



UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

PLASTIC SURGERY NEWS

Newsletter of the Division of Plastic Surgery

ISSUE 3

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VOLUME 2

OUR GOALS

Maintain and develop research, education and clinical excellence

Build through sound financial planning

Enhance stakeholder and public perception and awareness

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Please feel free to forward this newsletter to those who you think may be interested. If you would like to be added to, or removed from this mailing list, please e-mail plastics.admin@utoronto.ca



"Land at last!!!" Karen Cross and Karen Wong reach Newfoundland

Welcome to a new issue of Plastic Surgery News, the first for the 2008 academic year. As always, there are a lot of exciting things happening. The Chair shares the Division's developments as aligned to the strategic plan. The Program Director introduces the new residents and talks about various educational initiatives. We've introduced a new 'Residents' Corner' section and there are a quite a few pictures.

As always, we welcome your comments, contributions and constructive criticism.

Did you know?

Plastic Surgery News currently has a circulation list of well over 300 readers. These include, staff, faculty, residents, fellows, alumni and our other well-wishers.

Newsletter edited and designed by [Shibu Thomas Copywriting](#)

VISION

International leader in plastic surgery research, education and clinical practice.

MISSION

We prepare plastic surgery leaders, contribute to our communities, and improve the health of individuals and populations through the discovery, application and communication of knowledge.

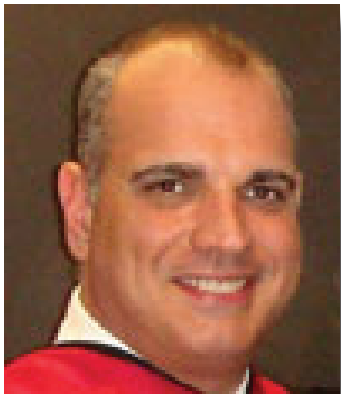
VALUES

We value:

- Innovation;
- The drive to excel;
- Collaboration;
- Respect for individuals who are our patients, colleagues, stakeholders; and,
- Honesty, transparency and openness.

Division of Plastic Surgery - Strategic Plan Update

By Dr. D. J. Anastakis, Chair



It has been almost 19 months since our Division approved its Strategic plan and I thought it would be a good time to update Faculty, students, alumni, partners and volunteers on the progress that has been made to date. A strategic plan is only as valuable as the action that comes from it and I am pleased to report that ours is vibrant, serving as an important tool to keep all of us focused on what is important. We can all be proud of the amount of work and progress that has occurred over the last 19 months. The following is an overview of what we have achieved to date – for a complete report on our progress, accomplishments, on-going and future initiatives, please refer to the table posted on our website: <http://www.uoftplasticsurgery.ca/main.php?p=839&cs=4>.

As you know, in April 2006, Faculty agreed on the following as our guiding Vision, Mission and Values:

· Vision: to be an “International leader in plastic surgery research, education and clinical practice”

· Mission: “We prepare future plastic surgery leaders, contribute to our communities and improve the health of individuals and populations through the discovery, application and communication of knowledge.”

· Values: Innovation; the Drive to Excel; Collaboration; Respect for the Individual (patients, colleagues, public); and, Honesty, Openness, and Transparency.

The following highlights how we have moved further to reach our vision, fulfill our mission and live by our values as we have progressed towards achieving each of our three goals.

GOAL 1

Maintain and develop research, education and clinical excellence

Be the first choice for the world's leading plastic surgery researchers, educators, clinicians, and students who share the Division's values and standards of excellence.

In collaboration with our teaching hospitals, our Division has focused on recruiting new faculty with an emphasis on hiring well-trained surgeon investigators. As a Division our priority will be the recruitment of surgeon investigators.

Surgeon-Investigators

Over the past 19 months we have recruited to the University the following surgeon-investigators:

1. Dr. Stefan Hofer, Chief of Plastic Surgery at UHN, and the Wharton Chair in Head and Neck Plastic Reconstructive Surgery.

2. Dr. Toni Zhong as a Surgeon-Investigator at UHN – November 2008.

3. Dr. Laura Snell as a Surgeon-Investigator at SHSC – September 2010

At UHN, Dr. Hofer is working to recruit a third reconstructive microvascular surgeon with a major interest in oncology reconstruction. At the Hospital for Sick Children, Dr. Christopher Forrest is finalizing recruitment of a dedicated researcher to the Division. At SHSC, Dr. Paul Binhammer leads the process to recruit a new medical director for the Ross Tilley Burn Centre and continues to work towards recruitment of an additional plastic surgeon for his Division. Finally, long-term plans at SMH include recruitment of an additional surgeon. Over the next two years we should see the appointment of three to four additional faculty with major commitments to research.

Surgeon-Teachers

As many of you know our training program has seen significant growth to date and we expect this to continue, as will the need for additional teaching faculty. Recent appointments to the Department include:

1. Dr. Shar Sharokhi as a Surgeon-Teacher at SHSC/RTBC
2. Dr. Brett Beber as Lecturer at TEGH
3. Dr. Derek Ford as Lecturer for the Aesthetic Training Program

The Division has identified TEGH as a site for resident training. With the support of Dr. Laura Tate, TEGH Surgeon-in-Chief, we should have this site up and running by the beginning of the next academic year. Dr. Tate is currently in the process of recruiting a new Chief of Plastic Surgery for TEGH.

Leadership Development

We've seen significant change in the leadership profile across our Division and these leaders

bring a strong strategic focus, as well as their energy and commitment to seeing our Division lead plastic surgery into the future. We've also seen Faculty assume major leadership roles within the Department of Surgery and outside the University. These faculty have strengthened our Division's voice within the Department, the Faculty of Medicine and in organizations that will help shape the future of plastic surgery. The following appointments in chronological order have been made:

1. Dr. Melinda Musgrave – Journal Club Coordinator, Division of Plastic Surgery
2. Dr. Linda Dvali – Fellowship Coordinator, Division of Plastic Surgery
3. Dr. Paul Binhammer – Surgical Skills Curriculum Coordinator
4. Dr. Paul Binhammer – Chief of Plastic Surgery, SHSC
5. Dr. Mitchell Brown - Program Director, Division of Plastic Surgery
6. Dr. Joel Fish – Research Director, Division of Plastic Surgery
7. Ms. Sandy Davies – Alumni Coordinator
8. Dr. Leila Kasrai – Chief of Plastic Surgery, SJHC
9. Dr. Stefan Hofer – Chief of Plastic Surgery and Wharton Chair, UHN
10. Dr. Melinda Musgrave – Undergraduate Plastic Surgery Education Coordinator
11. Dr. Ronald Levine, Director Postgraduate Surgical Education, Department of Surgery
12. Dr. D.J. Anastakis, Vice-Chair, Nucleus Committee for Plastic Surgery, RCPSC
13. Dr. D.J. Anastakis, Lead, WTIS for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
14. Dr. Joel Fish, Chief Medical Officer, St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital

Division of Plastic Surgery - Strategic Plan Update

Establish dedicated Academic Chairs, resources and infrastructure for both traditional and emerging opportunities.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine's Advancement Office, the Division has identified two priorities for fundraising: establishing a Chair in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the Professorship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Education. We have established the terms of reference and separate fund accounts for each of these two positions and major campaigns are under way to secure the funds needed to realize these two important priorities.

Maintain excellence in breadth of training

Thanks to the efforts of many individuals and to Dr. Brown's leadership, we've seen significant growth in our training program. By increasing the number of trained plastic surgeons, the University of Toronto is doing its part in addressing the critical shortage of surgeons in Canada. With growth come certain challenges and opportunities that Dr. Brown has identified and will address.

Having worked with the RCPSC and the American College of Surgeons and having visited numerous training programs in North America and Europe, there is no doubt that our training program remains both the largest and best resourced training program in North America. We are fortunate not only to be part of a strong Department that is committed to education, but we also have a faculty within our Division that is committed to education and to training the best possible plastic surgeons. Few programs enjoy the size

of faculty, patient population, extent of sub-specialization, concentration of trained educators, a dedicated skills lab and plastic surgery skills curriculum, comprehensive seminar series, dynamic journal clubs, research infrastructure, and an ever increasing web-based curriculum. Our greatest challenge will be to take this training program to the next level – implementing best practices in surgical education that will further differentiate us as a centre of plastic surgery education excellence.

Enhance international impact through fellowship training program, foreign graduate students

Thanks to the vision and leadership of the hospital chiefs and past and present fellowship coordinators, our fellowship program remains one of our greatest strengths and an important factor in our vision to have an international impact on plastic surgery. Thanks to our corporate partners, we have secured funding for two very important fellowships: the University of Toronto Breast Cancer Fellowships (generously supported by Allergan) and the University of Toronto Plastic Surgery Aesthetic Fellowship (generously support by Mentor). All but one (Hand) of our fellowships are fully funded.

Improve evaluative metrics/innovative approaches overall for teaching

Our Division identified as a liability the emphasis placed on bedside teaching in the current Teaching Effectiveness Scores used to evaluate Faculty. By working with the Academic Points Task Force, we have been able to recommend changes to the TES that would eliminate "bedside teaching" and ensure

we are evaluated for our teaching in the ambulatory setting.

Priorities requiring our attention over the next 18 months:

1. Decide on key research themes for the Division.
2. Establish a critical mass of clinically active faculty across a comprehensive spectrum of sub-specialties and practice types.
3. Identify and develop quality of life resources to encourage retention of leaders.
4. Improve evaluative metrics/innovative approaches overall for teaching.

GOAL 2

Build through sound financial management and planning

The Division will work towards growing its endowed funds to support research, education and clinical excellence by: raising \$3 million by 2010 and \$12 million by 2015. In addition, the Division will ensure that the planned AFP will be competitive for current and emerging plastic surgery leaders within the academic hospitals.

Sound financial management and planning is critical to our Division realizing its vision of being an international leader in plastic surgery. Growing our training program, further developing our research agenda, recruiting and retaining faculty, and improving how we are perceived, all require money.

Structure and manage Divisional funds to maximize return and transparency

Over the past 2 years, we have worked towards improving financial management and planning within the Division. As a first step, we have moved com-

pletely to a University of Toronto based financial model, eliminating all hospital and private bank accounts. We have streamlined all operational revenues and expenses so that they are managed through the "Chair's Funds". All revenues and expenses for the Visiting Professor go through the Tau Omicron Fund. All research and education related revenues and expenses go through the PREFER Fund. We have opened two University Funds for the Chair in PRS and the Professorship in PRS Education. These funds cannot be used until their target endowments of \$3 million and \$1 million respectively are reached. All other University accounts have been closed. This means that all our accounts and funds are strategically aligned with what our Division is trying to accomplish.

In order to further enhance transparency, we are moving towards expanding our annual financial statement to include a Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow and Statement of Operations. This is no small task given the University's complex financial system. That being said, we will be the only division in the Faculty of Medicine that generates such statements. This is such an important part of transparency and accountability to our faculty, alumni and corporate partners who all contribute to the financial success of this Division. Finally, we are working towards developing cash flow forecasts. These forecasts will take into account any major financial liabilities that our Division will be facing in the very near future, namely an increase in the number of trainees and therefore an increase in training costs and the financial shortfall in the Surgeon-Scientist Program that has been transferred to each of the Divisions. By fore-

Division of Plastic Surgery - Strategic Plan Update

casting our cash requirements we will be prepared to make informed financial decisions to ensure our on-going success.

Priorities requiring our attention over the next 18 months:

1. Develop Alumni Campaign for the Professorship in PRS Education.
2. Major gift ask planned for this academic year.
3. Continue with our corporate philanthropy strategy.

GOAL 3

Enhance stakeholder and public perception and awareness

The Division will work towards ensuring that Plastic Surgery is valued and respected as an essential part of public health care by our communities: hospital; academic; MOHLTC, LHINs; government, politicians; media; and, the public.

Of all the goals identified by Faculty, this is the most challenging one to address. Enhancing awareness and changing the perception of multiple stakeholders is no easy task. The extent of our influence and scope of our responsibility are two important considerations as we move forward in addressing this goal. Each and every one of us plays an important role as we try to reshape how we as plastic surgeons in the Division of Plastic Surgery are perceived. By focusing on a defined scope of influence, we can hopefully bring about change in how we are valued and respected

within our hospitals, the Department of Surgery, the Faculty of Medicine, and the University of Toronto. These should be priorities for each faculty member in the Division.

Faculty Engagement

While progress in this area cannot be empirically measured, it is my observation that there have been positive and noticeable changes in how our discipline and our Division is perceived, valued and respected within both the Department of Surgery and the Faculty of Medicine.

Within our Division we have seen greater faculty engagement and stronger leadership. While we don't measure faculty engagement using a survey or questionnaire, many have commented that they notice greater participation in Division events such as meetings, rounds and Journal Club. Faculty now attend meetings and events that were poorly attended in the past. When they can't attend, regrets are almost always sent. The Division has a stronger voice at the Departmental level and has taken on major leadership roles for the first time. These are all significant and positive changes and I commend all of you for your support and enthusiasm.

Faculty of Medicine

Our former Program Director, Dr. Ron Levine had a strong relationship with the Postgraduate Education Office. Dr. Mitch Brown has taken that relationship to the next level and our relationship continues to be strong with the Vice Dean and the PGME office. We have been recognized and valued by the PGME office for our compliance with their web-based strategy, professional manner in dealing with challenging and difficult issues, and

our strategic focus related to education. These relationships are very important - the growth in our training program would not have occurred without the support of the PGME Office. Our Division continues to have a strong presence at the Faculty of Medicine.

Advancement Office

Our relationship with the Advancement Office in the Faculty of Medicine is the strongest it has ever been. We have seen significant progress with our corporate strategy and with our two fundraising priorities. Through collaboration and teamwork with faculty, alumni and the Advancement Office, our Division has secured more corporate support for our strategic priorities than any other division in the Department of Surgery. This is a change everyone is watching.

We have done innovative work with Naked Creative Consultancy that has captured the attention of both the Advancement Office and the Dean's Office. Our successful advancement strategy and growing culture of philanthropy has secured our Division a place in the Faculty of Medicine's strategic planning process - something we should all be proud of!

Conclusion

These are only but a few of the positive changes that have occurred thanks to our faculty and alumni who continue to lead our Division. Each and every one of us plays a critical role in how Plastic Surgery is perceived. It's about how we interact and lead in our hospitals, in the University and in our communities. It's about how we mentor our students, residents and fellows. It's about sharing our enthusiasm and passion for plastic and

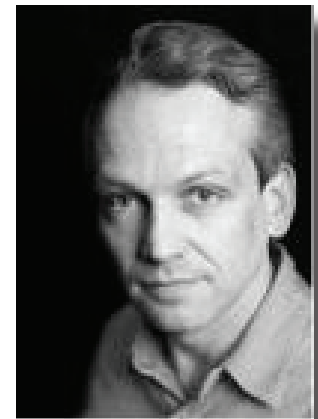
reconstructive surgery and the profound impact that our work has on patients, their families and society.

We have accomplished an enormous amount in a short period of time. So much so, that even with my obsessive-compulsive nature, I sometimes lose track of all the great things that are going on. In this regard, if I have missed any person, accomplishment or achievement in this update, please accept my apologies and more importantly let me know of any omissions.

I thank all of you - faculty, residents, fellows, students, alumni, our partners and volunteers - for helping our Division continue to realize its vision.

Update from University Health Network

by Dr. Stefan Hofer



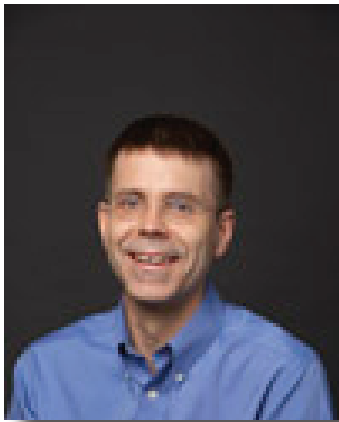
The division of Plastic Surgery at University Health Network has expanded at the beginning of this academic year. Dr. Toni Zhong, who was trained in London at the University of Western Ontario, has come to reinforce the Division after finishing her one-year microsurgery fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute, New York. She will have her clinical practice at Toronto General Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital. Her clinical focus will be on Reconstructive Surgical Oncology with a special inter-

est in Breast Reconstruction. In addition she is currently enrolled in a clinical epidemiology masters program at Harvard with a focus on breast reconstruction outcomes research.

Current activities are focused on finalizing recruitment efforts for a third reconstructive surgeon, and building clinical and research collaborations in the areas of Head & Neck and Breast Reconstruction. With the currently achieved and additional expected staff expansion the clinical and research future for reconstructive plastic surgery at University Health Network is looking bright.

Update from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

by Dr. Paul Binhammer



The Division of Plastic Surgery at Sunnybrook is thrilled to report that Dr Laura Snell will be joining the team In July 2010. Dr Snell is in New York completing a fellowship. Currently she is obtaining a Master's degree through Columbia University and engaged in research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. During 2009-2010 she will complete a clinical fellowship in oncology reconstruction. Dr Viv Panchapakesan is acting as a clinical associate for the next academic year. To bridge the gap between Dr Panchapakesan's departure and Dr Snell's arrival Dr Doug McKay will be returning to Sunnybrook in July 2009. He is currently in Australia enjoying

new insights into Plastic Surgery and the beach.

Update from St. Joseph's Health Centre

by Dr. Leila Kasrai



The academic year is already in full autumn swing. As always, we have the pleasure of entertaining very competent medical students keen to get into our residency program. I believe this will be an exceptionally competitive year.

Over the past year, we have expanded our services to include the care of patients with facial paralysis. To date we have performed several facial reanimation procedures with Dr Manktelow. So far they all have done extremely well. Finally, I'm grateful that Dr Fielding has accepted to be the acting head of our division at St Joseph's Hospital during my maternity leave.

Update from Toronto East General Hospital



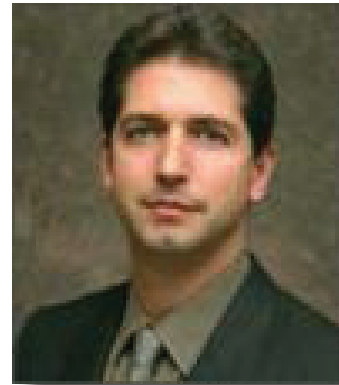
by Dr. Laura Tate

The Toronto East General has hired a search firm Promeus Inc., Partners in Executive Search

to help recruit a Plastic Surgeon for the position of Head of the Division. A role profile and qualifications are available from liz.latimer@sympatico.ca or by phone 416-690-5377. A formal search process will be involved in the selection. We are hoping to grow our teaching commitment and encourage stability in the Division.

Program Director Report

by Dr. Mitchell H Brown



The new academic year is well under way and our division finds itself in a period of unprecedented growth. As a response to expected shortages of surgeons in Ontario, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has increased the number of funded postgraduate surgery positions in the province. With the support of the Postgraduate Medical Education Office, our program has been allocated 4 CMG, 1 IMG and 1 VISA position. This year, we have six PGY1 trainees in our program and I would like to welcome Drs Kunaal Jindal, Mathew Plant, Ron Somogyi and Roberto Tutino. Also joining our program is our first International Medical Graduate trainee Dr Jing Zhang. Dr Saad Al Qahtani from Saudi Arabia is our VISA trainee. This represents a three-fold increase in the number of trainees – making us one of the largest plastic surgery training programs in North America.

The total complement of residents presently in our program

is 21 and we expect that number to grow past 25 in the next few years. Although this growth is exciting, it brings with it a number of new challenges and opportunities for our training program. First, it will be necessary to expand the number of training sites and teaching faculty. Recently, our first resident rotated at the Toronto East General Hospital and we expect other community-based rotations to become part of our training program. Secondly, teaching demands on Faculty are expected to increase and there are a number of initiatives being implemented to support this important activity, which I will share with you in the near future. Finally, as mentioned before, our division will need to be prepared to meet the financial demands associated with a growing training program. Efforts are currently underway to ensure we are financial prepared for the future.

The Division of Plastic Surgery at The University of Toronto provides an exceptional education experience through its broad based curriculum. I would like to thank the following faculty for their commitment to the teaching program: Dr Kyle Wanzel who organizes the didactic seminar series, Dr Melinda Musgrave – Journal Club, Dr Peter Bray – Morbidity and Mortality Rounds, Kathy Pavlovic – Professors' Rounds, Dr Paul Binhammer – Surgical Skills Curriculum, Dr Joel Fish – Visiting Professor and Dr Craig Fielding – Ethics. A tremendous amount of effort goes into planning these activities and your efforts are most appreciated by both the residents and the faculty.

The Royal College has set out a platform of education that goes beyond the traditional teaching of surgical competency. These "CanMEDS roles" include medical expert, scholar, communicator, collaborator, manager, professional and health advocate. Improving on the methods

through which these roles are taught will undoubtedly allow us to produce surgeons that are more ready to meet the expectations of today's society. Beginning with an initial project on "What it means to be a professional", the residents can expect to see these roles become further integrated into all aspects of their training.

The Division plans to revisit curriculum review with the aim to restructure and better integrate the curriculum based on the major domains of Plastic Surgery (i.e. Basic Principles, Patient and Practice Management, Emergency, Peri-operative & Post-operative Care, Pediatric Plastic Surgery, Aesthetic Surgery, Trunk/Breast Surgery, Head and Neck Surgery, Craniofacial/Maxillofacial Surgery, Hand and Upper Limb Surgery, Lower Limb/Pelvic Surgery, Burn Surgery/Cold Injury, and Skin and Soft Tissue Surgery). This curriculum review is in keeping with our division's desire for change and with the recent changes seen at the Royal College in terms of restructuring the specialty requirements and educational objectives for Plastic Surgery. I expect this review to begin in the new year.

Research Director Report

by Dr. Joel Fish



We have a long standing tradition of residents completing postgraduate degrees as part of

the residency program in Plastic Surgery. When residents leave our clinical stream they can at times become somewhat invisible (not to the supervisors) to our division and this newsletter is one way that we can keep everyone in the loop as to what is happening.

Dr. Karen Cross, who is newly married, is in the final stages of her Ph.D. and she will be the first Ph.D. to have earned her degree in our program since Dr William Kuzon (just under twenty years ago!). She is currently writing her thesis, sending in articles for publication, fighting with her computer statistics program and generally feeling overwhelmed. **Dr. Kristen Davidge** is also completing her Master's degree this academic year and has successfully been working on outcomes following Sarcoma reconstruction. We will be updated on her work at this year's visiting professor presentation. Both Drs. Cross and Davidge distinguished themselves at last year's Gallie Day with their contributions.

We are particularly excited to have two Master's degree candidates starting July 2009. **Dr. Siba Haykal** and **Dr. Taiba Al Rasheed** will be entering the research stream together. We are fortunate to have two residents simultaneously in the research stream and hope that we can continue increasing our numbers along with the increasing number of residents in our program. Dr. Siba Haykal has finally settled on a project after considering many options. She is no stranger to the laboratory from her prior experience and is keen to get started. Dr. Taiba Al Rasheed is the first resident in our plastic surgery residency program to be sponsored from outside of Canada to pursue a formal research degree during her residency. This has been an important career decision for Dr. Taiba Al Rasheed

and we are very supportive of her decision to tackle a research degree and hopefully lead the way for others in the future.

Research remains the cornerstone of change and innovation and is embraced by our division. Despite financial restrictions we are fortunate that we have been able to maintain our support for residents that have chosen to pursue postgraduate degrees as part of the residency training.

Professorship Campaign Update

by Ms. Nancy Collett



Being the best means never standing still. Becoming the best means working as a team. Whether it is an election campaign south of the border capturing the imagination of a nation, or an endowment campaign in plastic surgery capturing the drive for growth and training excellence that is the proud tradition of its alumni and faculty, teamwork underpins success.

With this in mind, a new Campaign Committee has been created for the Division of Plastic Surgery's Professorship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Education. The committee will help guide our collective efforts to establish this \$1 million endowment, inspire and engage the support of our alumni, faculty and friends to invest in the great future of this Division through the fund, and will act as ambassadors for plastic surgery at the University of Toronto.

A special thank you to the following individuals for their committed participation on the Campaign Committee:

Dr. Dimitri Anastakis

Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn

Dr. Arnis Freiberg

Dr. Ron Levine

Dr. Christine Tang

The Professorship fund will be the fuel that drives the continued reputation for educational research and clinical training excellence shared by alumni and faculty of the Division of Plastic Surgery. In fact today's resident's will follow in the footsteps of more than 400 distinguished alumni of this division as local and global leaders in teaching, research, and clinical care.

An annual endowment payout from this fund may be used for post-graduate plastic surgery education including curriculum development, development of resident and faculty educators, information technology as related to education, and web-based curriculum development.

While committee members will be in touch with many alumni and faculty, you are invited to contact us. To learn more about the Professorship Campaign – impact, opportunities, participation – please contact either Nancy Collett at 416-946-0019 or nancy.collett@utoronto.ca, Dr. Dimitri Anastakis at 416-978-8241, or any one of our committee members.

Timely Opportunity to Invest in Excellence

BCE shares: Forced redemption

On July 4, BCE announced it has reached a final agreement for its purchase by the Ontario

Teachers Pension Plan Board and its partners. Closing will occur on or before December 11, 2008. Shareholders will receive \$42.75 per common share, the same price announced last June.

BCE shareholders must sell or donate their shares by the closing date, as the shares will cease thereafter to trade on the stock exchange. Shareholders will likely incur significant capital gains upon redemption (sale) of their shares, due to the appreciated value.

A tax-smart alternative

Consider donating your BCE shares to the University of Toronto and reap a tax bonanza. By donating BCE shares directly to the University of Toronto, you not only eliminate tax on the gain, you receive a tax receipt for the market value (as it is a donation). This means that the actual cost of making this donation could be as little as 10-20% of the total value of your shares. Moreover, you can carry tax credits forward, up to five years beyond the year you make the donation.

Contact either Nancy Collett, Senior Development Office at 416-946-0019 or nancy.collett@utoronto.ca or, contact Michelle Osborne, Director Gift Planning at 416-978-3811, or michelle.osborne@utoronto.ca for details on donating your BCE shares, or to discuss other ways of making tax-smart gifts.

Residents' Corner

by Drs. Amir Mrad and Siba Haykal

Congratulations to the newlyweds Karen Cross and Daniel Donovan.

The wedding took place in St-John's Newfoundland on October 4th 2008. We wish you both a life of happiness and love!



Check out their wedding website at www.karenanddaniel.weddingwindow.com



Congratulations to Ron and Ora Somogyi. Beautiful baby boy Jadon was born on August 15th 2008 at 7lbs14oz.



Many of the residents attended the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons' annual meeting in St-John's Newfoundland in June 2008.



Thank you to Dr. Karen Cross for organizing the night out where many of the residents got "SCREECHED IN".

Alumni News

by Ms. Sandy Davies

Welcome to our 5th Issue of Plastic Surgery News and our Alumni Section. As many of you know, it's been a very busy few months in our Division and there is much good news to report.

It's been over a year since we started our Alumni Database. The framework and the information contained looks very good. However, there are improvements that we can make that will create an exceptional Alumni Database. I've been speaking with our old friend Shibu, and we are going to be working to put together a questionnaire regarding demographic information. As well we will be creating a survey to garner your opinion about Divisional activities, etc. This will give us more comprehensive information regarding our Alumni and future Divisional activities. You should receive this by e-mail, within the next few months. The information received will be used to further enhance our database as well as our Alumni Section of the new U of T, Division of Plastic Surgery website. Only office / business information will be posted on the website. All personal information will be kept confidential and for our database only.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding the questionnaire and survey, we'd love to hear from you.

Personal Notes:

I'd like to congratulate Dr. Karen Cross on her recent nuptials. I was most fortunate to be able to share in this experience with Karen & Daniel, during my visit to St. John's Newfoundland. It was an exceptional day for Karen and her family and I felt truly blessed to be able to be there with my own family to share it with her. A fantastic time was had by all – especially the crowd from To-

ronto (considered "Mainlanders" or "CFA's") who were "Screeched In"



(btw: "Kissing the Cod" is not nearly as glamorous as it sounds) Congratulations Karen from your Alumni Family !!

(Further story details about Karen's wedding as well as photos will be included in the Resident Section of Plastic Surgery News.)

Birth Announcements:



Congratulations to Daniel Martin and his wife Raewyn Seaberg on the birth of their first child, Benjamin Christopher, May 11th, 2008



Also, Congratulations to Allan & Beth Eckhaus on the birth of their son Spencer Ezra Eckhaus who was born on June 17th, 2008. A big brother for Jonah.

Messages from Afar:

This edition of “Messages from Afar” comes from Laura Snell who is currently in New York City completing her Fellowship:

Hello from the Big Apple!

by Dr. Laura Snell



New York City has been a great choice to spend my two year fellowship – on many levels! This year (my first year) is entirely devoted to research. I am a full time research fellow in the Division of Plastic Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. I’m working mostly with Dr. Andrea Pusic and Dr. Peter Cordeiro, developing Patient Reported Outcome and Expectation Measurement Scales for breast reconstruction patients. I am also doing a Master’s degree in Biostatistics at Columbia University. Going back to class has definitely been an adjustment, especially since all of my classes are statistics and computer classes- not previously my forte! I was pretty shocked when my first day of class (on July 1) was an algebra test. Yikes! Next year I will be continuing my research with Drs. Pusic and Cordeiro, while also doing the clinical fellowship year in microsurgery.

Despite the busy schedule of learning about statistics, computers, and research project design, juggling an ever-increasing number of research projects, and taking the one hour CROWDED subway ride to my classes, I have definitely managed to enjoy the city since I’ve been here. Shopping in Soho and the Upper East Side, yoga/pilates, running through Central Park, and going

out for dinner are my favourite past-times so far- every girl’s New York City dream! While it has been difficult being apart from my husband Derek, he has been able to visit many weekends, and we have made a Sunday Central Park run a rule, in addition to never eating at the same restaurant twice.

While combining living it up with working hard, I always have extra time for extra socializing, so please let me know if you are in the city!

The content of this message does not represent the views or opinions of the University of Toronto.

If you have a news item for Plastic Surgery News, please forward it by e-mail to Kathy Pavlovic at plastics.admin@utoronto.ca. Plastic Surgery News will be distributed by e-mail to any member of the Division of Plastic Surgery. To receive Plastic Surgery News, send your name and e-mail address to Kathy Pavlovic at plastics.admin@utoronto.ca or by telephone 416-978-8534.