



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Department of Medicine
University of Toronto

November 2023

Monthly Update Newsletter

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1. Heather MacNeill receives Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Certificate of Merit Award

We were very pleased to hear that our own Heather MacNeill is a recipient of one of Temerty Medicine's 2023-2024 CAME Certificate of Merit Awards. This award was established to promote, recognize and reward faculty committed to medical education across Canadian medical schools. Heather will not only have a certificate and receive the award in a ceremony but will also have an opportunity to write an article for CAME Voice.

Also, we recently heard that Heather has recently accepted the position of interim assistant dean of faculty development at Toronto Metropolitan University, School of Medicine. Congratulations are extended to Heather on these two honours. Heather can be reached at: Heather.MacNeill@sinaihealth.ca

2. Julio Furlan becomes Fellow of the American Spinal Injury Association

We were very happy to hear that Julio Furlan has been granted fellowship in the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA). This is a rare honour bestowed by the board of directors of ASIA in recognition of longstanding dedication to, and distinguished accomplishments within the fields of spinal cord injury research, clinical practice, education and/or advocacy. Congratulations are extended to Julio who can be reached at julio.furlan@uhn.ca.

3. Larry Robinson receives 2023 Kevin R. Imrie Leadership Award

Larry Robinson was pleasantly surprised to receive the 2023 Kevin R. Imrie Leadership Award from the Sunnybrook Department of Medicine. This award is reserved for individuals who exemplify and promote the missions and values of the Sunnybrook department of medicine. The award was presented at the department of medicine annual dinner on November 13th. Michelle Hladunewich, who presented the award, also mentioned that Larry is a proud member of the "MAMIL" group (Middle Aged Men In Lycra – thanks to Nancy Riley for this tidbit). Congratulations are extended to Larry who can be reached at: Larry.robinson@sunnybrook.ca.



Michelle Hladunewich, Larry Robinson



Amanda Mayo, Larry Robinson, Peter Broadhurst



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4. West Park Healthcare Centre Update from Steve Dilkas

The new West Park is almost ready. Substantial completion is imminent and the anticipated move in date is April 2024... but don't hold your breath as there have been a few delays already. The new building will include 314 beds and 730,000 sq feet that is purpose-built for rehabilitation (see building pic below from a few months ago).



The goal was to create an integrated campus of care on West Park's 27 acre property, which will include the existing LTC centre (200 beds) as well as a non-hospital development to service seniors and persons with disabilities (see pic below). This may include a second LTC on the property, pending approvals. Interestingly, there is also a study now underway by the MOH with respect to the cost of maintaining the existing Main building (not Ruddy or Gage), which could potentially provide an additional 200 inpatient beds on the site.



Over the past few months, West Park has also been in discussion with UHN about a merger/amalgamation. The discussions are progressing nicely, and have included numerous meetings about the integration of clinical programs, research and education, with the goal of creating "the world's leading tertiary and quaternary rehabilitation centre". All in all, it's an exciting time of change and opportunity at West Park. Stay tuned for future updates.

5. PM&R Division Review to occur on December 6th

As many of you know, the Division will be undergoing its 5 year review (10 year review for Larry Robinson) on December 6th. At that time, we will have two external visitors interview a number of our faculty members and trainees and review a number of written reports. Drs. Christine Short (Dalhousie University) and Shawn Marshall (U. Ottawa) will be spending time virtually with us. They will also be issuing recommendations for next steps in development of the division as well as the qualities suggested for the next division lead. Thank you in advance for meeting with them!

In related news, Larry Robinson will be completing his term on June 30, 2024 and looks forward to moving to Victoria B.C. shortly thereafter. If interested, please feel free to email him directly for more details about his future plans at larry.robinson@sunnybrook.ca.



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6. Gaetan Tardif says hello

This fall, Larry Robinson had an opportunity to cycle with Gaetan Tardif in the Collingwood area and visit him and his wife Monica. They are both doing very well and enjoying life. Gaetan is working part-time in the Barrie area and enjoying his clinical work. They also have a lovely farm that they live on (Larry is envious of Gaetan's FOUR tractors!). For those of you wishing to contact Gaetan to say hello his email is: gaetan.s.tardif@gmail.com.



Gaetan Tardif and Larry Robinson

7. Save the dates for upcoming divisional events

We have our core 3 divisional events upcoming in the next several months. We'd love to have strong attendance from across the division for these 3 sessions.

- On March 1st, we will have our combined resident and faculty research day. This will be an in-person event at Toronto Rehab Institute, University Centre and we'll have both internal and external speakers as well as presentations from our trainees and faculty about their ongoing research. Many thanks are extended to Robert Simpson for organizing this day who may be reached at Robert.simpson@uhn.ca.
- On April 19th, we will have a virtual Quality Day. This will be a chance to highlight many of the excellent quality and innovation (QI) projects we have going in our division. As you likely know, we are one of the leaders in QI in North America in PM&R.
- On June 21st, we will be having our division retreat at the Chestnut Centre. We look forward to a number of progress reports. We will also be considering faculty development opportunities and external speakers. If anyone has a suggestion for a subject, or a speaker, please contact Larry at larry.robinson@sunnybrook.ca.

8. Mark Bayley giving inaugural Sunnybrook TBI Rounds

We are happy to hear that Mark Bayley will be the inaugural speaker in Sunnybrook TBI Grand rounds on Tuesday Dec 5. He will be discussing recent efforts that he and his team have accomplished in updating the Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines for Management/Rehabilitation of Moderate-Severe TBI. Please see the attached flyer for more information. This will be a hybrid event. The Zoom link is included in attached flyer.

9. Jordan Silverman highlighted as critical member of Critical Care Recovery Unit

We were happy to hear from our colleague Jordan Silverman at McKenzie Health recently. For the last year, he has spent a half-day a week as part of a 3 year provincial initiative pilot program called the Clinical Care Recovery Unit. This involves offering patients in the ICU an accelerated rehab and psychiatric assessment. This was nicely highlighted in the CCRU eNewsletter (see below). Jordan may be reached at: jordan.silverman@utoronto.ca.



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Get to Know Your Recovery Team

Meet Dr. Jordan Silverman, Physiatrist Extraordinaire...



"In the medical specialty of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (a.k.a. Physiatry), we work with our patients to help optimize functional outcomes, quality of life and community reintegration. Generally we are considered at the opposite end of the continuum of care versus the life-saving measures offered in an ICU! The Critical Care Recovery Program places patients' short and long term goals at the forefront to help patients achieve their goals from the earliest point in their recovery journeys. In the CCRU I provide physical and electrodiagnostic assessment of physical issues such as pain, muscle stiffness, weakness and other neuromuscular symptoms to remove barriers to rehabilitation, which is provided at an accelerated rate to help patients use their oxygen more efficiently and prevent complications of immobility. This program has provided an opportunity to work very closely with some of the most intelligent and compassionate healthcare providers I have encountered, and I am very lucky to be part of this dedicated team!"

10. Are you interested in exploring fundraising through U of T?

The Division Executive Committee recently had an excellent update from our Department of Medicine, U of T development leader, Michelle Fong. As noted in the attached slide presentation, there are a variety of opportunities for private financial support from donors. Donors could be members of the faculty, patients, community members, foundations, individuals or industry/organizations. If you are interested in exploring this further, please review the attached slides, Advancement Presentation. You can also contact Michelle directly at: Michelliey.Fong@utoronto.ca.

11. Seeking assistance in addressing physician burn-out in physiatrists

Robert Simpson is leading a study to perform qualitative semi-structured interviews with Canadian physiatrists regarding burn-out. This research is much appreciated and very relevant for our division and our specialty across Canada. Please see the attached flyer for more information. If you would like to be involved, please contact Eva Cohen at: eva.cohen@sri.utoronto.ca.

12. Needs assessment for ECHO education in randomized controlled trials needed

Andrea Furlan is leading a survey to understand the educational needs around important topics in randomized controlled trials. She is conducting a survey, which should take less than 5 minutes to complete, to better understand how to create a free national webinar based community of practice adapted from the ECHO Ontario training framework. This would be relevant to many of us and to many researchers across Canada. I encourage you to link to this survey. https://uwaterloo.ca/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7aIEb8VSCvipTeu

13. Are you or your patients planning on doing heavy chewing during the holiday season?

If so, we recently learned about a very relevant course on temporomandibular function run by the University of Toronto, Department of Dentistry. If your patients might have temporomandibular joint disorders (not uncommon in our patient population), this course may be of interest. Please see the link below for additional details. <https://cde.dentistry.utoronto.ca/courses/diagnosis-and-management-temporomandibular-disorders>

14. Larry Robinson arrested and handcuffed during national meeting presentation

Larry Robinson was recently giving his annual EMG Talk presentation at the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) which is a mix of entertainment, humour, and education. During the presentation, Peter Grant (physiatrist from Medford, Oregon) posed as an FBI agent and handcuffed Bill Litchy (Neurology colleague from Mayo Clinic) and Larry Robinson (a.k.a. Spike and Wave) because of alleged fraudulent practices in EMG. Luckily, after reviewing the case in full (which was a real case of fraudulent practice investigated by the FBI) Peter determined that this was a case of mistaken identity and we were soon released from our handcuffs. Bill and Larry will now be free to do our 26th annual show at the meeting in Savannah next year.



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As always, let us know if you have stories of interest that you would like to have distributed.

Don't forget to connect with our Twitter site @UofT_Physiatry.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Larry Robinson".

Larry Robinson MD
Chief, Rehabilitation Services
John and Sally Eaton Chair in Rehabilitation Science