

Ob/Gyn News

Winter 2013



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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the days get longer and warmer, it is tempting to consider this newsletter as our spring edition. It does, however, chronicle the various activities that our Department has been engaged in over the fall and winter months. It was wonderful to see so many of our former and current Ob/Gyn faculty and trainees at our 125th Anniversary celebration which coincided with our annual Faculty Professional Development Day. I would like to thank Adrian Brown for his hard work in bringing the evening to fruition as the inaugural President of the Department Alumni Association. Congratulations to the recipients of the departmental awards which were handed out at the event and to our entire faculty who contribute to our combined clinical and academic mission on a daily basis. We have highlighted Department members who have received important national awards/recognition such as Dr. Jennifer Blake who assumed the position of CEO of the SOGC in January. We will miss Jenny’s active presence in our Department although she will remain an Adjunct member. We wish her well in this new role. Peter Scheufler was appointed Program Chief and Medical Director of Women’s Health at the new Trillium Health Partners. I would like to sincerely thank Mathew Sermer who graciously took over the position as Interim Chief of the Department of Ob/Gyn at Mount Sinai Hospital, University Health Network and Women’s College Hospital as of September in order for me to focus my energies and attention on the University Department. This has been a busy year to date with completion of the self-study and external review in October as well as preparing for the upcoming Royal College Site Visit in April. Many of you know that Filomena Meffe will be stepping down from her position as Program Director of Undergraduate Medical Education and Rajiv Shah will be assuming this position on May 1. We thank Filomena for her unwavering commitment to our Department and welcome Rajiv to this new role. Lastly, I would like to congratulate Dr. John Kingdom on his appointment as the next Chair of the Department and I will be working closely with him over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition in leadership. I wish you all a wonderful spring and all the best for the remainder of this academic year.

Sincerely,

Alan Bocking

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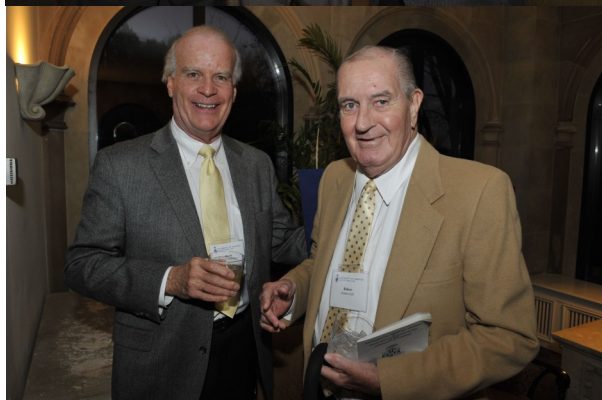
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Celebrating 125 Years of Training Canada's Ob/Gyns



On November 7, 2012, the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology celebrated 125 years of training some of the world's leading obstetrician-gynaecologists.

U of T Ob/Gyn alumnae have gone on to make a "real difference in the lives of women and their families here in Canada and around the world," said Dean Catharine Whiteside, who spoke at the department's alumni anniversary celebration. The department's role in the evolution of better healthcare has been crucial.



The department has produced highly-skilled professionals who have contributed to advances from the development of the simplified Pap test for detecting early symptoms of cervical cancer, the opening of the first tertiary perinatal unit for the care of high-risk pregnant women and pre-term babies in Ontario, to the creation of a blood test to identify women likely to give birth prematurely.



Alumnae who graduated from the department from as early as 1963 to as recent as June 2012 were in attendance.



Photos (from the top, left to right) Drs Donald Moore, John Milligan, and Mel Petersiel; Drs Derek Nicholson, and Robert Gall; Drs Mary Hannah and Walter Hannah (department chair from 1981-92); Drs Guylaine Lefebvre, Tracey Brown and Adrian Brown (inaugural president of the Ob/Gyn Alumni Association)

Faculty Professional Development Day 2012



The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology annual Faculty Professional Development Day (FPDD) offered lectures and interactive workshops with an alumni theme this year to link the event to the 125-year anniversary celebration that followed.

The program was designed to pique the interest of a diverse group of obstetrician-gynecologists, among them current faculty members and those who graduated over the last half-century. Many of the alumnae who registered for the faculty development sessions in the day also attended the alumni reception and dinner at the same venue, the Vaughan Estate at the Estates of Sunnybrook.

The program outlined shifts in educating ob/gyn trainees, focusing on generational trends, changes in pedagogical methods and the ability of the trainer to adapt to a constantly changing environment.

The Great Debate: Residency Training Through the Ages, was aptly incorporated into the FPDD program and served as a connection between alumnae, recent grads and current faculty members. The new school versus the old school; two teams of two, lead by well-seasoned faculty members, had a battle of words. They discussed the differences and

commonalities in medical education, past and present and looked at the philosophy and practical considerations for training of obstetrician-gynaecologists in Canada. The session was moderated by Dr. Adrian Brown, the inaugural President of the department's Alumni Association.



Debaters Drs Andrea Page and Nicholas Leyland

Representatives of the old school of thought were former faculty member, Dr. Nicholas Leyland, Professor and Chair, Department of Ob/Gyn, Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University and Chief of Ob/Gyn at Hamilton Health Sciences Centre and recent department grad Dr. Andrea Page. The new school was represented by Drs Heather Shapiro, Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of Education in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Toronto and staff specialist at the Mount Sinai Centre for Fertility and Reproductive Health, and Dr. Lynne Zolis, Residency Site Coordinator at North York General Hospital.

In keeping with the theme, Dr. Jennifer Blake, Program Coordinator for FPDD, presented a lecture on **The Mature Physician: How to keep**

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Faculty Professional Development Day

...from page 3



Dr. Jennifer Blake

your edge as you age, in which she examined the effects of age on cognitive and clinical skills, ways to identify those effects and strategies to help maintain clinical excellence as you age.

An overview of the process of **promotion to associate professor** was presented by Drs John Kingdom and Guylaine Lefebvre. Dr. Michael Sved presented himself as a “live” case study and a recent example of successfully transitioning to associate professor rank.



Dr. Stephen Lye

Participants mentioned that the content, particularly in the keynote lecture on **Developmental Origins of Health, Learning and Social Functioning** by Dr. Stephen Lye, was “thought-provoking”. Dr. Elizabeth Asztalos presented a workshop entitled **Clinical Trials in OB/GYN - Getting Involved** and Dr. Filomena Meffe presented **Giving Effective Feedback** which aimed to help teachers improve skills in giving feedback so that they are better able to assist medical trainees to achieve their full potential.

Department Teaching Award Recipients



From left (top row), Drs Dalip Bhangu, Deborah Robertson, Donna Steele, Jason Dodge, and Sarah Ferguson,
From left (bottom row), Drs Han Keunen, Jon Barrett, Fred Engle, Sari Kives, Jeremy Wong, and Mark Yudin

See the complete list of award recipients on page 5

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS

Department Teaching Award Recipients

Awards for undergraduate teaching, Chair's Awards and Master Teacher Awards for contribution to excellence in education in the 2011-12 academic year were announced at Faculty Professional Development Day 2012.

2011-12 Master Teacher Award Recipients

The **Master Teacher Award** is presented to a faculty member who has a primary appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and who has to date received a total of three Undergraduate Teaching Awards demonstrating sustained excellence in undergraduate teaching and long-standing contributions to the education program. The 2012 recipients of the Master Teacher Award were Drs **Grace Liu**, **Filomena Meffe** and **Suzanne Wong**.



Dr. Filomena Meffe, recipient of two awards, and Chair Alan Bocking

2011-12 Departmental Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Departmental Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching are given to faculty members at the department's affiliate hospitals, who have received the highest teaching evaluation scores from our undergraduate medical students for the recent academic year. There were seven recipients of this year's award: Drs **Fred Engle** (MSH), **Johannes (Han) Keunen** (MSH), **Grace Liu** (SHSC), **Filomena Meffe** (SMH), **Melanie Ornstein** (TEGH), **Jeremy Wong** (NYGH), and **Suzanne Wong** (SJHC).

2011-12 Chair's Awards

This year 10 **Chair's Awards** were announced, including two new awards for *Excellence in Integrated Medical Education* – one for *Undergraduate* and one for *Postgraduate Teaching*. The terms of these new awards state that the recipients must be appointed at a community-affiliate hospital and have made significant contributions to their respective program. Dr. **Melanie Ornstein** from Toronto East General Hospital and Dr. **Dalip Bhangu** from Trillium Health Partners are the inaugural recipients of these awards.

Dr. **Dalip Bhangu**: Excellence in Integrated Undergraduate Medical Education,
 Dr. **Jon Barrett**: Sustained Excellence in Research,
 Drs **Janet Bodley**, **Michèle Farrugia** and **Donna Steele** (Resident Wellness Team): Excellence in Postgraduate Program Development/Innovation,
 Dr. **Jason Dodge**: Continuing Medical Education (CME) Teaching Excellence,
 Dr. **Sarah Ferguson**: Outstanding Research Potential,
 Dr. **Sari Kives**: Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching,
 Dr. **Melanie Ornstein**: Excellence in Integrated Postgraduate Medical Education,
 Dr. **Deborah Robertson** (Women's Health Symposium): Excellence in CME Course Coordination,
 Dr. **Mark Yudin**: Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and
 Dr. **Arthur Zaltz**: Excellence in Research Facilitation.

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Jennifer Blake

Professor **Jennifer Blake**, former Associate Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and long-time faculty member is the new **CEO** of the **Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)** as of Jan 7, 2013.



From left, Dr. Paula Rochon, Dr. Narod, Professor Paul Young and U of T President Dr. David Naylor at U of T's Hart House on Oct 18, 2012

Dr. **Steven Narod**, Canada Research Chair in Breast Cancer (Tier 1) and senior scientist at Women's College Research Institute, has been elected **Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada**.

Dr. **Janet Bodley** is a recipient of the Association of Academic Professionals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada (APOG) **Carl Nimrod Educator of the Year Award** and Dr. **Robert Casper** received the APOG **Research Excellence Award** in 2012. Both awards were presented at the APOG Annual Meeting in December.

Professor Emeritus, Dr. **J. E. (Ted) Morgan** gives his acceptance speech for an **SOGC Lifetime Achievement Award** at a dinner in his honour on Dec 7, 2012 in Toronto. The award was given to him for his contributions to the urogynaecology subspecialty.



Dr. Ted Morgan

Photo by Darwin Tsai

Dr. **Modupe Tunde-Byass**, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, ob/gyn at North York General Hospital has been nominated obstetrical lead on the **Central LHIN's Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health** Committee on Maternal-Newborn Care.

Dr. **David Chitayat** is the recipient of the University of Toronto Department of Pediatrics **Richard Rowe Award for Clinical Excellence** for 2012.

Dr. **Navid Esfandiari** received the **ASRM Star Award** at the **67th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine**, Oct 20-24, 2012, in San Diego as well as the **Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) Best Paper in Basic Science Research Award** for co-authoring "Reduced CoQ10 Gene Expression in Mouse and Human Cumulus Cells with Aging" at the 58th CFAS Annual Meeting Sept 6-9, 2012 in Ottawa.

AWARDS, HONOURS, & ACHIEVEMENTS

Department member Dr. Gail Erlick Robinson is the recipient of the **Order of Ontario** and a **Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal** for her work related to women's mental health.



Dr. Gail Erlick Robinson

Dr. Robinson is Professor of Psychiatry at U of T and Director of the Women's Mental Health Program at University Health Network.



Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal



Dr. Nicholas Pairaudeau, right, with MP Leung

Dr. **Nicholas Pairaudeau** receives the **Queen's Jubilee medal** from Citizenship and Immigration Canada parliamentary secretary, MP Chungsen Leung on Oct 12, 2012 at the North York Civic Centre.



Dr. De Petrillo

Dr. **Amodio "Denny" De Petrillo** was presented with the **International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) Award for Excellence in Gynecologic Oncology** for major and sustained contributions in the field of gynecologic cancer care, honouring excellence in clinical, organizational, and scientific accomplishments of key individuals in the field of gynecologic oncology.

"It was a great honour to receive the award," says Dr. De Petrillo, who received it at the IGCS's 14th Biennial Meeting in Vancouver in Oct 2012.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. **John Kingdom** is the Interim Academic Head, and Interim Associate Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Mount Sinai Hospital for the period of September 13, 2012 to June 30, 2013. As Interim Head of the Academic Program, Dr. Kingdom will be responsible for coordination of research activities, provide linkage to the SLRI, MSH Grand Rounds and Departmental CME activities, and will engage in supervision of Undergraduate and Postgraduate activities.

Dr. **Ellen Greenblatt** presented on "*Development of a Fertility Preservation Programme*" at the Dalhousie University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology's 41st annual Atlee Lecture on November 15, 2012. On the same day, she followed on the heels of her Grand Rounds presentation entitled "*PCOS: How best to treat these patients,*" by attending their journal club and finished the day with an informal one-hour session with the Ob/Gyn residents there. Dr. Greenblatt refers to this as: Quite a whirlwind of a day....!!

Dr. **Amanda Selk** completed an MSc at McMaster University in Health Research Methodology with a focus on clinical epidemiology.

North York General Hospital

Drs **Adrian Brown** and **Dennis Chu** led a seven-member interdisciplinary group to the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) in Rome in Oct 2012 to present four posters on Quality initiatives and projects at NYGH. They were the largest group from Canada.

St. Joseph's Health Centre

In July 2012, **The Our Lady of Mercy Health Complex** was inaugurated to house a brand new expanded Family Birthing Centre, a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a Pediatric facility and a Child & Adolescent Mental Health division. This state-of-the-art 130,000 sq. ft. facility is designated by the province to offer a comprehensive set of services and be a Regional Pediatric Centre for southwest Toronto.

Dr. **Hani Akoury**, accepted the dual position of Medical Director, Mother & Child Program, and



Dr. Hani Akoury

Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology and moved his High-Risk Obstetrics practice from Sunnybrook Health Sciences

Centre to the new facility at SJHC. The new department, under his baton, remains committed to develop and enhance High-Risk Level II Obstetrics and Gynecologic Endoscopy, while maintaining its teaching obligations to medical students, residents and fellows.

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Professor **Gillian Thomas** (Odette Cancer Centre, SHSC) has been made Fellow (ad eundem) of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (UK).

HOSPITAL NEWS

Toronto East General Hospital

Dr. **Melanie Ornstein** will take over as Ob/Gyn resident, fellow, and visiting elective student coordinator from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 while Dr. **Anjali Aggarwal** is on maternity leave.

Trillium Health Partners



Dr. Scheufler

Hospital President & CEO Michelle DiEmanuele and Chief of Staff Dr. Dante Morra recently announced the appointment of Dr. **Peter Scheufler** as Program Chief and Medical Director of Women's Health of the integrated **Trillium Health Partners**, effective January 1, 2013. Dr. Scheufler assumed the roles of Chief and Medical Director of Ob/Gyn at the Mississauga Health and Queensway Health Centre in 2009.

Dr. **Denny De Petrillo** guided Women's Health during the transition phase in the role of Physician Chief and Program Director, Credit Valley Hospital and will continue at the new Trillium Health Partners as a staff gynaecological-oncologist.

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

PRIMARY APPOINTMENTS IN OB/GYN

Professor

Dr. Andras Nagy (MSH)

Assistant Professor

Dr. Marie Czikk (MSH)

Dr. Noor Ladhani (SHSC)

Dr. Oksana Shynlova (MSH)

Lecturer

Dr. Kelly Chu (Trillium)

Dr. Kristina Dervaitis (Southlake)

Dr. Kendra Newell (Trillium)

Dr. Gonzalo Zevallos (Indep. Practice)

CROSS-APPOINTMENTS IN OB/GYN

Associate Professor

Dr. Candice Silversides (Dept. of Medicine)

RESEARCH CORNER

Grants



Dr. Greenblatt receives her award in Istanbul

Dr. **Ellen Greenblatt**, Medical Director, Centre for Fertility and Reproductive Health, Mount Sinai Hospital and Associate Professor, U of T Ob/Gyn, was awarded the Merck Serono **Grant for Fertility Innovation** at the **European Society of Human Reproduction and Human Embryology's** 28th annual meeting for her research project entitled *Validation of endometrial receptivity biomarkers predictive of success*. The award, valued at over 200,000 EUR (\$270,000 CAD), will fund her team's research on endometrial receptivity, an innovation which is likely to increase pregnancy outcomes in the clinical setting.



Kislinger T (PI), **Bernardini M** (CI), Ailles L, McGill P, Clarke B. Glycoprotein biomarkers for ovarian cancer. Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute - Innovation Grant, \$200,000, May 2012 – May 2013.

Chan C (PI), **Greenblatt E**, Weingarden N, **Brown TJ**. Non-invasive genomic analysis of human endometrial receptivity. Physician Services Incorporated Resident Research Grants, \$20,000, July 2012 – June 2013.

Hackmon, Rinat (PI), **Kingdom J** (Co-Supervisor). The placental expression of HLA-F and its interaction in early placentation. Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mount Sinai Hospital Research Fund. \$15,000, July 2012 – June 2013.

Juriscova A (PI). Maternal obesity and oocyte health. Canadian Foundation for Women's Health. Operating Grant. \$17,000, July 2012 – June 2013.

Rossos P, **Murphy KJ** (Co-PIs). Developing Canadian standardized synoptic reporting and outcome standards for colonoscopy and colposcopy to improve quality of care and access for cancer screening and surveillance. CHI, 750,000, July 2012 – March 2014.

Van Mieghem T (PI), **Kingdom J** (Co-Supervisor). The role of Apelin in the pathogenesis of pre-eclampsia. Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mount Sinai Hospital Research Fund. \$5,000, July 2012 – June 2013.

Plante M (PI). Collaborators: **Ferguson SE**, Kwon J, Brotto L, Fyles T, Meyer R, Craighead P, Gavin S, Arseneau J, Atri M. The SHAPE Trial: Simple hysterectomy and pelvic node dissection in early cervix cancer. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). \$2,200,000, September 2012 – August 2020.

30th Annual Research Day — May 10, 2013

The 30th Annual Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research Day will be held on **FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013**, at the **Old Vic Building, at 91 Charles St. West in Victoria University in the University of Toronto**. This event brings together members of the department, while showcasing the breadth and depth of its research, as presented by its many trainees.



*Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta,
2013 Henderson
Lecturer*

The Henderson Lecturer for Research Day 2013 is **Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta**. Dr. Bhutta is the Noordin Noormahomed Sheriif Endowed Professor and founding chair of the Division of Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan and an adjunct professor at numerous hospitals, including Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto.

Dr. Bhutta's research includes newborn and child survival, maternal and child under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. He runs a large Pakistan-based research group that has had international influence on maternal and newborn outreach programs, based on their work on evidence-based community interventions and their implementation into the health system. A short biography is available at http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/research/ResearchDay/Research_Day_2013.htm.

Contact information:

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Perinatal Investigators Meeting



From left, Department Chair Dr. Alan Bocking, Dr. Victor Han, Director of the Children's Health Research Institute and Chair, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, London Health Sciences Centre, and Dr. Stephanie Atkinson Professor and Associate Chair (Research) in Pediatrics at McMaster at EC-PIM

The **36th Annual Eastern Canadian Perinatal Investigators Meeting (EC-PIM)** hosted by the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology under program chair and organizer Dr. S. Lee Adamson saw an unprecedented number of researchers from the region, other provinces and the US take part in the three-day conference at the Keenan Research Centre of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael's Hospital, Nov 14-16, 2012.

A cast of national and international speakers presented on the first day as part of the ***Preeclampsia Research Symposium: Heterogeneity & Progress Towards Personalized Biomarkers of Disease***, including Dr. Asif Ahmed and Dr. Ananth Karumanchi. The program featured three short talks by local investigators researching fetal, placental, maternal, and neonatal medicine using a variety of basic and clinical approaches. Trainees participated in oral and poster presentations.

See award recipients on page 13

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Department Chair

Dr. John Kingdom has been appointed incoming Chair of the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and will assume the position on July 1, 2013 from Dr. Alan Bocking. The incoming and out-going chairs will be working closely together over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

Director of Undergraduate Medical Education

Dr. Filomena Meffe will be stepping down from her position as Program Director of Undergraduate Medical Education after 11 years. As of May 1 Dr. Rajiv Shah will be assuming this position. We thank Dr. Meffe for her unwavering commitment to our Department and welcome Dr. Shah to this new role.

Director of Faculty Development

Dr. Filomena Meffe has taken on the role of Director of Faculty Development for the department, left vacant by Dr. Jennifer Blake. Dr. Meffe is currently the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education.

Royal College Site Visit

We are now preparing for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Site Visit in early April. The Royal College will be reviewing our Residency Program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as the Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility subspecialty program. Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Gynecologic-Oncology were granted exemptions this cycle as part of a pilot project being conducted by the Royal College.

Leadership Council

A new, robust council held its first meeting of the year on Jan 17, 2013 at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, SMH. Special guest Dr. Wendy Levinson, Sir John and Lady Eaton Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, U of T, gave a presentation entitled *Stewardship of finite resources – whose responsibility is it?* The topic relates to the *Choosing Wisely* campaign underway in the Department of Medicine as well as provincially and internationally regarding the role of physicians and other healthcare workers in healthcare reform.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to discussion and feedback on the recent Ob/Gyn External Review as a means of informing strategic plans for the coming years.

The Leadership Council was established in 2003 as a forum to bring together clinical, educational and research leaders from across our multiple sites to discuss important issues facing the department and make recommendations to the Executive and Chair. **The next meeting is on May 17, 2013 at Li Ka Shing.** Videoconferencing and teleconferencing will be available to accommodate those who are unable to attend in person.

RESIDENTS & FELLOWS CORNER



Attendees browse the posters at EC-PIM at the Keenan Research Centre at St. Michael's Hospital

The 36th Annual Eastern Canadian Perinatal Investigators Meeting and Preeclampsia Research Symposium took place on Nov 14-16, 2012. Six award winners received \$200 prizes and certificates. Trainee oral presentation winners were Khrystyna Levytska (Kingdom lab), Kristina Aasa and Malia Murphy. Trainee poster presentation winners were Valentin Sotov, Melissa Kwan (Lye lab) and Noelle Ma.

Assaf Ben-Meir, a clinical fellow in the Casper/Juriscova lab, won the prize for the best basic science poster (Cumulus Cell coQ10 Synthesis and Mitochondrial Function in Aged Mice: Effect of coQ10 supplementation) at the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society Annual meeting in Ottawa, Sept 7-9, 2012.

Rohan D'Souza has been awarded the Harold Malkin (First) Prize 2012 by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (UK) for the most outstanding original research conducted by a trainee in UK and Ireland. Rohan is currently in the second year of his Fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Claire Jones (PGY6 GREI) paper, "Fertility Treatment Decision-Making: The Effect of Insurance Coverage or Fertility Medications" was published in JOGC in Oct 2012. The article is Claire's resident research project which was completed under the supervision of Dr. Kimberley Liu.

Mathew Leonardi (PGY1) has taken on several roles as ACOG District V Ontario Junior Fellow Vice-Chair, Ob/Gyn; he is a Department of Ob/Gyn Undergraduate Education Junior Resident Representative, and continues his involvement with Undergraduate Medical Education on LGBT and sexual health.



Dr. Wendy Wolfman (left) and Adrienne Li

Adrienne Li (PGY2) and Dr. Wendy Wolfman presented a poster "Female Genital Graft-vs.-Host Disease: A Current Retrospective Patient Review" at the 23rd annual North American Menopause Society meeting in Orlando, Florida on Oct 3-6, 2012.

Karli Mayo (PGY3) and **Kelsey Mills** (PGY4) participated as panel members for *Women in Medicine*, University of Toronto. Kelsey says it was a great experience and hopes that the undergrads benefited from it, learned about Ob/Gyn and will consider our program.

RESIDENTS & FELLOWS CORNER

Heather Millar (PGY3) is the SOGC Resident Committee Chair for 2013-14. The committee has two or more residents from each residency program from across Canada. Heather was elected to this position by the other committee members and represents Canadian residents on the SOGC Executive Committee.

Kirsten Niles' (PGY1) paper on "Haploinsufficiency of the paternal-effect gene *Dnmt3L* results in transient DNA hypomethylation in progenitor cells of the male germline" has been published in *Human Reproduction*, an Oxford University Press publication.

Amanda Selk completed an MSc at McMaster University in Health Research Methodology with a focus on clinical epidemiology.

John Snelgrove (PGY2) was elected to the 2012-13 PAIRO General Council. As the PAIRO Representative for Ob/Gyn in Toronto, John's role is to "liaise between residents in the program and PAIRO on issues of the collective agreement between the Ministry, hospitals/residency programs, and residents, and to support residents as they transition into residency and from residency into their careers". He also assists with social events and educational, professional development opportunities run by PAIRO.

Evan Taerk (PGY4) recently attended the American Society of Reproductive Medicine meeting in October in San Diego in the role of resident reporter. Evan reported that "there was a lot of buzz at the meeting around the ASRM publication of their committee opinion on oocyte cryopreservation and how success rate of IVF cycles using cryopreserved eggs are approaching that of cycles using cryopreserved embryos".

Louise-Helen Gagnon and **Evan Taerk** (PGY4s) travelled to Eldoret, Kenya in January/February to do International reproductive health electives at Moi University School of Medicine and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.



Going the Distance

Kim Bremer (PGY3) ran the Angus Glen Half Marathon in Nov 2012.

Jessica Green (PGY2) ran the Scotiabank Marathon (42 km) in Oct 2012.

Photo: Residents enjoying the snow at Blue Mountain

RESIDENTS & FELLOWS CORNER

Claire Jones (PGY6 GREI) gave birth to a baby girl named Evelyn Ann Royce on Nov 16, 2012 at St. Michael's Hospital. Evelyn Ann was delivered by

Dr. Donna Steele. "Jonathan, Evelyn and I are doing well," says Claire.



Claire Jones' baby Evelyn

Kelsey Mills and her husband Matt had a baby, Sienna Maya Evans, on Oct 21, 2012 weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was delivered by Dr. Donna Steele!



Kelsey Mills' baby Sienna

Muhseen Yusuf (PGY3) and his wife had a baby boy on Aug 3 named Omar. Since Omar's birth in London, ON, the family has moved to Toronto. Muhseen says "he's enjoying the big city and is growing well. Of course, he keeps us busy as he learns new things every day. His latest antic is that he's trying to suck his hand, but gets frustrated when the whole thing doesn't fit into his mouth! He's an old soul with a big personality."



Muhseen Yusuf's baby Omar



Newlyweds Laura Sovran (PGY4) and husband Ryan Matthews

Adrienne Li (PGY2) and Seiji Sugiman-Marangos were married on Aug 19, 2012.



GLOBAL HEALTH



Dr. Alan Bocking (right) and Dr. Amon Chirchir consult at a free medical camp in Kenya in November 2012, while nurses provide family planning services to patients in the clinic.



Moi University students Joseph Ogot Muga (left) and Edward Kamau Mwaniki complete their electives in Toronto

New Gynecologic Oncology Program—AMPATH

By Jenna Blumenthal

September welcomes the return of the rush of students onto the University of Toronto (U of T) campus. This year included two more – Drs Elkanah Omenge and Peter Itsura from Eldoret, Kenya. Drs Omenge and Itsura are the first students to participate in the Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program lead by Dr. Barry Rosen with the support of U of T, Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), and Moi University.

The Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship is part of a larger initiative, born out of the Academic Model Providing Access to Health Care (AMPATH)-U of T partnership. In 2008 U of T became the first Canadian university to join AMPATH, a network of North American universities lead by Indiana University collaborating with Moi University School of Medicine in Eldoret, Kenya. University of Toronto leads the program in Reproductive Health, focused on



Drs Omenge (left) and Itsura take a well-deserved study break to participate in the Road Hockey to Conquer Cancer event.

improving the quality of women's and reproductive health through building capacity in the areas of service, medical education, and research. As part of this program, Dr. Rosen traveled to Kenya for the first time in 2008 and has returned several times to offer training and support to the Moi gynaecology team.

Gynaecologic cancers are the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Kenya, yet no subspecialty training in oncology exists for gynaecologists in Africa, outside of South Africa. Together with partners at Moi University and PMH, Dr. Rosen developed the curriculum for a two-year fellowship training program.

While in Canada, Drs Omenge and Itsura completed three courses with faculty from PMH (Dr. Milosevic: Radiation Oncology, Dr. Banerjee: Palliative Care, and Dr. Rouzbahman: Pathology); each is a leader in their respective field. Drs Omenge and Itsura also had the opportunity to attend two international cancer conferences in Montreal and Vancouver.

Over the next two years, gynecologic oncologists from across Canada will travel to Eldoret as faculty in the Gynaecologic Oncology Fellowship program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 22, 2013 — 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
U of T Ob/Gyn Interhospital Rounds: Non-invasive prenatal diagnosis – the future of prenatal diagnosis

Dr. Lyn Chitty, Institute of Child Health, University College London, England
Location: Mount Sinai Hospital

MARCH

Friday, March 1, 2013 — 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 am
U of T Ob/Gyn Interhospital Rounds: Micro Array Analysis in Prenatal Diagnosis

Dr. David Chitayat, Mount Sinai Hospital/U of T, & Dr. Elena Kolomietz, Mount Sinai Hospital
Location: St. Michael's Hospital

Tuesday, March 5, 2013
Research Day Abstracts Deadline

APRIL

Friday, April 5, 2013 — 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 am
U of T Ob/Gyn Interhospital Rounds: Electrocautery in Gynaecology

Dr. George Vilos, University of Western Ontario
Location: Mount Sinai Hospital

Friday, April 26, 2013 — 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 am
U of T Ob/Gyn Interhospital Rounds:
John Newnham, The University of Western Australia
Location: Mount Sinai Hospital

MAY

Friday, May 10, 2013
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 30th Annual Research Day

Location: Old Vic Building, at 91 Charles St. West in Victoria University, University of Toronto

Thursday, May 17, 2013

Ob/Gyn Leadership Council Meeting

Location: Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital

JUNE

Friday, June 7, 2013 — 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 am
U of T Ob/Gyn Interhospital Rounds: Advances in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

Dr. Geoff Cundiff, University of British Columbia
Location: Mount Sinai Hospital

SEPTEMBER

September 11 - 14, 2013

The International Federation of Placenta Associations (IFPA) 2013—Of Mice & Women - Models for molecular understanding of placental development and associated disorders

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Celeste Simon, University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Diana Bianchi, Tufts University School of Medicine, Dr. Jay Cross, University of Calgary

Organizing Chair: Dr. Isabella Caniggia, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Toronto, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital

Location: Whistler Conference Centre, Whistler, British Columbia

www.ifpa2013.ca

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. Alan Bocking
Editor: Cheryl Bird

Send your submissions and feedback to Cheryl Bird.

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