



# Obstetrics & Gynaecology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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...AND MUCH MORE!

*Photo credit: Michael Sector  
Moi University Elective, Kenya*





Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

As I read through this Summer Newsletter, what strikes me is the extraordinary level of accomplishment - not only by our amazing trainees - but by faculty at all stages of their careers. Put simply, we have been fortunate to have had a great year. Many new initiatives are gaining momentum. As an example, the GTA-OBS Network is now providing a forum for engagement for a wide variety of clinicians and researchers, and is interfacing with both simulation research and initiatives in patient safety. Our evocative front cover reminds us of the varied ways in which trainees and faculty are engaged with our partner, Moi University, in Kenya. Our Research Day was, by all accounts, a great success, growing, in part, due to contributions by new cross-appointed faculty introduced here. As we go to production, Steve Lye has just been awarded a prestigious CIHR Foundation Scheme Award for 7 years, his very high National Ranking making him Canada's leading Reproductive Scientist. Well done, Steve, and your team at the Lunenfeld.

A big thank you to Khrystyna for preparing this, her 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter, setting us on this tradition before she puts on her stethoscope next month at Wayne State Medical School in Detroit. Finally, my thanks to all of you for making UofT ObGyn a diverse, sophisticated, fun and world-class Department, where trainees, faculty, and staff excel. Enjoy your summer.

John Kingdom  
Gordon C. Leitch Chair

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We are in search for a CREATIVE NEWSLETTER NAME. Submit your ideas to Tina Xue 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

**Department Chair**  
John Kingdom  
[john.kingdom@utoronto.ca](mailto:john.kingdom@utoronto.ca)

**Business Manager**  
Tina Xue  
[tina.xue@utoronto.ca](mailto:tina.xue@utoronto.ca)

**Executive Assistant**  
Anjali Pinto  
[anjali.pinto@utoronto.ca](mailto:anjali.pinto@utoronto.ca)

**Postgraduate Programs Coordinator**  
Caroline Sutherland

**Departmental Assistant**  
Joe George  
[obgyn.educ@utoronto.ca](mailto:obgyn.educ@utoronto.ca)

**Undergraduate Coordinator**  
Jeannette Moniz  
[obgyn.ug@utoronto.ca](mailto:obgyn.ug@utoronto.ca)

**Annual Report & CBME Administrator**  
Shayna Henry  
[shayna.henry@utoronto.ca](mailto:shayna.henry@utoronto.ca)

**Strategy Coordinator**  
Khrystyna Levytska  
[khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca](mailto:khrys.levytska@utoronto.ca)

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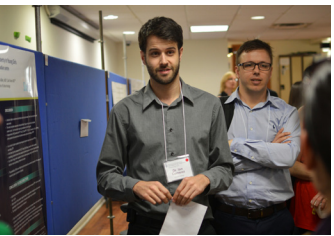
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To have your story included in the next newsletter, contact us at [obgyn.communications@utoronto.ca](mailto:obgyn.communications@utoronto.ca).



Dr. Jon Barrett, Director of Women and Babies Program at the Sunnybrook Research Institute, has been appointed as the **Waks Family Chair in Maternal-Fetal Medicine Research**.

Congratulations to Ms. Caroline Sutherland, our Postgraduate Programs Coordinator, who won the **National 2015 Lois Ross CAIR Award for Service to Residents** in February, 2015.



Our **Annual Research Day**, which took place on May 8, 2015, had over 325 attendees and a record number of 109 abstracts, with 14 orals, 91 posters, and 4 Collaboration Corner presentations.

Congratulations to Rebecca Rich (PGY 5) on winning the **CFWH Dawn Walker Award** and obtaining **CIP-Ministry of Health** funding this year.

Congratulations to Dr. Grace Liu from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, who received the **William Dixon Award** for her excellence in surgical teaching.



Our Department Promotions Committee is committed to helping our faculty advance their careers. Effective July 1, 2015, the following faculty were **promoted to Associate Professor**: Marcus Bernardini, Ian Rogers, Rachel Spitzer, and Suzanne Wong.



Congratulations to Heather Millar (2015 graduate) on receiving the **2015 PARO Resident Teaching Award**. Heather was one of two residents from all UofT residency programs to receive the award.

Drs. Danny Lovatsis and Rebecca Arthur became the newest graduates of the **QIPS Certificate Program** at the University of Toronto in 2015.

Drs. Jane Namugga and Greg Ganda, clinical fellows from Moi University, completed a 6-week Gynaecologic Oncology fellowship as part of the **AMPATH-RH Program**.



Dr. Matthew Morton received the **CREOG National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education**. The Award is given to the best OBGYN educator chosen by graduating residents at each medical school in North America.



The Department hosted its first **CBME Faculty Retreat** on June 19, 2015. The Faculty Development Committee, along with the PGME Office, discussed the role of CBME and its implementation with our rotation and site coordinators.



This year's **Graduation Ceremony & Alumni Event** took place at UofT's historic Hart House on June 16. Over 180 people were in attendance, including 27 graduates.



Dr. Joan Murphy has been appointed as the Interim Head, **Division of Gynaecologic Oncology**, following the departure of Dr. Barry Rosen. She has also been appointed as the Program Director of the Women's and Children's Program at Trillium Health Partners.

Our personalized **OBGYN yoga jacket** initiative has been extended to our faculty and fellows! Contact Andrew Greig ([andrew.greig@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.greig@utoronto.ca)) to order one.





## Faculty Appointments

**Dr. Barry Rosen** has stepped down from his position as the DIVISION HEAD OF GYNAECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY at the University of Toronto. We wish Dr. Rosen all the best in his role as the Section Head for Gynecologic Oncology at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI.



*Drs. Barry Rosen and Stephen Lye*

**Dr. Joan Murphy** has undertaken the position of INTERIM DIVISION HEAD OF GYNAECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY effective July 1, 2015. Dr. Murphy is well-suited to this role, having served in many senior leadership capacities in Gynaecologic Oncology. She will undertake this city-wide role as she commences her new position as PROGRAM CHIEF AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR, Women's and Children's Program at Trillium Health Partners and the Mississauga Academy of Medicine.



*Left to Right: Mrs. Alicia Tone, and Drs. Joan Murphy and Marcus Bernardini*

**Dr. Stephane Laframboise** has been appointed as INTERIM CHIEF at Princess Margaret Hospital-University Health Network, following Dr. Rosen's departure. We congratulate them both on these appointments!

**Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre** returned to Ottawa to assume her new position as DIRECTOR OF PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT WITH CMPA, as of June 30, 2015. Dr. Lefebvre was recruited from Ottawa by Dr. Ritchie, to serve as Chief at St. Michael's Hospital in 2001, a position which she held for 13.5 years. Since joining us, she has steadily fostered the transformation of Women's Health at St. Michael's Hospital into a powerful and respected group within our Department. Our Department looks forward to working with Dr. Lefebvre in her new national role.



*Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre*

**Dr. Jon Barrett**, Director of the Women and Babies Program at the Sunnybrook Research Institute, has been appointed as the WAKS FAMILY CHAIR IN MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE RESEARCH. Dr. Barrett plans to use the generous gift to fund research in high-risk pregnancy complications. ●

## Faculty Awards

Our Faculty have distinguished themselves in many areas this year, including research and education.

Congratulations to **Dr. Samar Nahas** on winning the BETTER TOGETHER TEACHING AWARD at Trillium Health Partners! Dr. Nahas, a member of the Gynaecologic Oncology Division, received the Award at the end of May, 2015.

**Dr. Grace Liu**, a member of the Gynaecologic Oncology Division, has received the DR. WILLIAM DIXON SUNNYBROOK SURGICAL TEACHING AWARD. The award is given to the Sunnybrook surgeon from any of the operative specialties who has made the biggest impact on the residents' development and evolution as a surgeon. Congratulations to Dr. Liu on her continued excellence in surgical teaching.



*Dr. Grace Liu (centre) and residents*

**Dr. Janet Rossant**, Chief of Research at the Hospital for Sick Children, is the recipient of the 2015 CANADA NATIONAL GAIRDNER WIGHTMAN AWARD. The Award recognized her "outstanding scientific contributions to developmental biology" and "exceptional international leadership in stem cell biology and policy-making, and in advancing research programs for children's illnesses." Dr. Rossant has also been appointed to the ORDER OF CANADA, the highest civilian honour in Canada, for "advancing the global understanding of embryo development and stem cell biology, and for her national and international leadership in health science." Congratulations! ●



*Dr. Janet Rossant*

## New Initiatives in OBGYN QIPS

Since the establishment of QIPS as our strategic priority, we have made several steps forward in advancing it.

Our Departmental QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & PATIENT SAFETY (QIPS) COMMITTEE led by **Dr. Gareth Seaward** works closely with the GTA-OBS NETWORK, Chaired by **Dr. Jon Barrett**, to achieve the QIPS goals outlined in our Strategic Plan. Most recently, the GTA-OBS Network launched its first NEWSLETTER and presented preliminary results on six QIPS indicators measured at member-sites across the Network. Both of these can be found at <http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/gta-obs-network>. The QIPS Committee is also working on developing a new webpage, as well as creating an online tool, IN-UTERO HIGH-RISK TRANSFER FORM; the initiative, led by **Dr. Jennifer Cram**, would allow the community hospitals to receive timely information on the status of their patients following transfer. Dr. Seaward also congratulates **Drs. Danny Lovatsis and Rebecca Arthur**, who became the newest graduates of the QIPS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM at the University of Toronto in 2015. ●

## Bringing CBME to OBGYN

The Faculty Development Committee organized the first CBME Faculty Retreat for our members.

The Faculty Development Committee organized the first Departmental CBME FACULTY RETREAT, which took place on June 19, 2015. Key speakers included **Dr. Sue Glover Taka-hashi** (Director, Education & Research, PGME), **Dr. Nicolette Caccia** (CBME Pilot Lead), **Dr. Heather Shapiro** (Vice-Chair, Education), and **Dr. Filomena Meffe** (Director, Faculty Development). The Retreat attracted over 20 faculty members and focused on providing information about CBME and reviewing data on faculty/resident experiences related to the 2014-15 CBME innovations. ●



*Dr. Filomena Meffe*

## OBGYN Jackets

The personalized OBGYN YOGA JACKET Initiative has been extended to our faculty and fellows! If you would like to purchase a jacket, please fill out a form (<http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/form/obgyn-personalized-yoga-jacket-form>). Orders will be placed annually in July. ●

## Prevent Ovarian Cancer Program

Members of our Gynaecologic Oncology Division have initiated the POCP at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

Researchers at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre have launched the PREVENT OVARIAN CANCER PROGRAM (POCP, [www.preventovariancancer.ca](http://www.preventovariancancer.ca)). The POCP (PI: **Dr. Marcus Bernardini**) is a project that aims to identify women with a first-degree relative (mother, sister, or daughter) who has died from high-grade serous ovarian cancer, offer them a genetic test to identify BRCA1/2 gene mutations, and provide them with the opportunity to decrease their lifetime risk for developing ovarian cancer. ●



*POCP team at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

## Special Recognitions & Awards for Faculty and Staff

During the Graduation Ceremony, our resident graduating class recognized staff and faculty who have made significant contributions to their education.

The graduating class recognized the following faculty for their contributions to their education throughout their residency at the University of Toronto:

- **Dr. Barry Rosen** - Faculty Special Recognition
- **Dr. Matthew Morton** - CREOG National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education
- **Dr. Deborah Robertson** - Neelam Sierra Resident Advocacy Award



*Graduating Class presenting CREOG Award to Dr. Matthew Morton (centre). Photo Credit: Erin Howe*

Furthermore, **Ms. Caroline Sutherland**, our Post-graduate Programs Coordinator, was awarded the 2015 LOIS ROSS CAIR AWARD FOR SERVICE TO RESIDENTS. Ms. Sutherland was nominated by **Mathew Leonardi** (PGY4) and his peers for her contributions to the advancement of resident life in Canada. ●



## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Best of luck to this year's graduates from our residency program as well as our fellowship and subspecialty training programs.



Resident Graduating Class (Photo Credit: Horst Herget)

The Department celebrated another successful year at the 2015 GRADUATION CEREMONY AND ALUMNI EVENT. Graduation took place on July 16, 2015, at University of Toronto's historic Hart House. Over 180 people were in attendance, including 27 graduates. Family members and faculty came to congratulate our newly-minted specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and their colleagues completing clinical fellowships. A new addition to this year's program was giving fellowship program directors the opportunity to present their trainees with certificates of program completion.



Clinical Fellow Graduating Class (Photo Credit: Horst Herget)

Our resident graduating class also had an opportunity to say good-bye to their closest mentors at a private dinner on June 5, 2015. We congratulate our graduates on a 100% Royal College exam pass rate and wish them best of luck in all their endeavors. ●



PGY5s at their good-bye dinner (Photo Credit: Joe George)

## Heather Millar Wins the 2015 PARO Teaching Award

Congratulations to **Heather Millar** (2015 Graduate) on winning the 2015 PARO TRUST FUND'S RESIDENT TEACHING AWARD. Heather was one of only two residents from all of University of Toronto's residency programs to receive the award. It was presented at the PARO Clinical Teaching Awards Banquet.



2015 PARO Award winners (Photo Credit: Brenda Hinton)

Junior residents described Heather as having made "an enormous contribution to [their] rotations and laid a framework to benefit the education of residents on future rotations." Heather was also described as a "team player and role model, who leads by example to create positive learning environments that made working...exciting and easy." Well done, Heather! ●

## Rebecca Rich Wins the CFWH Dawn Walker Award and MOH Funding

Congratulations to **Rebecca Rich** (PGY5) on obtaining MINISTRY OF HEALTH funding for the 2015-16 academic year! Rebecca is part of the Clinician Investigator Program at the University of Toronto. She is working on a Master's degree in clinical epidemiology with a focus on Indigenous women's health and the delivery of maternity care in rural and remote areas. In addition, Rebecca has been awarded the CFWH DAWN WALKER AWARD to complete her project, "Performance measurement in a circumpolar context: Developing indicators of health system responsiveness for maternity care." She is looking forward to working in Yellowknife during her studies. Her dog, Medziah, is also happy to be returning to the North. ●

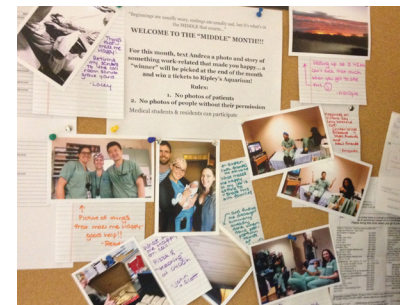


Rebecca Rich and her dog, Medziah (Photo Credit: Rebecca Rich)

## The small (and big) things in life

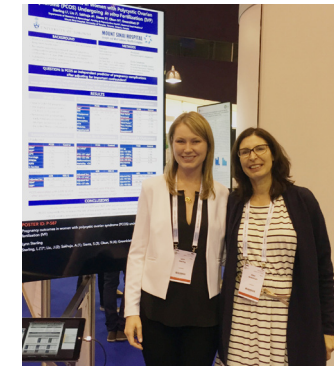
Our trainees and staff lead busy lives outside of work as well! Here are some highlights.

Congratulations to **Crystal Chan** and her fiancé, Jonathan, on their engagement! The couple got engaged in May.



**Andrea Simpson** helped coordinate a contest at St. Michael's Hospital where people were asked to text in pictures of things that made them happy at work. Happy staff keep patients happy!

Congratulations to **Claire Jones** and **Crystal Chan** on an excellent review on safety and issues related to travel in pregnancy, published in the December SOGC issue!



**Lynn Sterling** presented her research on "Pregnancy Outcomes in Women with PCOS Undergoing IVF" at the ESHRE conference in Lisbon this June, with her supervisor, Dr. Ellen Greenblatt.



Congratulations to **Mathew Leonardi**, **Rebecca Rich** and their team on winning the GOC/APOG prize for organizing the inSpeculum art event! The project won in the "most innovative and unique" category.

**Julie Thorne** has obtained her MPH from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health! Congrats, Julie!



Congratulations to **David Gureau** and **Rebecca Rockman** who got married in March, 2015!



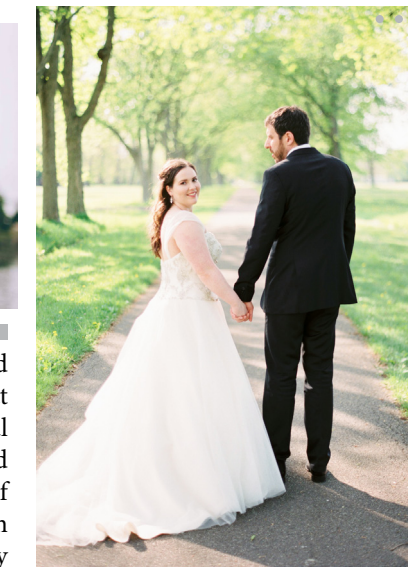
**Julie Thorne** travelled to Kenya to work with AMPATH for 3 weeks in January to start her research project, following her graduation from Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.



**Kirsten Niles** was the captain of Team Canada Women's Masters. Her team won Silver at the World Beach Ultimate Championships in March, 2015, in Dubai.



Congratulations to **Rebecca Menzies** and her husband Jason! The couple got married on May 16, 2015, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They went to Italy for their honeymoon.



Congratulations to **Joe George**, our Departmental Assistant, and his wife, Sandeep, on the arrival of their first baby girl, Sonam! Sonam was born at St. Mike's on March 13, 2015.



## Postgraduate Awards

Every year at the Graduation Ceremony, OBGYN residents receive awards to recognize their contribution to scholarship and education. The following residents were awarded the EXCELLENCE IN UNDER-GRADUATE TEACHING AWARD: **Carmen McCaffrey (PGY3)**, **Andrea Simpson (PGY4)**, and **Amanda Cipolla (PGY5)**.



Annually, one graduate is awarded the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GYNECOLOGIC LAPAROSCOPISTS (AAGL) AWARD. This year the Award was presented to **Stephen Morris (PGY5)** as a Special Resident in Minimally Invasive Gynaecology. Along with the certificate, Stephen receives a one-year membership to the AAGL. We congratulate Stephen on this very impressive achievement!



Stephen Morris and Dr. Sari Kives (Photo Credit: Horst Herget)

Lastly, we would like to congratulate two winners of the DR. FREDERICK R. PAPSIN POSTGRADUATE AWARD, **Amanda Cipolla (PGY5)** and **Heather Millar (PGY5)**.



Left to Right: Drs. Paul Bernstein, Shannon Moore, Amanda Cipolla, Heather Millar, Lindsay Sherriff (Photo Credit: Horst Herget)

The Department is very proud of your accomplishments! ●

## Spotlight on a Recent Grad

Dr. Alice Han graduated from the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Residency Program in 2014. She is now working at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.



**Dr. Alice Han** is currently an Associate Physician at Harvard Medical School's Brigham and Women's Hospital in the Division of Global Health Equity and an Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Toronto. Since September 2014, Dr. Han has been working as the Women's Health District Clinical Advisor for Partners in Health (PIH)/Inshuti Mu Buzima (IMB), Rwanda.

Dr. Han's clinical work focuses on clinical and surgical mentorship of Rwandan physicians and the development of training curricula. Her programmatic work includes the design and implementation of an initiative to increase contraception use in her catchment area and to strengthen community maternity care training. She is also helping initiate and lead a new maternal mortality reduction collaborative task force as well as a new multi-sectorial initiative to tackle gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, Dr. Han is collaborating with experts from Harvard Medical School to help design a pilot cervical cancer screening program.

Dr. Han's research and advocacy interests include GBV and maternal mortality. She has published and presented internationally on GBV in Latin America and the Caribbean, including presenting at the World Congress on Women's Mental Health in Peru upon invitation by the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. Her previous experiences include health equity work in Brazil with the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre, research in Kenya on sociocultural determinants of obstetrical fistula; and research and clinical electives in Israel, Ecuador, and Vietnam. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society for International Health, as Medical Director of the University of Toronto International Health Program, and as co-host of a weekly radio show that highlights current issues in health-care. Moving forward, she is committed to developing leadership in global women's health as an academic physician. ●

## Advocating for Women's Health at Home and Abroad

By Rachel Spitzer

Over the past quarter, advocacy and global health programs have continued to grow in profile and scope. We welcomed our AM-PATH Field Director in Eldoret, Kenya, **Dr. Astrid Christoffer-sen-Deb** to Toronto in May and also enjoyed a brief visit from **Dr. Paula Braitstein**, epidemiologist and CIHR Applied Research Chair of Public Health at DLSPH and Co-Field Director of Research for AMPATH.



Dr. Paula Braitstein

**Drs. Jane Namugga and Greg Ganda**, clinical fellows from Moi University, have completed their 6-week Gynaecologic Oncology fellowship at Princess Margaret Hospital. Drs. Namugga and Ganda were part of the fellowship program that came together under the guidance of Dr. Barry Rosen.



Left to Right: Drs. Barry Rosen, Jane Namugga and Greg Ganda

We are gearing up for a busy fall of visitors including our 2 annual medical students as well as a senior registrar (resident) from Moi University, who will come here thanks to joint funding by the Bocking Scholarships from our Department and teaching hospitals. We are also looking forward to welcoming 2 faculty members, **Drs. Alice Kagwiria Kaaria and Philip Kipkirui Tonui**, who are coming as FIGO Fellows ahead of the FIGO meeting in Vancouver this October. We also have numerous students and residents visiting our AMPATH site in Kenya over the summer for research and clinical experiences and are excited for **Dr. Heather Millar**, a recent graduate of our residency program, to assume the role of Team Lead for Reproductive Health in Eldoret.



Michael Seter and John Snelgrove in Kenya (Photo Credit: Michael Seter)

Our group also bids a fond farewell to **Dr. Barry Rosen** as he departs Toronto for new opportunities at Beaumont Hospital in Michigan. We are fortunate that Barry maintains an adjunct appointment in our Department in order to continue his leadership role in our oncology work in Kenya. We are also grateful for the support of **Shayna Henry** and **Khrystyna Levytska** in our Department office and wish them well as they both head off to medical school.

As usual, our residents lead the way in their enthusiasm and commitment to advocacy and underserved populations. A mere few examples of their commitments in recent months include:

- holding positions in SOGC and APOG within advocacy for junior members;
- an exciting new opportunity to present reproductive health information to a group of immigrant women, which will become an ongoing experience a few times per year for a few residents;
- a meeting of our resident global health interest group, with another planned over the summer to welcome new incoming trainees;
- initiating monthly videoconference rounds with registrants at Moi University, strengthening the relationship between the two sites.



First videoconference rounds with Moi University on March 10, 2015.

This year was the first time we introduced a session on social media use for our residents. **Mr. Pat Rich**, invited from the Canadian Medical Association, spoke on professional and appropriate use of social media channels - an important topic in today's society where social media plays such a big role.

Our team looks forward to reconvening in the fall and developing new projects in advocacy and continuing to promote reproductive health for the women and families we serve locally and abroad. ●



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Celebrating Our Research Potential

By Helen Robson

Once again, the Department hosted a successful RESEARCH DAY, on May 8, 2015, the 32nd annual event. Research Day took place at St Michael’s College in the University of Toronto. Over 325 people registered and a record 109 abstracts made up the program, with 14 orals and 91 posters. We also had 4 Collaboration Corner abstracts, highlighting and encouraging the collaborative initiatives in the Department.



Smile for the camera! Research Day group photo (Photo Credit: Joe George)

A highlight of the day was the contribution of **Dr. Hamish Wallace**, our Henderson Lecturer. Dr. Wallace, a Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at RHSC, Edinburgh since 1992 and Honourary Professor in the School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health at the University of Edinburgh, upheld the tradition of excellence with an enlightening lecture “*Oncofertility: Fertility preservation for young people with cancer — who is at risk and what can be offered?*”

Dr. Wallace was very generous with his time, spending the previous day giving rounds and meeting with trainees and faculty members at the Hospital for Sick Children and Mount Sinai Hospital, and even



Dr. Hamish Wallace and Mrs. Anne Stanfield

lending a hand in the judging at Research Day. We were very happy to have the Vice-Dean of Research, **Dr. Alison Buchan**, stop by to view the posters and the Dean of Medicine, **Dr. Trevor Young**, join us for the reception and assist in the awards presentation. We were also delighted to have **Mrs. Anne Stanfield**, daughter of Dr. DN Henderson, join us. ●

JW Knox Ritchie Research Award

The 2015 JW KNOX RITCHIE RESEARCH AWARD for best abstract/presentation by trainee category were awarded during the celebratory Wine-and-Cheese reception. The recipients were:

Clinical Fellow:

- Anat Herscu Klement
- Claire Jones
- Runner-up: Harry Brar

Post-Doctoral Fellow:

- Premalatha Shathasivam

Resident:

- Julie Nguyen
- Runner-up: Maria Cusimano

Graduate Student:

- Kyunga Kim
- Runners-up: Vladimir Djedovic and Eric Neely

Medical/Undergraduate Student:

- Ashley Raeside
- Jennifer Power
- Runners-up: Vanessa Zannella and Joseph Fish

This year, we gave participants a chance to vote on the best poster at Research Day. The winner of the PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD for best poster, with 15 out of 60 votes, was “Spontaneous Uterine Rupture and Repair at 21 Weeks Gestation: A Case Report and Literature Review” by **Lesley Hawkins, Deborah Robertson, Helena Frecker, Howard Berger, and Abheha Satkunaratnam**.



Helena Frecker and Lesley Hawkins

Many thanks to **Mrs. Helen Robson and Research Day Volunteers** (easily distinguished by their blue t-shirts!) for helping make the day a success. ●



Research Day volunteers. Left to Right: Nancy Moniz, Janet Forrest, Gigi Lacanlale, Jeannette Moniz, and Charlotte Axelrod

Departmental Research Initiatives

There have been many research initiatives across our department from trainees and faculty alike. Here are the highlights.

Congratulations to **Dr. Isabella Caniggia** whose NSERC GRANT entitled “The Dynamic Role of the Oxygen/TGFβ Axis in Regulating Sphingolipid Metabolism during Placental Development” was successfully funded for 5 years. The grant will allow Dr. Caniggia to continue her work on the disruption of sphingolipid metabolism and its role in pre-eclampsia. ●

Congratulations to **Drs. Lo, Librach and the team!** Their project, “*Changing the Paradigm for Male Fertility Treatment - Standardized Automated Platform for Sperm Retrieval*” has been funded by the AHSC AFP INNOVATION FUND. The 2-year project was funded for over \$160,000. Well done! ●

2015 Chair’s Summer Student Research Awards

The Department has led several initiatives this year to support research amongst our trainees. Faculty recipients and their projects are listed below.

1. Jon Barrett, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. The Greater Toronto Area Obstetric Network: Achieving consensus on invasive placenta previa.
2. Anne Berndt, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. High volume Foley catheter Induction to increase Vaginal birth (High FIVE Birth): Trial feasibility in the Greater Toronto Area.
3. Rohan D’Souza, Sinai Health System. Generating patient preferences (health state utilities) for combined maternal and fetal health states arising from the use of anticoagulation in pregnant women with mechanical heart valves.
4. Michael Geary, St. Michael’s Hospital. The Greater Toronto Area Obstetric Network: Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury.
5. Ann Malinowski, Sinai Health System. Post-partum morbidity in women receiving peripartum therapeutic anticoagulation.
6. Ally Murji, Sinai Health System. Determining the incidence of uterine sarcoma in women undergoing fibroid surgery: a population-based cohort study.
7. Sari Kives, Hospital for Sick Children. Reproductive health issues in young women in an obesity program.
8. Deborah Robertson, St. Michael’s Hospital. The Resident Handover Study. ●

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Scientific Retreat: Integrative and Global Approaches in Reproductive Sciences

University of Toronto’s Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Wayne State University School of Medicine organized a JOINT SCIENTIFIC RETREAT focused on Reproductive Sciences. The Retreat took place at the Atheneum Suite Hotel and Conference Center in Detroit, MI, on April 28-29, 2015. Over 135 attendees were present with more than 80 abstracts submitted.



Drs. Randall Armant and John Kingdom (Photos Credit: WSU SOM)



Left to Right: Drs. Robert Sokol, John Kingdom, and Sascha Drewlo (Photos Credit: WSU SOM)

Key note speakers at the event included our Chair, **Dr. John Kingdom**, who spoke on screening for “placental health” as a realistic goal in obstetrics, **Dr. Roberto Romero**, Chief of the Perinatology Research Branch and Program Head for Perinatal Research and Obstetrics from Wayne State University School of Medicine, who spoke on maternal anti-fetal rejection as a mechanism of disease, and **Dr. Clifford Librach**, Director of the CReATe Fertility Centre, who presented on the role of microvesicles in human reproduction. ●



Joint Scientific Retreat (Photo Credit: WSU SOM)



## New Appointments and Recruits

Several members have joined our hospitals as well as the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Here are the newest appointments and hospital recruits.



**Dr. Alice Han** is now appointed as Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. She is currently a physician at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in the Division of Global Health Equity (see P8).

**Dr. Andrea Page** joins our Department as a Clinical Lecturer (part-time). She completed medical school at the University of Western Ontario followed by her OBGYN residency at the University of Toronto. Her interests are in patient safety and health care quality. She is currently doing a Master's degree in this area.



**Dr. Carol Peng** has joined our Department as Adjunct Lecturer, effective April 1, 2015. Dr. Peng is based at The Scarborough Hospital.

**Dr. Jonathan Solnik** has been appointed as Associate Professor, effective April 29, 2015. He is joining us at Mount Sinai Hospital after serving as Division Director of Urogynecology and the Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Surgery at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles for the last 9 years.



**Dr. Shiraz Suleman** has joined our faculty as Adjunct Lecturer. Dr. Suleman will be practicing at the William Osler Health System - Brampton Civic Hospital. **Dr. Dan Nayot** has been appointed as Adjunct Assistant Professor.

**Dr. Claire Jones** joins the Faculty as Assistant Professor in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, based at Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Jones completed her Bachelor of Science and Medical Degrees at the University of Western Ontario and her residency in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Toronto. Her main clinical and research interests include polycystic ovarian syndrome, fertility surgery, assisted reproductive technologies and improvement of both patient education and medical education.



**Dr. Lindsay Sherriff** joins our Faculty as Assistant Professor. She is based at Mount Sinai's Division of Core Obstetrics & Gynaecology, effective July 1, 2015.

**Dr. Mara Sobel** joins Mount Sinai Hospital staff as Assistant Professor in the Division of Core Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Dr. Sobel is a graduate in Medicine from the University of Ottawa, and completed her Residency at the University of Toronto. She holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Epidemiology and has completed a Fellowship in MIS at McMaster University. She has a special interest in Research in Education.

**Dr. Crystal Chan** joined staff at MSH as Assistant Professor in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility as of July 1, 2015. She completed her medical degree and residency in OBGYN at the University of Toronto and obtained an MSc degree through the Clinician Investigator Program. Dr. Chan is interested in the characterization of the endometrium in natural and assisted reproduction cycles, and is involved in surgical education research. ●



## New Cross-Appointments

Welcome to Faculty of Medicine members who have joined our Department as cross-appointed members.



**Dr. Kevin Kain** is a Professor of Medicine, Science Director of Tropical Disease Unit at University Health Network-Toronto General Hospital and a Canada Research Chair. His work

focuses on global maternal-child health. One of his major projects uses malaria-in-pregnancy as a model to elucidate the mechanisms underlying preterm birth and stillbirth in order to introduce interventions suitable for low-resource settings.



**Dr. Mike Seed** is a paediatric cardiologist and radiologist at SickKids and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. His research interest is in studying the fetal circulation using MRI in the setting of congenital heart disease and IUGR. He has

been investigating the impact of placental and cardiovascular dysfunction on fetal brain development.

**Dr. Brian Cox** is an Assistant Professor in Physiology, with training in biochemistry, bioinformatics and developmental biology. He focuses on applying large-scale systems biology techniques to identify genes



involved in development and altered in pathology. ●

## Senior Promotions

Congratulations to our faculty members being promoted this year from Assistant to Associate Professor, effective July 1, 2015.



**Dr. Rachel Spitzer** is Vice-Chair of Advocacy in our Department and is currently working closely with the AMPATH-RH program at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. Dr. Spitzer chairs the Advocacy

Committee, the goal of which is to increase public awareness around women's health at home and abroad.

**Dr. Ian Rogers** is an Associate Scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute. His research focuses on stem cell therapies for peripheral vascular disease, kidney disease, and others.



**Dr. Suzanne Wong** is an active staff member at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto. Prior to working at St. Joseph's Hospital, she was clinical staff at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston and a Clinical Instructor at Harvard Medical School. She has a special interest in women's imaging, faculty development, medical education, and preventive medicine.

**Dr. Marcus Bernardini** is Head of the Gynaecologic Oncology Robotics Program at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and leads the Target Ovarian Cancer Program. His research focuses on the molecular characterization and behaviour of ovarian cancer and its precursors. ●



## Junior Promotions

Congratulations to our faculty members being promoted this year from Lecturer to Assistant Professor.

**Dr. Matthew Morton** is the Site Coordinator of Undergraduate Medical Education at Mount Sinai Hospital/University Health Network. He has a special interest in education, for which he was awarded the 2015 CREOG National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education.



**Dr. Jamie Kroft** specializes in minimally invasive gynaecologic surgery, with a focus on the surgical treatment of endometriosis and fibroids. She has a research interest in surgical outcomes of minimally invasive surgery, as well as simulation surgical education research. ●



## Good-byes & Hellos

Our team at 123 Edward has changed this year. We'd like to say good bye to those moving forward and to those coming in!



**Ms. Cheryl Bird** has left her role as DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT as of June 19, 2015. During her tenure, Cheryl provided administrative support to various areas of the department and to several committees, including the Appointments and Promotions Committee.

Best of luck to our INTERNS, Ms. Shayna Henry and Ms. Khrystyna Levytska, both of whom are off to medical school this fall! During the past year with us, **Shayna** has worked on our Annual Report, CBME pilot projects, and AMPATH-RH projects. She is off to University College Cork School of Medicine in Ireland! **Khrystyna** has been with us since



June, 2014, working on our Strategic Plan, website, and newsletter. She will begin her studies at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. ●



**Mr. Andrew Greig** joined us as a new intern. Andrew just finished his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, and is looking to apply to medical school next year.



**Ms. Alissa Moody** is also joining us at the Departmental office, starting in August. Alissa will be focusing on faculty development, amongst other projects. ●



## Welcome to incoming trainees!

We are pleased to welcome our incoming group of 13 PGY1s and 2 PGY2s this year, as well as clinical fellows starting their training in July! ●



Incoming resident class (Photo Credit: Joe George)





# Obstetrics & Gynaecology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

*"Congratulations on the establishment of a new and wonderful tradition for the U. of T. Ob Gyne Residents and their families. The Residents (including Fellows) put so much into their years of training and it is such a wonderful gesture to see them celebrated in such fine style for their successes. The venue was truly fitting for a graduation ceremony and the event was so very tastefully done. It was an honour to attend."*

~ Faculty member on 2015 Graduation Ceremony & Alumni Event

*"Thank you ... for initiating and organizing the year end graduation! It was so special for me and my family to have an event and opportunity to recognize my (and their!) achievements. It gives closure to an amazing 5 years at an incredible institution! Thank you for creating this event and giving us true gift of this celebration. It was truly a special night for us all."*

~ PGY5 Graduate, on 2015 Graduation Ceremony & Alumni Event



*Photo credit: Joe George  
Toronto Skyline*