

July 2019 – Issue #10

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DIVISION DIRECTOR'S COLUMN – Dr. Douglas Bradley

Respirology Within The Tradition of Excellence at the University of Toronto

One of the most important things fostering our ability as individuals and as a Division to achieve excellence in teaching, research and other academic activities is the environment in which we dwell. In this regard, the University of Toronto has been instrumental in creating such an environment. Indeed, the University of Toronto has once again been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the number one university in Canada and among the top 10 public universities in the world. With a focus on research output and reputation, the Washington, D.C.-based news and information firm's 2019 Best Global Universities ranked University of Toronto 20th among 1,250 public and private institutions in 75 countries. That includes four subject categories where University of Toronto ranked among the top 10 globally: most notably for us, University of Toronto ranked fifth in clinical medicine and tenth in molecular biology and genetics. University of Toronto also ranked among the top five university-managed business incubators in the world, according to UBI Global, indicating leadership in innovation and commercial translation. With respect to University of Toronto affiliated teaching hospitals, Toronto General Hospital of the



University Health Network was ranked 7th among the 10 best hospitals in the world. Thus, the Department of Medicine and Division of Respiriology are privileged to operate under the influence and inspiration of one of the premier academic institutions in the world.

It may sometimes be difficult to see the relevance of the University of Toronto in our daily professional lives, particularly when faculty members do not draw a University salary. But, beyond salary, all faculty benefit from their association with the University of Toronto, and it's national and international reputation. For example, our medical students are trained at the University and our residents and fellows are registered with the University. Although our training objectives are set by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, it is the university's Post Graduate Medical Education Office that provides us with the guidance and support to ensure our training programs meet, and often exceed these objectives, thereby holding us to the highest standards of medical training. In addition to all this, each one of us who are faculty must obtain a University of Toronto Faculty appointment before we can obtain a University of Toronto-affiliated hospital appointment, to engage in our passion for seeing patients and teaching at the bedside.

Furthermore, we are one of the few Respiratory training programs in North America whose residents benefit from exposure to a broad spectrum of clinical, teaching and research excellence by rotating among all of the University-affiliated teaching hospitals. Examples of the range of training opportunities include lung transplantation, interstitial lung diseases and pulmonary hypertension at University Health Network; sarcoidosis at Mt. Sinai Hospital; adult cystic fibrosis, HHT and hepato-pulmonary syndrome at St. Michael's Hospital; interventional pulmonology and ventilator management of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; and sleep disorders medicine at Women's College Hospital. When I interview our Respiriology trainees, they cite the broad exposure to subspecialty expertise across these hospitals as a huge strength and a factor that sets the University of Toronto apart from all other institutions in Canada and the great majority of other institutions in North America where the bulk of training is usually limited to one, or perhaps two hospitals.

We also benefit from access to the University of Toronto's institutions and programs within which many of our clinician scientists, investigators and educators train. These include the Institute of Medical Science, the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Studies, the Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation, and the Master Teachers' Program. These provide a bounty of academic offerings for our faculty and trainees. Another benefit of working in this environment is that the University of Toronto's international reputation attracts the cream of the crop nationally and internationally to come and work and train with us, to strengthen their skills and enhance our academic productivity. To further its reputation, the University of Toronto aspires to even more rarefied status through its Boundless campaign which, thus far, has raised more than \$1.6 billion to support its academic mission.

The Department of Medicine and the Division of Respiriology thrives in this environment and shares University of Toronto's ambition to achieve excellence in all we do.

FEATURE ARTICLE – Dr. Shane Shapera

Since opening its doors in 2010, the Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) Program at the University Health Network (UHN) Toronto General Hospital has become the largest in Canada providing initial consultations for 300 new patients per year and follow up visits for over 1,200 patients per year. Our team includes five ILD Respiriologists (Drs. Matthew Binnie, Lee Fidler, Jolene Fisher, Ambrose Lau and Shane Shapera, who is the Program Director), one Rheumatologist, two full time research staff, and one nurse practitioner.



After completing her Master's in Clinical Epidemiology, Dr. Fisher has taken over as the Research Director for our program. We have also recently recruited Dr. Lee Fidler to our group. Thanks to the talents and efforts of these two new faculty, our team has had publications in most of the major respiratory journals including The American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, The European Respiratory Journal, CHEST, Lancet Respiratory Medicine, LUNG, The Annals of the American Thoracic Society, and the Canadian Journal of Respiratory, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine.

One of the mandates of our program has been to train a new generation of physician researchers with expertise in ILD. We have collaborated with our partners from the Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation and in the pharmaceutical industry to fund ILD Research Fellowships for five residents since 2014.

Our Nurse Practitioner provides one-on-one patient education sessions, telephone advice and a monthly patient support group which is attended by patients across south-western Ontario. Our Research Coordinator helps us provide our patients access to ongoing clinical trials while our Research Analyst collects quality of life surveys from patients for the Canadian Registry of Pulmonary Fibrosis (CARE-PF) database.

The UHN Multi-Disciplinary Interstitial Lung Disease Discussions with Experts Remotely (MILDDER) initiative is a bi-monthly video-conferenced diagnostic discussion in which community physicians who do not have access to local ILD expertise can present their cases to a multi-disciplinary panel of ILD experts. The goal of the MILDDER program is both to improve patient care in remote areas and to educate community physicians. The MILDDER program has been running since November 2018. Physicians who are interested can sign up to participate at www.MILDDER.ca.

In future, our goal is to expand our research program via further collaboration with the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES) group. The Determining Effective Coding to Illustrate Prevalence of Healthcare Records in ILD (DECIPHER) project – a large scale project aimed at establishing a coding algorithms to identify patients with ILD within Ontario's provincial healthcare database. The DECIPHER-ILD project aims to develop a comprehensive diagnostic algorithm to identify patients with ILD with the eventual goal of providing the most detailed description of the largest group of patients living with ILD that has ever been gathered.

Thanks to our enthusiastic and dedicated team, as well as the ongoing support of our Division, we have become what we believe is a Canadian centre of excellence in ILD. We plan to continue to grow and hope one day to attain the high global standing shared by many of the prominent programs in the Division of Respiriology at the University of Toronto today.

RESIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM ALUMNI – Dr. Marcus Kargel

Since graduating from Respiriology and Critical Care at the University of Toronto in 2005, I have had the distinct privilege of working at Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) in Toronto. I initially included Critical Care in my practice and directed MGH's Critical Care Rapid Response Team from 2006 to 2018.

I now serve as Respiriology Division Director and Director of all Respiratory Medicine Services at MGH. Quality improvement initiatives that I am involved in include MGH's Smoking Cessation Programs, MGH's Tracheostomy Care Team, and expansion of our pulmonary function laboratory. All patients with respiratory disease requiring hospitalization are admitted to our 30 bed Respiriology ward. Our service includes Ontario's Provincial Weaning Centre to help liberate patients from mechanical ventilators. MGH's Respiriology Outpatient CHEST Centre allows for close collaboration between Respiriology and Thoracic Surgery to the benefit of our patients.



As a Lecturer for University of Toronto, I am pleased to be MGH's liaison for the Respiriology Training Program.

Since 2013 I have served as the Tariff Chair for the Respiratory Disease Section of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). In this capacity, I have provided advice and recommendations to the OMA Relativity and Negotiating Committees in support of Ontario's Respriologists.

As a Peer Assessor for the CPSO, I have been blessed with the opportunity to both assess and learn from the clinical practices of other colleagues in both Respiriology and Critical Care.

I am very thankful for University of Toronto's supportive training program and my current roles. My daily goals are to provide competent, empathic, and patient-centred care.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI – Dr. Edward Nash



I spent 12 months in Toronto in 2006-7: six months as a Cystic Fibrosis (CF) fellow at St. Michael's Hospital and six months as Lung Transplant fellow at Toronto General Hospital. I came over with my wife Emma and two children (Jamie, two years old and Lizzie, nine months old) and it was a great adventure for our family that has left a lasting impression. We greatly enjoyed our time in Canada and I learnt so much that has proven invaluable in my subsequent career. Liz Tullis, Anne Stephenson and Cecilia Chaparro taught me how to manage people with CF and Shaf Keshavjee, Lianne Singer and their fantastic teams taught me how to manage pre and post-lung transplant complications. I completed several research projects, which resulted in eight peer-reviewed publications and several presentations at international conferences.

Nine months after returning home, I was appointed as CF consultant in Birmingham, UK. I have established myself in one of the largest adult CF centres in the UK and currently care for more than 360 CF adults as part of a large specialist multi-disciplinary team. Since returning to the UK, I have published more than 20 peer-reviewed publications and have been principal investigator on multiple CF clinical trials. I recently returned from presenting at the European CF Conference where I co-authored 20 abstracts and five oral presentations. I am an amateur artist, painting landscapes in acrylic.

Program Director Report – Dr. Chris Li

Royal College Examinations in Internal Medicine

Five of our residents sat for their Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada examination in Internal Medicine this Spring. I am happy to report that all were successful. Congratulations to:

Dr. Ahmed Abdelbasit

Dr. Colin Adams

Dr. Alina Blazer

Dr. Eunice Cho

Dr. Daniel Marinescu

Competence by Design (CBD) Update

We continue to work towards a nation-wide 2020 launch date for Competence by Design in Respiriology. The Respiriology Specialty Committee, which includes Program Directors from across the country, held its final meetings in Ottawa this past February to develop the CBD document suite for our subspecialty. This work has included defining Entrustable Professional Acts (EPAs) and Milestones, and the Required Training Experiences for programs. An assessment matrix has been created to map the assessments to the various training experiences, and define the numbers of successful observations required. We expect to have official documents from the Royal College in the fall.

Over the coming year, our program committee will work on operationalizing our Competence Committee, field testing some EPA assessments on the new assessment software (Elentra), and faculty development to ensure that staff supervisors are comfortable with the new assessment tools and processes.

Accreditation 2020

All University of Toronto postgraduate programs will be undergoing a Royal College External Review in November 2020, as part of the regular accreditation cycle. Preparations for this review are already underway, to prepare the necessary documentation and to ensure that our program is meeting all accreditation standards, including a number of new standards that have been introduced since the last review. Faculty can expect some requests for information (such as lists of publications and grants) for the review in the coming months.

Fellowship Director Report – Dr. Cecilia Chaparro

This time of year, many of our Fellows return home having completed their training at the University of Toronto's Respiriology Division. Some Fellows extend their fellowships; some even begin a new life in Canada. Whatever the next steps are for our Fellows, we would like them to know that it has been a wonderful opportunity for us to have them here at the University of Toronto, and to say "Thank you" for their hard work and for giving us the opportunity to enhance their training and to learn from them.

As the Director of Fellowship Program in the Division of Respiriology, I have had an opportunity to meet with some of the departing Fellows. I am happy to say that all of them are happy with the learning experience during their fellowships and will leave behind good friends and colleagues in Toronto. That said, many are equally happy to go home to catch up with the families and friends they left behind, and to start new careers. We invite them to stay in touch and keep us up to date with their careers.

It was great seeing those of you who are leaving us at the Department of Medicine's, Fellows Graduation Night on June 20th 2019

Now, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new Fellows of 2019-2020:

- David Abelson Lung Transplantation and Airways Diseases
- Natalie Belousova Lung Transplantation
- Christelle Bergeron Cystic Fibrosis
- Magdalena Breuling Cystic Fibrosis
- Olivia Maria Dias Lung Transplantation
- Eyal Fuchs Lung Transplantation
- Vanessa Martelli Sleep Medicine
- Kwang How Mok Pulmonary Hypertension
- Daan Raats TB/NTM
- Peter Riddell Lung Transplantation
- Ciaran Scallan Lung Transplantation
- Nadia Sharif Lung Transplantation
- Naseh Sigari Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Shaun Yo Pulmonary Hypertension

I will be meeting with all the new Fellows in the next two months to discuss their plans and to see how they are getting along. Until we meet, keep in mind that I am always available by email (Cecilia.chaparro@uhn.ca).

Research Advisory Committee Update - Dr Jane Batt

In the most recent competition, **Dr. Kasia Czarnecka-Kujawa** was awarded a Pettit Block Term grant for her project: "Understanding the growing burden of malignant pleural effusion: incidence, health care utilization and cost".

Regarding our annual research awards, congratulations to this year's Division of Respiriology **Faculty Excellence in Research Award** winner, **Dr. Susan Tarlo**, and this year's **Outstanding Research Trainee Award** winner, **Ms. Victoria Mintsopolous** (supervisor Dr. Warren Lee).

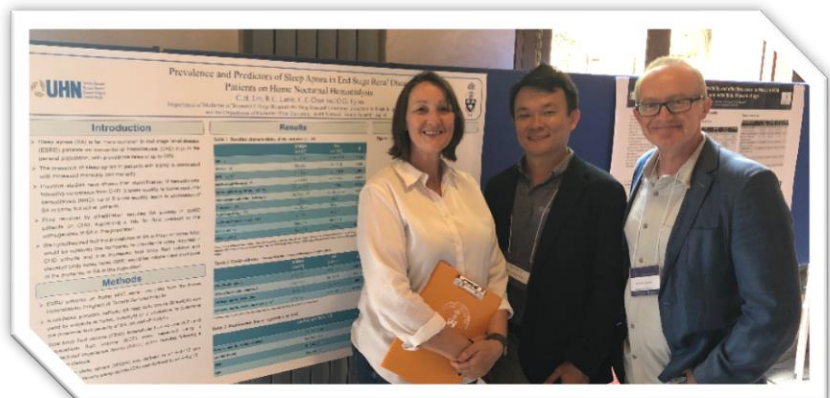


Since its inception three years ago, there have been numerous excellent nominees for the Outstanding Research Trainee Award. To ensure that the Respiriology faculty, medical and other research trainees have the opportunity to hear about these projects, nominees will be invited to present at the Division's Research rounds.

Annual Respiriology Research and Awards Day – Gaspard Montandon

The 19th Annual Research and Awards Day of the Division of Respiriology was held June 19, 2019 and was a success!

We had over 100 attendees and 45 abstract submissions from the University of Toronto and its affiliated teaching hospitals.



We were very fortunate to attract two excellent key-note speakers for this occasion. Dr. Anne Stephenson, of St. Michael's Hospital, presented her research on "The Power of Registries to Inform Patients, Populations & Policy" while Dr. Nades Palaniyar, of the Hospital for Sick Children, presented his work on "Untangling NETosis: The Good, Bad, and Ugly of NETs in Lung Disease".

Twelve trainees gave talks on their research and 33 posters were presented.

The prize for the Best Oral Presentation was awarded to: **Kevin Zhang (supervisor Dr. Tereza Martinu)**

The prizes for Best Poster Presentations were awarded to:

Samuel Suntharalingham (best Basic Research poster, supervisor Dr. Nades Palaniyar)

Shannon Riley (best Clinical Science poster, supervisor Dr. Matthew Stanbrook)

Wallace Lee (best Health Science poster, supervisor Dr. Jolene Fisher)

The Annual Jae Yang Award went to **Dr. Daniel Marinescu**

The Sheldon Mintz Undergraduate Teaching Award went to **Dr. David Hall**

The Faculty Teaching Award went to **Dr. Chris Li**

The 2019 Mentorship Award went to **Dr. Meyer Balter**

We would like to thank the judges for their contributions to research day, and Rhiannon Davies for contributing immensely to the organization of this event.



Continuing Medical Education Update – Dr. John Thenganatt

On the evening of June 6, 2019 we held our 3rd Annual Summer CME Evening. Dr. Sarah Brode presented management dilemmas related to non-tuberculous mycobacterial lung Infections. Dr. Matthew Stanbrook reviewed the most important asthma-related research from the past twelve months. Over 60 clinicians attended the event.

Planning is underway for the 13th Annual Day in Respiriology to be held at the Westin Prince Hotel on November 8, 2019. The full-day event will be focused on airways diseases. Our 3rd 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 dates!

AWARDS and GRANTS

Dr. Chung-Wai Chow received a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – CHRP for her project: “Development of Machine Learning to Assess Lung Function Using Airway Oscillometry”. Dr. Chow was also the co-organizer of the Canadian Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Kolleg conference in Ottawa whose theme was “Transition”



Dr. Shiphra Ginsburg, of Mt. Sinai Hospital, was awarded a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health Professions Education.



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE'S EATON SCHOLAR RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD (CLINICAL)

Dr. Margaret Herridge

A Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute and Director of the RECOVER Program, a novel continuum of care model for patient and family-centred rehabilitation and follow-up after critical illness. She has received several international research distinctions including the Dr. F. Marguerite Hill Lecturer (2015), Honorary Member of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (2016) and most recently, the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award in Critical Care from the American Thoracic Society.

Dr. Owen Lyons was the recipient of the Womens' College Hospital's 2019 undergraduate teaching award.

Dr Gaspard Montandon, was awarded the J. P. Bickell Foundation Medical Research Grant: "Understanding Opioid-Induced Respiratory Depression to develop Safe Opioid Pain Therapies".

Dr. Jakov Moric was the recipient of the Womens' College Hospital's 2019 post-graduate teaching award.

Dr. Dimtry Rozenberg, was awarded the Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan Professorship in Rehabilitation Medicine, which is a combined Professorship administered through University of Toronto and University Health Network to support his research program.



Dr. Art Slutsky has been appointed member of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest honours for lifetime achievement, for his contributions to critical care medicine

Dr. Slutsky is a professor of medicine and surgery at U of T. His research helped identify the mechanisms underlying ventilator-induced injury, and helped lead to the development of new therapies for patients with respiratory failure.

The Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. It recognizes all sectors of Canadian society, honouring those who have enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country.

Dr. Nicholas Vozoris of St. Michael's Hospital, received an Ontario Lung Association - Tetra Bio-Pharma research grant to examine the effects of smoking cannabis on pulmonary function.

NEWS

Congratulations to all the following individuals on their accomplishments!



Faculty of Medicine Staff IMPACT Award

Congratulations to the DoM's very own **Rhiannon Davies**, Program Coordinator and Division Administrator. Rhiannon, along with **Joanna King**, Research Administrator, is the recipient of the Faculty of Medicine Staff IMPACT Team Award for Fostering a Collaborative and Inclusive Environment. Recognized for their extraordinary ability to build strong relationships with faculty, staff and trainees

Dr. Lee Fidler has been appointed Assistant Professor at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Quality Improvement and Innovation.

Dr. Samir Gupta, of St. Michael's Hospital, has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Drs. Ambrose Lau , Chris Li, Daniel Marinescu, Jakov Moric, Shane Shapera, Anu Tandon and Harvey Wong have been formally recognized by University of Toronto medical students as being in the top 10% of undergraduate teachers in the Department of Medicine.

Congratulations to **Dr. Christine McDonald** and her husband on the birth of their baby girl: Isla Marie Dumouchel, born on June 16, 2019.

Dr. Dmitry Rozenberg has been appointed Assistant Professor at University Health Network as a Clinical Scientist on December 1, 2018.

Dr. Clodagh Ryan received a University Health Network /Mt. Sinai Hospital Department of Medicine Citizenship Award.



Reminders

Interview Day for 2019, will be September 24th, 2019 - at Li Ka Shing

Annual Respiriology Research Day, June 24th, 2020, Li Ka Shing

Pettit Block Term Grant application deadline is November 15, 2019