



THE SURGICAL TIMES

The Newsletter of the UBC Department of Surgery

Fall 2006

Taking Stock of Our Department's Expansion



When I commenced as Department Chair five years ago, a small group of our faculty initiated Professor's Rounds for the undergraduate clerkship students. These have been exceptionally popular and well attended bedside teaching sessions. A comfortable group of eight students would accompany me to the bedside to engage with patients. This fall, as I walked in to meet an eager group of

3rd year clerks, I saw 15 eager faces sitting in front of me! With some trepidation about the size of the group, we completed our rounds with enthusiastic participation. The patients were extremely supportive and somewhat amused by the size of the group. Indeed, they tried to recruit their future doctor!

This is but one anecdote of a scenario of numerous impacts of the expanding medical education programs across our province now, in its 5th year. In 2001, our Department comprised a total of 128 (3rd year) undergraduate students, 98 postgraduate trainees, and approximately 150 faculty members distributed mainly in greater Vancouver and a small scattering about the province. Now the scope of our Department support consists of 240 (3rd year – all sites) undergraduates, 121 postgraduate trainees and 360 clinical and full-time faculty. The list is growing larger.

As the Department's educational mission has expanded, the outcomes for undergraduate and postgraduate training have been very favorable. At the undergraduate level, student positions in surgery components of the LMCC exams have risen steadily since 2001 to rank in the top 3 positions nationally. The students' performance on the National Board of Medical Examiners exam has also ranked very high above their peers in the rest of the country. As to the postgraduate training, success rates on fellowship examinations have neared 100%. An external review of the UBC Department of Surgery within the past year has ranked the Department's undergraduate and postgraduate programs as excellent in all respects. The leadership shown by Dr. Eric Webber for the postgraduate program and for Dr. Barrie Woodhurst for the undergraduate program has been outstanding and a great deal of credit is due to these individuals for the time consuming tasks which they have shouldered so well. Furthermore, all faculty in the Department who have participated in the teaching and supervision of trainees throughout various sites need to collectively wear a badge of acknowledgement for their efforts.

What has been working well in the Department's expansion? Undoubtedly, new teaching sites throughout the province have risen to the occasion. In the undergraduate program, top notch clinical teachers have been highly regarded by their students. Some of our colleagues through the new distributed program from Royal Columbian Hospital and Richmond Hospital have become the student-selected teachers of the year! The Department has recruited some outstanding young surgeons through the expansion program. Dr. Nadine Caron is the first clinician-scientist hired in a distributed education program through the Northern Medical Program in Prince George who has assumed her duties as a full-time faculty member and champion of education and research programs in Prince George. In the Vancouver Coastal Health region, Dr. Ravi Sidhu was recruited through the expansion

program. Based at Providence Health Care, St. Paul's Hospital site, Dr. Sidhu has brought some outstanding innovative research to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of postgraduate education. Dr. Sidhu has become a highly regarded supervisor for resident trainees who pursue exciting educational research. An example of this was evident at the Forum on Fundamental Surgical Problems at the American College of Surgeons in Chicago this October when Dr. Tracy Scott, under supervision of Dr. Sidhu and the trauma surgeons, presented data on residency training experiences in trauma programs. Dr. Scott won one of the prestigious resident research prizes given out at the Forum!

The Centre of Excellence for Surgical Education and Innovation (CESEI) under Dr. Karim Qayumi has also advanced our provincial expansion programs. The smart classrooms in the Centre reach all corners of the province, including Prince George, Terrace, Richmond and Cranbrook to videoconference provincial rounds. Dean Stuart has regularly scheduled Department Heads meetings with outreach to the entire province from the CESEI site. Chaired by Dr. Terry Phang, the Centre was the site for an outstanding course in laparoscopic colorectal surgery which involved postgraduate trainees and rigorous assessment methods. Dr. Adam Meneghetti was recruited as the Centre's Director of Education, Research and Development in 2005 and he has set up novel curricula for all surgical disciplines to include Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery.

A most outstanding aspect of the expansion has been the recruitment of large numbers of new clinical faculty. With the assistance of Senior Associate Deans Snadden (Northern Medical Program) and Casiro (Island Medical Program), suggestions for new faculty recruitment were greatly facilitated by vetting curriculum vitae. The divisions within our Department have played a crucial role in advancing these to the Department's Clinical Faculty Appointments and Promotions Committee which has been very busy with several meetings during the past year. Finally, a reimbursement methodology has been initiated for recognition of our Clinical Faculty who take time to teach scheduled sessions. This recognizes in an important way, the time that our faculty devote to scheduled teaching.

What are some of the ongoing challenges to an effective, distributed, expanded program of teaching in Surgery? First, the expansion program has been heavily driven by the undergraduate medical expansion. This has created some tensions which need to be addressed. For example, proper clinical teaching units require undergraduate and postgraduate trainees to be linked together at a distributed site. The postgraduate programs have been keeping pace but it has been a challenge to ensure that postgraduate and undergraduate objectives can both be met in sites. Concerns have been expressed that resources have flowed sparingly to the "coal face" of locations where teaching gets done. Resources to support huge increases in administrative loads have been flowed to designated site leaders but there remains concern over local ambulatory clinics and the involvement of surgeons in developing these clinics. A recent example with the new Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre at Vancouver General Hospital has provided excellent teaching facilities however this does not represent augmented space for expansion. Many sites are

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struggling with space issues including classrooms, conference facilities, call rooms et al. The efforts to appoint and document our new clinical faculty are stretching our administrative staff to the limits. Wayne Davis and Celeste Pelc have devoted countless hours to implementation of new budget plans and appointment protocols. Novel reimbursement systems for clinical faculty do not apply to many full-time faculty who are hired on "UBC grant-tenure". This means that these individuals compete for their source of academic funding through granting agencies or other sources and the source of their funding does not specify funding for teaching. These individuals recognize that teaching is important for their future academic promotion but the support for their time is not recognized equitably with clinical faculty – a new challenge!

The issues of providing surgeons with time to teach an expanded number of students often conflicts with pressures to address their patient's needs in an era of pressure to achieve better care, often under situations with constrained resources. The issue of slowing of surgical throughput for those who take time to teach is often not recognized by health authorities. As one surgeon recently stated "If I spend a day teaching a resident in my operating room, could the health authority please give me back one extra case at the end of the day?" Recognition of the academic enterprise in British Columbia's teaching hospitals requires a culture shift to

support the trainees and their faculty. While regions embark upon new ambulatory teaching facilities, surgeons and faculty of The University of British Columbia need to have strong input to design effective ambulatory teaching space. Rushed decisions for these facilities will pay poor dividends for our future physicians. Recently, Dr. Jim Dooner, Medical Director for Surgery in VIHA, chaired a discussion of the surgery and anesthesia leaders of all health authorities in British Columbia. This was a helpful dialogue to foster discussion about obstacles to faculty participation in the expanded medical school. These types of initiatives need to continue.

It is only through careful dialogue and interactions between undergraduate, postgraduate, departmental leaders and faculty that ongoing challenges will be identified and resolved. Thus far, progress has been good but strain is showing. A great deal of support for the expansion has been based on goodwill in our Department. I often recollect the words of my strongest surgical mentor who stated that many surgeons devote more than their fair share of time to do a good job of teaching and their reward is recognizing that their time is more than repaid by the improved quality of care delivered by their trainees.

GL Warnock

Surgical Development in Northern Sri Lanka



Dr. Taylor

From July 2005 until June 2006 Dr Robert Taylor was deployed as a surgeon delegate by International Red Cross to the Vanni of northern Sri Lanka. The Vanni is a region enclosed on the east and west by the sea and on the north and south by no-man zones at military lines that were established by the ceasefire agreement signed in 2002 between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The population of the Vanni (over 300,000) is primarily internally displaced Tamil people from over two decades of armed conflict in Sri Lanka. The tsunami disaster of December 2004 only compounded the situation for these people.

The ceasefire allowed for a gradual return to settled life for the displaced population and humanitarian effort progressively shifted from emergency relief to recovery and development. In early 2005 the northern authority of the Ministry of Health requested the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assist in establishing a surgical program at the Kilinochchi District Hospital that would serve the Vanni population. The ICRC then invited the Canadian Red Cross to provide a surgical team with a mandate not only to give surgical service but also to focus on training and capacity building. Dr Taylor was the first member of the team to arrive.

Although he has had previous experience in surgical practice and surgical development among vulnerable and disadvantaged

populations this was his first experience in a restricted, high-security region. A ceasefire is not a peace settlement; it is just a pause. The root causes of the conflict remain unresolved and lurk just beneath the surface, ready to explode in renewed conflict at any provocation. This has been happening with increased frequency during the past year and the surgical needs again include casualties of war. Thus, there were special challenges to the mandate, including: the challenge of shifting surgical needs of the population, the challenge of recruitment and retention of national staff, the challenge of an unstable infrastructure and the challenge of personal security. Dr Taylor says, however, that any discouragement or frustration arising from these challenges was more than compensated by the cordial working relationship with the hospital staff and by their mature eagerness to acquire a broad range of basic surgical skills.

The establishing of a surgical program made good progress during the year. There is now an increased surgical capacity among the medical staff and there has been a significant upgrade in the equipment and the physical plant. This experience in surgical development within a high-security zone was a very meaningful and rewarding one. To express interest in volunteering for international surgical opportunities contact the Canadian Network for International Surgery at www.cnis.ca or Dr Robert Taylor directly at rhtaylor@interchange.ubc.ca.



Division Report - Pediatric General Surgery

The Division of Pediatric General Surgery is in the “fall swing”. In June, we said farewell to our graduating resident and friend Dr. Ahmed Abdalwahab, who has returned to his Saudi Arabian homeland to start his practice in Pediatric Surgery. Dr Paul Beaudry is now our chief resident, and in July we welcomed Dr. Mansour Tawfeeq to our training fold. Mansour joins us from the University of Alberta where he completed residency training in general surgery and a fellowship in liver transplantation. Having lived in Edmonton for the last seven years, Mansour is still acclimating to the west coast, and is having trouble accepting the fact that he won't require a block heater for his car!

In June, the Office of Pediatric Surgical Evaluation and Innovation (OPSEI) celebrated its first birthday and marked the occasion with the inaugural invited lectureship, featuring our own Department Chairman, Dr Garth Warnock, who spoke about the Human Pancreatic Islet Transplant Program at UBC. Since its inception, OPSEI has raised nearly \$800,000 for core research and educational programs through competitive awards and directed donations, and has become the “engine” for surgical research at BCCH. June also marked the visit of Dr David Sigalet, Professor of Surgery and Head of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Calgary and Alberta Children's Hospital. Dr Sigalet spent 2 days with the general surgical faculty and residents and presented an invited lecture on the treatment of experimental and clinical short gut syndrome with Glucagon-like peptide (GLP)-2. Dr Sigalet is pleased to have recruited Dr Mary Brindle to the pediatric surgical faculty at the University of Calgary. Dr Brindle, a graduate of the UBC general surgery program finished her pediatric surgical residency at the Hospital for Sick Children in June. We're glad to have Mary back in the west as well.

Over the summer months, the division mentored 4 medical

students who participated in the competitively salaried summer research programs sponsored by the UBC Faculty of Medicine and the Child and Family Research Institute (CFRI). The students, their faculty sponsors, and the titles of their research projects are listed below. One of our students (Patrick Yang) was awarded a basic science research prize at the CFRI Research Day held in August.

Development of a Global Health Education Curriculum

Ms. Courtney Collins (UBC Faculty of Medicine, Class of 2008)- Sponsor: G Blair

Ravitch procedure versus Nuss procedure for chest wall reconstruction in youth with Pectus Excavatum (PE): A descriptive comparison of surgical outcome and postoperative Quality of Life (QoL) Assessment

Ms. Mindy Lam (University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine, Class of 2008)-Sponsor: E Skarsgard

Distribution and Durability of Transgene Expression in Survived Mice Following in utero Gene Therapy

Mr. Patrick Yang (UBC Faculty of Medicine, Class of 2009)- Sponsor: E Skarsgard

Testing the Algorithm of Management of the Child Presenting with a Thyroid Nodule

Mr. Chris Stevens (UBC Faculty of Medicine, Class of 2008)- Sponsor: G Blair

Finally, it is with great pride that we announce that Dr. Geoff Blair has been named President-elect of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons. Geoff is the first surgeon from UBC to be installed in this prestigious office. His two-year presidential term begins in September, 2007. *Congratulations, Geoff!*

Division Report - Vascular Surgery

The members of the Division of Vascular Surgery remain as busy and active as ever. 2006 was a year of professional development and skill set expansion for the members of the faculty. Drs. Jerry Chen and York Hsiang each spent 3 months on sabbatical expanding and perfecting their skills in the most advanced endoluminal vascular therapies. Dr. Chen studied in Pittsburgh and Dr Hsiang in Cleveland. Dr. Shaun

MacDonald spent the year training and working collaboratively with the St Paul's interventionalists. All three are now helping to teach the teachers as well as teaching our fellows.

Dr David Taylor successfully completed his term as the Royal College Chief Examiner for Vascular Surgery and Dr. Jerry Chen continues on as an Examiner. Dr. Taylor is now Chair of the Specialty Committee for Vascular Surgery for the Royal College. Dr. Chen is the Chair of the Education Committee of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery. He oversaw changes in the program of the annual meeting. The result was a most successful meeting in Calgary this September. The meeting, and most particularly, the changes in the program were well received by the attendees. Way to go Jerry. Dr. Chen and the postgraduate committee are putting the final touches on our presentation to the Royal College for the program's ongoing accreditation, February 2007.

Dr. Tony Salvian completed a very productive term as Chair of the Undergraduate Training program for Vascular Surgery. Dr. David Taylor is the new Chair of the Undergraduate program. He is overseeing the transition of the Vancouver based Vascular Surgery Undergraduate Training program to a provincial base. Thanks guys, great job. Dr. Jock Reid is the hospital head of the Division of Vascular Surgery and our representative on the Regional Surgical Advisory Committee.

Dr. Ravi Sidhu has been very busy with his multitude of research projects in 2005-2006.

He has been principal investigator in 7 projects, and co-investigator in 4 projects. He has received grants from the Association for Surgical Education and the Medical Council of Canada. Two abstracts were presented at the 2005 Canadian Vascular Society Annual Meeting, resulting from his research projects. In 2006, 3 abstracts were presented at the Canadian Vascular Society Annual Meeting. Ravi has supervised medical student projects; a variety of resident projects and is also involved in ongoing research!

The Division of Vascular Surgery has been very productive with both ongoing research and publications. Dr. Hsiang and Sidhu are our most prolific researchers.

In 2006, Dr. Joel Gagnon successfully completed his vascular fellowship-training program and passed his Royal College certification examination. Dr. Gagnon's superior skill as a mentor and teacher was recognized by his fellow trainees, he was awarded the Best Resident Teacher Award at the Annual Sports Day and Awards Night Dinner held on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. Joel is presently abroad and will soon be down-under working with world leaders in advanced endoluminal vascular therapies. Joel is now a member of the faculty of the Division of Vascular Surgery and upon completing his sabbatical, will be returning to Vancouver to work with us.

Dr. Keith Baxter has successfully completed the first year of his vascular fellowship and is now in his second year with us. In July, Dr Hao Wu began his first year of our 2-year vascular fellowship-training program. Keith, nice to see you back. Welcome, Hao.

Lynn Doyle, Acting Head Division of Vascular Surgery, UBC

29th Annual Residents Day

April 27th saw a full day of presentations from the resident group in General Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, Vascular Surgery and Pediatric General Surgery. Nineteen of our surgeons in training presented their research projects to an enthusiastic audience in the Paetzold Health Education Auditorium at VGH. The topics varied widely and encompassed both clinical and basic scientific topics. Mid day a luncheon was held at the MSAC which was sponsored by the surgical alumni. Our distinguished Royal College Visiting Professor was Dr. Jeffrey Barkun, Associate Professor of Surgery, McGill University; Head, Division General Surgery, McGill and a leading hepatobiliary specialist in Canada. (see photo)

All presentations were of the highest caliber and the judges deliberated mightily before singling out four outstanding efforts for prizes:

Management and Outcomes of Isolated Axillary Node Recurrence in Breast Cancer

David Konkin RV



Peter Leckie pitches the Alums for Money!



Sharon, Jeff, Jessica, Christian, Peter, Elena and Nadine Caron



Sher-Ping, Tracy, Adrienne, Joe, and Monica



Susan, Hamish, Kevin, Kathy, Nicole, and Madelaine



The Associate Editor with Drs Litherland, Hildebrand and Sandy



Visiting Prof. Jeff Barkun

Uric Acid Mediates Kupffer Cell Responses to Hepatocyte Ischaemia/Reperfusion Injury

James Powell RVII

A Universal Global Rating Scale for the Evaluation of Technical Skills in the Operating Room

Jeff Doyle RIII

Factors Predictive of 30Day Post Op Mortality from 3213 Surgical Procedures in 184 Patients under Treatment with Anti Retroviral Therapy

Joe Chan RIII.

Discussions were led by residents for each of the presentations, and Dr Barkun commented on the program at the end of the sessions. He also presented a paper: *Common Duct Stones: Where Are We Now?* The day ended with a formal dinner at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club. By all accounts this was the best Residents Day program in memory and all the participants are to be congratulated on the excellent quality of their work.

Division of Cardiovascular Surgery

Overview

In late 2003, the UBC Division of Cardiovascular Surgery established a cross-site cardiac surgical group (VGH and St. Paul's Hospital) to provide integrated clinical coverage and teaching at both institutions. In 2004, the group established a joint wait list for in-hospital patients waiting for urgent cardiac surgery allowing quick and efficient triage while maximizing the use of available clinical resources. This effort has contributed to the significant decrease of the cardiac surgical wait list in BC. This process has now been embraced by the MOH and PHSA and a Provincial Access and Triage initiative is currently underway with targeted benchmark objectives to be achieved by December 2007. This will

require further coordination at the provincial level of all patients awaiting cardiac surgical revascularization as well as a new influx of surgical resources critically distributed across the regions.

The division has continued to expand on its initiative of building a strong academic mission. After our recruitment of Dr. P. Skarsgard (MD, PhD), Dr. Jian Ye (MD) and Dr. Andrew Ian Campbell (MD), we have been able to recruit 3 new faculty members: Dr. J. Bashir, Dr. R. Cook and Dr. K. Humphries (PhD). Dr. Bashir brings new expertise in arrhythmia surgery and endovascular procedures to include endovascular laser lead extraction and endovascular stenting for aortic aneurysms. Dr. Cook brings our division expertise in valvular reconstruction and

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cardiac robotic surgery; and Dr. K. Humphries holds a doctorate degree in epidemiology and statistics and brings expertise and experience in the analysis of databases and formulation and analysis of outcome studies.

There are presently sixteen clinical faculty members and three full-time scientist members of the UBC Division of CV Surgery. With the addition of this new faculty, we have been successful in establishing a program of Minimally Invasive Valvular Surgery in June 2005 (The first in Western Canada) under the leadership of Drs. Skarsgard and Cook. The lead extraction program has also been relocated from VGH to St. Paul's hospital (June 2006) where the bulk of the Electrophysiology activities are concentrated. Finally an aortic disease clinic has also been developed (2006) to coordinate a central referral process for the patients with Thoracic Aortic Diseases and also to ensure their comprehensive follow-up. This clinic has been developed in concert with the creation of a section of aortic surgery headed by Dr. M.T. Janusz (Director). Over the past year, the division has become a world leader in innovative treatment of aortic valve disease. The first transapical aortic valve implantation without use of cardiopulmonary bypass or sternotomy was pioneered in Vancouver. We are in the process of establishing a catheter based valve program- the first of its kind.

Administration

Dr. Sam Lichtenstein is the Head of the UBC Division of CV Surgery and the Head of the CVT Division at St. Paul's Hospital. Dr. Guy Fradet is the Associate Head of the UBC Division of CV Surgery, Head of CV Surgery Division at Vancouver General Hospital and Medical Director of Cardiac Surgical Services for Vancouver Acute. Dr. Shahzad Karim is the Director of the CV Surgery Residency Training Program. Dr. Mike Janusz is the Director, Service of Aortic surgery, UBC. Dr. Jacques Leblanc is the Head of the CVT Surgery Division at BC Children's Hospital. Dr. Eric Jamieson is the Director of Cardiac Clinical Research and Dr. Karim Qayumi the Director of Basic Science Research.

Clinical Services

In addition to the provision of comprehensive cardiac surgical services under the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, and our quaternary role for the Province of BC, the CV Surgery Division at VGH provides support to the Divisions of Trauma Surgery, Neurosurgery, Oncology and to the Spinal Program for complex surgical procedures requiring the uses of cardiopulmonary bypass. There is also an active ECMO program at BCCH, VGH and St. Paul's Hospital, VAD program at St. Paul's and the recently established (2006) aortic clinic geographically located at St. Paul's hospital.

Teaching

The Cardiovascular Surgery Residency Program is fully accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Clinical training includes rotation at all 4 institutions as well as exposure to diagnostic, medical and interventional cardiology with inpatient and ambulatory experience. The different sites offer weekly combined cardiology-surgery clinical rounds. The Division hosts Visiting Professor events and Division

wide Journal Clubs. There is a weekly academic day for the residents and fellows. Post-graduate fellowship training is offered in Adult and Paediatric Cardiac Surgery. The Division has 5 Post Doctoral Fellows (Drs. Jia Bing and Siamak Mohammadi at BCCH, Drs. Joseph Zacharias and Paul Bui at SPH and Dr. Tom Fukuda at VGH) and 2 residents (Drs. Khalid Swenia, Osama Benhameid) Our most recent graduate (Dr. L. Fedoruk) successfully completed the examination of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for Fellowship in Cardiac Surgery and is currently away doing a fellowship in complex cardiac surgery and heart failure therapy. The members of the Division also participate in the Phase IV Undergraduate Teaching.

Research

The Division of Cardiovascular Surgery is committed to an environment that fosters both basic scientific inquiry and clinical research. The Division continues to be very active in the conduct of institutional or multicenter outcome trials with over 10 trials currently active and members of the division acting as principal investigators or co-investigators. While continuing to develop our clinical research efforts, we are also in the process of building a strong basic research group. Three surgeon scientists (PhD's) have now been recruited with definitive research commitments. The Division continues to be academically productive with 24 peer-reviewed publications in this academic year, 6 manuscripts in press and 6 submitted for publication, 6 published abstracts and 17 other presentations. Members of the Division also continue to support the BC Cardiac Registry which generates annual site and surgeon specific outcome analyses important in the development and validation of best practices related to our area of clinical care.

People

Dr. James Abel is a member of the Cardiac Surgery Specialty Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Dr. Guy Fradet continues to be a member of the organizing committee for the Annual Peak Performance meeting for Canadian Cardiac Surgeons and has become the Head of the Division of CV Surgery at VGH and medical Director of Cardiac Surgical Services for VA. Dr. Eric Jamieson was the Chair of the Organizing Committee of this year's Meeting of the Society for Heart Valve Disease held in Vancouver July 17 to 20th 2005. Dr. M.T. Janusz has been appointed Director of the Aortic Surgery Service. Dr. Jacques Leblanc is a member of the Cardiac Surgery Examination Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Dr. Leblanc also spent 2 weeks in Shanghai, China along with a surgical team from the BC Children's Hospital helping and training colleagues of the Fudan University Children Hospital in the surgical care of complex congenital cardiac diseases in infants and children. Dr. Karim Qayumi is the Director of the Centre of Excellence for Surgical Education and Innovation at the University of British Columbia. Members of the division are routinely invited to give presentations at other institutions as visiting professors.

Division of Plastic Surgery, UBC



Dr. Mark Hill

The Division of Plastic Surgery has had a busy and productive 2006 so far. The major change for the Division this year is our move into the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre. Plastic Surgery is located on the 3rd floor adjacent to the new Outpatient facility. There are academic offices as well as consultant offices which will ultimately house up to 6 of our staff as well as residents and fellows.

We are extremely fortunate to have recruited Dr Mark Hill to join the Division of Plastic Surgery at V.G.H. Mark (see photo) is likely well known to many of you having worked in Victoria for over a decade followed by a number of years in Abu Dhabi. Mark brings a great wealth of experience in all areas of Plastic Surgery and has particular expertise in hand and reconstructive microsurgery. We extend our warmest welcome to Mark, his wife Joan, and his 3 children, Matthew, Amber and Janelle.

In our Postgraduate Training Program we will new residents Farrah Yau from the University of Alberta, Andrew Tung from U.B.C. and Asif Pirani from University of Toronto. Graduating this year was Sean Bristol who successfully completed his Royal College

Fellowship examinations and is now midway through a Fellowship in Hand and Microsurgery at the University of Leeds, U.K. Sean will be returning to the Division of Plastic Surgery in July 2007.

Our Fellowship Program has been active this year. Dr. David Morgan from Melbourne, Australia completed 6 months as the Inamed Breast Reconstruction Fellow, January 1 to June 30, 2006. This position has now been taken up by Dr. Ali Husain (July 1 to December 31, 2006) who hails originally from Bahrain and has more recently has taken up practice in Moncton. The Synthes sponsored Craniofacial Fellow (July 1, 2006 to June 30th, 2007) is Dr. Shawki Souf originally from Libya who recently graduated from Plastic Surgery in Winnipeg.

We welcome the Plastic Surgery staff at Surrey Memorial, Royal Columbian, and Prince George Regional Hospitals to our Undergraduate teaching roster. This group of surgeons (Drs. Rod French, Paul Oxley, Rizwan Mian, John Legge, and Kristian Malpass) has enthusiastically taken up the banner of medical school expansion and will be teaching Plastic Surgery to 3rd year medical students.

Nicholas J. Carr, MD, Head, Division of Plastic Surgery, UBC

Residents Page

Annual General Surgery Residents Barbeque - August 2006

Pictured are the happy faces of those who managed to make the MacFarlane's annual bun throw in August. This event has been a way for the newly minted residents to get to know staff, faculty and their confreres in a low pressure atmosphere, and has been visited upon by all sorts of exigencies from pouring rain to perishing heat over the years! All in all it seems to be a permanent fixture and we wonder if any other programs have similar events during the summer. The Editors would be pleased to receive pictures and text relating other such events in the department.



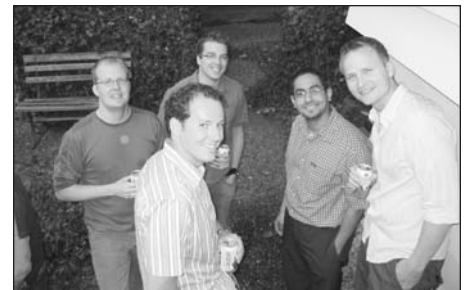
The new Konkin addition



The calm before the storm



Jeff and Lisy Doyle with Dr. Evans



Nick Fry, Todd Swanson, Resident Associate Editor Dickeson, John Boutros, and Jason Forbes



Shaun Deen, Sarah Lord and partners



The Bugis



Drs Seal and Brown tucking into desert

Residents Page



Nicole, her daughter, Robin and friends

Residency Hits the Road – Making a Splash in Williams Lake

UBC General Surgery residents have arrived in Williams Lake. The city of 12,000 is situated in the heart of the Cariboo Chilcotin region, 550 KM north of Vancouver. From the founding Native tribes and early European fur traders, to the fortune seekers of the 1850s Cariboo gold rush and now our very own surgical residents, Williams Lake has always been a strategic stop on a lengthy journey.

Dr. Nicole Robbins could not agree more. The third year resident can attest to the accuracy of Williams Lake being at an important crossroads in British Columbia. “I have seen a significant amount of severe motor vehicle injury here. We had one IVC and hepatic vein laceration which Dr Brosseuk repaired,” relays Nicole in reference to local surgeon Dr. Dan Brosseuk. The city’s proximity to Route 97, BC’s main north-south highway, not only delivers a steady flow of trauma experience, it also provides a gateway to some beautiful scenery.

“The surrounding wilderness is amazing. I took one day off and went to the Nehemiah Valley. It was a three and a half hour drive on some rough roads through scenery that looks like the Himalayas.” Nicole, an avid horseback rider, also adds: “I would love to return for a holiday to go on a wilderness riding vacation or fishing trip.”

And while she’s not off exploring the wilderness, Nicole is hard at work operating most days and running a small but busy inpatient surgical ward. The Cariboo Memorial Hospital has 28 acute and 60 intermediate care beds and a 24 hour emergency department. The two staff general surgeons are Dr. Dan Brosseuk and Dr. Jean Oosthuizen, both graduates of the UBC General Surgery program.

Nicole feels one of the strengths of this community rotation has been the exposure she’s received to laparoscopy and

endoscopy. Making the leap to primary operator can be difficult but Nicole feels that the experience and knowledge she has picked up from Dr. Brosseuk and Dr. Oosthuizen has been invaluable. With the surgical resident endoscopy rotation now moved out of VGH, it’s good to hear that there is more than enough opportunity to pick up some extra training in the endoscopy suite.

One of the most difficult aspects of a rural rotation seldom has anything to do with medicine. Hitting the road for two to three months and living away from your own home and surroundings can be trying. This is particularly so for Nicole who has had to leave behind her husband Ernest and her two teenage children, Mark and Robin. But sacrifice is nothing new for this family. Nicole gave up a successful career as a university biology instructor to return to medical school and ultimately pursue a career in general surgery.

“I have seen my kids one weekend in two months, partly because they are busy with their sports [in Vancouver] and if they came up here I would be busy working. To be honest, being away from my family has at times caused me to wonder about my choice of career but my husband assures me that they are fine...I can only hope that someone is still at home when I get back!”

Nicole’s candid comments are one of the more troubling realities of expanding the General Surgery residency program. The larger number of residents all vying for the same surgical experience has necessitated the extension of the program to more rural teaching sites such as Williams Lake. The desire to become well trained surgeons and gain as much experience as possible is what allows residents to stay positive while packing up their belongings and hitting the road. It also helps to know there will be smiling faces and a warm meal awaiting you at the other end of the highway.

“The camaraderie amongst the staff and nurses is a highlight I think,” notes Nicole when asked about the reception she received. “I have been invited to many dinners and bike rides. I have been staying at a bed and breakfast and Pene [retired nurse, B & B owner/operator] treats everyone who stays here as one of the family...this helps when you are missing your own!”

With its mix of operative experience and welcoming nature, it seems as though Williams Lake will be one of the more popular rural rotations amongst resident for years to come.

If you have any comments or feedback regarding what you’ve just read, or if you have any news/events/achievements that you would like me to share with our readers in the next issue, then email me at markdickeson@hotmail.com

Around and About the Department

Christmas Party 2005

The departmental Christmas party at the MSAC was a lively affair and featured many of the members of both faculty and staff who were on the list of those to be honoured at the Long Term Contribution Recognition Event of the Faculty which took place January 26th.

Amongst the "Usual Suspects" honoured by the Dean were Gayle Uthoff, and Shurli Channe (both in the >30 yr category), Eva Germann 30 yrs, Ruth Shafron 26yrs, Mai-Britt Hedberg, Marlene Woschee, Betty Pearson, and Joan MacNab - each 25yrs. I can't imagine how they've put up with all

of us for so long! Congratulations. Oh by the way there were 34 surgery faculty members mentioned in dispatches including Drs Forward, Fairholm, and Johnson. How any of us have put up with them is an unsolved mystery!!!



Dr. Fairholm with Sharon Sanderson



Dr. Herb Forward



Gayle Uthoff

Announcements

Dr. Carl Brown, General and Colorectal Surgeon

Dr. Elaine McKeivitt, General Surgeon

We are very pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Carl Brown and Dr. Elaine McKeivitt as of April 1, 2006.

Dr. Carl Brown



Carl Brown is a general surgeon with subspecialty training in colorectal surgery who will be starting at St. Paul's Hospital in April 2006. Dr. Brown obtained his medical degree at McMaster University in 1998. He went on to complete a five year residency in general surgery at the University of Calgary. Upon completing this specialist training, he worked as a general surgeon at the Peter Lougheed Centre Hospital in Calgary. In 2004, Dr. Brown moved to Toronto where he completed a two year fellowship in colorectal surgery.

Dr. Brown has a strong interest in clinical research and has published several peer-reviewed studies during his training as well as a book chapter in "Challenges in Inflammatory Bowel Disease". Furthermore, Dr. Brown has completed a Master's Degree in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto. At S. Paul's Hospital, Dr. Brown plans on initiating clinical research projects related to colorectal cancer and processes of surgical care. He looks forward to collaborating with health care professionals of all disciplines in these endeavors.

Dr Elaine McKeivitt



Dr McKeivitt will be joining Providence Health Care in the Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, at St Paul's Hospital with a clinical interest in Breast Surgery and an academic interest in Surgical Education.

Dr McKeivitt completed her undergraduate training at the University of British Columbia completing a degree in Physiology. She then went on to complete her MD degree in 1996. She completed her residency training in 2002 in General Surgery at UBC with emphasis on community surgery. Her research interests and publications included trauma care, international surgery, and general surgery problems. She has an interest in International Surgery and undertook rotations in Kenya and Nepal during medical school and residency.

Dr McKeivitt has worked as a General Surgeon in Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal (including time at Mt St Joseph Hospital), and Prince George since 2002. While taking maternity leaves she has been working on a Masters in Education through UBC and her studies and research have focused on teaching and learning in surgery.

Sincerely,

Nancy Van Laeken, MD FRCSC

Chair, Department of Surgery, Providence Health Care

FACULTY KUDOS

Congratulations to members of faculty and emeriti who have been honoured in the past few months.

Double winner Wally Chung who nailed down both the Order of Canada and the Order of BC. I think that pretty well cinches him as the most honoured person I know. Well done Wally, the rewards are richly deserved!

Congratulations too go out to Larry Goldenberg who has been named to the Order of BC. Please note that this happened while a member of THIS department's faculty....no telling what may happen now that he's defected!

John Masterson received the Faculty of Medicine Career Award in Clinical Teaching in recognition of his sustained record and

reputation for excellence.....ditto!

Ivo Olivotto was a Medical Alumni Association Award Silver Anniversary Award winner nominated by his classmates at their 25th reunion. These awards go to members of the class who in the opinions of their peers have demonstrated leadership in research, teaching, clinical care and public service.

And finally we salute Gordon Thompson was named Honorary Alumnus of the Medical Alumni Association for his career long dedication to excellence in Neurosurgical Science. His extensive achievements were detailed by Felix Durity at a ceremony at the MSAC recently. We applaud all these well deserved honours.

Laparoscopic Colectomy Course CESEI Oct 13, 14, 2006

The first BC laparoscopic colectomy course including wet lab experience for 16 enthusiastic registrants from BC and Alberta was held on Friday and Saturday the second week of October at the CESEI. The Friday program featured live operation feeds from St Paul's and VG Hospital OR's of live operations with two way communications for teaching of MIS approaches to the colon.

Faculty included those pictured and we welcomed Dr Robin Boushey, Asst Prof U.of Ottawa, as our visiting expert. Small group sessions on Friday in the dry lab reviewed fundamental laparoscopic skills, instrumentation, port positioning, hand ports, etc and the highlight was the cadaver lab on Saturday with two surgeons and one instructor per abdomen where participants had the opportunity to perform colectomy dissections, specimen extractions, and anastomoses.

The facilities at the Centre of Excellence for Surgical Education and Innovation (which will have its official opening this month) were nothing short of spectacular and added immeasurably to the simulation experience. The course Director was Terry Phang, Head of the Section of Colorectal Surgery in the General Surgical Division, and the course was sponsored by the Royal College, The UBC Department and GS Division, as well as the two participating hospitals. Major funding and hands on participation so necessary to the success of such a course was generously provided by Storz Endoscopy, and Tyco Healthcare.

Feed back and educational objective monitoring and testing was in the capable hands of Rona Cheifetz, and the course secretarial duties were admirably handled by Anne Finneran.



Adam Meneghetti begins the Lab



Bao Tang assists two of the course participants achieve pneumoperitoneum



CESEI wet lab has all the latest equipment!



Thats a pretty good view!



The Faculty- Warnock, Panton, Phang, Bouche, Raval, Tang, Meneghetti, Brown



Where should we place those ports

54th Annual Resident's Sports Day and Dinner

Pictures it's said are worth a thousand words, so in an effort to spare you more verbal meanderings we present the Award winners and let you enjoy the photo essay that follows.

Richard Finley Research Scholar: Michael Cox
 Hyalmar Johnson New Investigator: Sam Wiseman
 Rocke Robertson Teaching Award: Graeme Duncan
 AD Forward PG Faculty Teaching: Morad Hameed
 Resident Teacher Awards: Joel Gagnon, H. Hwang
 AD McKenzie Clinical Teaching Award: Eric Webber
 Bill Knox Award: Omar Nazif
 IB Holubitsky Award: Raymond Yong

CONGRATULATIONS ALL!



Dr Johnson presents his New Investigator Award to Sam Wiseman



The former editor has a word with Graham Fraser



A Bad Bunch!



Alex has a word with Clayton



Andrew Seal holds forth



Fern and Ingrid



Hamish Hwang receives Resident Teacher Award



Lets hit the Links!



Pat Doyle and friends



Pre Dinner Libations



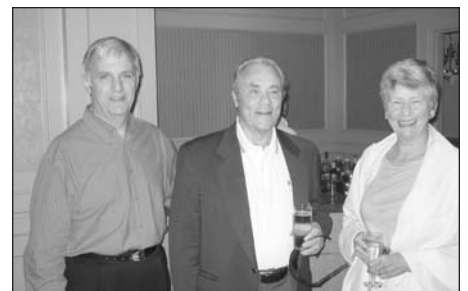
The golf course was never threatened!



The Great Canadian Skin Game



Tie on the Feed Bag



Vivian Basco joins the reprobates

Neurosurgery Canoe Trip – 2006

July 20th, 2006 marked the second neurosurgery canoe trip for staff, residents and friends. In attendance at this auxiliary academic activity of the Division of Neurosurgery were Barrie Woodhurst, nominal leader, Jeff Briggs and his two children, Meredith – UBC pre-med, and Spenser, age 15, and two neurosurgery residents, Peter Gooderham and Dan Warren.

Perfect weather and canoeing conditions were enjoyed. With time the Residents' canoe managed adequate communication and technical skills to keep up with Woodhurst and Meredith. Wild life viewing was exceptionally good with moose, river otter and numerous birds seen. Though fish are reported in the Bowron lakes, Dan Warren failed to catch any. The trip afforded an excellent opportunity for review of almost no neurosurgical topics but an exploration of other talents such as gourmet camp cooking, canoe hauling, and the sampling of reasonably good Scotch whiskey.

This canoe circuit 115 K was accomplished in five nights. This is considerably slower than the last such neurosurgery expedition which required only three nights and four days of paddling. The more extended time for this expedition is attributed to the fine weather and the need for increased rest, photo ops and time to soak up the sunshine by this crew.

Further such expeditions are planned for ensuing years assuming residents of adequate physical stamina can be recruited.

Sincerely,

W. B. Woodhurst, MD BSc, MD, FRCSC
Clinical Professor
Division of Neurosurgery



Dan Warren - Canoe Trip



Peter Gooderham and Moose - Canoe Trip



W. B. Woodhurst - Canoe Trip

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Greetings to all you Land Lubbers! If you had ever thought about going on a cruise to an exotic locale, getting away from the drudgery of work, meeting your colleagues in congenial surroundings, obtain CME credits, and get paid an honorarium, then this is for you!!

For 2007, our Department is hosting 2 Cruises, in July 2007 and November 2007. From July 1-8, 2007, we will be cruising to the Alaska Glaciers on Infinity Celebrity Cruises. The speakers for that cruise have already been identified but you can always come and hear about the latest in your colleague's specialty. Details regarding participating as an attendee will be forthcoming shortly by email.

In addition, plans are underway for a "warm" cruise to Mexico in November 2007. If you always wanted to visit Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta, and even Acapulco, then this may be what you're looking for! As yet, we have many speaker spots to fill and have not decided upon the cruise line company or dates. The two most promising are the Holland America Line (sailing dates November 10 – 17, 2007) and Norwegian Lines (sailing dates November 24 – December 2, 2007).

If you want to participate as a speaker, or give me comments as to the best dates and cruise liners, just send me an email ynhsiang@yahoo.ca

Happy cruising,
York Hsiang

In Memoriam

Dr. Ron Calderisi

Dear Editor

Dr Ron Calderisi, our good friend and colleague died suddenly on July 29, 2005 whilst working in Northern Ontario.

Ron, Lynn Doyle, Urve Kuusk, Blair Faulkner and I did our fellowship exams together in Montreal in November 1983. Ron spent the majority of his clinical career practicing at St Vincents Hospital and he and I maintained a very close personal relationship over the years. As a matter of fact, his son, Benjamin graduated in May of this year and Ron came to Vancouver for the ceremony; I had dinner with him the night before he returned to Ontario. He was in good health and extremely happy in his marriage to his second wife, Anna.

Ron will be sadly missed by his family and friends. He leaves to mourn his wife Anna, his ex-wife Diane, and his children Benjamin and Rachel. I would appreciate if you would place a Memorial to him in the Surgical Times.

Sincerely,
Neely Panton

Editors Note: Ron was a great friend of UBC and laboured long in the Providence Healthcare system to establish a teaching presence for St Vincents and Mt St Josephs Hospitals. His recent work has been focused in Moose Factory. Subsequently a Dr Ron Calderisi Memorial Bursary Endowment Fund has been established to provide and encourage funding to aboriginal students to pursue studies in an undergraduate degree program within the faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University. Donations will be accepted in Ron's memory at:

Dr Ronald Calderisi Memorial Bursary
Office of Advancement
Queen's University
Kingston Ontario
K7L 3N6

Editorial

Dr. Johnson and I are pleased to welcome Mark Dickeson from the General Surgery Resident group as our Associate Editor – Resident's Page. This new feature of the Times is being added for the first time this issue and we look forward to enthusiastic approval of our addition. Mark brings a background as an English major (as does your humble editor) and has accepted the nomination unreservedly! We now have a forum for resident affairs which stress the human side of residency...the academic is well covered by the traditional division events reporting...and Mark will welcome submissions from any and all residents for consideration in future issues. Please submit directly to markdickeson@hotmail.com.

This issue features a report from Nicole Robbins based on her rotation in Williams Lake and points out the challenges which the mother of a teenage daughter must overcome to achieve a successful experience away from home. Welcome Mark!

You will find many other reports and musings in this issue. Once again we thank all those who have contributed material to the effort. If it appears that the General Surgical division gets more than its share of the ink it should be remembered that we cannot cover all the fun that happens in our department, especially if no one lets us know! We are pleased that the division of Neurosurgery has let us in on the Bowron Lakes Saga and hope others will be moved to follow suit in future submissions.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT...YOU!

The Surgical Times is YOUR publication.
We need your input, ideas, letters, reports,
suggestions, criticisms.

HELLO.....Is anyone out there?

We welcome comments and submissions to:

The Editors, Surgical Times

6775 Adera Street, Vancouver, BC V6P 5B9

or by fax to 604 263 2131

email maccер@shaw.ca



THE SURGICAL TIMES

The Newsletter of the
UBC Department of Surgery

Editor

John K. MacFarlane

Contributing Editor

Hjalmar Johnson

Associate Editor / Resident's Page

Mark Dickeson

Assistant Editors

The Secretarial Staff in the Department of Surgery

All communication should be forwarded by email to
Editors at maccер@shaw.ca