

PLASTIC SURGERY NEWS

Newsletter of the Division of Plastic Surgery

ISSUE 1

JULY 2009

VOLUME 3

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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Dr. Mary-Helen Maboney cools off in Kelowna B.C.

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](#)

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

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.

Chair's Column



One of our greatest accomplishments has been the creation of a shared vision of the future for the Division of Plastic Surgery and establishing strategic priorities. Crafting a picture of the future has helped all of us work together to achieve noteworthy results in faculty recruitment, divisional finances, and how we as a group are perceived.

Over the past two years, we have seen crucial recruitment to our Division thanks to a coordinated effort between University and Hospital leadership. Most recently, with the support and leadership of Drs. Hofer and Forrest – we have recruited two very accomplished and dedicated surgeon-scientists to UHN and HSC. Effective collaborative leadership has made these and other recent recruitments to the Division of Plastic Surgery possible. Over the next 12 months, each of our teaching hospitals will have addressed its staffing issues, putting an end to the chronic understaffing and overworked conditions you identified as a critical issue early in 2007.

On the finance side, our corporate partnership strategy has resulted in major financial benefits in the past two

years. Through these important partnerships, we have established three funded fellowships, secured support for our Professorship and Chair campaigns, grown our website and funded several important educational events. We are grateful to our current corporate partners Mentor, Allergan and Medicis.

We have seen several important changes that have helped enhance perception and awareness of the work we do. One of these has been the development of our own website. Having a strong internet presence, and more importantly a website that is a trusted and reliable source of

information for faculty, students and patients and their families is, and will continue to be, an important part of what our Division will look like in the future.

GOAL 1
Maintain and develop research, education and clinical excellence.

GOAL 2
Build through sound financial management and planning.

GOAL 3
Enhance stakeholder and public perception and awareness.

History of
www.uoftplasticsurgery.ca

Prior to launching our website in March 2008, the Division's website was hosted within the Department of Surgery's website along with all the other divisions. The Department's Webmaster managed the plastic surgery website's layout, appearance and content. That arrangement created challenges for us in terms of growth and autonomous control of content and layout.

In February 2007, under Dr. Peter Bray's leadership, the Division began the process of designing and building its first website. The Web Committee including Drs. Linda Dvali, David Fisher, and Vanessa Wong, worked to select

a web design company and determine the architecture of the website with both public and private (password protected) domains. The web team initially identified five priorities including: faculty profiles, a fellowship section, clinical activities at each of the individual teaching hospitals, updating the specialty clinic information, and populating the Resident section of the website.

2009-10 Web Priorities

- 1. CanMEDS Roles**
 - a. Rotation specific goals and objectives
 - b. Roles and responsibilities (JC, Skills, Seminars etc.)
 - c. Mirror requirements for accreditation
- 2. Research Section development**
 - a. Define purpose
 - b. One-stop shopping, what's going on in the Division
 - c. Connecting people
- 3. Alumni Section**
 - a. Graduating Residents
 - b. Fellows
 - c. Connecting people

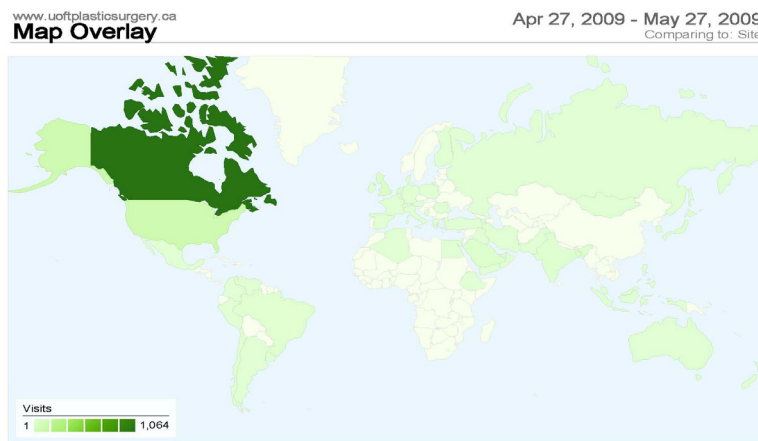
sion and to help connect faculty and students. Finally, the third priority will focus on our alumni. In this section, we will list all of our graduate residents along with their profiles and office contact information and also create an environment where alumni can network, and stay connected with the Division.

With the support of faculty and students, this first phase of development was completed and the website was launched in March 2008. Since then, a growing number of faculty and alumni have contributed to the content on the website including Dr. John Taylor who wrote the section on the history of plastic surgery at UofT.

Growing interest in our website

As the site grows, so will our use of website utilization data. Google Analytics is a program that monitors many aspects of website traffic, utilization and time spent on the website. This data has already demonstrated growing interest in our website. When we first launched the website in March 2008 we had a total of 58 visits to the website.

The current website priorities include posting the CanMEDS roles and rotation specific goals and objectives on the website, listing the roles and responsibilities of each of the coordinators for all the elements of our training program and ensuring that the website mirrors all requirements for the up and coming accreditation in 2010. In the near future, we will develop a Research section that will provide a description of what's going on in the Division



There were 1,275 pages viewed and 29.81 pages were viewed per visit. All traffic sources were direct; that is, the user entered our URL directly. All the visits came from Canada and we suspect from our

own students and faculty.

With time and expansion of website content, various consumers of plastic surgery related information became more aware and made use of our site. In just over one year, during the time period from April 27 to May 27,

2009, we had 1,412 visits, 8,137 pageviews and 5.67 pages viewed/visit. Visitors spent on average 3.05 minutes on our website and 69.69% of all visits were new visits. Traffic sources included 62.32% from Search Engines, 26.70% from Referring Sites and 10.98% Direct Traffic. Interestingly, the 1,214 visits came from 56 countries.

Future directions

As the website grows in size and popularity, so will people's interest in becoming part of this project. Recently, the Division has worked with the Aesthetic Program under Dr. Derek Ford's leadership to develop a micro-website for the Resident and Fellow Aesthetic Program. We have used this micro-site as a test for future layout, design, development and management. The project included design work by Naked Creative Consultancy, Scott Manktelow Webdesign and content development by the Aesthetic surgeons at 199 Avenue Road.

Future projects will include development of:

1. a separate micro-site for the Professorship in Plastic Surgery Education, with a description of this important fundraising campaign and on-line giving capability
2. the alumni section, profiling our graduates
3. research section
4. other clinic program microsites, helping to serve and inform our students and patients better.

As we move forward with these and other projects the division's website will grow and become a better means of communicating with our students, alumni, referring

physicians, and most importantly our patients and their families. We are hopeful that with time our site will be the largest and most informative academic plastic and reconstructive surgery website on the internet.

Once again, we would like to extend a huge amount of thanks to David Fisher, Linda Dvali and Vanessa Wong for their initial ground breaking work and leadership.

- DJA and Peter Bray

(For comments, suggestions or information about our website, please email Dr. Peter Bray at peter.bray@uhn.on.ca)

Hospitals Update

University Health Network (UHN)

- Stefan Hofer

Belinda Stronach Chair in Breast Reconstruction Surgery



The Division of Plastic Surgery at the University Health Network is very pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Thomas Schoeller and his appointment to the Belinda Stronach Chair in Breast Reconstruction at the Toronto General Hospital.



Dr. Schoeller completed his medical studies at the Universities of Vienna and Innsbruck and is an internationally renowned microsurgeon and Professor for Plastic Surgery at the University Hospital for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Innsbruck, Austria. Dr. Schoeller is also an active researcher with many innovative ideas and an impressive

number of publications in the field of reconstructive microsurgery and we are very much looking forward to welcoming him and his family to Toronto.

Surgical Postdoctoral Fellow (Research)

Dr. Jin Zhu has recently begun a 2-year postdoctoral research fellowship in a unique collaborative project between the Division of Plastic Surgery and Dr. Rob Bristow in the Dept. of Radiation Oncology at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Dr. Zhu received her PhD in Medical Science in the Dep. Of Radiation Oncology at the University of Tokyo and recently completed a 5-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Dept. of Urology at Cornell University in New York. Dr. Zhu will be working on a project related to image analysis of DNA damage and repair in a cultured oral mucosal model (3-dimensional culture system) using a 3D model of tissue-engineered mucosa (developed by Dr. Hofer's lab in the Netherlands) to quantify DNA damage and repair using immunofluorescent microscopy for DNA repair foci. 3D in vitro models are an important tool in the study of molecular mechanisms, or prevention of radiation-induced damage to mucosa. Jin will be located in the Core I - STTARR Innovation Facility at the Toronto Medical Discovery Tower in the MaRS complex.

Clinical Research Coordinator

We are also pleased to report the addition of a full-time clinical research coordinator to the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery program. Ms. Kate Butler has a graduate degree in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto and many years of research project experience. She

will be involved in coordinating a number of clinical trials and surgical outcome studies as well as assisting with the development and maintenance of two prospective surgical databases in both Head and Neck and Breast Reconstruction respectively. We are looking forward to continuing to develop a dynamic clinical research program and to fostering collaborations with interested clinicians and researchers at other University of Toronto affiliated institutions as well as globally.

Hospital for Sick Children (HSC)

- *Chris Forrest*



Dr. Hugh G. Thomson – CSPS Lifetime Achievement Award

The Division of Plastic Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children is thrilled and proud to announce that Dr. Hugh G. Thomson, Professor Emeritus, Division of Plastic Surgery, The Hospital for Sick Children has received a Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery Lifetime Achievement Award which was presented at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons in Kelowna, BC.

Dr. Thomson received his MD degree from the University of Toronto in 1954 and completed his training in Plastic Surgery in the Gallie Program at the University of Toronto in 1960 before doing a preceptorship under the supervision of Dr. H. Campbell in 1961. He commenced his position at the Hospital for Sick Children in 1961, became a full Professor in 1982 and remained in active

practice until 2000. During his academic career, he gave over 140 presentations and invited lectures and published 102 peer reviewed publications and book chapters.

Dr. Thomson contributed significantly to the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery. He served as the Society President in 1980 and was instrumental in the development of the "Resident's Corner" which for most, is the focal point of the annual meeting. In addition to creating the Society logo, he should be recognized for establishing the "Beyond the Knife" segment of the Annual Canadian National Meeting. This recognizes the extracurricular activities of the members of our Society and once more typifies the thoughtful nature of this individual who feels that play is as crucial to well-being as work. He also recognized the vast talents of the members of our Society that extended beyond the confines of the operating room and clinic and felt that this was an ideal forum to stimulate and inspire others.

New recruits at Sickkids

The Division of Plastic Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children is expanding and will be welcoming two additional surgeons to join the group making it the largest group of dedicated Pediatric Plastic Surgeons in North America.

Dr. Greg Borschel will be starting in July, 2009 with a clinical focus on pediatric microsurgery, upper extremity surgery and peripheral nerve reconstruction. Dr. Borschel comes to Sickkids from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis where he has been an As-

sistant Professor working with Toronto alumnus, Dr. Susan Mackinnon for the past 3 years. Following his medical training at Johns Hopkins University, he completed his Plastic Surgery residency at the University of Michigan under the supervision of another Toronto graduate, Dr. Bill Kuzon. Greg did a fellowship in Pediatric Plastic Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children in 2005 to 2006 and is well known to the group. Greg has developed a highly successful peripheral nerve research program in St. Louis which will accompany him to Toronto. He is exceptionally accomplished and is currently completing his tenure as an American Association of Plastic Surgery Scholar. Greg is accompanied by his wife, Dr. Tina Mullick Borschel and their two children Anjali and Nikhil.

Dr. Joel Fish at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre will be moving south to join the faculty at the Hospital for Sick Children in September, 2009 to assume the position of Medical Director of the Pediatric Burn Unit. Joel is well known to everyone and needs no introduction. He is internationally known in the area of burn management and has developed research expertise in the area of burn wound assessment with Dr. Karen Cross. In addition to his role at the Hospital for Sick Children, Joel will be the Medical Director at St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. Joel will be accompanied by his wife Val who is looking forward to the chance to become re-acquainted with her husband.

The Division of Plastic Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children is very excited to welcome these two highly ac-

complished and talented surgeons.

Awards

Dr. Tatiana Cypel is the recipient of the 2009 ASCFS Komedypplast Research Grant for her research work entitled "In vitro assessment of osteoblast behaviour in infants with craniosynostosis". Dr. Cypel is currently completing her MSc thesis in the Surgeon-Scientist Program at the Institute of Medical Sciences and is the Craniofacial Research Fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children under the supervision of Dr. Chris Forrest. Dr. Cypel received her training in Plastic Surgery in Brazil and is doing her Pediatric Plastic Surgery fellowship in Toronto while her husband, Dr. Marcel Cypel completes fellowship training in Thoracic Surgery also at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Helena Taylor (Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Fellow) is one of 4 recipients of the 2009 Student Humanitarian Award awarded by the Sickkids Foundation for outstanding service and work in areas beyond what is expected of her during her fellowship year at the Hospital for Sick Children. She is the first person from the Division of Plastic Surgery to receive this award.

Fellow News

The Division of Plastic Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children would like to thank the outgoing fellows for all their hard work and wish them the best for the future.

The fellowship positions in Pediatric Plastic Surgery and Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery are highly competitive and these fellows represent some of the best and brightest young talents in our field. During the selection process this past year, over 70 candidates from all around the

world were assessed for only 5 fellowship positions.

Dr. Helena Taylor (USA) (Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery) will be commencing an academic position at a leading US pediatric centre (to be decided upon) after her wedding to Dr. Stephen Sullivan in August. Dr. Sullivan is a plastic surgeon with specialty expertise also in Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Anand Ramakrishnan (Australia) (Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery) will be returning to Melbourne with his wife Molly and son, Nikhail, to start a fellowship year in pediatric plastic Surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Dr. Nassar Alhodaib (Saudi Arabia) (Pediatric Plastic Surgery) will be doing a 6 month breast surgery fellowship in Vancouver, BC before returning home to Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Sacchin Chitte (Canada) (Pediatric Plastic Surgery) and his wife Dr. Sunita Venkateswaran with their brand new baby will be staying in Toronto for a few months before their jobs in Ottawa.

Dr. Chacko Cyriac (India) (Pediatric Plastic Surgery) will be starting a hand and microsurgery fellowship at the National University Hospital in Singapore before returning to his post in India.

Dr. Camila Caro (Columbia) (Pediatric Craniofacial Research Fellow) has finished a 2 year fellowship performing outcomes assessment following orthognathic surgery for children with cleft lip/palate, hemifacial microsomia and Treacher Collins Syndrome under the supervision of Dr. John Phillips. She will be starting

post-graduate training in Orthodontics in the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto.

The Division is excited to welcome the new fellows for 2009: Dr. David Cho (Loma Linda, California), Dr. Stuart Bade (Australia), Dr. Abdullah Kattan (Saudi Arabia), Dr. Jonathan Wheeler (New Zealand) and Dr. Thomas Samson (Hershey, Pennsylvania).

St Joseph's Health Centre (SJHC)

- *Leila Kasrai*

St Joseph's Health Centre was recently chosen to be part of the University of Toronto bariatric program. Our division's exposure to massive weight loss patients will increase and our residents' experience with care of this patient population will enhance.

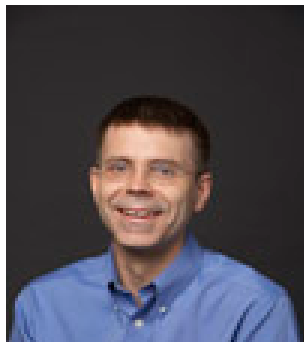
We hope that this year's Ontario government commitment to infrastructure will expedite our hospital's redevelopment projects. We look forward to the start of the construction of our new four storey patient wing.



Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (SHSC)

- *Paul Binhammer*

Sunnybrook is building! The shell of our 5 floor vertical expansion is complete. We have a new emergency depart-



ment with an expanded trauma area and CT scanning. Within the next year the Breast Care Centre should be opening and a new heliport on top of the hospital! Forget biking to work, I'm flying.

There are some people changes over the next couple of months for the Division at Sunnybrook. Viv Panchapakesan is leaving for greener pastures. Viv has been working hard with us for the past year providing great patient care. He is not certain yet where his new office will be but he will be operating at William Osler Health Centre, Etobicoke General and Brampton Civic. Joel Fish has been at Sunnybrook for ten years and is now searching out new challenges. He is Chief Medical Officer at St. John's Rehab Hospital. He will be leaving clinical practice at Sunnybrook and working at the Hospital for Sick Children. Joel's great contributions to all aspects of the Division at Sunnybrook will be greatly missed. His years of hard work and dedication are greatly valued.

Doug McKay is packing up his surfboard in Australia and heading home. Doug will be starting up July 1. We are looking forward to learning better ways to barbecue shrimp and broadening our horizons in the field of surgery.

Laura Snell is working hard in New York and will be moving into the clinical aspect of her two year fellowship in July. Anyone who had the opportunity to talk with Laura at the Visiting Professor Dinner knows that she has been enjoying the Big Apple and learning a lot at Memorial Sloan-Kettering and Columbia. Need dinner reservations in New York, call Laura.

Karen Wong (PGY3) has been with us since January 1. She appears to have enjoyed it so far but things took a bit of a turn when she got exposed to leeches! Thanks for all your help.

Our two fellows, John Stein and Danny Peters have landed great positions. John is headed out to Halifax and Danny will be moving to Ottawa. Their dedication has been greatly appreciated.

Dr. Jeff Fialkov has received a grant for \$60000 from Stryker for “ Finite element modeling of the human craniofacial skeleton”

Aesthetic Surgery Resident Rotation and Fellowship

- *Derek Ford*

The Aesthetic Rotation has now successfully been transitioned to 199 Avenue Road. Despite the recent changes in the economy, the clinic has experienced increased consultation and surgery volumes. Further growth is expected once the Aesthetic Surgery Program website is launched. Dr. Frank Lista was our Aesthetic Surgery Day visiting surgeon this past April. We thank Dr. Lista for his valuable pearls and preparing the residents for their exams. Our current fellow Bart Stubenitsky, MD, PhD will be starting a Pediatric Craniofacial and Aesthetic Plastic Surgery practice in the Netherlands this summer. Our third and next fellow, Dimitrios Motakis, PhD, MD, FRCSC completed his Plastic Surgery training in Montreal. We look forward to his arrival in July.



Mary Campanale is the Aesthetic Surgery Resident Rotation and Fellowship patient coordinator. She may be contacted directly by telephone at 416-960-8585, or by e-mail: mary.campanale@academictrainingprogram.com.

Program Director's Report

- *Mitch Brown*



It has been a very busy several months in the division with many exciting teaching activities, lead by another successful visiting professor event. Dr Don Lalonde provided a stimulating two days for both the residents and faculty. I would like to thank Dr Joel Fish for organizing the visit and congratulate all of the residents for their participation and excellent research presentations.

The Upper Extremity, Breast and Aesthetic Symposia were all held recently. Attendance was uniformly excellent and the mix of both regional and international faculty provided for outstanding educational events. As well, the Resident Aesthetic Day featured Dr Frank Lista as the visiting lecturer. Feedback from the residents was excellent. I thank all those involved for their hard work in coordinating and managing these important annual activities.

This spring brings another visit to Ottawa for the Royal College Examinations. We have three residents completing their training this year. I would like to take this op-

portunity to wish Dr Glyka Martou, Dr Daniel Martin and Dr Ravi Lalla the best of luck on their examinations and with all of their future professional endeavors. All of us at the University of Toronto look forward to following your careers and hope that you will maintain a connection to your peers, faculty and training program.

With July 1 just around the corner, we are starting to ramp up for a new academic year. Our division will be welcoming six new residents bringing our total complement to 22. We are adding a new core senior rotation with residents scheduled to rotate through The Toronto East General Hospital. This addition will help in our efforts to provide a broad and diverse exposure to core aspects of plastic surgery training.

I wish all of the residents, fellows, faculty and alumni a warm, active and exciting summer and look forward to catching up with all of you in the fall newsletter.

Research Director's Report

- Joel Fish

This past year has been both challenging and rewarding for our research program. The financial realities have resulted in our rationalizing the limited resources we have in order to try and strategically use the resources to maximize research exposure



that supports high level projects and those students that are following through and completing post graduate degrees. We are also facing a decrease in the Surgical Scientist funding which has resulted in the faculty supervisors shouldering the responsibility for the students thru grants and the Academic Enrichment funds where appropriate. Fortunately we have a vision to build our endowment in the future so that we can accommodate increased research among the residents.

This year we have two students that are finishing a 'tour of duty' in postgraduate work. Dr Kristen Davidge and Dr Karen Cross will be returning to the clinical stream in July 2009.

Dr Kristen Davidge will defend her Masters thesis on Function and Health Status Following Soft Tissue Reconstruction for Limb Preservation in Extremity Soft Tissue Sarcoma . Her supervisor (Dr A Davis) has informed me that Kristen's contribution has been 'beyond that which they expected' for a Masters level student. Kristen has garnered numerous awards and this year received an award at our Department of Surgery Annual Gallie Day for her poster presentation and she won the best research paper at our annual Visiting Professor Day!

Karen Cross has completed her PhD and after five extra years of postgraduate training is about to commence on her final hurdle, completion on the clinical program. The last PhD degree candidate from the Division of Plastic

Surgery was Dr William Kuzon who published his thesis in 1990! Dr Cross has completed a thesis exploring the use of a new technology (Near Infra Red Light) and ‘probed’ the topic so that she can lay claim to having more knowledge than anyone on how NIR light can possibly reveal whether tissue is live or not! Her dedication has been recognized yearly at our visiting professor and Galilei day presentations and she has won numerous awards and recognition for her contribution. She has agreed to act as a mentor for research candidates when she returns to her clinical service which will be an asset to our division and the upcoming students.

Our annual visiting professorship is an opportunity to present research projects and this years presentations were very fondly received by the visiting professor. Dr Don Lalonde commented that the quality of papers was excellent and he found the awarding of a prize to be the most difficult part of the day.

The future of medicine is in research and our division although small has remained productive. We hope to build on our long tradition of research by supporting our new research resident Dr Siba Haykal who will be working in collaboration with Dr Stefan Hofer and Dr Tom Wadell (Thoracic Surgery) investigating a tissue engineering approach to tracheal reconstruction.

There still exist opportunities in our faculty to develop an annual research day for residents and fellows. There are

many visiting fellows that come to Toronto who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with clinical and basic science research interest and we only rarely hear from them.

The Division of Plastic Surgery remains fully invested in research endeavours which speak to the innovation that defines our specialty and we look forward to each year and hearing about new developments and ideas that will change the way we teach/practice and treat our patients.

Advancement News: Medicis Aesthetics Supports Professorship

- Nancy Collett

The Division of Plastic Surgery and the Department of Surgery are extremely proud to announce the first corporate donor to the Professorship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Education campaign.



Medicis Aesthetics Canada Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Arizona-based Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation, has agreed to make an ongoing annual donation of \$50,000, starting this year, toward the Professorship fund. The Faculty of Medicine wishes to thank Mr. Alan K.L. Chan, Managing Director, and Medicis for this outstanding support.

The Professorship in Plastic Surgery and Reconstructive

Surgery will attract and support talented academic plastic surgeons committed to advancing the Division's educational programming. The endowed funds will yield an annual payout to:

- help make possible the recruitment of a PhD student or postdoctoral fellow in medical education to support the efforts of the professor
- fuel the development of a new plastic surgery technical skills curriculum featuring web-based and competency-based measures

The Division of Plastic Surgery's Training Program Director, Prof. Mitchell Brown, will bear the professorship title until the conclusion of his term in 2012. In addition to an active research and clinical load specializing in reconstructive breast surgery, Prof. Brown, a U of T Master's in Education graduate, is helping to lead the development of novel techniques to teach and evaluate technical performance in the operating room.

Medicis is the leading independent, specialty pharmaceutical company in the United States focusing primarily on the treatment of dermatological and podiatric conditions and aesthetics medicine. The company is responsible for over 18 brands including acne treatments, anti-fungal medications and the top-selling dermal filler, Restylane. It also has products in therapeutic categories including psoriasis, rosacea, seborrheic dermatitis, and skin and skin-structure infections.

The Division of Plastic Surgery is thrilled to welcome Medicis Aesthetics Canada to our family of supporters.

We recognize its foresight in making this gift and are proud that Medicis has chosen to partner with the University of Toronto, the largest trainer of plastic surgeons in North America. This financial support will help lead our drive for growth, innovation and global reach. This professorship will undoubtedly have a direct effect on patient care in addition to the continuing quality of our graduates.

Achievements and Awards

CSPS Lifetime Achievement Award

The Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons announced that the 2009 CSPS Lifetime Achievement Award is to be given jointly to Dr. John Taylor of Mississauga, Ontario and Dr. Hugh Thomson of Toronto, Ontario. The Award presentation took place during the President's Banquet at the CSPS Annual Meeting, on the evening of Friday, June 19th at the Delta Grand Okanagan Hotel in Kelowna, BC.

This award honors a member of the CSPS who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession and to the Society. We look forward to welcoming a great many of Dr. Taylor's and Dr. Thomson's colleagues to honor them on this occasion.

Promotions

Congratulations to both **Drs. James Mahoney and Ronald Levine** who have both been promoted to the level of Full Professor. Their promotion to full profes-

sor is an important milestone in their academic career and a testament to their hard work and commitment to scholarship in plastic surgery.

Other Awards

Congratulations to **Dr. Paul Binhammer** on receiving the Distinguished Education Award for outstanding contributions to Surgical Skills Education. He received this award at this year's Gallie Awards dinner. Selected from a list of nominees submitted by the residents who attended the core curriculum sessions. The residents were asked to select a faculty member who has demonstrated exemplary skills teaching at the Surgical Skills Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Congratulations to **Dr. John Semple** for his recent publication in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine entitled, "Ozone Exposure and Mortality".

Drs. Semple and Moore point out that pristine areas such as the Himalaya have similar if not higher ozone concentrations than those found in industrialized North American cities.

Congratulations to **Dr. Karen Wong** who won the award for best clinical paper (Woodhouse Award) at the CSPS meeting in Kelowna, BC.

Congratulations to **Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn** who won the Outcomes Grant Funding

Visiting Professor Honours

On behalf of the Division of Plastic Surgery, we would like to once again thank Dr. Donald Lalonde for making

this year's Visiting Professorship such an enormous success. The Visiting Professor events were very well received by all who attended and were found to be highly educational, exciting and most of all fun!



Highlights of the Visiting Professor Gala Dinner for 2009 with photos and slideshow can be found on our website at: <http://www.uoftplasticsurgery.ca/main.php?p=773&s=4>
 Congratulations to all of our graduating residents and award winners:

Graduating Residents

Daniel Martin
 Ravindra Lalla
 Glykeria Martou

Awards

- William K. Lindsay Faculty Research Mentor Award to **Dr. James L. Mahoney**
 - Arnis Freiberg Faculty Teaching Excellence Award to **Dr. Robert C. Cartotto**
 - Best Basic Science Award to **Dr. Kristen Davidge**
 - Best Clinical Paper Award to **Dr. Mary-Helen Mahoney**

Also voted for excellence in research presentations were:

Dr. Karen Wong and **Dr. Vanessa Wong**

- John Edward De Toro Award to **Dr. Karen Cross**

Other Stories

“Ten days in Riga, Latvia - my latest Sabbatical”

- *Arnis Freiberg*

About six months ago I was invited as a Visiting lecturer to the “First Welcome Meeting of Reconstructive, Hand and Aesthetic Surgery of the Baltic States.” The meeting was for two days, but the “locals” kept me very busy for the rest of the time. This was my seventh medical trip since 1989, to the place of my birth.

The “Congress” was divided into four sessions: Craniofacial reconstructive surgery, Lower extremity reconstructive surgery, Aesthetic Surgery and Hand surgery. I was one of four invited guests which included 3 surgeons from the Mayo Clinic and one from Lithuania. Although I chaired the first session, my presentations were in the Hand session. I was asked to talk about TOS and cervical radiculopathy, RSD and CRPS, fractures of the hand and wrist, PIP joint injuries, tendonitis, surgery of the rheumatoid and osteoarthritic hand and Kienbock’ disease. Needless to say I ended up with a dry mouth syndrome. Fortunately the talks were in English!. Unfortunately, the rest of the some ten talks were conducted in my poor “medical” Latvian, for which I spent considerable time rehearsing! My conversational Latvian is quite fluent!

In general, I was treated royally, having been taken to museums, live theatre and opera. I saw a bunch of hand consultations in various clinics and in two cities. I was also made an honorary member of the Latvian

Plastic Surgery Society.

In general terms, I guess I did OK, because a few days ago, I was invited to the first Baltic Hand Congress next year. All in all it was exhausting, [for an old fellow], but I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Interplast Hand trip to La Paz, Bolivia

Many members of the U of T Plastic Surgery faculty have volunteered their time and expertise to those less fortunate over the years, but few have contributed more extensively in this regard than Tim Sproule, who has committed several weeks a year since 1990. He has traveled to a variety of exotic destinations (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Peru, Ecuador, India, etc.) with the American NGO Interplast as well as under the auspices of the Canadian Reconstructive Surgery Foundation (CRSF), a charity he founded several years ago dedicated to a “made in Canada” philosophy of volunteerism and empowerment in developing countries.

This year, in January, he traveled down to Georgetown, Guyana, to continue support for the Burn Unit at the Georgetown Public Hospital, which he designed and helped build. A highlight of this trip was being part of a team that performed the first free tissue transfer ever done in the country on a young man with a severe burn, and also undertaking to assist with a teaching program in Burns and Plastic Surgery associated with the University of Guyana.

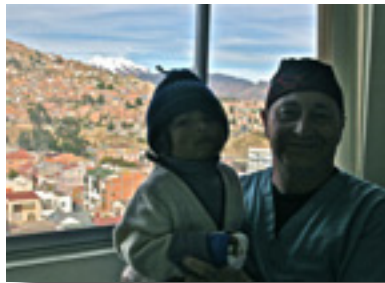
In May, he traveled to La Paz, Bolivia, as part of a hand surgery team that worked with one of the few dedicated hand surgeons in the country doing mostly pediatric hand cases. The trip was one of the hardest he has ever done, both in terms of the degree of difficulty of the surgery stating that “complex congenital hands are a lot harder



than clefts!”, and also

coping with the effects of altitude sickness in the world’s highest capital city, which incapacitated him for a couple of days until he prop-

erly acclimatized. “It is a great satisfaction to be able to help out patients who would otherwise perhaps not be able to receive care, but



the greatest reward comes from transferring some of my knowledge and experience to local caregivers, and seeing them get empowered.” Over the years, he has come to respect greatly his colleagues in developing countries who generally do great work with marginal resources. “I consider it a privilege to be able to practice for even a brief time alongside them. It ends up being fabulously enriching on both sides.”

Tim Sproule is a lecturer with courtesy appointments at Women’s College and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, as well as being on active staff at the Scarborough Hospital, and has a special interest in lasers as well as general reconstruction.

Any inquiries regarding the CRS or other interests in volunteerism, etc., please feel free to contact Dr. Sproule.

Get to know our 2009 Residents:

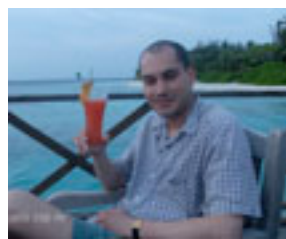
1. Sheikhan Al-Hashmi

Sheikhan was born and grew up in Oman. He graduated from high school with distinction; hence he was awarded a scholarship to study medicine in the prestigious Sultan Qaboos University. On 2007, He became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.



He is married and having one child. He loves sports in general but he has great passion to football and he is an avid traveler.

2. Paul Carter



Country of origin: Barbados
Medical School: University of St. Andrews, Scotland 1997 - 2001 and University of Oxford, England 2001 - 2004, graduated

2004

2004 - 2009: I was training in various surgical specialities

including plastics in England

Pastimes: Scuba diving, basket-ball (I am looking forward to the next raptors season) and chess. Why Toronto: The program, the people, the food and the basketball!

3. Matthew McRae

Born and raised in Etobicoke, Matthew attended St. Michael's College high school in Toronto. He was then recruited south of the border to

Cornell University to play for their varsity men's ice hockey team and was subsequently drafted in the 5th round of



the NHL entry draft to the Atlanta Thrashers. On graduation, Matthew spent time in Qatar teaching in their bridge program for students trained in the region in preparation for their matriculation to Weill Cornell Medical College. On return to North America, Matthew entered the Yale School of Medicine for a 5 year combined degree program in medicine with a masters degree in Health Science Research. For his Masters year, Matthew was awarded the Doris Duke research fellowship and Plastic Surgery Education Foundation research grant.

4. Olivia Ho

Olivia graduated from the McMaster University Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine this May. She grew up in Richmond Hill and Oakville



and went to McMaster University for her undergraduate

degree in Health Sciences. She is excited to be starting her training in the Plastic Surgery program at the University of Toronto this July. Outside of medicine, she enjoys fencing, musicals as well as visiting restaurants and museums for culinary and artistic inspiration.

5. Heather Baltzer

Heather has just completed her undergraduate medical degree at the University of Toronto.



Prior to this, she attended the University of Guelph for her undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics and completed an M.Sc. in the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. Heather is originally from Nova Scotia.

6. Jennica Platt



I grew up in London, Ontario, attended undergraduate studies at the University of Guelph and completed medical school at the University of Ottawa. I enjoy spending my free time out in the Great Canadian Outdoors (during any season), making jewelry and taking photos. This year I was fortunate to travel to Jordan with Operation Smile and I found this experience to be very motivating. I aspire to be an academic plastic sur-

geon and am looking forward to the upcoming learning!

Residents' Corner

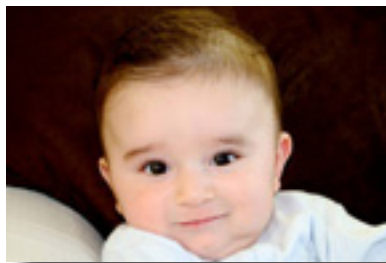
Three new additions to the Plastic Surgery family!



Glyka Martou and Tasos had baby boy George Papalazarou on March 21 at 4:30pm, at Women's College Hospital. He

was born at 7lbs 7oz and at 22inches.

Amir Mrad and his wife Raniah had a son, Mazen, born December 9, 2008 weighing 7 lbs.



Amer Alkudmani recently got married on February 25, 2009 to Nahlah Abounassif.

Congratulations and best wishes to them all.

More photos at the back!

We also have pictures from the residents' orientation, the CSPA conference and more on the last pages. Be sure to check them out.

Alumni News

- Sandy Davies

Dear Alumni:

As you know, the Division has been working to update and maintain its Alumni database so that we can keep all 450 Alumni up to date with all that is happening in the Division. As a next step in better serving our Alumni, we hope to incorporate Alumni information into our

Division's website. We envision including Alumni's office contact information, year of graduation and links to practice websites, phone and fax. Alumni will benefit from this endeavor as the information will be accessible by referring physicians as well as the public. This is an excellent venue for our Alumni to promote their practices as well as their practice specialties.

In order for our Division to obtain as much information as possible, an e-mail, with a link to a survey, will be sent to everyone within the database in the upcoming weeks. The survey is designed to be concise and will only take 1 – 2 minutes to complete. Your cooperation with completing the survey is very much appreciated.

U of T Alumni Benefits:

Another matter of note is an e-mail that was circulated recently from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine, to all Alumni, in regards to the benefits of being a U of T Alumni. For all those who may have not received this e-mail, I have copied the link below.

Link: <http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca>

Of note: Doug McKay completed his Fellowship in Australia and is now back at Sunnybrook.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Have a great summer everyone !!!

Sandy Davies, Alumni Coordinator

Division of Plastic Surgery, University of Toronto

plastics.alumni@utoronto.ca

Residents' Orientation 2009



Back row from left to right: Matthew McRae, Mary-Helen Mahoney, Kristen Davidge, Karen Cross, Karen Wong, Saad Al-Qahtani, Amir Mrad, Amer Al-Kudmani, Mitchell Brown, Kunaal Jindal, Paul Carter, Mathew Plant, Shaikhan Al-Hashmi, Dimitri Anastakis, Taiba Al-Rasheed

Front row from left to right: Olivia Ho, Heather Baltzer, Siba Haykal, Vanessa Wong, Ryan Neinstein, Richard Backstein, Roberto Tutino, Ron Somogyi, Jing Zhang, Jennica Platt, Joel Fish

CSPS Conference, Kelowna B.C.



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.



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