

AUGUST 2018 – Issue #8

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DIVISION DIRECTOR'S COLUMN – Dr Douglas Bradley

Celebrating Excellence

In this column I would like to highlight and recognize excellence among our Division members at all levels. First, I want to thank Gaspard Montandon and Richard Leung, with the administrative assistance of Rhiannon Davies, for organizing and presiding over a very successful 18th Annual Research Day. I realize this takes a great deal of time and we all appreciate their efforts. Every year seems to grow bigger and better. Indeed, this year, we received a record 68 abstracts. It is very gratifying to see the quality, scope and volume of research being performed in our Division and our related Departments of Biomedical Engineering, Critical Care Medicine, Thoracic Surgery, Cell and Systems Biology, Pediatric Respiriology, Physiology, Physiotherapy and Dentistry. Congratulations to the faculty and trainees who receive awards for their outstanding research and teaching as detailed in the AWARDS section below.



Second, I want to emphasize that this has been a very special year for Respiriology. Indeed, I would have to call it a vintage year. Ten of our faculty members have won an unprecedented number of awards at

the international, national and local Department of Medicine levels, not only in research, but also in teaching and clinical care. This underscores the outstanding quality and breadth of our faculty members' capabilities, which is a source of inspiration and pride for us all.

At the international level, Drs. Margaret Herridge and Susan Tarlo received lifetime achievement awards in Critical Care Medicine and Occupational Lung Disease, respectively, from the American Thoracic Society. At the national level, Dr. Liz Tullis received the Prix d'Excellence award from the Royal College for excellence in the care of patients with Cystic Fibrosis which I had the pleasure of presenting to her at the Canadian Respiratory Conference. Dr. Shiphra Ginsburg won the Medical Council of Canada's Outstanding Achievement Award in the Evaluation of Clinical Competence, while I have the honour of being invited to give the Canadian Thoracic Society's 2018 Ronald Christie Honorary Lecture. Several of our faculty members have also been recognized for their outstanding contributions by the University of Toronto's Department of Medicine. I am delighted to say that three of the four Goldie Prize and Travel Awards went to members of our Division: Dr. Andrea Gershon for Excellence in Research, Dr. Anju Anand for Excellence in Education Scholarship and Innovation, and Dr. Christie Lee for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. John Thenganatt received the Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Medical Education in the category of Teaching Performance, Mentorship and Advocacy. Finally, Dr. Harvey Wong received the Peters Boyd Academy Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Medical Education. What is particularly noteworthy and gratifying is that these individuals hail from all the major University of Toronto affiliated hospitals and from all levels of seniority indicating that we are experiencing a pandemic of excellence in our Division! My hearty congratulations to all these individuals whose accomplishments are also outlined in the AWARDS section below.

So, why have our faculty members garnered so many awards in a single year? Of course it is not easy to put one's finger on the reasons, but I will say that I don't think this occurred by accident. I think several factors have contributed to this success. First, it requires a long period of specialized training under wise guidance to gain the expertise to be competitive for such awards. Second, it takes hard work as well as dedication to academic excellence and innovation. Clearly, these individuals possess such characteristics. Third, and perhaps most importantly, it takes the right environment within which such individuals can thrive and excel. Specifically, it requires the support of other members of our Division to nurture these individuals and nominate them for these awards in a setting of mutual respect and altruism. I would therefore encourage members of our Division to continue to nominate our colleagues for such awards so that as many members of our Division as possible are recognized for their achievements in the future.

FEATURE ARTICLE – RESPIROLOGY JOURNAL CLUB - Matthew Stanbrook and Anju Anand

Over the last 16 years, the University of Toronto’s Division of Respiriology Journal Club has always been a valued component of the training program. The live monthly sessions, held September to June, aim to optimize the ability of our residency training program to teach residents advanced skills in critical appraisal of the respiratory literature. The objective is to achieve a higher level discussion than residents would have encountered earlier in their training, with emphasis on issues of particular relevance to clinical research in the Respiriology field.

Residents have valued the freedom to choose topics for journal club from the literature based on their interests. The topics have ranged from landmark articles to current “hot topics” in Respiriology, Sleep and Critical Care Medicine. Residents review the article and prepare a written summary including a critical appraisal of the article to circulate to their colleagues and to share on the divisional website.



In 2014, our Journal club expanded beyond the traditional concepts of an “in person” discussion to include an online component using Twitter (@respandsleepjc, #rsjc). The aim of adding Twitter was to allow greater participation locally and abroad, and for discussion and collaboration from “virtual” participants who brought with them expertise from various training levels, disciplines and geographic considerations. It also allowed for real-time participation in our journal club from lead authors of many of the papers being discussed. This added another dimension to the discussion as questions that were not necessarily addressed in print could now be asked and answered. The Twitter platform created the opportunity for all Division members to participate (@respandsleepjc) by following its hashtag (#rsjc) and to receive CME credits for participation by the Royal College.

Since its inception, the Twitter component has over 474 followers. Online journal clubs occur all year, including the two months (July and August) that the live journal club is not held. The critical appraisal and discussion, both in person and online, are subsequently summarized, in letter format, by the residents and often submitted as correspondence back to the original journal from which the article was chosen. This allows those on and offline to read the discussion and for residents to practice their writing skills and obtain valuable feedback from two faculty members (including one Deputy Editor of the CMAJ). Many residents have now published these letters in most of the highest-impact respiratory journals.

This idea of widespread dissemination was taken a step further this year when an agreement was arranged with the Canadian Journal of Respiratory, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine to have write-ups of our journal club discussions published as a regular “Twitter Journal Club” feature in each issue. These initiatives have furthered the reputation and impact of our division’s journal club at a local, national and international level.

The uses of social media in medicine are evolving, as is the concept of our journal club. Yet, the aims of the University of Toronto Respiratory Journal club (@respandsleepjc) remain unchanged: it promotes habits of critical thinking, lifelong learning, the skills of writing in medicine and adapting to change when new information warrants it. Join us on Twitter for the next Respiratory Journal Club!

RESIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM ALUMNI - Dr Yuri Moltyaner



Dr Yuri Moltyaner finished his two years of Respiriology training at the University of Toronto in 2000, following which he went to the University of California San Francisco to complete his training in Critical Care Medicine. In 2007, he was also certified in Sleep Medicine through the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Yuri has been on staff at William Osler Health Centre (WOHC) in Brampton since completing his training. He is currently the corporate Division Head of Respiriology. During this tenure, he was involved in opening a COPD Urgent Clinic to provide timely expertise for patients following acute exacerbations and an interdisciplinary clinic for managing malignant pleural effusions with pleural catheters. He also oversaw an innovative program moving pulmonary rehabilitation into the community to be run by family health teams under WOHC supervision. Yuri has continued to be involved in medical education through supervision of ICU

fellows on electives and training of McMaster family medicine residents.

Yuri looks back fondly on his Respiriology residency. He feels lucky to have had a great group of fellows in the program with him. Together they started a journal club that bore his initials for many years. Yuri had the privilege of being trained and mentored by an inspiring group of physicians. The knowledge they imparted has been instrumental in his career. Yuri is especially grateful to his program director and research supervisor

Gregory Downey, longitudinal clinic attending, Charlie Chan, and his research supervisor, Elizabeth Tullis.

Yuri has three children, Zachary (2), Sophia (4) and Amelia (5), who keep his wife Stella and he very busy. When he does have free time, he enjoys skiing and travel.

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI – Dr Mohammed Al Houqani



I was fortunate to be able to undertake my training in Internal, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at University of Toronto during the period 2004 to 2010. Subsequently, I joined the faculty of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at United Arab Emirates (UAE) University as Assistant Professor. During the first two years I was engaged in teaching and research. To enhance my skills in research I also enrolled in the Master of Public Health program. In 2013 I was appointed Assistant Dean for Medical Education. During my tenure I worked on improving the quality of assessment and introducing new trends in pedagogy. In the assessment area I introduced the modified Angoff method for assessing performance on standardized written examinations and the borderline

regression method for the OSCE. I also introduced Team Based Learning to the undergraduate curriculum. I am passionate about improving all aspects of medical education and training at my university.

In order to keep up with my clinical skills in sleep medicine, I established the first independent sleep laboratory in the UAE. Due to the high demand, I am currently see both adult and pediatric patients. I have also conducted a number of learning events for health professionals to promote awareness of sleep-related breathing disorders.

Currently I am working on establishing the National Institute of Health Specialties which will be responsible for accrediting postgraduate clinical training institutions, programs and certifying the postgraduate trainees.

I spend most of my free time with my wife and 5 children aged between 2 and 12 years-old who keep both of us very busy. My family and I will always remember the good times we spent in Toronto. We greatly value the multicultural experiences the welcoming Canadian community provided us during our stay. The experience in Toronto was also very helpful in paving the way towards a successful and fulfilling career in academia in the UAE.

Resident Training Program Director Report – Dr Christopher Li



Medicine Subspecialty Match

I am very pleased to welcome the cohort of 5 residents who have joined us for the 2018-19 academic year.

Ahmed Abdelbasit (University of Alberta, international stream)

Colin Adams (Western University, CaRMS)

Alina Blazer (University of Toronto, CaRMS)

Eunice Cho (University of Toronto, CaRMS)

Daniel Marinescu (University of Toronto, CaRMS)

This year our Chief Resident is Ahmad Zaheen, and our Resident Year 1 Representative is Alina Blazer.

Internal Medicine Royal College Examinations

I would like to acknowledge our residents who successfully completed their Royal College Examinations in Internal Medicine this past May. Congratulations to, **Laura Budd, Yahya Habis, Vanessa Martelli, Erica Merman, Jason Rajchgot, and Ahmad Zaheen**

Research Advisory Committee – Dr Jane Batt

Annual Respiriology Research Day June, 29, 2018 - Winners

Best Oral Presentation: **Victoria Mintsopoulos**

Best Poster Health Science: **Jolene Fisher**

Best Poster Clinical Science: **Lee Fidler**

Best Poster Basic Science: **Matthew White**

Continuing Medical Education Update – Dr John Thenganatt

On the evening of June 14, 2018 we held our 2nd Annual Summer CME Evening focused on asthma. **Diane Lougheed** from Queen's University reviewed the recent CTS Severe Asthma Guidelines and **Matthew Stanbrook** highlighted the most important asthma-related research from the past twelve months. Over 60 clinicians attended the event.

Planning is underway for the **12th Annual Day in Respiriology** to be held at the Westin Prince Hotel on **November 16, 2018**. The full-day event will be focused on interstitial lung diseases. Our 2nd Annual Evening Year in Review will be held the night before. More details regarding both events will become available later this summer. Please save the date!

AWARDS AND NEWS

AWARDS

International Awards

Margaret Herridge received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Critical Care Assembly of the ATS at the May ATS meeting

Susan Tarlo received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Occupational Lung Disease Assembly of the ATS – presented at the ATS

Meyer Balter, received a distinguished educator citation from the ACCP

Takashi Hirama, received the Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Award 2018, which is an ATS Foundation award for pulmonary and critical care fellows.

National Awards

Douglas Bradley was selected to be the Canadian Thoracic Society's Ronald Christie Honorary Lecturer for 2018. His presentation will take place at the CHEST/CTS meeting in San Antonio, Texas in October, 2018.

Shiphra Ginsburg received the Medical Council of Canada 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award in the Evaluation of Clinical Competence.



Elizabeth Tullis received the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Regional Prix d'excellence — Specialist of the Year Award Winner for Region 3 for 2017, and also, the Dr. Douglas Crozier Award from Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Photograph of Dr. Bradley presenting Dr. Tullis with the Prix d'Excellence at the CRC in Vancouver, April, 2018

Department of Medicine, Post Graduate Medical Education, and Hospital Awards

William (Bill) Geerts received the 2018 Sunnybrook Medical Dental Midwifery Staff Association annual Distinguished Service Award.

Andrea Gershon received the Goldie Prize and Travel Award for Excellence in Research.

Anju Anand received the Goldie Prize and Travel Award for Excellence in Educational Scholarship and Innovation.

Christie Lee received the Goldie Prize and Travel Award for Excellence in Teaching.

John Thenganatt received the Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Medical Education for the category of Teaching Performance, Mentorship and Advocacy.

Harvey Wong received the Peters Boyd Academy Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Medical Education.

Andrew Kouri was awarded the Thorpe Family Respiriology Fellowship for application of asthma treatment guidelines at of point-of-care.

Shazmeen Manji was awarded the John and Frances Dawson Fellowship to pursue training in tuberculous and non-tuberculous mycobacterial diseases.

Grants

Gaspard Montandon received a CIHR grant for *Neural and molecular basis of opioid-induced respiratory depression*.

Jane Batt received a CIHR grant for *Mechanisms mediating chronic muscle atrophy and weakness in the critical illness survivor*.

Pettit Block Term Grant Awards

November 2017	April 2018
Elizabeth Tullis: Molecular Epidemiology of M Abscessus in Cystic Fibrosis	John Granton: Feasibility of Pre-Operative Inspiratory Muscle Training in Lung Transplant Candidates with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
Teresa Martinu: Pathologic features of chronic lung allograft dysfunction: from mice to humans and back	Anne Stephenson: Factors associated with worse health outcomes around transition to adult CF care
	Jussi Tikkenan: Prevention of hyperammonemia syndrome after lung transplantation

Annual Respiriology Teaching and Research Awards 2018

The Faculty Teaching Award, selected by the Respiriology residents for excellence in teaching went to **Sarah Brode**.

The Jae Yang Award for Teaching by a Respiriology resident went to **Ahmad Zaheen**.

The Sheldon Mintz Undergraduate Teaching Award went to **Marie Faughnan**.

The Chief Resident's Outstanding Contribution Award to **Shazmeen Manji**

The Excellence in Research Faculty Award went to **Richard Horner**.

The Outstanding Research Trainee Award went to **Chris Walsh**

NEWS

We are delighted to announce that **Jakov Moric** has been appointed Respiriology Division Director, WCH; while **Owen Lyons** has been appointed Fellowship Director, Department of Medicine, Women's College Hospital.

We are also pleased to announce that as of June 1, 2018, **Cecilia Chaparro** has taken up the role of interim Respiriology Fellowship Director. Special thanks to Chris Li who held this portfolio for the past seven years.

James Downar will be departing to Ottawa to become the Chair of the Palliative Care Program at the University of Ottawa.

Neil Lazar has retired from Critical Care but will continue with his general Respiriology practice at UHN.

Charlie Chan will retire as of December 2018 from his VP of Medical Affairs and clinical roles at UHN.

Reminders

Meet the Investigators Night will be held on Sept 13, 2018, location to be determined.

Residency Interview Day for 2018, will be held on October 2, 2018 at Li Ka Shing, Knowledge Institute

Annual Respiriology Research Day will be held on June 19, 2019 at the Munk Centre. Please put this date in your calendars now.

Pettit Block Term Grant: the next deadline for applications will be April 15, 2019.

Thank you, to everyone who sent in items for inclusion in this newsletter!

*Please note that for any errors or omissions in this newsletter, only send me an email if the error relates to you or someone you sent information relating to. To be removed from the distribution list, send an email with **unsubscribe** in the subject line.*