



Obstetrics & Gynaecology  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

## ObGyn 2017 Summer Newsletter Issue 25

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A vibrant night scene of the Toronto skyline. The word "TORONTO" is displayed in large, brightly lit, multi-colored letters (blue, green, yellow, red) in the foreground. Behind it, the curved, illuminated towers of the CN Tower and other city buildings are visible. A massive firework display with numerous red and white streaks bursts in the dark sky above the city. The scene is reflected in a body of water in the foreground, and a crowd of people can be seen gathered around the "TORONTO" sign.

**TORONTO**

Issued Aug 1, 2017



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# Message from the Chair

I hope you enjoy our Summer 2017 update, prepared by our Communications and Media Specialist, Michael Browne.

The past 6 months have been a busy period, studded with many successes and achievements.

I would like to thank our Research Committee, along with our administration team, for an excellent Research Day in May, at a new venue for us, the St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts. We had a record 112 abstracts, and over 300 attendees. A new experiment for us was to try ePosters. The committee is keen to have your feedback as they plan for next year. We thank Dr. Dorothy Shaw, from UBC, for delivering our Henderson Lecture on Global Health.

In June, we had yet another successful Graduation and Alumni event, at Hart House, celebrating the achievements of each of our PGY5 trainees, and subspecialty fellows that completed their training requirements. We were especially honoured that our oldest residency program graduate of 1959 from the "Doug Cannell era," Dr. Bill Whittaker, could be with us and briefly address the graduates - and receive his blue badge of honour, the UofT OBGYN jacket! Dr. Alan Bocking, our former Chair, also received a jacket, and gave an inspiring address to our graduates.

Our newsletter profiles both Dr. Bocking and his colleague Dr. Robert Casper, in their current transitions to Emeritus Professor over the summer period. Each has had a most distinguished career as a clinician-scientist based at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute; Dr. Bocking in preterm birth prevention, and Dr. Casper in many facets of Reproductive Sciences. To Al and Bob, the Department sends you both our gratitude for your many contributions in Toronto.

Also profiled in our newsletter is the departure back to Dublin, Ireland, of Dr. Mike Geary, who was Chief of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at St. Michael's Hospital for almost 3 years. He is returning to the Rotunda Hospital and University College Dublin, where he will direct their

very busy (9,000 births annually) labour and delivery unit. Mike made important contributions to our SOON network, based on his leadership in the highly successful Perinatal Ireland Network. The Rotunda Hospital opened in 1745 on its current site, and is attached to the Gaiety Theatre, which was founded to fund the hospital operations. If you plan to visit Dublin, I suggest you ask him for a tour. I recall fondly my 3 months live-in OBGYN clerkship at the Rotunda in 1983, which inspired me to enter our specialty.

Dr. Abheha Satkunaratnam has kindly agreed to be Acting Chief, effective July 1st 2017, and will join the Department Executive. An active search for a new Chief is already under way.

Our newsletter has many other items, which I hope you will enjoy.

July 1st marks the beginning of the final 5th year of my initial term as Chair. The Department now has to prepare a comprehensive "self study report" for the Dean by November 2017, which is a catalog of our growth over these past 4 academic years. In February 2018, my performance as Chair, and the Department's stature in comparison with its international peers, will be examined in depth by our external assessors, Dr. Geoffrey Cundiff (Urogynecologist and Chair at UBC) and Dr. Nanette Santoro (REI specialist and Chair at University of Colorado, Denver). You may be asked to give your opinion and to participate in this process, the outcome of which will inform the strategic direction for our Department for the subsequent 5 years.

In closing, I congratulate the very many Department members who have enjoyed successes in the past academic year. I wish you all a great summer period, and look forward to planning a successful new academic year.

*John Kingdom  
Gordon C. Leitch Chair*



## A June birth of a different sort!

### George S. Herrick (1878 - 1981)

In 1843, on a sunny June day, the inaugural lecture of the University of King's College Medical School was delivered by the first professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, Dr. George S. Herrick. Two matriculated students, several occasional students and even members of the public eagerly awaited the lecture in the old Front Street Parliament buildings.

Herrick bravely proceeded with his introduction to Obstetrics and Gynaecology (which included matters of the female anatomy), despite the keen attention of several ladies in attendance. His discomfort and embarrassment was so evident that the incident was included in the faculty's year-end report!

Herrick facilitated the June birth of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (and medical education), at the University, and he was considered the ideal blend of skilled obstetrician and exceptional teacher. Born in Cork, Ireland, Herrick immigrated to Canada at age 49 with an M.D in his pocket and big plans. He opened "an office for the practice of Physic and Surgery" near Queen and Bay Streets and became a fellow of the short-lived College of Physicians and Surgeons of Upper Canada.

Four years later he was appointed to the University's Medical School, with a salary of £200. Very popular with students and colleagues, Herrick was known for his stimulating dinner parties, and for his flamboyant flagging down of potential guests in the street, which earned him the name "Old Thumbby." It is unclear when he retired from medicine but surely his exuberance (and of course his dinners), was missed by all!



*Excerpt from the forthcoming History Book on the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Toronto. Thank you to Kristen Gane for helping to complete this project, which was started in Fall 2016 by Mr. Christopher Geary. Christopher has been accepted into the fall 2017 MSc program in the Department of English, University of Toronto.*



# At-A-Glance

## BABY BOOM!

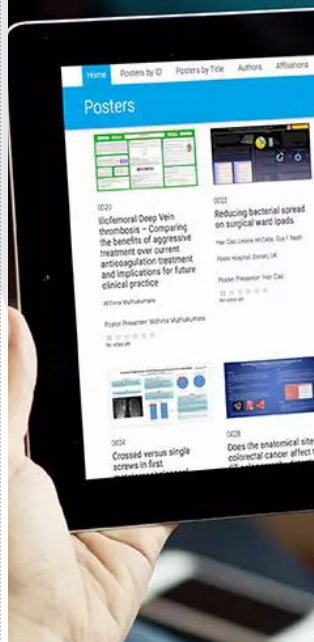


**08**

### **Celebrations**

Celebrating major events in people's lives including the addition of 3 new members to the OBGYN Family.

## RESEARCH



**10**

### **Research Day**

This year posters were presented electronically with the use of ePostersLive®.

## RESIDENTS



**12**

### **Coming & Going**

Announcement of our incoming PGY1s for 2017/2018 and also celebrating our outgoing PGY5s

## MORE



**16**

### **More?**

All other news stories and updates can be found here.

# New Appointments & Promotions

## Senior Faculty News



### Alan Bocking

Dr. Bocking moved from Western University to assume the Chair of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital, for the decade 2003-2013. Dr. Bocking is a clinician-scientist in Maternal-Fetal Medicine with a focus on preterm birth prevention, leading CIHR-funded research initiatives at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute. As of July 1st 2017, Dr Bocking has transitioned to Emeritus Professor. To mark this occasion, Dr Bocking gave a wonderful rousing address to the graduating PGY5 class at Hart House on June 15th, 2017. One of Dr. Bocking's most important legacies has been the creation in 2008 of our Global Health contribution at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, within the AMPATH consortium. We look forward next year to celebrating a decade of achievements for Women's Health in Western Kenya. Al, thank you for your many contributions in leadership of our great Department.



### Robert Casper

Dr. Casper transitioned to Emeritus Professor as of July 1st 2017. Dr. Casper is perhaps Canada's most renowned academic specialist in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. He led the University Division of Reproductive Sciences in the period 1988-2003, and was promoted to full Professor in 1992. Dr. Casper created the Toronto Centre for Advanced Reproductive Technology (TCART) in 1992, which subsequently merged with LifeQuest in 2015 to form the new TRIO Fertility Centre. Dr. Casper has held a senior scientist position at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute at Mount Sinai Hospital since 1999, where he has held the inaugural Camille Dan Family Research Chair in Translational Cell Biology since 2008. He has made many important contributions to our Department, in particular with the Research Committee and the Promotions Committee. Dr. Casper will continue his clinical practice at TRIO. Bob, the Department, including your many REI Fellowship graduates, are all very grateful to you for all of your contributions.



### Ellen Greenblatt

Congratulations to Ellen who has been promoted to Full Professor effective July 1st 2017. Dr. Greenblatt has led the clinical Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (Mount Sinai Fertility) at Mount Sinai Hospital since 2002. She initiated an REI fellowship training program in 2000, which in 2009 attained RCPSC-certification as a sub-specialty training program funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health. Her research interests include public policy on access to funded fertility services, and in fertility preservation in cancer patients of reproductive age. Dr. Greenblatt is congratulated on her impressive leadership at the Provincial level to provide funded single embryo transfer IVF.



## Other Department Changes



The Department Executive is delighted to announce that **Dr. Michele Farrugia** accepted the position of Residency Program Director, a role she commenced May 1st 2017. Michele brings a wealth of expertise in Medical Education to this role, and in preparation, served as site co-ordinator for the Residency program at Mount Sinai Hospital. The Department is extremely grateful for the tireless efforts of her predecessor, Dr Donna Steele who held this position 2012-17. Many of you joined us in celebrating her very successful leadership at our June 15th, 2017 Graduation event at Hart House.

After almost 3 years of leadership as Chief of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at St. Michael's Hospital, **Dr. Michael Geary** has decided to return to the Rotunda Hospital, University College Dublin, Ireland, to a new position as Director of labour & delivery. If you ever get the chance to visit Dublin, the Rotunda is an elegant building, which opened in 1745. He will be busy in his new role, with over 9,000 births annually, but would be pleased to give you a historical tour of Irish Obstetrics if you ever travel there. Before arriving, Mike was a major contributor to the successful Perinatal Ireland Network. He brought this expertise to Toronto, helping us to launch our GTA Obstetric Network, leading to an impressive 5-year CIHR team grant led by his MFM Division Head colleague Dr. Howard Berger, with Drs. Nir Melamed and Jon Barrett at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. We wish Mike and his family all the best for their return home. Dr. Geary will continue at UofT as Adjunct Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology



After a long and prestigious career in Ob/Gyn. and Gyn. Oncology, **Dr. Paul Shuen** retired from active staff at NYGH at the end of 2016. His surgical training of residents was exemplary and dozens have benefited from his tips and techniques over the years.

**Dr. Colleen McDermott** decided to move across to Mount Sinai Hospital, to join the expanded Division of Urogynaecology following merger of Gynaecology services between Mount Sinai and Women's College Hospitals in 2016. As such, the Residency program will now concentrate training in two sites, at Sinai and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. In addition, the Urogynaecology Division is set to commence their rotating sub-specialty fellowship in Urogynaecology, commencing July 1st, 2018.



# THE SMALL & BIG THINGS IN LIFE



**Andrea Lausman** gave birth to her daughter, Daniella Assunta Carlesimo, on January 30, 2017 at St. Michael's Hospital, weighing in at 7lbs 3oz. A little sister to Christian. With special thanks to her colleague Dr. Mark Yudin

**Rhonda Zwingerman**, REI fellow, welcomed her first child, Benjamin Reese Opolsky. Born May 10th, 2017 at 4lb13oz. Very happy parents Rhonda Zwingerman and Jeremy Opolsky.



**Rebecca Arthur** and Paul Guy welcomed Baby #4, Madeleine Noelle Arthur-Guy. May 17th, 2017 9lb5oz. Pictured with her siblings, Graeme, Anna and George.



## QI Initiative: Reducing the Rate of Cesarean Section (C/S)

Please let us know if you are interested in joining Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Mount Sinai, St Michael's Hospital, Trillium and Credit Valley sites of THP in their commitment to **improving local C/S rates through self-audit and feedback performance reviews.**

**Amanda Cipolla** will guide us through a **workshop at Credit Valley** on implementing a simple quality assurance project, using hospital and BORN (Better Outcomes Registry & Network) data, to see if we can reduce the rate of C/S at your hospital, by focusing on a target indication that your hospital identifies as an opportunity for improvement.

*To participate, each site will require the following:*

1. A **lead physician** who will
  - a. **Coordinate** simple data collection from BORN and your hospital
  - b. **Present** baseline data/performance review to your department
  - c. **Present/distribute** prospective data/performance reviews to your department

*An example of a project outline can be seen below.*

### **Target Identified: "Failure to Progress"**

*"What data is needed for this project and how do I get it?"*

1. **Baseline hospital data for C/S:** A review of 6-12 months of your site's C/S rates by Robson group (e.g. Robson 1, 2a, 3, 4a) (and compared to other similar-level hospitals in Ontario) - this is obtained from BORN through a request form
2. **Baseline hospital data for the target (e.g. Failure to Progress):** Review the proportion of C/S in labour done for Failure to Progress as compared to other similar-level hospitals in Ontario - also requested from BORN
3. **Baseline individual OB data:** Review 6 months of C/S rates for individual OBs at your site (this is obtained locally, usually from the informatics department of your hospital). The data is presented anonymously; each physician is identified by a letter of the alphabet only known to them
4. **The intervention:** Education on modern labour curves and evidence-based recommendations: Review literature on modern labor curves/progress and guidelines on C/S for failure to progress (ACOG, QBP, etc). Present the above "baseline data" and review the evidence/guidelines to your group (e.g. at Grand Rounds)
5. **Continue to audit and feedback** hospital and individual C/S data prospectively (2-4 months)

If you would like to participate in this exciting initiative, please contact Amanda Cipolla at [amanda.cipolla@thp.ca](mailto:amanda.cipolla@thp.ca)!



### **SOON Meeting 2017**

We hope you will join us this fall for our Annual SOON Meeting of 2017! Connect with your colleague physicians to learn about and be part of the current projects of the Network. The date is TBA, so keep in touch for more information near the end of the summer!

## Research Day 2017

Date: April 28, 2017  
Time: 8:00 am – 6:30 pm  
Location: St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts,  
27 Front Street East, Toronto, ON. M5E 1B4

This year's Research Day was a great success with over 115 poster presentations and 14 oral presentations. This year also saw the Department adopt a new system for displaying the poster presentations, ePostersLive, allowing us to use a smaller venue but display the full set of posters in a rotating schedule on the 8 Full HD Digital Screens.

This adoption as mentioned above meant we could move to a smaller location and this year the venue proved to be a great choice amongst our attendees. The large theatre was a great venue for our various oral presentations and also our Henderson Lecture.

We were pleased to have Dr. Dorothy Shaw, Professor at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of British Columbia and Vice-President, Medical Affairs at BC Women's Hospital as our Henderson Lecturer for our 34th Annual Research Day.



Dr. Shaw is an outspoken advocate for women's sexual and reproductive health. She was recently recognized for her contributions as a leader in advancing women's health care and equity with the appointment of officer in the Order of Canada.

We can look back at Research Day 2017 as a huge success especially from a forward thinking perspective. We took a risk with digital screens but it was shown in the end that it was worth the risk. We look forward to adopting this service going forward and bring our events and ultimately our Department into the 21st century. We appreciate all of our faculty members who helped us to adopt these changes where and when they were needed.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
RESEARCH DAY 2018 - MAY 11th 2018**



## Canadian baby 'first without gender designation' on health card

An eight-month old Canadian baby has been issued a health card without a gender marker, in what could be the first case in the world.

Parent Kori Doty - a non-binary transgender person who identifies as neither male nor female - aims to allow the child to discover their own gender.

The health card has been issued with a "U" in the space for "sex," which could be for "undetermined" or "unassigned."

Kori Doty is fighting to omit the gender from the birth certificate.

The parent gave birth to Searyl Atli in November at a friend's home in British Columbia. Kori Doty, who prefers to use the pronoun 'they,' argues that a visual inspection at birth is unable to determine what gender that person will have or identify with later in life.

They want to keep Searyl's sex off all official records.

"I'm raising Searyl in in such a way that until they have the sense of self and command of vocabulary to tell me who they are, I'm recognising them as a baby and trying to give them all the love and support to be the most whole person that they can be outside of the restrictions that come with the boy box and the girl box," the parent was quoted by CBC as saying.

Kori Doty, a community educator who is part of the Gender-Free ID Coalition, said that those who feel different to the gender designation assigned at birth face several problems later in life trying to change their documents.

"When I was born, doctors looked at my genitals and made assumptions about who I would be, and those assignments followed me and followed my identification throughout my life," Kori Doty said.

"Those assumptions were incorrect, and I ended up having to do a lot of adjustments since then."

In the case of Searyl Atli, the parent said that the authorities have refused to issue the birth certificate without a gender designation and so the parent has applied for a judicial review of the case.

The family's lawyer, Barbara Findlay, who chooses to spell her name without capital letters, told Global News: "The assignment of sex in this culture is done when a medical person lifts up the legs and looks at the baby's genitals. But we know that the baby's own gender identity will not develop for some years until after they're born."

Canadian media reported that the baby's health card could be the first in the world to not have a gender designation.

Read the full story @ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40480386> or on our social media accounts below!



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# Residency Program

## Residency Program Director

### Welcome to Michele Farrugia

Michele Farrugia accepted the position of Residency Program Director for an initial five-year term beginning May 1, 2017. Michele completed her undergraduate degree at McGill University, followed by a Master of Science in Immunology (UofT), Medical School (UofT), and our OBGYN Residency Program in 2003. In 2005, she completed a Master of Education in Higher Education (OISE/UofT).

Michele started as a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology in 2005 at Mount Sinai Hospital, with an interest in medical education. She has collaborated with Janet Bodley (SHSC) and Donna Steele (SMH) to develop the Resident Wellness Program. Since 2014, she has been the site coordinator for the OBGYN Residency Program at Mount Sinai Hospital, and has served on the Residency Program Committee. She has also contributed as a member of the Resident Selection Committee for the last three years. Michele brings a wealth of experience to this position.

### Tribute to Donna Steele, Residency Program Director, March 2012 to April 2017

John Kingdom, on behalf of the Department, expressed gratitude for the dedicated and superb efforts of Donna Steele in her leadership and development of our Residency Training Program over the past five years. As a result of her innovation and dedication, our Residency Training Program today offers unparalleled opportunities for our future Obstetrician-Gynaecologist graduates.

Residents organized a "surprise residents-only" reception for Donna Steele, outgoing Residency Program Director at Mercato Restaurant, June 5, 2017. Over 60 residents attended, and presented Donna with gifts and a book with many photos and personal handwritten notes of appreciation and memorable anecdotes. Donna will remain on the Residency Program Committee as head of the Academic Half-Day Committee.



## Residency Program Committee (RPC)

The RPC welcomed Amanda Selk, who became Site-Coordinator at Mount Sinai Hospital, effective May 1, 2017.

## New Residents

Welcome to our incoming residents for 2017: PGY1s are Mohammed Bazarah, Maxime Billick, Marta Cybulsky, Jazleen Dada, Sarah Hampson, Olga Kciuk, Anna Kobylanskii, Meghan McGrattan, Laura McLeod, Sandeep Sandhu, David Scholl, Azra Shivji, and Katherine Stead. Chelsie Warshafsky and Emily Delpero, who have transferred to our program from the University of British Columbia, joined our program as PGY2s.

Azra Shivji is the PGY1 Representative serving on the RPC, and David Scholl is the OBGYN resident representative on the Surgical Foundations (SF) Committee.

The UofT Surgical Foundations Prep Camp, a component of the university-wide Surgical Foundations program, was considered a great success; Sandeep Sandhu won one of the suturing competition rounds.





With the Royal College recently requiring all surgical-specialty residents to pass a SF exam mid-way through the PGY2 year, SF has become a critical component of our PGY1-2 training. SF is initiating Competency By Design (CBD) in 2017-18, so our PGY1s and supervisors will be participating. There will be a CBD session in the Faculty Development Day schedule.

## Graduating Residents

Congratulations to the 2017 graduating class of our Residency Program: Marie Christakis, Lara Gotha, Lacey Harding, John Ibrahim, Mathew Leonardi, Carmen McCaffrey, Ingrid Lai, Julie Nguyen, Kirsten Niles, Rebecca Rich, Aparna Sarangapani, Lynn Sterling, Marta Wais, and Jellena Wong. We are very proud of their accomplishments and we wish them success with their careers!



## June 2017 Graduation Ceremony Department Awards

### Resident Awards

- Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Social Responsibility Award in Global Women's Health and Vulnerable Populations: Rebecca Rich
- Excellence in Clerkship Teaching awarded to a PGY3, PGY4, and PGY5:
  - PGY3: Maria Cusimano
  - PGY4: Kristen Harris
  - PGY5: Lynn Sterling and Mathew Leonardi
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Residency Program Award for excellence in Obstetrics: Kirsten Niles
- American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) Award: Aparna Sarangapani
- North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Outstanding (NASPAG) Resident Award: Lacey Harding
- Dr. Frederick R. Papsin Postgraduate Award: Carmen McCaffrey.

### Faculty Awards

- CREOG National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education: Mara Sobel
- The Neelam Sierra Resident Advocacy Award: Donna Steele.

### Resident Awards - External

- Gord Swayze Resident Academic Research Award, Michael Garron Hospital (May 2017): Rebecca Zur
- 2017 Detweiler Travelling Fellowship Award (December 2016): Mathew Leonardi
- Antonio Cecutti Prize, St. Michael's Hospital (2017): Mathew Leonardi
- Peters Boyd Resident Teaching Award for 2016-17; Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Women's College Hospital, and North York General Hospital: Maria Cusimano
- The Duchesnay International Elective Fellowship for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Residents: Shambe Mutungi.

### Resident Research

In 2017-18, three residents are participating full time in research. **Lauren Philp** will be in her second year of the Clinician Investigator Program (CIP), working with the Gynecology Oncology division to complete her research, and completing a MSc investigating the role of nanotechnology in the detection and treatment of endometrial cancer at the Institute of Medical Sciences, UofT. **Maria Cusimano** begins her CIP program this year, with a planned MSc in Clinical Epidemiology with the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation (IHPE). **Evan Tannenbaum** will be a Wilson Centre Fellow, doing education research and completing a MEd at McMaster University Health Sciences Education Program (HSED) Program.

## Residency Program (cont'd)

### Recent Resident Publications

Our residents continue to enjoy success publishing their work in all areas of OBGYN, as noted below. In particular, we draw your attention to the two recent publications below that focus on novel concepts in residency education, with Lynn Sterling as first author, completed under the guidance of Donna Steele.

**Billick M.** PICC Your Battles: Considering the Appropriateness of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) Lines for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) in Injection Drug Users (IDUs)" UOJM. Jun 2017. DOI:<http://dx.doi.org/10.18192/uojm.v7i1.1983>.

**Billick MJ, Lam PW, Bogoch II.** Sinister Seafood: Bacteraemia secondary to non-O1/O139 Vibrio cholera infection. JMM Case Reports. 2017;04. DOI: 10.1099/jmmcr.0.005103.

**Cusimano M, Walker R, Bernardini M, Bouchard-Fortier G, Laframboise S, May T, Murphy J, Rosen B, Covens A, Clarke B, Shaw P, Rouzbahman M, Mohan R, Ferguson SE.** (2017). Implementing a Cervical Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy Program: Quality Improvement in Gynecologic Oncology. Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology Canada, 39(8): 659-667.

**Cusimano M, Chitayat D, Injeyan M, Geary M** (2017). Pregnancy in 3M Syndrome. Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. (In Press).

Hadar Rosen, Rory Windrim, Yee Man Lee, **Lara Gotha**, Vsevolod Perelman, Stefania Ronzoni. Simulator Based Obstetric Ultrasound Training: A Prospective, Randomized Single-Blinded Study. JOGC, March 2017.

**Lauren Jain, Stephanie Lapinsky, Eva Mocarski, Sari Kives.** Spontaneous Clitoral Abscess: A Rare Gynaecologic Entity. JOGC, January 2017.

**Kumar Kinshuk, Robertson Deborah.** Five Things to Know About Superficial Dyspareunia. CMAJ June 2017.

Jessica Papillon-Smith (Fellow), Mara L. Sobel, **Kirsten M. Niles**, M. Jonathon Solnik, Ally Murji. Surgical Management Algorithm for Caesarean Scar Pregnancy. JOGC August 2017.

Pulman KJ, Dason ES, **Philp L**, Bouchard-Fortier G, Bernardini MQ, Ferguson SE, Laframboise S, Atenafu E, May T. A Comparison of Three Surgical Approaches for Staging Lymphadenectomy in High-Risk Endometrial Cancer. Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2017 Mar;136(3):315-319

**Philp L, Cybulska P, Metser U, Halankar J, Paravasthu D, Cheong C, Ferguson SE, Bernardini M.** The impact of surgical cytoreduction in ovarian cancer: sites of disease recurrence based on primary treatment modality. Submitted to Annals of Surgical Oncology.

**Rebecca Rich, Thomsen D'Hont, Janice Linton, Kellie E. Murphy, Jeremy Veillard and Susan Chatwood.** Performance Indicators for Maternity Care in a Circumpolar Context: A Scoping Review. International Journal of Circumpolar Health, December 2016.

**Lynn Sterling, Kelsey Mills, Donna Steele, and Heather Shapiro.** End-of-Rotation Examinations in Canadian Obstetrics and Gynaecology Residency Programs: Faculty and Resident Perspectives. JOGC, June 2017. This is the first publication on this topic in Canada; we are the first program to publish metrics on resident and faculty experiences for EORs.

**Sterling L, McCaffrey C, Sector M, Rich R, Green J, Shirreff L, Steele D,** Development of a Night Float Call Model for Obstetrics & Gynaecology Residency: The Process and Residents' Perceptions. J Obstet Gynaecol Can (JOGC), 2016;38(11):1061-1064.

**Marta Wais, Elissa Tepperman, Marcus Q. Bernardini, Lilian T. Gien, Waldo Jimenez, Ally Murji.** A Multicentre Retrospective Review of Clinical Characteristics of Uterine Sarcoma. JOGC August 2017.



## Fellowships Program

In May 2017, PGME notified all program directors and administrators regarding changes to work permit processing.

"Doctors who are not Canadian citizens/permanent residents (also known as "visa trainees") require a work permit for the duration of their fellowship or residency training at the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto Visa Processing Fee will increase from \$150.00 to **\$155.00** for all new appointments/re-appointments received by PGME after **July 1, 2017**. This fee is a non-refundable University of Toronto administrative fee, applied to all visa trainees who require work permit processing for their new or continued enrolment with PGME as fellows or residents.

The 3.3% increase in the Visa Processing Fee is a modest reflection of the increased labour cost to PGME in providing supporting documentation and guidance to new and returning trainees. New IRCC requirements for PGME data entry, legislated limitations on instructions and advice PGME can provide to applicants, and administration of PGME's payment of the IRCC Employer Compliance Fee for each appointment/re-appointment, have contributed to the increasing complexity and associated cost of the process.

Below is the list of the documentation that the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Office requires in order to provide these doctors with the means to obtain the appropriate work permit from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for their postgraduate medical training:

1. A departmental letter or signed form which confirms the residency or fellowship appointment/re-appointment and includes the start and end date of the residency or fellowship as well as the source and approximate per annum amount of funding, and must include the following phrase:  
**The foreign national receiving remuneration as a medical resident, clinical fellow or research fellow is being remunerated at a rate commensurate with that of a Canadian performing the same duties in the same location of work as the foreign national.**
2. A photocopy of the passport information page of the appointee's current passport.
3. An up-to-date curriculum vitae that includes the appointee's date of birth, citizenship, residential address, e-mail address, and current employment.
4. A photocopy of the appointee's original medical degree (plus English translation where applicable).
5. A photocopy of the appointee's original specialty certification (plus English translation where applicable). This documentation is necessary for clinical fellowship appointments only (not for research fellowships).
6. A statement of educational objectives for clinical fellowship in downloadable PGME template format (for clinical fellowship appointments only).
7. A photocopy of the appointee's Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination results (for residency training appointments only, where applicable).
8. Payment of University of Toronto Visa Processing Fee by credit card (VISA Card, MasterCard or American Express Card only) in the form of a note or form which authorizes payment from the appointee's credit card account (the note or form must include the credit card number and expiry date, as well as the signature of the appointee). Payment by cheque or international money order payable to the University of Toronto in the amount of \$155.00 CAD (effective July 2017) is also acceptable.

*NB: For **re-appointments**, items 1 and 8 are required for residents and research fellows, while items 1, 6 and 8 are required for clinical fellows."*

# News



Pictured are **Drs. Nan Okun** and **Rachel Spitzer** with **Dr. Astrid Christoffersen-Deb** on their last faculty trip to Eldoret where they did some teaching, and held several meetings setting up the MFM fellowship along with other projects.

**Drs. Eli Shore, Mara Sobel** and **Louise H  l  ne-Gagnon** are developing an online surgical video library hosted by UofT OBGYN. Through the support of 123 Edward Street we have partnered with 3 UofT Biomedical Communications students to produce a high quality educational video for laparoscopic salpingoophorectomy. Along with **Sarah Norris** (PGY3) and **Jessica Papillon-Smith** (MIS fellow at MSH), we plan to study the impact of the educational video on PGY 1 and 2 residents in our program. We just completed our first video!



Pictured left are **Dr. May Alarab, Dr. Oksana Shynlova** and **Dr. Mark Kibschull** with their research project entitled: Urine Derived Pluripotent Stem Cells from Patients with Stress Urine Incontinence: A Source for Derivation of Autologous Fibroblasts for Treatment of Pelvic Floor Disorders (Pilot Project). The preliminary result was accepted as an oral presentation at the last International Urogynecological Association (IUGA's) 42nd meeting, June 20 – 24, 2017, Vancouver, Canada. This work is partially-funded by 123E.

We would like to congratulate **Dr. Sarah Ferguson** on her appointment to the J. Douglas Crashley Chair in Gynaecological Cancer Research at University Health Network as of June 1st, 2017.





# Awards



LINC Faculty Development Team, which is chaired by **Dr. Filomena Meffe** won the 2017 Helen Batty Award for Excellence in FD program.

**Dr. Mary Hannah** received the 2017 President's Award from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada.



We would like to congratulate, **Dr. Lisa Allen**, on recently completing the Certificate Course in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety of the University's Centre for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (C-QulPS).

The Certificate course is aimed at health professionals (e.g. clinicians, allied health professionals, administrators) whose work relates to patient safety or quality improvement, as well as senior trainees considering a focus on patient safety and quality improvement for their careers.

**Dr. Michael Geary** was selected for the 2017 American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology Research Excellence for his paper entitled *"The role of brain sparing in the prediction of adverse outcomes in intrauterine growth restriction: results of the multicenter PORTO Study."*



# More News



We've had another terrific year. The success of the MFM Fellows was celebrated at **Dr. Wendy Whittle's** home on June 11, 2017. Thank you Dr. Whittle for hosting a beautiful party! We had an opportunity to honour and say goodbye to our graduating Fellows and present each one with a parting gift. Our graduating Fellows were Drs. Hanan Al Sehli, Rasheeda Al Tourshi, Nirmala Chandrasekaran, Stefania Ronzoni, Yair Sagi and Shimrit Yaniv-Salem.

**Dr. Anne Malinowski** (pictured) was presented with the 2017 Faculty Teaching Award. Other

teaching award recipients were Ms. Lindsay Pollard for the Allied Health Professional teaching award and Dr. Denise Feig for the Adjunct Faculty teaching award. Thank you to everyone!



We would like to congratulate **Dr. Linda Stirk** on becoming president-elect for the SOGC. It is a 3 year presidential cycle beginning June 2017. Dr. Stirk had been treasurer for the last 3 years. We wish you all of the best in your new position.

Pictured is **Dr. Mathew Leonardi** dropping off a donation to the Christie Refugee Welcome Centre in June after the hugely successful InSpeculum fundraiser event held by the department in August 2016.



The MFM Fellowship Program is proud to announce that **Dr. Nicole Cohen** was the recipient of the 2017 Postgraduate Medical Trainee Leadership Awards from University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine.

# More News



**Dr. Eliane Shore** was the supervisor for the winner, Marisa Louridas, resident in the Department of General Surgery, UofT who received the award for best oral junior member oral abstract at SOGC for Examining the Learning Curves of Incoming Surgical Trainees.

**Dr. Cindy Maxwell** (right), Division Head for Maternal Fetal Medicine at MSH, participated in a panel symposium at the 2017 Canadian Anaesthesia Society Meeting in Niagara Falls, on June 24th. The session was moderated by Dr. Giselle Villar (left) head of Anaesthesia at BC Women's Hospital in Vancouver and co-presented by Dr. Lisa Leffert (centre), Chief of the Obstetric Anesthesia Division at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.



**Dr. Terry Colgan** and his co-author, Bryn Nelson, have won an APEX Award of Excellence for their 3-part series on predatory journals in Cancer Cytopathology's "CytoSource." The annual APEX Awards are given by Communication Concepts to recognize excellence in writing, digital content, graphic design, social media, public relations, and marketing.

**Dr. Anne Berndt** launched, The Accessible Care Pregnancy Clinic, the first clinic in North America dedicated to the care of pregnant women with physical disabilities in March 2017 at Sunnybrook.

From left to right: Sonographer Sameera Khatib, ACPC patient Dalia Almajed, Director of the ACPC Dr. Anne Berndt.

Dalia has transverse myelitis and uses a power wheelchair for mobility.







# Obstetrics & Gynaecology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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