

PLASTIC SURGERY NEWS

Newsletter of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

ISSUE 1

JULY 2010

VOLUME 4

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. John Semple operates on Hollywood actor Jude Law
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OUR VISION

To be an international leader in plastic surgery research, education and clinical practice.

OUR 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.

OUR VALUES

We value innovation, the drive to excel and collaboration. We have tremendous respect for our patients, colleagues and stakeholders, and operate with honesty and transparency.

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



Chair's Column D.J. Anastakis

It is hard to believe that I am coming up to the end of my fourth year as Chair of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Since September 1, 2006, we have accomplished an enormous amount and I look forward to entering the fifth year of my term this fall. Central to all that we have accomplished is our [Strategic Plan](#) — a plan that has guided our decision making. As a Division, we have focused our energy and efforts on several priorities. Through numerous initiatives, including first and foremost our recruitment efforts across our teaching hospitals, we have maintained and developed research, education and clinical excellence. As a group, we have focused on building through sound financial management and planning and have made significant financial gains. Finally, we all agreed that enhancing how we were perceived was of strategic importance. Though difficult to measure quantitatively, anecdotally our Division is perceived as strong, engaged and having a direction that has driven excellence in research and education. Even with 12 months left to the strategic plan, I think it is fair to say that we've exceeded all expectations in each strategic priority ([view most recent implementation plan update](#)).

During the next academic year, our Division will

undergo two important “reviews”: an internal review in preparation for Royal College accreditation in 2012 and an external review as part of the Chair's reappointment process. The internal review is scheduled for January 25, 2011 and will be organized by the Faculty of Medicine. The external review is organized by the Department of Surgery and is expected to be conducted in February or March 2011.

External Review – Chair, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

As part of the process of reappointment, the department typically carries out an external review of the Division and its leadership during the fifth year of one's appointment. With Dr. Reznick having left and the search for a new Department of Surgery Chair underway, ensuring an external review with the interim Chair Dr. David Latter will be a priority for me. An external review will help identify areas of strength and any challenges or barriers to future success. This external review will provide our Division with valuable external feedback as we begin to plan for the next 5 years. It will help assess where we are in terms of our vision – to be an International leader in plastic surgery research, education and clinical practice. Further developing and growing our research agenda will be a priority in the next strategic plan.

Internal Review of the Plastic Surgery

Training Program

On January 25, 2011 our Division will undergo an internal review of our training program. Having recently held a Division education retreat and implemented many of the recommendations that came out of that retreat, I am confident that the internal review will be very positive. Even so, this review will provide us with valuable feedback, recommendations and information as we develop the next five-year plan. Further developing and enhancing all of our educational programs will be another of our priorities in moving forward with the next planning session.

Starting to Plan for our Strategic Planning Session

Together these two events are an important opportunity to reassess our progress and plan for the future. I look forward to the next year as we continue to move the Division closer to our vision. We plan to hold the strategic planning session some time in April 2011. As we did last time, we will establish a small Strategic Planning Committee in September to oversee the process. This time around, I also would like to engage a “Thinking Group” of junior faculty to capitalize on fresh, newer thinking and ensure that those who have long-term interests in our future have a voice.

Overall, I am very excited about the events that will

unfold in the coming academic year. As a Division we will benefit from the reviews and planning and I am confident that we will set the stage for even greater accomplishments in the future.



Since its inception in March 2008, the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery’s website has undergone significant re-development during its evolution.

Re-branding and Re-design of the Website

In the last year alone, we have been extremely active in populating our website with new and exciting content, developing new micro sites, as well as adding a list of new functions and features that are current with today’s evolving technology. Listed below are a few of the changes we have integrated onto the site in the last academic year:

△ The alumni section of the website has been updated which now captures all of our graduate residents. We continue to create an environment where alumni can network, and stay connected with the Division.

△ A Branding Toolkit has been built into the website

which is in keeping with the U of T Brand alignment. All Divisional templates, branding guidelines and policies can now be accessed through this section of the website.

△ Google calendar integration was performed, allowing all users to receive real-time updates to Divisional events by synchronizing directly with personal Google, MS Outlook, Apple iCal, Mozilla Sunbird, iPhone or Blackberry devices.

△ Resident and Fellow Aesthetic Surgery micro site was built and integrated onto website.

△ Professorship in Plastic Surgery Education micro site was built and integrated.

△ Patient Education micro site was integrated.

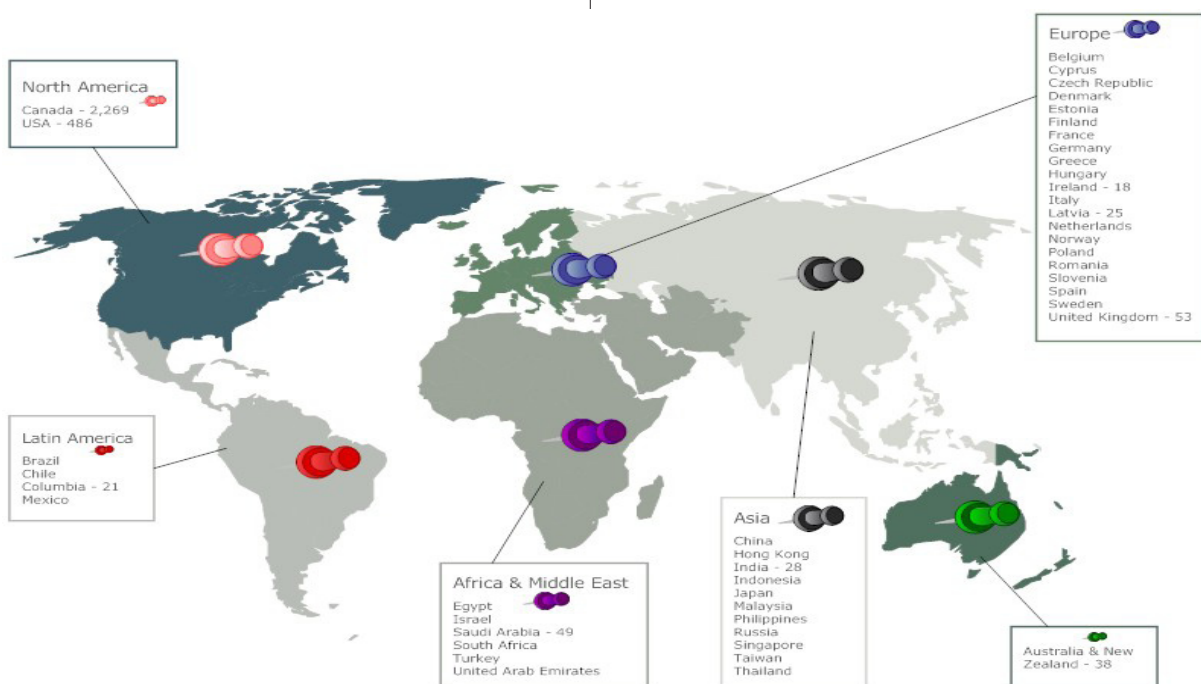
△ Website re-design after Divisional re-branding was performed which also included several function upgrades: feature items listing, custom flash feature box, email/print page, as well as search engine optimization upgrades.

△ Several updates were made to the Resident/Fellow/Student site including new information on resident wellness, career planning, burn care, Resident Program, Surgeon-Scientist Program and awards and scholarships.

△ On the homepage we now have a section on Firsts in Canadian Plastic Surgery including original WWI and WWII memorabilia from both Drs. E. Fulton Risdon and Ross Tilley. The Divisional Strategic Plan is listed and a new section entitled “In the News” which houses all archived PS newsletters.

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. 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. For example, we had 3,283 visits, 12,536 pageviews and 3.82 pages viewed/visit during the month of May 2010. Visitors spent on average 2.51 minutes on our website and 57.63% of all visits were new visits. Traffic sources included 79.09% from Search Engines, 14.41% from Referring Sites and 14.50% Direct Traffic. Interestingly, there were 2,164 unique visits and all visitors totaling 3,283 came from 79 countries in this one month alone.

Future directions

2010—2011 Web Priorities

Future development of the website would include producing and integrating educational materials such as simulation videos onto the website for educational and training purposes. In addition, we will continue to develop a Research section that will provide a description of what's going on in the Division and to help connect faculty and students.

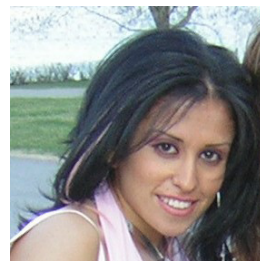
As we move forward with these and other projects, the Division's website will remain not only current with the most effective means of communicating with our students, alumni, referring physicians, patients and their families, but also will serve as an educational tool for our growing training program. We are hopeful that with time our site will be the largest and most informative academic plastic and reconstructive surgery website on the internet.

(For comments, suggestions or information about our website, please email Kathy Pavlovic at plastics.admin@utoronto.ca)



Hospital Update

University Health Network
(UHN)
Stefan Hofer



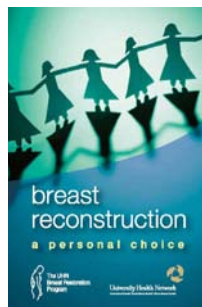
Dr. Siba Haykal continues to make great strides in the first year of the Surgeon Scientist Program. The project is run in collaboration with Dr. Thomas Waddell in the Division of Thoracic Surgery, University Health Network, and is focused on improving strategies to develop a tissue engineered trachea by enhancing the application of decellularized cadaver trachea and reseeded with cartilage, epithelial and endothelial cells largely obtained from

bone marrow derived stemcells in a series of experiments with three possible areas of improvement: a) optimizing vascularisation; b) optimizing reepitheliazation/ mucosal component and c) optimizing the structural properties of the tracheal graft. She is located at the Lattner Thoracic Research Lab at the Toronto Medical Discovery Tower in the MaRS complex.

- In September 2009, UHN opened enrolment for a multi-centered RCT with Women's College Hospital examining the use of Acellular Dermal Matrix in One-Stage Breast Reconstruction.
- The UHN Breast Restoration website was launched in December 2009 as an information resource for patients and referring clinicians.

www.breastrestitution.ca

- We published the first edition of the UHN Breast Reconstruction Patient Education Booklet.



- In January 2010, Dr. Stefan

Hofer was appointed as Editor of the Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery and British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons Council Member.



- Dr. Toni Zhong was married to Dr. Brett Beber on February 14th, 2010, and a number of plastic



surgeons from the U of T community were in attendance.

- The inaugural UHN Breast Restoration Awareness Event took place on Thursday April 29, 2010 at the Princess Margaret Hospital's 7th Floor Atrium. Organized by a committee of volunteers including chair person Naneve Hawke, the event welcomed



Organizing Committee members (left to right) Miriam Isenberg, Harriet Sklar, Kate Butler, Toni Zhong, Stefan Hofer, Naneve Hawke, Marci Kroft, Stacie Sklar and Nancy Jordan (PMH Foundation Event Coordinator).

over 150 guests for an evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres, pink cocktails, and special educational presentations by Drs. Stefan Hofer and Toni Zhong.

PSEF National Endowment Grant Award winner Striving to reduce two-stage implant breast reconstruction to one

Editor's note: The following is part of an ongoing series highlighting the 2009 National Endowment Grant Award winners, and the research they are conducting to improve patient safety and develop new techniques for plastic surgery.

THE RESEARCHER

Toni Zhong, MD
Tate Assistant surgeon,
University Health Network
Breast Reconstruction Program,
Division of Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgery,
University of Toronto.



Dr. Zhong (left) works under the microscope to perform a bilateral DIEP flap reconstruction of breasts, assisted by her senior resident, Mary Helen Robinson (right).

PNS: What is the goal of your project?
Dr. Zhong: We're working on a randomized controlled trial regarding the efficacy of one-stage, direct-to-implant breast reconstruction with the use of acellular Adrenaline matrix (Alloderm® from Lifecell Corp.). We're studying outcomes and patient satisfaction with the type of reconstruction compared to the traditional two-stage breast expansion.

PNS: What led you to embark upon this research?
Dr. Zhong: I've been exposed to the use of Alloderm as a randomized controlled trial (RCT) that compared Alloderm-assisted vs. non-Assoderm-assisted two-stage DIEP flap breast reconstruction. I was inspired by the results of this RCT.

PNS: How far along are you in your work?
Dr. Zhong: We opened the trial to the public at our base study site (University Health Network and Western's College Hospital, Toronto) in October 2009 and are currently in the patient accrual phase. We anticipate that patient enrollment will take around 18 months. We've already randomized approximately 10 patients and we expect that we're gaining momentum in the study.

PNS: How do you hope will result from your research?
Dr. Zhong: If we can prove our study hypothesis that one-stage Alloderm-assisted implant reconstruction improves patients' perceived health-related quality of life and satisfaction by decreasing the morbidity associated with the traditional two-stage expansion method, we will have added an important new tool to our reconstructive armamentarium. In addition, these findings can help justify the costs associated with this new treatment modality to the payer—whether it be the patient, hospital or insurance company—in the United States, or the Ministry of Health in Canada.

PNS: What's next for your research?
Dr. Zhong: The budgeted amount in recent years of the need to operate within budgets on the health care sector has created the ideal climate for conducting cost-effective research. This is especially true for reconstructive surgery of the breast following mastectomy, due to the large number of available techniques. Furthermore, the success of plastic and reconstructive surgery must be measured not only by postoperative complications and morbidity, but also in terms of patient participation of their cost. Therefore, the goal of my study is to perform a cost-effectiveness study to estimate the lifetime costs and health benefits of acellular dermal matrix-assisted one-stage reconstruction compared with the current standard of two-stage DIEP reconstruction.

PNS: How has the PSEF grant influenced your ability to obtain funding from other sources?
Dr. Zhong: Securing funding from granting agencies is difficult for plastic reconstructive surgeons because of the current economic climate has made this task more challenging. Without the generous support of PSEF, I don't think we could have gotten this clinical trial off the ground. With funds needed from PSEF, we have been able to gain a strong grant proposal to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in a target area over a longer duration of time.

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FOUNDATION FACT

PSEF committed to improving breast reconstruction options
Since 2004, PSEF has invested nearly \$4,000,000 in breast reconstruction research designed to improve plastic surgery with the goal to provide the best possible surgical treatments and improve the outcomes and advances available to the thousands of breast cancer survivors who will undergo post-mastectomy breast reconstruction each year.

The ongoing and generous support of ASPS members and industry partners enables PSEF to continue to support research that answers clinically relevant questions and demonstrates the cutting-edge innovation and efficacy of plastic surgeons and as part of the breast cancer team to which they belong. For more information on PSEF-funded breast reconstruction research or to support current and future research initiatives, go to www.psef.ca or contact Dr. or e-mail PSEF Individual Giving Association: Susan Hacker at shacker@psef.ca

Save the Date!
"Rise to the Top in Toronto with PSAA!"
35th Annual Plastic Surgery Administrative Association Meeting
Toronto, Canada
October 1 - 5, 2010

• In the June 2010 issue of the Plastic Surgery News (the official ASPS New Publication) Dr. Toni Zhong was featured for receiving the ASPS/PSEF national endowment grant award.

Hospital Update
Hospital for Sick Children (HSC)
Christopher Forrest

It has been a very successful year for the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children with the recruitment of new faculty to make this the largest Division of pediatric plastic surgeons providing full time care to infants, children and young adults in

North America. Dr. Greg Borschel joined our staff in August 2009 and moved back to Toronto having spent 3 years at Washington University, St. Louis under the watchful eye of Dr. Susan MacKinnon, a Toronto program alumnus. Greg trained in Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor under another Toronto graduate, Dr. Bill Kuzon before spending a fellowship year at the Hospital for Sick Children. It seemed like that Toronto connection was too much for Greg to ignore. His



clinical area of interest is peripheral nerve and microsurgery. Greg has moved his peripheral nerve lab to Toronto and brought Matt Wood, his PhD post-doc with him. To add strength to strength, his presence at the Hospital for Sick Children has resulted in the recruitment of Tessa Gordon, PhD to the Division. Tessa is an internationally respected scientist in the field of neurophysiology, nerve regeneration, electrical stimulation and novel surgical



paradigms. Together with Drs. Howard Clarke and Sevan Hopyan (Orthopedics), they have formed the SickKids

Pediatric Peripheral Nerve Unit which will provide a true interdisciplinary approach to the management of pediatric peripheral nerve injuries.

- Dr. Joel Fish needs no introduction to the faculty and alumni of the Division having developed national and international recognition as



burn surgeon extraordinaire during the past 10 years at the Ross Tilley Burn Unit at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. In September 2009,

Joel assumed the role of Medical Director of the SickKids Burn Program succeeding Dr. Howard Clarke and will be working to enhance the delivery of burn care to children. He will also be developing a complex wound care service as well as maintaining his role as Medical Director of St. John's Rehabilitation Centre.

- At this time, a word of thanks and gratitude to Dr. Howard Clarke for maintaining the helm of the Pediatric Burn Program for the past 24 years. It is a remarkable accomplishment to maintain excellence in an area for such a prolonged time, yet simultaneously develop an international reputation in the area of obstetrical brachial plexus palsy. Furthermore, Howard was named a fellow of Massey College during the past year.

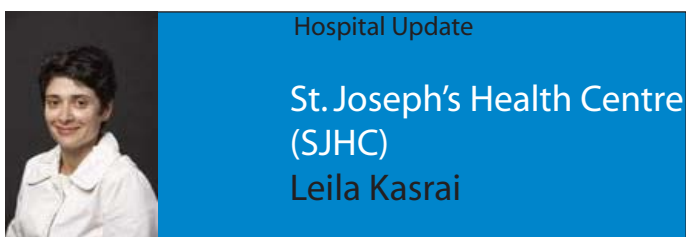
- Dr. David Fisher was promoted to Associate Professor in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Surgery. Dr. Christopher Forrest received the Arnis Freiberg Teaching Award for the past academic year.

- The Division would like to acknowledge the work and assistance of its fellows during the past academic year: Dr. Abdullah Kattan (Riadh, Saudi Arabia), Dr. Stuart Bade (Melbourne, Australia), Dr. David Cho (Loma Linda, CA), Dr. Tom Samson (Hershey, PA) and Dr. Jonathan Wheeler (Auckland, NZ). All have successfully completed their fellowship year at the Hospital for Sick Children. Abdullah will be moving west to commence a hand fellowship at the Toronto Western Hospital. Stuart and Jonathan are returning down under to accept academic positions in Brisbane and Auckland, respectively. Tom will be joining the group in Hershey Pennsylvania and David drew the short straw, having to leave the mainland to establish his practice in Hawaii. The Division would like to wish them well in their future careers.

- Dr. Tatiana Cypel will be completing her MSc thesis on "In vitro assessment of osteoblast behaviour in craniosynostosis" and has had a very successful year, receiving a one year PSI grant and

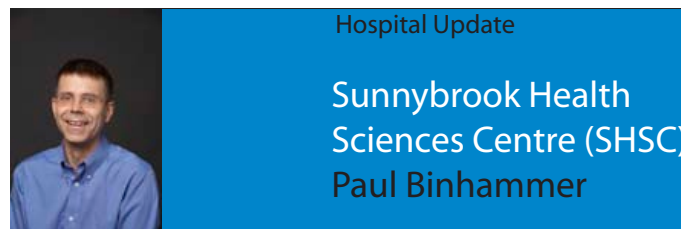
the McMurrich Award at the 2010 Gallie Day for the Best Fundamental Science Work.

The Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery would like to welcome incoming fellows to the program. Starting July 2010, Dr. Brooke French from Springfield Illinois and Dr. Jonathan Berge from New Zealand will be the new craniofacial fellows and Dr. Mike Bezhuly (Halifax, NS), Dr. Isaac Harvey (Adelaide, Australia) and Dr. Adel Fattah (London, UK) will be commencing fellowship positions in pediatric plastic surgery. The fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children is a win-win situation providing a fertile training opportunity and chance to establish life-long relationships with members of the team in return for creating a world-wide network of plastic surgeons with an interest in improving the well-being of infants, children and young adults.



I want to take this opportunity to thank Kyle Wanzel who along with Paul Binhammer has organized the PGY-2 “Boot Camp.” These sessions were designed to teach our PGY2’s how to deal with common problems and to provide them with the basic skills required in plastic surgery.

The sessions started in January 2010 and will run monthly for a total six sessions. This is an exciting new addition to our current curriculum. Congratulations again for initiating this important endeavor!



Growth is happening at Sunnybrook. The exterior construction is complete on our expansion at Sunnybrook. This September the new floors will open, including a Breast Care Centre. To match the new facilities, Laura Snell will be returning from New York to create an oncology reconstructive practice. The hospital is looking forward to her arrival.

The Ross Tilley Burn Centre welcomes Dr Marc Jeshke, the new Medical Director. Dr. Jeshke is an international leader in burn care and research. He graduated from



medical school at Eberhard-Karls-University in Tübingen, Germany and received his Master’s Degree from University of Texas and his PhD from University of Regensburg, Germany. Dr.

Jeschke has come from the University of Texas where he worked at Galveston Shriners’ Hospital for Children and was the Annie Laurie Howard Chair in Burn Surgery. Dr. Jeschke joins the Sunnybrook Research Institute as

a Senior Scientist with more than 180 peer-reviewed articles. He has mentored and trained more than 40 Ph.D., MD, and other graduate students in the field of burn care and burn-related research. We are truly excited about his arrival at Sunnybrook.

Summer is here and it is a time of transition. Craniofacial fellow, Ulrich Goessler, has returned to Germany and we wish him all the best. Alia Shah, the burn fellow will also be completing her time at Sunnybrook and moving on to new challenges.

I would like to express my extreme gratitude to Doug McKay for his hard work and dedication over the past year. He is greatly appreciated by patients, medical students, residents and staff at the hospital. We know he will succeed immensely wherever he decides to practice. For now he is off to Victoria for a brief period as a locum. Doug and Romy are new parents of a beautiful boy, Eamon. All the our best wishes to the three of you.



Hospital Update

Aesthetic Surgery Resident
Rotation and Fellowship
Derek Ford

There are several exciting changes anticipated over the next six months. Dr. Dimitrios Motakis will be joining the group at 199 Avenue Road and setting up his practice in Dr. Frank Beninger's office. Dr. Motakis

was a previous University of Toronto Aesthetic Surgery fellow and McGill Plastic Surgery Training Program graduate. Dr. Beninger has retired from clinical practice



Dr. Motakis



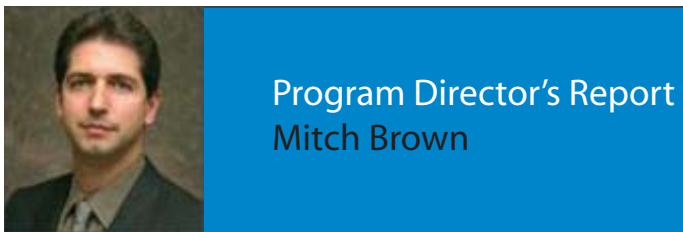
Dr. Tong

and is missed by his patients, staff and colleagues. Dr. Lawrence Tong, a graduate of the University of Toronto Medical School and University of Michigan Plastic Surgery Training Program, will be relocating his private practice from Michigan to Toronto. His office will occupy the currently vacant space at 199 Avenue Road and will include a designated space for the Aesthetic Surgery Resident Teaching and Fellowship Programs. The teaching program office and clinic will now be located in this new space once it is constructed.

Our previous aesthetic fellow Dr. Jonathan Lee completed his training on June 30, 2010 and has resumed his private practice in Calgary this July. Our current fellow Michelle Locke is from New Zealand and joined us in July following her current fellowship in Aesthetic Surgery at Paces Plastic Surgery in Atlanta.

The 2010 Aesthetic Surgery Resident Day was held on the Monday following the Toronto Aesthetic Meeting. Dr. Mulholland was our invited speaker. We thank him for the pearls he provided for the residents in preparation for their Royal College Exams.

The clinical volume and case diversity seen through the Resident and Fellow Clinic continues to provide invaluable hands-on experience for our trainees. We welcome our new staff and upcoming renovations to further improve the level of training in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery for both our residents and fellows.



It has been over six months since my last Program Director's column. Much has happened over this time period and there is a lot of information to report.

We had a very successful CaRMS match in March. Our program welcomes four new residents through the CMG CaRMS match. These residents are Blake Murphy from the University of Ottawa, Andrew Fagan from Memorial University, Homan Cheng from the University of Toronto and Mike Hendry from the University of Toronto. We also welcome our successful IMG candidate, Giancarlo McEvenue. I would like to thank the entire Residency Program Committee for their tireless efforts in reviewing the many applications and being part of a process that has allowed us to welcome these outstanding candidates. At the same time, we recognize that we will be saying good-

bye to our most senior residents. Dr. Vanessa Wong and Dr. Amir Mrad will be graduating from our training program at the conclusion of this academic year. Both Vanessa and Amir have been excellent residents and a pleasure to train. Vanessa will be continuing her training with a Craniofacial Fellowship in Melbourne, Australia and Amir will remain with us in Toronto to complete a Craniofacial Fellowship at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. The entire Division wishes Amir and Vanessa great success in their future careers.

A number of exciting education events have occurred since the New Year. We had a very successful Visiting Professorship with Dr. Doug Ross from the University of Western Ontario. We were all happy to have one of our alumni returning as Visiting Professor and the residents enjoyed an exceptional three days working with Dr. Ross. The 10th Annual Toronto Breast Surgery Symposium was held on April 8 and this was followed by the Toronto Aesthetic Surgery Symposium on April 9th and 10th. Both symposia were very well attended and the quality of the lectures was outstanding. This year marks Dr. Wally Peter's final year as Chair of the Aesthetic Symposium. Dr. Peters has committed an enormous amount of time to organizing this symposium since its inception. The entire Division owes Dr. Peters a large debt of gratitude for his efforts in growing this meeting into one of the best annual aesthetic surgery meetings in North America.

On April 7, the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery held its first education retreat. There were over 25 participants representing faculty, residents and fellows. The purpose of the retreat was to evaluate our present approach to resident education, assess our effectiveness as educators and plan for new innovations and changes for educating residents in the future. Two main areas were prioritized. The recent introduction of the CanMEDS roles by the Royal College requires training programs to educate in a broader manner that includes the constructs of medical expert, scholar, communicator, collaborator, professional, health advocate and manager. Our Division has taken great measures to develop a curriculum for teaching these skills. We are now moving forward with attempts to better evaluate these constructs and integrate them in a coordinative manner into our training program. The second priority of the retreat revolved around rotation-specific goals and objectives. I will be working with the rotation chiefs to modernize our goals and objectives and transform them into competency-based tasks. This competency-based approach will help us to follow a resident's progress throughout his or her rotation and ensure that they have met the key core competencies for each given rotation. Although this will take a lot of work and effort, we expect to be able to implement these new goals and objectives throughout the next academic year.

Finally, I would like to highlight a few key changes to the training program. Last year, we introduced the Toronto

East General Hospital as a new senior rotation and this year we welcome Trillium Health Centre to our program. Senior residents will rotate through Trillium under the guidance of Drs. Michael Weinberg, Frank Lista, Zvi Margalio, Morris Rebot and Cory Goldberg. We have also increased the amount of plastic surgery exposure in the two core junior years to six months of plastic surgery and three months of burn surgery. This will result in our junior residents spending 9 of 24 months within their own specialty domain.

Under the guidance of Drs. Paul Binhammer and Kyle Wanzel, we introduced this year the PGYII boot-camp. This skills based course runs from January to June of the PGYII year and is designed to teach the junior residents common surgical skills that would be expected of them as a senior resident. Early feedback has been excellent and we look forward to further developing this program next year.

Next academic year the traditional Wednesday evening seminar series will undergo a dramatic change. The Division will introduce "Plastic Surgery School" to run every Monday from 8—11 a.m. During this time, residents will receive the seminar series, surgical skills sessions, ethics sessions, CanMEDS lectures and be given time for research activities. This protected weekly time will allow the residents to have a defined educational slot that will be provided in a structured learning environment. As well, the seminars will be dealt

with in a different way. Residents will be given didactic lectures by faculty on the weekly topic, followed by a discussion of the key seminar highlights. Practice oral exam questions will follow and stay within the theme of the seminar topic. This change will allow the residents to learn in both a self-directed manner (produce the seminars) and a lecture-based manner.

I was encouraged to see many of our residents at the CSPS Annual Meeting in Halifax and to hear their excellent research papers and posters. The entire Division is equally excited about the ASPS Annual Meeting in Toronto this October. We look forward to welcoming our residents, faculty and alumni to what should be a great week of fun and education.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Resident Orientation 2010

[\(Click here for a larger picture\)](#)



Back Row (Left to Right): Mathew McRae, Giancarlo McEvenue, Homan Cheng, Shaikh Al-Hashmi, Karen Wong, Dr. Mitchell Brown, Ron Somogyi, Kunaal Jindal, Saad Al-Qahtani, Jennica Platt, Paul Carter, Olivia Ho, Blake Murphy, Heather Baltzer, Kristen Davidge, Taiba Al-Rasheed, Andrew Fagan, Mike Hendry
Front Row (Left to Right): Mary-Helen Mahoney, Richard Backstein, Roberto Tutino, Ryan Neinstein, Amer Al-Kudmani, Karen Cross, Jing Zhang

Incoming residents



My name is **Andrew Fagan**, I am 26 years old and was born and raised in St. John's Newfoundland.

I completed my undergraduate Honors degree in Biochemistry at

Memorial University and following this I completed my undergraduate medical education at Memorial University.

During high school, I began playing competitive rugby and have been fortunate enough to have played with the Newfoundland provincial senior men's rugby team, helping them win three Canadian national championships. I have also represented Canada at the under-19 level, playing in two Junior world

championships and at the Senior men's level, earning my first international "cap" in November 2008.

My other interests include surfing, skiing, playing guitar, sailing and fly fishing and when not in the hospital I can usually be found paddling out into the "chilly" North Atlantic somewhere off the coast of Newfoundland!!!

My name is **Blake Murphy**. I was born and raised near Napanee, Ontario in a family of four boys. After



finishing high school, I attended Simon Fraser University for my undergraduate degree and then the University of Western Ontario for graduate studies. During these

years, I was a member of the varsity track & field and cross-country running teams. After graduate school, I completed my medical degree at the University of Ottawa.

Although I no longer run competitively, I remain very active with both running and other athletic activities. I enjoy running, hiking, snowshoeing and downhill skiing. Prior to beginning residency, I will be travelling to South America for a hiking trip with my wife where we have planned treks in the central Andes. In addition to these activities, I continue to be active in research and look forward to my time in Toronto.

My name is **Giancarlo McEnvue**. Born and raised in Etobicoke, I attended Michael Power/St. Joseph's high school before attending the University of Toronto for a degree in Human Biology.



I've played on my high school ice hockey team and at the provincial Jr. B level before finally hanging up the blades to focus on cancer research towards a Masters degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology. I then ventured off to the Netherlands-Antilles where I completed my medical degree at SABA University School of Medicine. SABA gave me the opportunity to return and do plastic surgery electives back in my hometown of Toronto. U of T was where I was first exposed to the fantastic field of plastic surgery by my mentors Dr. Wanzel, Dr. Kasrai, and Dr. Cartotto. I'm eagerly looking forward to starting residency and working with everyone in the Division. [E](#)

My name is **Homan Cheng**. I completed my undergraduate medical training here at the University



of Toronto. Originally from Hong Kong, I moved to Canada with my family in 1990. I grew up north of the city in Thornhill, ON and have a BSc. in Life Sciences from Queen's

University. I enjoy good food, travel and books, and on a recent adventure in Mexico developed a newfound love

of snorkelling. I enjoyed my clerkship experiences with the Division immensely, and look forward to joining the team in July.

My name is **Mike Hendry**. I was born and raised in Ottawa and left after high school to pursue a biology degree at Queen's University that focused on molecular biology and genetics. I have just finished four great years in the medical program here at U of T.



I started sculpting in high school, mostly in clay but also some mixed-media, and have enjoyed that as a fun, creative escape since then. I grew up playing football and have moved on to high school coaching over the last few years. Most recently I have been trying to cure my wicked slice on the golf course without much success. I am also a fan of BBQs and cottages.

Achievements and Awards

The Division would like to congratulate the following:

- **Dr. Ralph Manktelow** on receiving the 2010 CSPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

This award honours members of the CSPA who have made an outstanding contribution in plastic surgery as well as to the Society.

- **Dr. Cho Pang** for receiving the Plastic Surgery Education Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement in Basic and Translational Research. The award was given to Dr. Pang at the PSEF Board of Directors Dinner in Seattle.

This award was established to recognize outstanding achievements in basic and translational research impacting the practice of plastic surgery. This prestigious award recognizes an investigator whose novel and significant work has had or may have a far-reaching impact on the treatment of surgical disorders and the practice of plastic surgery.

- **Dr. Stefan Hofer** on his recent appointment to Editor of the Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery (JPRAS), which is the former British Journal of Plastic Surgery. As the Editor, Dr. Hofer will be responsible for the scientific content as well as the management of the journal. Stefan is the first non-British Plastic Surgeon to hold this position.

- **Dr. Marc Jeschke** who recently secured an NIH grant entitled, "Characterization of Burn-Induced Hepatic Apoptosis". Marc's grant is funded for \$1,912,500 over 5 years.

- **Dr. John Semple** on being named First Surgical Chair in Breast Cancer Research, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation at Women's College Hospital.

The Chair is the first surgical research Chair

awarded by the Canadian Breast Cancer Society but also the first endowed Chair based in the Department of Surgery at Women's College Hospital.

"The appointment will provide both funds to support our ongoing research as well as support new surgeon recruits dedicated to research," says Dr. Semple.

As the very first Chair in Surgical Breast Cancer Research at Women's College, Dr. Semple will promote innovation in breast cancer surgery and reconstruction. He and his team will explore improvements in reconstructive surgery techniques including the use of autotransplantation of a patient's own lymph nodes to treat and prevent the formation of lymphedema.

• **Dr. Tatiana Cypel** who won this year's McMurrich Award presented at Gallie Day held on May 7th, 2010. Congratulations to her supervisor, Dr. Christopher Forrest and Co-Supervisors Dr. Cho Pang, Dr. Peter Dirks and Dr. Iona Leong. This year was particularly special for the Division and Department of Surgery marking the 25th anniversary of the Surgeon-Scientist Program and we were very proud to have Dr. Cypel recognized for her dedication and hard work. Her study "In Vitro Assessment of Osteoblast Behavior in Craniosynostosis" was clearly well received by the Research Committee and has added to the ongoing research in Dr. Cho Pang and Dr. Chris Forrest's laboratories that we have all witnessed over the years.

• **Dr. Laura Snell** completed her Masters Degree in Biostatistics (MS), the Clinical Research Methods Track, at the Mailman School of Public Health, which is part of Columbia University. It is mostly a course-based degree, but she also did a thesis project entitled: 'Clarifying Expectations for Breast Reconstruction: The Development of a New Patient Assessment Tool.' This was presented at the Plastic Surgery Research Council meeting in San Francisco.

• **Vanessa Wong** participated in the Operation Rainbow Canada mission in Indonesia in Fall of 2009.

• **Karen Cross** received her Ph.D. Title of Thesis is: 'Assessment of Tissue Viability in Acute Thermal Injuries using Near Infrared Point Spectroscopy.'

• **Kristen Davidge** received her MSc HPME ClinEpi. Thesis Title: 'Function and health status following soft tissue reconstruction for limb preservation in extremity soft tissue sarcoma.' Kristen also received the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Award for the Best Presentation by a Resident at this year's CSPS Meeting in Halifax entitled, 'Strategies for Handling Treatment Selection Bias in Non-randomized Surgical Studies: A Functional Outcomes Analysis of Extremity Soft Tissue Sarcoma Patients Undergoing Extremity Salvage With and Without Reconstruction.'

• **Siba Haykal** was awarded the John Edward DeToro

Award, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as well as a PSI resident research grant for one of the aims of her thesis project entitled: ‘Determining the Structural Integrity of Decellularized Tracheal Allografts.’

Siba Haykal has also received funding for the Clinical Investigation Program (CIP).

- **Mary-Helen Mahoney** received the Mentor Canada Prize for Best Clinical Paper Award, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

- **Ryan Neinstein** was awarded the Mentor Canada Prize for Best Clinical Paper Award, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

- **Karen Wong** received the Best Clinical Paper Award, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Karen also received a PSI Resident Research Grant entitled, ‘CLEFT-Q: Development of a Patient-Reported Outcome Measure for Cleft Lip and Palate.’

Other Stories

Dr John Semple does heart transplant on actor Jude Law



“Despite the new scope of practice restrictions with the CSPO, ” Dr. Semple recently carried out a heart transplant on the actor, Jude Law. The opportunity arose when Dr. Semple was asked to provide instructions to both Jude Law and Forest Whitaker on how to hold a scalpel and essentially how to operate with basic operative skills in the recently released movie, “Repo Men”. Dr. Semple spent time with the two actors over several months during which time he was asked play the role of the surgeon in the heart transplant scene. The scene was successful and Jude Law survived the transplant. Dr. Semple is expecting Division wide support for “New Best Supporting Role as a Surgeon” in the upcoming Oscars.



Alumni News
Sandy Davies

Happy Summer Everyone! With our wonderful weather also comes wonderful news. Congratulations to the newest additions of our Alumni Family, Amir Mrad and Vanessa Wong who have successfully completed their Royal College exams. Best wishes to you both as you begin your Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery careers.

We'd also like to extend a very warm welcome to Dr. Marc Jeschke who has taken on the position as the new Director of the Ross Tilley Burn Centre at Sunnybrook.

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Laura Snell and Derek Ford , on the birth of their son Benjamin.



Mathew & Dani Plant had their first child, a son **Ezra Judah Plant** born on January 17th, 2010

Congratulations also to Doug McKay and Romi Nitsch, on the birth of their son Eamon.



Speaking of “new additions”, in this edition of Alumni News I have added a new section titled “Keeping In Touch.” In this section, I will feature alumni, and provide to you updates on how they are doing, family life, etc.



Our first Alumni to be featured in the Alumni News – Keeping in Touch are Vivek Panchapakesan and Allan Eckhaus. I contacted Viv and Allan a little while ago and asked if they would consider writing a little note to their fellow Alumni. They sent along these messages:

Hello fellow alumni!

I'm writing from my new digs here at Etobicoke General Hospital. After graduating in 2008, I spent a year at Sunnybrook



Health Sciences Center, and then took a permanent position with the William Osler Health System, based out of Etobicoke General Hospital, and also Brampton Civic Hospital. I began working here in August, 2009.

My year at Sunnybrook furthered my interest and experience in craniofacial trauma and reconstruction, and one couldn't ask for better mentors. I am trying to develop my practice with this clinical focus at Etobicoke General Hospital, along with pediatric plastic surgery, which has always been my passion. While somewhat limited in the amount of pediatrics I see and do in the community, I enjoy volunteering in cleft lip and palate missions with Operation Smile.

My wife Nisha, has enjoyed her return to work as a chartered accountant (a huge bonus for me!) after our youngest son Rishi turned one. Rishi is now two, and as active and defiant as ever. Our older son, Jivan, is five, and is enthusiastic about basketball, soccer, yoga, and martial arts. I'm trying to get him into golf this summer. As a family, we've been having fun traveling as much as possible!

Viv

Hello to everyone that I haven't touched base with recently. I was asked to give a little update on life since finishing residency, and I more than happy to do so.



My family and I went to Melbourne, Australia for a fellowship year in 2007 and we had the time of our life. We made friends and relationships that we both know will last a lifetime. Most of our Aussie friends have already come to visit, and two more families are coming this year.

On return from the land down under, I did locums at seven different hospitals in the GTA. This was a very interesting experience, and one that is likely to become more familiar to new graduates as resources in hospitals continue to shrink. Much can be learned from doing locums and working at different hospitals and I consider my experience to be invaluable. There is no doubt a feeling of being unattached, and the hours can be a bit tricky, but there is ample work out there and many hospitals welcome locum positions to cover call and other surgeons extended holidays. The very last locum that I worked at was at Rouge Valley- Centenary site in Scarborough. This connection led me to an opportunity at the corporation's other site- Rouge Valley Ajax Pickering, where I was ultimately hired on staff and where I have been working for the last year.

I feel very lucky and fortunate to have begun a full time practice in Ajax. This beautiful community hospital has been so very welcoming and the people that I work with are incredible. I have a general community plastic surgery practice with a focus on breast reconstruction. Setting up a practice, including opening an office, and finding excellent support staff can be a challenge initially, but once achieved is tremendously satisfying.

My family continues to grow, and my wife Beth and I, have two boys now- Jonah is 4 and Spencer is 2. The boys continue to amaze us, as we watch them grow, learn, and develop beautiful personalities. We were recently back in Australia to visit this past winter, and I know that we will continue to do so every couple of years.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next event, wherever that might be.

Allan

Resident Orientation 2010



Back Row (Left to Right): Mathew McRae, Giancarlo McEvenue, Homan Cheng, Shaikhan Al-Hashmi, Karen Wong, Dr. Mitchell Brown, Ron Somogyi, Kunaal Jindal, Saad Al-Qahtani, Jennica Platt, Paul Carter, Olivia Ho, Blake Murphy, Heather Baltzer, Kristen Davidge, Taiba Al-Rasheed, Andrew Fagan, Mike Hendry

Front Row (Left to Right): Mary-Helen Mahoney, Richard Backstein, Roberto Tutino, Ryan Neinstein, Amer Al-Kudmani, Karen Cross, Jing Zhang

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 and Reconstructive 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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