" will focus on the effects of obesity and diabetes on mother and fetus.

29th ANNUAL

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY RESEARCH DAY FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012

at the JRR Macleod Auditorium & Stone Lobby in the
Medical Sciences Building,
1 King's College Circle, University of Toronto

Deadline for Abstracts
Monday, March 5, 2012

Information

More information on Research Day 2012 is available on the OB/GYN Website:

www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/Research/ResearchDay.htm

or contact Helen Robson at helen.robson@utoronto.ca.

Publications

December 2011

(Due to the large volume of publications by members of the department, only Dec publications are listed in this issue.)

Barbera L, Fitch M, Adams L, Doyle C, Dasgupta T, Blake J. Improving care for women after gynecological cancer: The development of a sexuality clinic. *Menopause* 2011 Dec;18(12):1327-1333.

Casper RF, Mitwally MF. Use of the aromatase inhibitor letrozole for ovulation induction in women with polycystic ovarian syndrome. *Clin Obstet Gynecol* 2011 Dec;54(4):685-95.

Cinà DP, Onay T, Paltoo A, Li C, Maezawa Y, De Arteaga J, Jurisicova A, Quaggin SE. Inhibition of mTOR Disrupts Autophagic Flux in Podocytes. *J Am Soc Nephrol* 2011 Dec 22. [Epub ahead of print]

Clark CA, Spitzer KA, Laskin CA, Koren G. Spontaneous abortion and NSAIDs. *CMAJ* 2011 Dec 13;183(18):2145.

Cox B, Sharma P, Evangelou AI, Whiteley K, Ignatchenko V, Ignatchenko A, Baczyk D, Czikk M, Kingdom J, Rossant J, Gramolini AO, Adamson SL, Kislinger T. Translational analysis of mouse and human placental protein and mRNA reveals distinct molecular pathologies in human preeclampsia. *Mol Cell Proteomics* 2011 Dec;10(12):M111.012526. Epub 2011 Oct 10.

Drewlo S, Levytska K, Sobel M, Baczyk D, Lye SJ, Kingdom JC. Heparin promotes soluble VEGF receptor expression in human placental villi to impair endothelial VEGF signaling. *J Thromb Haemost* 2011 Dec;9(12):2486-97. doi: 10.1111/j.1538-7836.2011.04526.x.

Dumont T, Allen L, Kives S. Can von Willebrand Disease Be Investigated on Combined Hormonal Contraceptives? *J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol* 2011 Dec 27. [Epub ahead of print]

Dumont T, Caccia N, Allen L. Pediatric synchronous bilateral ovarian torsion: a case report and review of the literature. *J Pediatr Surg* 2011 Dec;46(12):e19-23.

Ferguson SE, Urowitz S, Massey C, Wegener M, Quartey N, Wiljer D, Classen CC. Confirmatory factor analysis of the Sexual Adjustment and Body Image Scale in women with gynecologic cancer.

Cancer 2011 Dec 2. doi: 10.1002/cncr.26632. [Epub ahead of print]

Gribouval O, Morinière V, Pawtowski A, Arrondel C, Sallinen SL, Saloranta C, Clericuzio C, Viot G, Tantau J, Blesson S, Cloarec S, Machet MC, Chitayat D, ... Gubler MC. Spectrum of mutations in the renin-angiotensin system genes in autosomal recessive renal tubular dysgenesis. *Hum Mutat* 2012 Feb;33(2):316-26. doi: 10.1002/humu.21661. Epub 2011 Dec 22.

Hofmeyr GJ, Barrett JF, Crowther CA. Planned caesarean section for women with a twin pregnancy. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2011 Dec 7;12:CD006553.

Jerkic M, Kabir MG, Davies A, Yu LX, McIntyre BA, Husain NW, Enomoto M, Sotov V, Husain M, Henkelman M, Belik J, Letarte M. Pulmonary hypertension in adult Alk1 heterozygous mice due to oxidative stress. *Cardiovasc Res* 2011 Dec 1;92(3):375-84. Epub 2011 Aug 22.

Kew S, Ye C, Sermer M, Connelly PW, Hanley AJ, Zinman B, Retnakaran R. Postpartum metabolic function in women delivering a macrosomic infant in the absence of gestational diabetes mellitus. *Diabetes Care* 2011 Dec;34(12):2608-13. Epub 2011 Oct 4.

Mackay HJ, Buckanovich RJ, Hirte H, Correa R, Hoskins P, Biagi J, Martin LP, Fleming GF, Morgan R, Wang L, Polintan R, Oza AM. A phase II study single agent of aflibercept (VEGF Trap) in patients with recurrent or metastatic gynecologic carcinosarcomas and uterine leiomyosarcoma. A trial of the Princess Margaret Hospital, Chicago and California Cancer Phase II Consortia. *Gynecol Oncol* 2011 Dec 1. [Epub ahead of print]

Malvasi A, Stark M, Ghi T, Farine D, Guido M, Tinelli A. Intrapartum sonography for fetal head asynclitism and transverse position: sonographic signs and comparison of diagnostic performance between transvaginal and digital examination. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med.* 2011 Dec 20. [Epub ahead of print]

Nam RK, Zhang W, Siminovitsh K, Shlien A, Kattan MW, Klotz LH, Trachtenberg J, Lu Y, Zhang J, Yu C, Toi A, Loblaw DA, Venkateswaran V, Stanimirovic A, Sugar L, Malkin D, Seth A, Narod SA. New variants at 10q26 and 15q21 are associated with aggressive prostate cancer in a genome-wide association study from a prostate biopsy screening cohort. *Cancer Biol Ther* 2011 Dec 1;12(11). [Epub ahead of print]

RESIDENT CORNER



From left, Dr. Wolfman, Dr. Velasquez (her fellow from Chile), Dr. Mills and NAMS executive member

Both **Kelsey Mills** and **Maria Velasquez**, trainees under the supervision of **Dr. Wendy Wolfman**, received the Young Investigator award from the North American Menopause Society for outstanding abstract submissions in September 2011 at the NAMS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Crystal Chan was selected by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine to receive one of five In-Training Awards for Research, based on her abstract, "A minimally-invasive look into the window of implantation: identification of candidate biomarkers of endometrial receptivity by transcriptomic analysis of uterine fluid aspirations".

Yolanda Kirkham, Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Fellow, showcases her musical talent as part of the new vocal ensemble, The Velvet Curtain, in Valentine's Chocolate Cabaret (Music from Across the World) on Feb 8 and 11 at the Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St E at 8 pm. Purchase pre-concert tickets for \$20 (\$25 at the door) by emailing her at yolanda.butt@utoronto.ca. For details visit www.thevelvetcurtain.ca or call 416-792-4742.



Publications, cont'd

Narod SA. Should all women with breast cancer be tested for BRCA Mutations at the time of diagnosis? J Clin Oncol 2011 Dec 5. [Epub ahead of print]

Ng T, Chand D, Song L, Al Chawaf A, Watson JD, Boutros PC, Belsham DD, Lovejoy DA. Identification of a novel Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) -inhibitory factor: Regulation of BDNF by Teneurin C-terminal Associated Peptide (TCAP)-1 in immortalized embryonic mouse hypothalamic cells. Regul Pept 2011 Dec 30. [Epub ahead of print]

Parlea L, Bromberg IL, Feig DS, Vieth R, Merman E, Lipscombe LL. Association between serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D in early pregnancy and risk of gestational diabetes mellitus. Diabet Med 2011 Dec 12. doi: 10.1111/j.1464-5491.2011.03550.x. [Epub ahead of print]

Perren TJ, Swart AM, Pfisterer J, Ledermann JA, Pujade-Lauraine E, Kristensen G, Carey MS, Beale P, Cervantes A, Kurzeder C, du Bois A, Sehouli J, Kimmig R, Stähle A, Collinson F, Essapen S, Gourley C, Lortholary A, Selle F, Mirza MR, Leminen A, Plante M, Stark D, Qian W, Parmar MK, Oza AM; ICON7 Investigators. A phase 3 trial of bevacizumab in ovarian cancer. N Engl J Med. 2011 Dec 29;365(26):2484-96.

Tamplin OJ, Cox BJ, Rossant J. Integrated microarray and ChIP analysis identifies multiple Foxa2 dependent target genes in the notochord. Dev Biol 2011 Dec 15;360(2):415-25. Epub 2011 Oct 8.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

T-Res

T-Res is a tool used by third-year University of Toronto medical students to log their clinical encounters and procedures during each of their clerkship courses using mobile devices or the web. The product was built by a Canadian company in 2000 and has been proven to meet the LCME ED-2 accreditation standard. Most Canadian medical schools already use T-Res in their postgraduate programs, and a growing number now use it in their clerkship.

When interacting with third-year medical students on the wards, in labour and birth suites or in the clinics, ask to look at their T-Res log to become familiar with the mandatory encounters and procedures to help them achieve their goals.

University of Toronto Undergraduate Medical Education Policies for Teachers

There are a number of policies with respect to undergraduate teaching that Faculty may want to review and be familiar with prior to the scheduled Undergraduate Faculty of Medicine accreditation in May 2012. Please visit www.md.utoronto.ca/teachersandstaff/policies/teachers.htm for a complete set of medical education policies for teachers.

Centre for Faculty Development Workshops

If you are interested in brushing up on your teaching skills or learning new techniques, the Centre for Faculty Development at the University of Toronto may have the workshop that is right for you. For a schedule of upcoming workshops, please visit www.cfd.med.utoronto.ca/programs/workshops.html.

The Mississauga Academy of Medicine, launched in August 2011 at the University of Toronto Mississauga, reflects a pivotal partnership between the Faculty of Medicine, the Mississauga Campus, Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre.

The Mississauga Academy of Medicine opened with 54 first-year students and will reach a projected total enrollment of 216 students by 2015. Located across two floors inside the new Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex, the Mississauga Academy provides state-of-the-art classrooms, seminar rooms, computer facilities, learning spaces and laboratories. A fully-equipped student lounge and a unique outdoor terrace provide students with contemporary, comfortable spaces to socialize and relax. Advanced videoconferencing and other technologies connect students across multiple teaching sites, allowing students to share lectures and learning experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom.

In preparation for a full third-year clerkship rotation cohort of medical students at the Mississauga Academy (scheduled for fall 2013), a pilot was initiated in 2010-2011 to start sending medical students for part of their OB/GYN rotation to Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre.

During each of the OB/GYN rotation blocks in the 2011-2012 academic year, two medical students from St. Michael's Hospital will be doing a sub rotation at Trillium Health Centre and two medical students from Mount Sinai Hospital will be at Credit Valley Hospital for two weeks. 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.

Mississauga Academy of Medicine

GLOBAL HEALTH

Collaboration with Shenzhen Maternity and Children's Hospital, China

Drs **Alan Bocking**, **Stephen Lye** and **Shoo Lee** recently visited the Shenzhen Maternity and Children's Hospital in Shenzhen, China, to explore opportunities for a partnership in Professional Development in Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as Neonatology. The hospital has a very large delivery volume with over 15,000 births per year and is interested in mounting a Pregnancy Cohort in collaboration with the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



Drs Lee (Front row, second from left), Bocking (back row, second from left) and Lye with representatives of Shenzhen Maternity and Children's Hospital, Nov 2011

Moi University Medical Students Visit Toronto, Kenya



From left: Ricken Namungu, Dr. Bocking and Emmanuel Soma

We hosted two visiting Moi University medical students, Emmanuel Soma and Ricken Namungu from August 30 to October 6, 2011. During that time, they completed their five-week, fifth-year elective.

It was a positive experience for all concerned. The success of this visit is a reflection of the level of commitment and dedication of our staff members, and we congratulate and commend everyone involved.

From left: Sylvia Muir (MSH), Maria Wowk, Ricken, Emmanuel, Cheryl Bird, Franca Conciatore and Caroline Sutherland, 92 College Staff



LETTER FROM ELDORET

by Astrid Christoffersen-Deb



It takes a village. This unusually simple concept of peer support has become the guiding thread within our Primary Health Care program at AMPATH.

Woven into our emblematic quilt pictured below, we have used this concept to guide our maternal, newborn and child health care programs, as AMPATH works with government to fulfill its ambitious Primary Health Care package. Across seven sites, covering a total of 66 facilities, and a population of 600,000 people, we are working to operationalise this idea of peer support into every aspect of care and training within our growing primary health care team. The primary health care program is one of many initiatives that the department supports through its collaboration with Moi University. This year saw the addition of four new midwives to our team (Ruth, Milicent, Janerose, Margaret), one OB/GYN (Rose Kosgei), and an MD/PhD student in public health informatics (Louis Fazen). By the close of the year, we have successfully managed to integrate our maternal and child health teams into one, challenging us to reimagine what 'prenatal to preschool' programming might look like in a continuum of care for woman and child.



"It takes a village" quilt

Together, we believe that no woman should be left to labour at home or care for her newborn alone. At present, women and children in poor and rural communities in Kenya face the challenges of birth without advocates in the home. Not surprisingly, maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among women of childbearing age and neonatal mortality comprises 42% of under-five, and 60% of infant mortality. UN figures indicate that maternal deaths have been steadily increasing, marking Kenya with one of the highest rates of increase (38%) in the world between 1990 and 2008.

The primary health care program believes that the accountability necessary to improve the lives of women and children must extend beyond counting their deaths. It requires mechanisms that empower communities to manage information about their mothers and newborns so they can mobilize resources to advocate on their behalf and recognize instances when they fail to meet their obligations. To start, we have looked at how we can increase peer support within the home. Since August, we have trained 400 CHWs to carry out home-based assessments of pregnant women and infants up to four months of age using checklists and link them to care as indicated.

Our aim is to improve home visits within 48 hours of birth. Aware that paper-based records can be cumbersome, and capitalizing on Kenya's mobile connectivity, we are preparing to smarten our program with the addition of smart-phones. This is building on our successful pilot of CHW-led baseline community assessments using Android phones (pictured below).



In the new year, we will pilot the use of Android smart-phones to see whether electronic reminders and clinical decision-support can further improve peer support within those first critical 48 hours. This has been made possible through additional grant support. Indeed, members of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health team have successfully received peer support for the next two years through Grand Challenges Canada and the Saving Lives at Birth campaign.

Building on this idea of peer support, we are always thankful for the collegiality, friendship and guidance offered by visits from our departments of OB/GYN and Public Health. Coordinated through Rachel Spitzer's endless energy, faculty visits by Heather Morris, Barry Rosen, Aaron Yarmoshuk, Donald Cole, rotations by Naana Jumah, Julie Thorne, Carly Morin, Robin Wiviott and research placements by first-year medical students Alice Gray and Samantha Young have continued to sustain the growing collaboration in reproductive health between the University of Toronto and Moi University.

Happy New Year from Eldoret.

Astrid Deb

UPCOMING EVENTS



U of T OBGYN Interhospital Rounds - Dr. Mary Anne Jamieson

Associate Professor, Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (& Paediatrics),
Queen's University

Adolescent Menometrorrhagia – Lessons from the Women

and Bleeding Disorders Clinic Feb 3, 2012

7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Jamieson

U of T OBGYN Interhospital Rounds - Dr. Malcolm G. Munro

Topic tbc Mar 2, 2012

7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., St. Michael's Hospital

U of T OBGYN Interhospital Rounds - Dr. Andrea Jurisicova

Aging female gametes – what can we do about it? Apr 20, 2012

Neonatal and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Research Day Apr 25, 2012

(Abstract submission deadline—Feb 17, 2012)

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology 29th Annual Research Day **May 4, 2012**

(Abstract deadline—March 5, 2012)

8:00 am to 6:30 pm

JRR Macleod Auditorium & Stone Lobby, MSB, 1 King's College Circle, U of T

36th Annual Eastern Canadian Perinatal Investigators Meeting and

Preeclampsia Research Symposium Nov 14-16, 2012

Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, 209 Victoria St., SMH

Send your submissions and feedback to Cheryl Bird.

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