



# Obstetrics & Gynaecology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Cover photo credit: Mathew Leonardi



## Message from the Chair

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you our redesigned ObGyn Newsletter. As the Department embarks on our mission to develop a new strategy - which focuses on collaborative research, lifelong learning, advocacy and public awareness, quality improvement and patient safety, and education - we have decided to place a special emphasis on communication. This newsletter, along with the website to be re-launched in the early 2015, are our first steps in the right direction. In this issue, you will find updates about the achievements of our faculty and trainees, information on recent and upcoming events, and other news. A special thanks to Khrystyna Levytska for masterminding the redesign of our newsletter.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and thank you for all your contributions.

With best wishes,

*John Kingdom*  
*Gordon C. Leitch Chair*

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We are in search for a  
CREATIVE NEWSLETTER NAME.  
Submit your ideas to  
Khrystyna Levytska for review!



Photo credits go to **Mr. Joe George**, our talented photographer, who is always there to snap the most embarrassing and intriguing photos.

Contact us at 123 Edward

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### Promote our presence!

Use **#UofTObGyn** when posting messages and updates about the Department on popular social media channels.

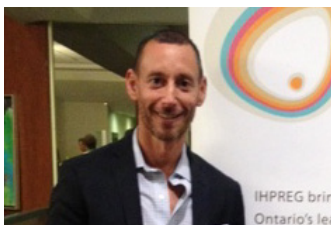


### Got news?

Contact **Khrystyna Levytska** at [khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca](mailto:khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca) to have your story included in our future newsletters!



With the introduction of the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, Dr. Gareth Seaward has been appointed as the **Vice-Chair of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety**.



We welcome Dr. Mark Yudin as the **Director of Clinical Research**. Over the next 4 years, Dr. Yudin will work closely with Dr. Stephen Lye and Dr. Ted Brown to advance the Research strategic priority.



Dr. Michael Geary has been appointed as the **Chief of St. Michael's Hospital** commencing October 14, 2014. Dr. Geary joins us from the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin, Ireland.

Our Department is committed to faculty growth and professional development. In July 2014, four Faculty were **promoted**, notably all women: Drs. Janet Bodley, Sarah Ferguson, and May Alarab to Associate Professor, and Dr. Wendy Wolfman to Full Professor.

The **Genesis Foundation** has been formally closed. Over the years of its operation, it has supported many faculty and trainees to drive their research initiatives. The **Annual Genesis Lectureship** has been established to celebrate and continue its legacy.

Our trainees have distinguished themselves this year in their research achievements. With the guidance of our Faculty, 7 abstracts were accepted to the **Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** taking place in February, 2015, in San Diego, CA.

The **GTA-OBS Network**, headed by Dr. Jon Barrett from Sunnybrook, now includes 6 full- and 11 community-affiliated institutions, and continues to grow.



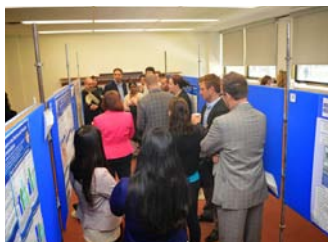
The leaders of our **Strategic Plan** priorities continue to meet to discuss progress and suggest avenues for future projects and developments. The latest meeting took place on November 11, 2014.



**Faculty Professional Development Day** was met with great enthusiasm, with over 90 registrants this year! Highlights included talks by Drs. Bryan Hodges and Stella Ng from the Wilson Centre.



**Annual Research Day** continuously reinforces our research potential and talent. With almost 90 abstract submissions, clinical and basic science trainees are advancing us as a leader in Women's Health.



We take pride in celebrating careers of our distinguished members. This year's **Adamson Symposium** was a special event in honour of Dr. Adamson's retirement. The day highlighted her contribution to our understanding of placental development.

The 2014 **Graduation event**, which took place in June at the historic Faculty Club, celebrated achievements of our residents and fellows. A new addition this year was our extension of the invitation to our Alumni as well as 3 former Department Chairs.



We are committed to making **competency-based medical education (CBME)** the standard within our Department. Dr. Nicolette Caccia has been championing the pilot roll-out project of CBME in MFM and PAG/REI rotations; Dr. Colleen McDermott is working on introducing it in Urogynaecology.

Our faculty have been busy organizing training sessions throughout the fall of 2014. Drs. Ted Brown and Alan Bocking organized the first **Assisted Reproductive Technology and Development workshop**, while their colleagues, Drs. Jamie Kroft and Grace Liu from Sunnybrook, put on their first **Minimally Invasive Surgery course** featuring the renowned MIS specialist, Dr. Charles Koh.

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# Strategic Plan update

By Khrystyna Levytska

Since his appointment as Chair in July, 2013, Dr. John Kingdom, under the guidance of Cate Creede and Danny Nashman from The Potential Group, has taken an active approach to establishing and advancing our strategic priorities.

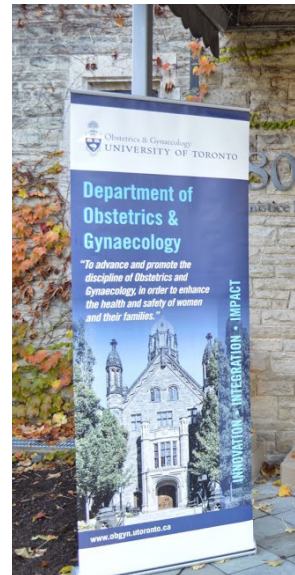
Aligning with the Department's vision, the Executive Committee has come up with 5 strategic priorities, in conformity with those of the Faculty of Medicine. Our priorities and their leaders are:

1. Research - [Stephen Lye](#)
2. Quality Improvement & Patient Safety - [Gareth Seaward](#)
3. Advocacy - [Rachel Spitzer](#)
4. Continuing Professional & Faculty Development - [Rory Windrim & Filomena Meffe](#)
5. Education - [Heather Shapiro](#)

Over the past year, the Chair and the Strategic Priority leaders have been using our guiding forces - unity, equity, advocacy, collaboration, leadership, and excellence - to establish overall goals and objectives for each strategic priority. Following the kick off of the STRATEGIC PLAN in May, 2014 (see P14 for more), the leaders have now formed supporting committees, to meet on a regular basis, creating action plans tailored to the needs of their priorities. The leaders continue to meet with the Chair three to four times per year to discuss progress, put forth new ideas, solicit feedback, and establish enabling strategies.



Strategic Planning Executive Retreat took place on November 11, 2014, at the Vaughan Estate. From left to right: Drs. John Kingdom, Harold Drutz, Jon Barrett, Mathew Sermer, Mike Geary, Ted Brown, and Mrs. Helen Robson.



## Vision

As a unified department, develop, fully leverage and integrate ground-breaking research, knowledge and practice in obstetrics and gynecology from across our extensive network to transform women's health locally, nationally and around the world.

## Mission

To generate game changing research, improve standards of care, advance public policy and prepare the physicians and leaders of tomorrow in ways that transform the health of Women locally, nationally and around the world.

The latest such meeting took place in the morning of November 11, 2014, followed by our annual Faculty Professional Development Day. Over 30 members were in attendance, all of whom contributed to fruitful discussions and provided useful feedback to Strategic Priority leaders. The leaders updated the group on their progress and posed 2-4 questions on which they would like feedback.



Dr. Heather Shapiro, VC Education, at the latest Strategic Planning Executive Retreat.

Discussions focused around unifying our department across the GTA in several areas, including education, faculty development, and research. There was also a great emphasis on collaborative research to be modelled on the GTA-OBS Network established last year by Dr. Jon Barrett. Interesting ideas, such as having a GTA-wide PAP day for un-insured women, helped build the momentum around all strategic priorities. The next strategic planning retreat is set to take place in the spring of 2015. Until then, the priority leaders will be busy advancing each of their goals and fulfilling each of their projects. ■



# Major Departmental changes

By Khrystyna Levytska

In addition to welcoming a new Department Chair Dr. John Kingdom in July of 2013, our Department has undergone two additional major changes: formally closing the Genesis Foundation and moving our physical location.



Since its inception in 1983, the GENESIS FOUNDATION had been a pioneer in reproductive education, funding ground-breaking research and innovation in reproductive oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, and other areas in Women's Health. Established as a charitable, non-profit organization, the Genesis Foundation had raised funds through donations from individuals, corporations, and special events. Working closely with our Department, the Foundation has contributed to the research, education and training of numerous faculty members and trainees, advancing our Department on national and international arenas.

The Genesis Foundation has been a major and enduring achievement for our Department and staff. Holding it in high regard, the Board of Directors had gathered together in July of 2014 to discuss the future of the Foundation. There was consensus to formally close the Genesis Foundation while at the same time celebrating its achievements and contributions. Several suggestions have been made on how to uphold the legacy of Genesis, including: creating an annual Genesis Lectureship in our Department, establishing an annual public lecture, "The Genesis Public Lecture in Women's Health", establishing an annual speaker for inter-hospital rounds as the annual "Genesis Lecturer", including a chapter on Genesis in a publication "History of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Toronto", and integrating it into our newly-designed Departmental website. This year, we carried forward and celebrated the legacy of Genesis by welcoming **Dr. Mitchell Rosen** to deliver the first ANNUAL GENESIS LECTURE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH October 10, 2014, at our monthly inter-hospital rounds on.

Another major change within the Department took place in May of 2014. With the support of Dean Whiteside, OBGYN has moved locations from our historic house at 92 College St. to 123 EDWARD ST.

92 College, with its old Victorian looks and full of history, has been home to our Department for over 50 years. Our new home at the Toronto Professional Building at 123 Edward St is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor, neighboring with our colleagues from the Department of Anaesthesia. The new location provides our staff with IT equipment, a large seminar room, and resources to help support the members of our Department as we strive to establish our leadership roles in OBGYN around the world.

While remembering our past, we are now taking the Department forward with modern, state-of-the-art, fully-equipped premises, which will give us the resources and space to accommodate large workshops, lectures, and meetings, reflecting the upcoming needs of our members. ■



*Our former location, 92 College St., has been home to our Department for many years.*

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## New Appointments

This year has been filled with many successful appointments across our Department and affiliated teaching sites.



DR. MICHAEL GEARY, who did Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship training here in 2001, has been appointed as the Chief at St. Michael's Hospital, joining us from Dublin.

DR. RACHEL SPITZER has been appointed as VC Global Women's Health, leading the Advocacy Priority. Working with her team, she focuses on public awareness at home and with partnership in Kenya.



DR. GARETH SEAWARD has been appointed as VC QIPS. Working with Dr. Jon Barrett and the GTA-OBS Network, his focus is to improve the quality of care across GTA.

DR. DAN FARINE is now the Chair of the Promotions and Awards Committee. With the help of Cherryl Bird, he ensures that our faculty receive the recognition they deserve in a timely fashion.



DR. NAN OKUN has been appointed as the MFM Division Head. She is committed to advancing the level of MFM care and creating job opportunities for our MFM trainees in the GTA.

DR. RORY WINDRIM is now the Director of Continuing Professional Development and Knowledge Translation. His dedication to CME was formally recognized this year by the Chair's Award in CME Teaching.



DR. MARK YUDIN has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Research. He will work with the Research Committee, alongside Drs. Steve Lye and Ted Brown, on the Research Priority.

MRS. ARLEEN MORRIN, our Business Manager, has taken on a new role as the Business Officer of the Department of English. **Ms. Tina Xue** has assumed her position since October, 2014. We thank Arleen for her commitment to our Department. ■



## Meet our Business Manager

MS. TINA XUE joined us as the new Business Manager in October of 2014. We asked Tina about her previous experience.

**Q: Tina, tell us about what you were doing prior to joining the department?**

A: Prior to moving back to Toronto, I served as the Assistant Director of Finance and Programs at the Harvard School of Public Health. In this position, I worked on expanding the Exposure, Epidemiology and Risk Program in terms of research and outreach. I have had over 7 years of experience working in various areas of higher education administration, including finance, research (basic and clinical), operations, student services, communications, project management, etc.



**Q: What has been your favorite part about moving back to Toronto?**

A: My favorite part about being back in Toronto is the people. While I have some friends here from back when I attended the University of Toronto for undergrad, I have already met so many new interesting people. Everyone has been friendly and welcoming.

**Q: What do you miss about Boston?**

A: Having a HUGE sweet tooth is an understatement for me. So what I miss most about Boston is this little hole-in-the-wall ice cream store called Toscanini's right by MIT. They make their ice cream every morning in the store from scratch; so the flavors are always fresh and fun. When I go home for the holidays, I will be sure to stop by despite it being the middle of winter. I highly recommend it to anyone who happens to find themselves in Boston. It is worth the trip! ■

## Faculty Promotions

We celebrate the achievements of our Faculty as they advance through their careers based on teaching and research excellence.

The Promotions Committee, Chaired by Dr. Dan Faine, is actively involved in advancing our faculty in their academic careers. Their efforts helped 4 faculty members to be successfully promoted. DRS. JANET BODLEY, SARAH FERGUSON, and MAY ALARAB were promoted to Associate Professor, and DR. WENDY WOLFMAN was promoted to Full Professor. The promotions are effective as of July 1, 2014. ■





## Awards and Recognitions

Our Faculty are widely recognized as leaders in their fields not only by our Department, but nationally and around the world. Congratulations!



**Dr. Jon Barrett** from the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre has been awarded the APOG NATIONAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD in 2013 for his outstanding scientific leadership, research mentoring, and major research accomplishments in twin pregnancy.

**Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre** from St. Michael's Hospital and **Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass** from North York General Hospital were the recipients of the APOG CARL NIMROD EDUCATOR AWARD in 2013 and 2014, respectively. The Award recognizes excellence, commitment, innovation, and leadership in teaching knowledge, attitudes, and skills to trainees.



*Drs. Tunde-Byass and Kingdom.*

**Dr. Stephen Lye**, the Associate Director of the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, was awarded the FELLOW OF CANADIAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES AWARD on September 19, 2013. The award is given to an individual who demonstrates leadership and a commitment to advance academic health science.

**Dr. Eva Mocarski** from St. Michael's Hospital received the COMPLETE PHYSICIAN AWARD given out at the Fitzgerald Academy/SMH Annual Education Event in June, 2014. Dr. Mocarski was selected out of 660 physicians at St. Mike's to receive this truly exceptional award which was given out to an Obstetrician/Gynecologist at SMH for the first time.



**Dr. Marcus Bernardini** was awarded the BEST ABSTRACT AWARD at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Society of Gynaecologic Oncology of Canada Meeting taking place in Niagara Falls in June, 2014. He presented on the variations in practice for the management of

high-risk histologic subtypes in endometrial cancer: a CHREC (Consortium of High Risk Endometrial Cancer) Canadian Project.

Our residents recognize faculty who have made significant contributions to their program at the Annual Graduation Ceremony. The 2014 CREOG NATIONAL FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESIDENT EDUCATION went to **Dr. Mark Yudin**, and the NEELAM SIERRA RESIDENT ADVOCACY AWARD to **Dr. Donna Steele**.

**Dr. Andras Nagy** has been named the FELLOW OF ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA. He has made repeated seminal contributions to the field of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. He was the first to show that mouse embryonic stem cells can grow into an adult using tetraploid aggregation technology, developed key tools used by thousands of researchers around the world, derived the first human embryonic stem cells in Canada, and developed the first non-viral method for generating induced pluripotent stem cells. His research is driving the understanding of complex human disease through the development of sophisticated models. ■



## Undergraduate Teaching Awards

Awards for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence are given out to Faculty who have made significant contributions in UME.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS are presented to one faculty member at each of our affiliated teaching sites. The following educators were presented teaching awards for excellence in undergraduate education at the annual Faculty Professional Development Day on November 11, 2014:

Scott Tigert – Credit Valley Hospital  
 Patrick Liao – Mississauga Hospital  
 Matthew Morton – Mount Sinai Hospital  
 Marcus Bernardini – University Health Network  
 Modupe Tunde-Byass – North York General Hospital  
 Elaine Herer – Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre  
 Tatiana Freire-Lizama – St. Michael's Hospital  
 Sybil Judah – St. Joseph's Health Centre  
 Melissa Tai – Toronto East General Hospital

MASTER TEACHER AWARDS are presented to faculty members who have received 3 Undergraduate Teaching Awards, exemplifying their sustained excellence in teaching. This year, the Master Teacher Awards were given to **Drs. Sybil Judah, Tatiana Freire-Lizama, and Modupe Tunde-Byass**. ■

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## Welcome to PGY1s

13 talented trainees have joined our Residency Program this year. Here they are!

After a strenuous selection process, the Resident Selection Committee chose the following 13 trainees to start the program as PGY1s in September, 2014: **Drs. Tamara Abraham, Maria Cusimano, Darl Edwards, Evan Tannenbaum, Brittany Hoover, Thomas Jordan, Karen Levy, Katie McLean, Shambe Mutungi, Neetika Sidana, Marina Vainder, Melissa Walker, and Leslie Proctor.** PGY1s and 3 trainees who transferred into our Program as PGY2 and 3 were welcomed to the Department at the PGY1 Welcome Dinner (see P14 for more on this story). ■



Residents at the Welcome Dinner.

## Our resident stars

Our trainees always find ways of keeping themselves busy outside of work and training.

One of our residents, **Dr. Kirsten Niles** (PGY 3), has recently competed at the WORLD ULTIMATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS which took place in August 2-9, 2014, in Lecco, Italy. Kirsten played with a women's masters team called Vintage, based in Montreal, as the only representative from outside Quebec. Her team won the Gold Medal, competing against Godiva from the United States in the finals. It is the first time the women's masters division has existed so they were the first team to do so. Kirsten is also the Captain of Team Canada at World Ultimate Beach Championships taking place in Dubai in March, 2015. ■



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## Trainee research initiatives

Our Fellow recognized by the Faculty of Medicine with the Postgraduate Research Award.

**Dr. Crystal Chan** (Clinical Fellow in REI) has won the 2014-2015 POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD. Crystal will work under the supervision of Dr. Ted Brown on a randomized control trial on metoclopramide use in poor responders to IVF. Congratulations, Crystal!



**Dr. Karli Mayo** (PGY5) has been awarded the 2014 PSI FOUNDATION RESIDENT RESEARCH PRIZE for her paper entitled "The impact of adoption of the International Association of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group criteria for the screening and diagnosis of gestational diabetes." ■

## Resident awards

Our residents are recognized for their leadership and teaching skills by clinical clerks and faculty.

Several residents were also recognized at the Graduation Ceremony in June, 2014, for their accomplishments, such as leadership and teaching skills. The RESIDENT AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLERKSHIP TEACHING were given out to PGY3-5 trainees for their contribution to undergraduate medical education, chosen based on clerks' evaluations and comments. The following residents were recipients this year: **Drs. David Gurau** (PGY3), **Genevieve Lennox** (PGY4), **Kelsey Mills** (PGY5), and **Leslie Po** (PGY5).



**Dr. Julia Kfour** (PGY5) received the DR. SIDNEY M. AND ROSELYN TOBIN COMPASSIONATE SCHOLARSHIP IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY AWARD during the Graduation Ceremony. **Dr. Laura Sovran** (PGY5) won the DR. FREDERICK R. PAPSIN POST-GRADUATE AWARD, and **Dr. Helena Frecker** (PGY5) received the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GYNAECOLOGIC LAPAROSCOPISTS (AAGL) AWARD.



Congratulations to all trainees on their well-earned achievements! ■



# Resident life

Our residents lead busy lives outside of work as well! Here are some highlights.

**Alison Shea** and her husband, Adam, got married on November 1, 2014. The newly-weds went to Panama for their honeymoon!



ryanedwardson.com



Photo credit: Adrienne Li

**Adrienne Li** and her husband Seiji had a baby girl Emiko Marangos on October 29, 2014! The baby was delivered by our own Drs. Farrugia and Menzies at Mount

**Kimberly Bremer** had her first son Morley James Peacock, born at MSH on September 27<sup>th</sup>!



Photo credit: Kimberly Bremer

**Heather Millar**, under the supervision of Dr. Rachel Spitzer conducted a national survey to gain an understanding of the attitudes towards Global Women's Health amongst residents and program directors. She presented her findings at the 2014 APOG Conference.



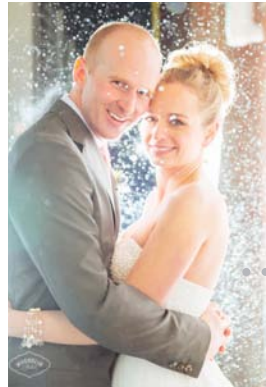
Photo credit: Michael Sector

Our trainees participated in the "Fallopian Tubes" team for the **Ride to Conquer Cancer**, raising close to \$30,000.



**Heather Millar** went to Kenya for a 6-week clinical elective in early 2014. She was awarded the DUCH-ESNAY INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVE FELLOWSHIPS FOR OBGYN RESIDENT 2014 through the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health.

Staying awake at night may not be easy, so residents **Michael Sector** and **Aparna Sarangapani** get creative at 2AM while on-call!



**Paulina Cybulska** is going to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York for a 4-year Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology. Her training will start in July of 2015. Well done!

**Kimberly Bremer** and her husband Chris got married on March 1, 2014. Congratulations!

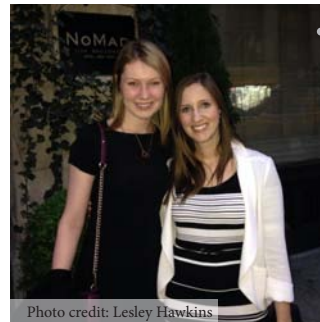


Photo credit: Lesley Hawkins

**Lynn Sterling** and **Lesley Hawkins** took on New York City in May for a long weekend! They ate and shopped their way through the city!

**Shambe Mutungi** chose to participate in the Global Health Initiative program, a two-year program - a great opportunity to interact with staff and professors who are very involved in Global Health, and socialize with residents in other specialties.

**Michael Sector** went on a 40-hour ascent of the east ridge of Mount Patterson, AB.



Photo credit: Michael Sector

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## Our trainees at the APOG conference

Our trainees have distinguished themselves this year at the APOG conference taking place December 6-7, 2014.

This year's ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY (APOG) CONFERENCE, organized at the Marriott on December 6-7, had a strong UofT presence not only in the program, but also at the Awards Luncheon Podium! Four of our trainees received recognition for their hard work.

**Dr. Paulina Cybulska** (PGY5) received the DR. ANDREE GUSLIN AWARD for BEST OF BEST IN RESIDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATION. Competing with top residents from across the country, Paulina's presentation, titled "Ovarian high grade serous cancer xenographs as pre-clinical models of response to chemotherapy", received the highest overall ratings. Congratulations, Paulina!



**Dr. Eliane M. Shore** (2014 Clinical Fellow graduate in MIS at St. Michael's Hospital) was awarded the DR. ROBERT REID AWARD FOR BEST ORAL PRESENTATION for her talk titled "Evaluation of a comprehensive evidence-based laparoscopic curriculum for gynaecology." Well done!

**Dr. Hadar Rosen** (Clinical Fellow in MFM at Mount Sinai Hospital) won the MOST INNOVATIVE ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD for her presentation entitled "Evidence-based informed consent for elective cesarean section: Can we enhance patient comprehension?"



**Dr. Amanda Michael** (PGY2) won the MOST INNOVATIVE POSTER AWARD for her project "The development of a foley catheter cervical ripening model for residency education and training", conducted under the supervision of our new faculty member, **Dr. Anne Berndt**.



## Alumni Corner

The Department has been working with the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations to increase alumni participation.

**Dr. Adrian Brown**, Head of Alumni Relations, has been working closely with **Mike Henry** and **Julie Lafford** from the FOM's OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT to improve alumni participation and engagement following graduation. One of this year's initiatives was inviting past graduates to our annual **Graduation Ceremony**. Another event which we opened up to OBGYN alumni was the **Faculty Professional Development Day (FPDD)** where a special invitation went out to alumni who have graduated in 1994 or later, marking it the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since completing their training. Thirteen alumni attended the FPDD this year, and we anticipate the number to grow! ■

### Would you like to be a mentor?

One of the other initiatives to improve alumni participation within our Department is initiating a MENTORING PROGRAM. Such a program will offer alumni an opportunity to share their expertise with upcoming physicians, at all stages of their career and training, including residents, fellows, and junior faculty. The expected roll-out period of a pilot Mentoring Program is September, 2015. If you have any expertise or would like to offer advice on how to go about setting this up, drop a line to Khrystyna Levytska at [khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca](mailto:khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca) ■

### Stay up-to-date with OBGYN news!

Updating your contact information on the UofT Alumni website will help ensure that the OBGYN Department and the University can connect with you after you graduate. If your electronic, mailing or practice addresses have changed, please update your contact details at <http://bit.ly/1ud6S8M> ■

For more information about Alumni Relations, how to stay connected, get involved, or give back, visit <http://alumni.utoronto.ca/>  
<http://boundless.utoronto.ca/>  
<https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/116>



# Advocating for Women's Health at home & abroad

By Rachel Spitzer

It is a great honour to write for this newsletter for the first time as VC of Global Women's Health for our Department and I want to acknowledge and thank John Kingdom for his vision and leadership in creating such a position – we are the first Department in Toronto to have such an acknowledgement of the prominent role of global health! As I am responsible for coordinating global health and advocacy opportunities, we have been generating a great vision for what this will look like through our coordinated strategic planning process.

In the global health realm, the past 6 months have seen ongoing activities and successes in relation to our ongoing collaboration in Eldoret, Kenya, with MOI UNIVERSITY and MOI TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL as part of the AMPATH program. I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank Alan Bocking who led the program up until now and who continues to direct our research activities internationally; it was Alan's leadership that recognized the value of a global health program, initiated our international collaboration, and led to our very impressive achievements in Kenya.

In recent months, we have welcomed our two annual Moi University medical students from Kenya, **Austin Jauyo** and **Frank Mutai**, for their 5-week rotation. Austin and Frank are the first two students to be supported by our fully-affiliated clinical sites who have, along with 123 Edward St, created the ALAN D. BOCKING SCHOLARSHIP to support bi-directional clinical exchanges between Toronto and Moi and we look forward to supporting many more Moi and Toronto medical students and registrars/residents for these rich clinical and cultural learning opportunities. Our colleague **Astrid Christoffersen-Deb** who works for our Department in Kenya was also here for a successful visit in November.



Austin Jauyo and Fran Mutai from Kenya with 123 Edward Staff and Dr. Rachel Spitzer at the good-bye lunch, prior to their departure to Kenya.

Another milestone moment in Kenya this fall was the graduation of **Drs. Elkanah Omenge** and **Peter Itsura** from the new gynecologic oncology fellowship program at Moi which was spearheaded by **Dr. Barry Rosen** and a team of Moi colleagues and gynecologic oncologists through GOC. Drs. Omenge and Itsura become the first subspecialists of this kind in Kenya and will lead future endeavours at Moi, including the training of the next years of fellows in the program who now come not only from Moi but from other regions in Kenya and Uganda, and will ultimately spread this expertise across the region. We hope to replicate such success with additional fellowship opportunities in Kenya in the coming years.



Drs. Elkanah Omenge (left) and Peter Itsura (right) and their examiner (centre) at their Graduation Dinner.

Local advocacy activities are new to our Department and are underway. Importantly, I am fortunate to be joined by a dedicated advisory group representing our major hospitals and all divisions as well as fellows and residents. Our initial priorities include political engagement to foster advocacy efforts for our patients in Ontario and Canada, media and social media training and engagement, and advocacy initiatives and empowerment opportunities. Our residents already organized a very successful event to promote cervical cancer awareness called **IN SPECULUM** (see P15 for more) and we have been tweeting out our activities and are in the process of developing Facebook, Instagram, and Bitly accounts. These will promote and track who is following our achievements as we continue to grow together. ■



Photo credit: Mathew Leonard

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## Research Strategic Priority

The Research Committee, Chaired by Dr. Ted Brown, has been heavily involved in driving the Research Priority forward. Here is an update on the Committee's recent activities.

**Dr. Steve Lye** (VC Research) and **Dr. Ted Brown** (Chair of Research Committee) have been working with their colleagues on advancing the RESEARCH STRATEGIC PRIORITY.

One of the initiatives of the group was introducing the COLLABORATION CORNER, the first appearance of which was at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Research Day on May 9, 2014. To encourage collaboration across the affiliated sites, faculty members presented their potential research ideas to their colleagues. This initiative was met with much positive feedback; thus, it will be accompanied by four 2-minute oral presentations at the next Research Day, allowing presenters to direct those interested to visit them during the poster break-out sessions.

Another item which has received much attention this year was offering advice to junior faculty on how to improve their grantwriting skills. Taking the first step towards implementing an internal review system for grant submission within our Department, **Drs. Ted Brown** and **Kellie Murphy** jointly led a workshop on grant writing at our Faculty Professional Development Day on November 11, 2014 (see P16 for more details). The workshop was well-attended by junior faculty, eager to catch useful tips on how to produce competitive, high-quality grants.



In alignment with this project, the Research Committee is also looking to incorporate a mentorship program to aid residents, fellows, and junior faculty as they embark on their research projects. Although the residents are familiar with this concept (they are assigned a mentor and a research supervisor at the commencement of their program), there are initiatives to expand a similar program to our faculty. ■



## Resident Research Proposal Sessions

In the summer of 2014, Research Committee has initiated Resident Research Proposal sessions during academic half-days.

Research is a mandatory component of our residents' training. To help residents get started with their projects and get valuable feedback from faculty, the Research Committee organized Resident Research Proposal Sessions in August of 2014. **Andra Nica**, **Kirsten Niles**, **Jason Elliot** (REI Fellow), **Liane Tan**, and **John Ibrahim** presented their research proposals. Topics ranged from clinical studies on induction of labour to molecular ones looking at epigenetic changes in vascular endothelium of women with pre-eclampsia. The Research and Resident Program Committees are working together to improve the format of these sessions. ■

## Abstracts at SMFM meeting

Seven abstracts have been accepted to the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine Meeting (SMFM), coming up in February, 2015.

This year has been very successful for our faculty and trainees - 7 abstracts were accepted to the SMFM MEETING taking place in San Diego. The topics include studies on twin pregnancies by **Dr. Elad Meidan**; work on mode of delivery of infants in breech presentation at borderline viability by **Dr. Kirsten Niles**; work on the effect of antenatal corticosteroids on preterm neonatal outcome; fetal sonographic weight estimation; and unexpected fetal presentations in 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester - all by **Dr. Nir Melamed**. The authors thank their collaborators and supervisors for contributing to these projects. As we know, abstract submission for the SMFM Meeting is highly competitive (only 1/3 of abstracts are accepted) - we congratulate our faculty and trainees on these accomplishments! ■



## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Research Day ~ May 9, 2014

Our annual Research Day allows us to showcase the talent and potential of our basic science and clinical trainees.

The 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL OBGYN RESEARCH DAY, organized by the Research Committee and orchestrated by Mrs. Helen Robson, took place on May 9, 2014, at the historic Victoria College, University of Toronto. It was an immense success - with 293 attendees and 89 abstracts, there was an unprecedented amount of research being presented. Fourteen oral presentations and 75 posters captured the breadth of research undertaken by trainees within our Department. The best abstracts, as chosen by our judges, received the JW Knox Ritchie Research Awards, given to one trainee in each category.



Winners of 2014 Research Awards are the following: **Drs. Heinrich Husslein** and **Rohan D'Souza** (Clinical Fellows), **Drs. Lubna Nadeem** and **Monique Renne** (PhD Fellows), **Dr. Paulina Cybulska** (Resident), **Stephanie Baello** (Graduate Student), and **Matthew Librach** (Medical Student). This year's Henderson Lecture, entitled "Rediscovering lost values: Leadership in a challenging clinical environment", was delivered by **Prof. Aidan Halligan** from University College London Hospitals, UK. ■



Professor Aidan Halligan from the UK delivers the Annual Henderson Lecture, "Rediscovering lost values: Leadership in a challenging clinical environment".

## ART & Development Workshop

Drs. Alan Bocking and Ted Brown organized the first ART workshop on November 19, 2014.

The first Workshop on Early Childhood Development and Assisted Reproductive Technology, organized by **Drs. Alan Bocking** and **Ted Brown**, took place on November 19, 2014. Over 30 faculty came to discuss potential collaborative research into this emerging health care topic. Speakers at the event included our former Chair Alan Bocking, Astrid Guttman from ICES, Moya Johnson of BORN, MFM Division Head Nan Okun, Jonathon Maguire from TARGETkids!, and Scott Hamilton from the ISIS Fertility Centre. ■

## Research initiatives

Recent grants within our Department

**Berger G.** Improving the cardiometabolic health of mothers and young children.

Academic Funding Program Innovation Funds. \$41,603, Apr 2014–Apr 2016

**Ferguson SE.** Universal Screening for Lynch Syndrome in Women with Endometrial and Non-Serous Ovarian Cancer.

Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, \$69,797, Mar 2014 – Mar 2015

Kislinger T, Ailles LE, **Bernardini M**, Clarke B. A Novel Biomarker Discovery Strategy Combining Primary Tumour Xenograft Models and Glyco-Capture of Secreted Proteins.

CIHR, \$480,264, Apr 2014–Mar 2017

**Lye SJ, Shynlova O, Bocking AD.** Prevention of preterm birth: Targeting inflammatory pathways.

March of Dimes, US\$300,000, Mar 2014 – Feb 2017

**Maxwell C, McDonald SD, Beyene, B, Giglia L.** Synthesizing the Best evidence for weight gain during pregnancy in obese women: were the national guidelines excessive?

CIHR, \$100,000, Mar 2014 – Feb 2015

Vigod S, **Murphy KE**, Dennis CL, Daskalakis Z, Ray JG, Oberlander TF, Dalfen A, **Seaward G.** Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) for Depression in Pregnancy.

CIHR, Sick Kids Foundation, \$113,274, Jan 2014 – Dec 2015

**Kingdom J, Cox B.** The Villous Trophoblast Turnover.

CIHR, \$719,235, Mar 2014 - Feb 2019

## Nature publications!

Big congratulations on very recent accomplishments of **Drs. Andras Nagy** and **Ian Rogers**, our faculty members at Mount Sinai Hospital-LTRI! Dr. Nagy's team published 5 papers in the December 10, 2014, issue of NATURE and NATURE COMMUNICATIONS. We will profile his research in the Spring 2015 Newsletter. ■

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## Graduation Ceremony ~ June 18, 2014

We are always delighted to celebrate the achievements of our trainees at the Graduation Ceremony. This year, we invited some special guests to the event.

The annual GRADUATION CEREMONY is always a special event to the Department - it is a time of celebration, appreciation, and recognition. This year, the Graduation Ceremony was held at the University of Toronto's historic Faculty Club. In a room filled with faculty, graduates, and family members, we congratulated residents **Drs. Brar, Campbell, Ferguson, Frecker, Gagnon, Han, Kfourri, Mills, Po, Sharma, Sovran, and Taerk** on their accomplishments.



*Residency Program Director Donna Steele (centre) and this year's graduates.*

Clinical Fellows were also congratulated by Dr. John Kingdom, who gave out certificates to the following graduates: **Drs. Hubner, D'Souza, Mei-Dan, Qin, Reade, Sinasac, and Shore.**



*Clinical Fellows at the Graduation Ceremony.*

This year's ceremony differed from previous ones: the invitation to attend was extended to our Alumni, and a special invitation from the Chair went out to **Dr. Walter Hannah**, our former Chair, and his wife, **Dr. Mary Hannah**. It was a great pleasure to have this influential pair attend the evening and share the joy with our trainees. ■



*Drs. Mary and Walter Hannah.*

## Strategic Plan Launch ~ May 15, 2014

We drew together the master minds of our Department to gain momentum in our strategic planning process.

Over 120 members of our Department from across the GTA gathered at the Pantages Hotel for our STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH EVENT. After his warm welcome, the Chair highlighted our mission and vision and invited each priority leader to lay out his or her objectives and action plans. The visions of each of the 8 subspecialties within the Department - Core OBGYN, Global Women's Health, REI, MFM, PAG, MIS, Urogynaecology, and Gynaecologic Oncology - were also presented. The event was met with great enthusiasm from our faculty and staff, and solidified our commitment to moving the Strategy forward. ■



*Left to right: Danny Nashman, Colleen Fox, Dr. John Kingdom, and Cate Creede. Danny and Cate from The Potential Group helping us develop and implement the Strategic Plan.*

## PGY1 Welcome Dinner ~ September 8, 2014

As is our tradition, we welcome first year residents to the program at the PGY1 Welcome Dinner.

The Residency Program Director Dr. Donna Steele, and program coordinators, Mr. Joe George and Ms. Caroline Sutherland, organized a memorable WELCOME DINNER for new and current trainees. This year, all residents (PGY1-5s) received personalized yoga jackets with Department's logo on the chest and their first names embroidered on the sleeve. Everyone greatly enjoyed these cozy gifts, which are quite handy especially while on-call! ■



*Evan, Tom, Marina and Tamara (PGY1s) at the Welcome Dinner in their new jackets.*



## MIS Conference ~ September 20-21, 2014

Drs. Jamie Kroft and Grace Liu from Sunnybrook organized their first Minimally Invasive Gynaecologic Surgery Course.

The first (and hopefully annual!) CME CONFERENCE ON MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNAECOLOGIC SURGERY, which took place on September 20-21, 2014, was organized by **Drs. Jamie Kroft** and **Grace Liu**. The organizers offered a full day of lectures from our faculty as well as an interesting Keynote Lecture and hands-on laparoscopic suturing course led by **Dr. Charles Koh**, an internationally-renowned MIS surgeon. The course was a success with overwhelming positive feedback from attendees who came from as far as Saskatchewan and Quebec. The organizers are already planning for next year. ■



MIS Conference participants with Keynote Lecturer, Dr. Charles Koh (centre).

## Adamson Symposium ~ October 17, 2014

The scientific community celebrated the career and accomplishments of our valued colleague, Dr. S. Lee Adamson.

The SYMPOSIUM in celebration of the career of Dr. S. Lee Adamson and 25-year legacy of the MRC/CIHR Group in "Development and Fetal Health" entitled "Mysteries of Pregnancy Revealed with Animals Large and Small" took place at the Faculty Club.

With over 120 registrants, the program covered a wide range of topics - from pre-eclampsia to trophoblast stem cells - by great speakers including Drs. Steve Lye, Alan Bocking, John Challis, and Shannon Bainbridge. The Keynote Lecture was given by **Dr. Jay Cross** from the University of Calgary. ■



Dr. Adamson (centre) with her former trainees, Abhi and Leslie.

## inSpeculum: Art Night ~ October 22, 2014

Our residents, Mathew Leonardi and Rebecca Rich, organized an art night to raise cervical cancer awareness.

**Drs. Mathew Leonardi** (PGY3) and **Rebecca Rich** (PGY4) organized an art night - **inSpeculum** - to raise cervical cancer awareness. Held at the Ossington on October 22, 2014, the event attracted over 70 attendees who were welcomed to participate in arts and crafts, utilizing common instruments used in OBGYN practice to make interesting creations. The silent auction piece went to Lesley Hawkins for \$350, and all proceeds from the event will go to Canadian Foundation for Women's Health. It is always great to see our trainees taking such initiatives to promote our Department and advocate for Women's Health. ■



Mathew with participants at the inSpeculum Art Night.

## MFM Career Night ~ November 24, 2014

The new MFM Division Head, Dr. Nan Okun, has been working hard with GTA hospitals to create opportunities for our trainees.

The Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, led by **Dr. Nan Okun** and **Dr. Cindy Maxwell**, organized the Department's first MFM CAREER



Fellows Karen Wou, Julia Kfour, and Nirmala Chandrasekaran with Dr. Howard Berger.

NIGHT for PGY2-4s and MFM Clinical Fellows. Staff from full- and community-affiliated hospitals came to share their expertise and give advice to aspiring MFM specialists. Presenters from NYGH, TSH, RVHS, THP, and Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital showcased their sites. Over 20 trainees from UofT, UWO, UOttawa, McGill U, McMaster U, and Queen's U came to network and learn about MFM job opportunities in the GTA. ■

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## Faculty Professional Development Day November 11, 2014

The Faculty Professional Development Day is an annual CME-accredited event geared towards helping our faculty advance in their academic and professional careers.

This year's FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY, organized by **Dr. Filomena Meffe** and the CPD/FD Committee, took place on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Vaughan Estate. The event drew almost 100 registrants - the most attended to date! This year, we extended the invitation to all OBGYN staff, not only faculty, at full-, community- and non-affiliated hospitals from across the GTA. The attendees had the opportunity to hear great talks by **Dr. Brian Hodges** who delivered the Plenary Lecture, "(Trans) formation: Learners, teachers and 21st century health professional curricula", and **Dr. Stella Ng** who gave the Keynote Lecture, "Blurring the lines: Learning from practice to inform education".



Dr. Brian Hodges



Drs. Rajiv Shah and Stacey Bernstein conducted a workshop on LInC.

The registrants were also given the opportunity to attend 2 out of the following 5 workshops: CBME by **Dr. Nicolette Caccia**, Grantwriting by **Drs. Kellie Murphy and Ted Brown**, Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship by **Drs.**

**Rajiv Shah and Stacey Bernstein**, The Second Victim by **Dr. Amy Nakajima**, and Promotions by **Drs. Richard Pittini and Filomena Meffe**.

During the Wine-and-Cheese Reception at the end of the day, Dr. John Kingdom announced this year's Chair's Award recipients. These are the following:

Rajiv Shah - Excellence in UG Teaching  
 Abheha Satkunarathnam - Excellence in PG Teaching  
 Colleen McDermott - Outstanding Research Potential  
 Lilian Gien - Outstanding Research Potential  
 Barry Rosen - Sustained Research Excellence  
 Kellie Murphy - Excellence in Research Facilitation  
 Danielle Vicus - Excellence in PG Program Development/Innovation  
 Rory Windrim - Excellence in CME Teaching  
 Dan Farine - Excellence in CME Course Coordination  
 Sybil Judah - Excellence in Integrated UG Teaching  
 Mary Melchior - Excellence in Integrated PG Teaching

Congratulations to 2014 Chair's Award winners! ■

## Upcoming Departmental Events

The year 2015 will be a busy one. Here are some events you should look out for, mark your calendars!

CARMS INTERVIEWS ~ **January 30-31, 2015**

Centre for the Evaluation of Health Professional Educated Abroad (CEHPEA)

32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL OBGYN RESEARCH DAY ~ **May 8, 2015**

Brennan Hall, St. Michael's College

CBME FACULTY RETREAT ~ **May, 2015**

GRADUATION CEREMONY ~ **June 16, 2015**

Hart House, University of Toronto

PGYI WELCOME DINNER ~ **September, 2015**

FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY ~ **November 11, 2015**

The Vaughan Estate, Estates of Sunnybrook

## International Conferences

Society for Reproductive Investigation Meeting

March 25-28, 2015 ~ San Francisco, CA, USA

SOGC Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference

June 9-12, 2015 ~ Quebec City, QC

25th World Congress on Ultrasound in OBGYN

October 11-14, 2015 ~ Montreal, Canada

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Meeting

February 2-7, 2015 ~ San Diego, CA, USA

Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting

February 24-27, 2015 ~ Montebello, QC, Canada

British Maternal & Fetal Medicine Society Meeting

April 23-24, 2015 ~ London, UK

International Federation of Placenta Associations

September 8-11, 2015 ~ Brisbane, Australia

Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) Annual Conference

February 5-8, 2015 ~ San Diego, CA

SGO 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer

March 28-31, 2015 ~ Chicago, IL

GOC's 15<sup>th</sup> Continuing Professional Development Meeting

April 30-May 2, 2015 ~ Toronto, ON

GOC's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

June 11-13, 2015 ~ Quebec City, QC

Society of Urodynamics and Female Urology Meeting

February 24-28, 2015 ~ Scottsdale, AZ

Society of Gynecologic Surgeons Scientific Meeting

March 22-25, 2015 ~ Orlando, FL

International Urogynecological Association 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

June 9-13, 2015 ~ Nice, France

International Continence Society 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

October 5-9, 2015 ~ Montreal, QC

American Urogynecologic Society Scientific Meeting

October 13-17, 2015 ~ Seattle, WA

## Hospital & Inter-hospital Rounds

For information on hospital-specific and inter-hospital rounds, visit [www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/cme](http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/cme)



## New Recruits

In 2013-2014, our Department welcomed 5 staff members! These talented individuals are great additions to our Faculty.

DR. NIR MELAMED joined the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre as MFM staff in August, 2014. He did a 2-year MFM Fellowship training at the University of Toronto before being recruited by SHSC. With his extensive research experience, Dr. Melamed was appointed as an Associate Professor.



Another new recruit at Sunnybrook is DR. ANNE BERNDL who completed her MD, MSc, and MFM Fellowship at McMaster University and postgraduate training in OBGYN at Dalhousie University, Halifax. Amongst her many academic and professional accomplishments is her book titled "So, You Want to Be a Doctor, Eh?" where she created a comprehensive guide for aspiring medical students.



DRS. ROHAN D'SOUZA and ALLY MURJI joined MSH as MFM staff. Throughout their training in Toronto, they have authored several publications, won multiple awards, and have solidified their presence as strong researchers. Dr. D'Souza's work with Dr. John Kingdom on the HEPRIN trial has contributed to our understanding of the actions of heparin on the human placenta.



Dr. Murji's research into genetics of pregnancy has helped us appreciate the importance of fetal sex on the development of pregnancy disorders.



DR. TAAHYA MAY has recently joined the UHN's Gynaecologic Oncology Division after completing her fellowship at Harvard University. Her research into the molecular mechanisms of ovarian cancer and outcomes is helping us understand this disease.



DR. KARTHIKA DEVARAJAN joined North York General Hospital as active staff on January 1, 2014. Dr. Devarajan did her UME studies at Dalhousie and postgraduate training at the University of Toronto where she won multiple awards.

DR. DORA CHAN joined the Toronto East General Hospital in November 2013. Dr. Chan completed her MD degree at the University of Western Ontario and her postgraduate training at the University of Toronto. ■

## News flash!

Our faculty at the affiliated sites have led many initiatives over the past year. Here are some highlights.

**Dr. Heather Shapiro** has been elected as the President of the CANADIAN FERTILITY AND ANDROLOGY SOCIETY for 2016. ■

**Dr. Rajiv Shah** is working with St. Joe's and Toronto East General to start full 6-week OBGYN rotations. Also, St. Mike's Hospital is piloting the new LONGITUDINAL INTEGRATED CLERKSHIP curriculum with future plans for expansion to other academies. ■

**Dr. Nicolette Caccia** has been working strenuously to conduct the pilot trial of CBME in MFM and REI/PAG rotations at Sunnybrook and Mount Sinai. Concurrently, **Dr. Colleen McDermott** is working on introducing CBME into the Urogynaecology rotation. There has been much enthusiasm about CBME across the country, and our Department, supported by the Chair, is committed to making it the standard. ■

Since its initiation in October 2013, the GTA-OBS NETOWRK has grown to include 6 full- and 11 community-affiliated sites across the GTA. **Dr. Jon Barrett** is working with partner-sites and the QIPS Committee to introduce new patient care guidelines, such as timing of induction of labour in GDM, and create a seamless referral network of high-risk transfers between GTA sites. ■



Building a unified Department and branding ourselves within the Faculty of Medicine are our priorities. We decided to do so by getting personalized yoga JACKETS to all residents - a pilot project which was met with much appreciation!

Because of its success, we have decided to extend this initiative to our Fellows and Faculty. If you would like to purchase a jacket, contact Khrystyna Levytska at [khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca](mailto:khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca) ■

**Happy New Year  
&  
wonderful holidays  
from your team  
at 123 Edward!**



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“Just wanted to send a quick note to say thank you for the wonderful jacket!! They are very much appreciated.”

“I am excited to have a jacket to wear around the hospital/on call that still looks professional.”

~ Residents, commenting on their personalized jackets

“This was, by far, the most useful and encouraging career night I have attended. The amount of time and energy that was clearly required to allow for representatives from so many hospitals to be present is so appreciated, as I felt I left with my eyes opened to new career paths and opportunities that I hadn’t considered in the past. Thank you.”

~ Trainee, commenting on the MFM Career Night

This was one of the most productive and best organized events I’ve attended in a long time. I’m sure everyone felt that way.

~ Faculty member, commenting on the MFM Career Night

“You honoured Lee in a way that I know means so much to her – through her work. She was truly moved by all the speakers words and I know it meant a lot to her to have so many friends and colleagues from far and wide attend. You made 2 excellent choices in Shannon Bainbridge and Sarah Wells in showcasing some of Lee’s contributions to our field. They certainly did her proud.”

~ Kathie Whiteley, commenting on the Adamson Symposium



Cover photo credit: Michael Sexter  
Mount Patterson, AB