A message from the Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Kevin Imrie

Dear colleagues:

It was great seeing so many of you at our annual awards dinner two weeks ago. This is always a time for me to reflect on our shared accomplishments over the past academic year and to look forward to the future. I’d like to share some thoughts about both here.

It has been another amazing year for our Department and I think the key theme is that of
growth and maturity. Our department is now up to 118 full time and 141 part-time members and we have recruited truly phenomenal people. Please read down further for a brief intro to our newest members. It was not that long ago that some of our divisions were critically short staffed and struggled to provide essential clinical coverage. That is no longer the case and we are well positioned to capitalize on focused growth areas of clinical and academic strength. We do have active searches for more new members going on with some more planned, but growth from here on in, is going to be targeted and strategic.

We can rightly be proud of the high profile our members have outside our walls. We continue to be well represented in leadership positions at the University and beyond. Particularly notable this year, is the recognition our members have received through high profile awards. I’d like to highlight just a few. As I am writing this, I am on my way back from the International Conference on Residency Education where Rob Fowler was recognized and showcased for his impressive humanitarian work with the Teasdale-Corti award. Larry Robinson was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Our people were again recognized with an impressive number of major University awards this year. Umberin Najeeb was awarded the Sarita Verma award for advocacy and mentorship from the faculty. Mary Bell won the Robert Hyland award for mentorship and Lynfa Stroud the Goldie award for education. Quite the haul!

I’m looking forward to a busy and productive 2018. With Andy Smith assuming the mantle of CEO this summer, there is renewed vigour in planning strategically for Sunnybrook’s future. The planning process is well underway, but it is clear that we are moving forward with a dual mandate, that of further strengthening our unique, specialized “When it matters most” activities while deeply rethinking and revitalizing our community role with the goal of providing care more innovatively in an integrated way with our partners in our sub-region. I’d really like to hear your ideas on either mandate, and would particularly welcome bold suggestions for initiatives to provide care differently to our community.

I have met with many of you over the summer for our annual activity reviews. For those of you I have not met yet, I look forward to meeting with you over the next few months. See you soon.

Kevin
The **Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology** welcomes **Dr. Andrew Czarnecki**.

Dr. Czarnecki graduated from the University of Manitoba and did specialty training in Internal Medicine (University of Manitoba) and Cardiology (University of Toronto). He completed a fellowship in Interventional Cardiology with subsequent training in Structural Heart Interventions at Sunnybrook. He also completed a Masters in Clinical Epidemiology at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Czarnecki is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a clinician-investigator. He is an Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and an Associate Scientist with the Sunnybrook Research Institute. His research interests are focused on valvular heart disease and minimally invasive procedures.

Dr. Czarnecki will serve as a Cardiology consultant and attend in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. His out-patient practice is focused on mitral valve disease and trans-catheter mitral valve interventions. Clinical appointments can be booked at extension 5880.

Dr. Czarnecki will be located in Room A206a and can be reached at extension **83762**.

The **Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology** welcomes **Dr. Julie A. Lovshin**.
Dr. Lovshin is a graduate of the University of Toronto and subsequently did specialty training in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology and Metabolism, at the University of Toronto. Julie completed a five-year postdoctoral research fellowship through the Clinician Investigator Program with Drs. Daniel Drucker, Bruce Perkins and David Cherney and was a Philipson Scholar in the Clinician-Scientist Training Program in the department of medicine. Dr. Lovshin performs clinical trials and has been studying diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular and renal hemodynamic function. Dr. Lovshin has also completed training in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health and Brigham and Womens' Hospital.

Dr. Lovshin has been a Clinical Associate in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospitals. Prior to her medical training, Dr. Lovshin completed a PhD in molecular endocrinology, studying glucagon-like peptides 1 and 2 (GLP-1 and GLP-2), gastrointestinal hormones which have now been developed into pharmaceuticals and are used for the treatment of obesity, type 2 diabetes and short-bowel syndrome.

Dr. Lovshin is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a Clinician Scientist. Her area of academic research interest is complications of diabetes mellitus. She is interested in cardiovascular and renal mechanisms of newer antidiabetes therapies and performs mechanistic clinical
investigation to learn new insights into nonglycemic effects of these drugs and to identify new targets to treat vascular disease in diabetes mellitus. Emerging areas of her research interest include complications in the CNS, including cognitive dysfunction, stroke, and retinopathy.

Clinically, Dr. Lovshin will serve as an endocrinology consultant, and will have a regular outpatient clinic for diabetes patients. Clinical appointments can be booked at extension 5049 for patients to be seen in H Wing 145. She will have a special clinical interest in patients with type 2 diabetes with cardiovascular, renal and/or retinopathy complications.

Dr. Lovshin's research office will be located in S Wing, Room 212B and she can be reached at extension 2264.

The Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology & Hematology welcomes Dr. Rossanna Pezo.

Dr. Pezo completed her undergraduate studies in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University and received a combined MD/PhD degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her thesis work was focused on developing imaging based biomarkers predictive of drug resistance using high resolution fluorescence microscopy. She subsequently did specialty training in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology at the University of Toronto with further fellowship training in the Drug
Development Program at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and with the Breast group at the Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada with specialty certification in both Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology.

Dr. Pezo is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a Clinician investigator. Her area of academic interest is in therapeutic clinical trials and in mechanisms of resistance to immunotherapy and targeted therapies in metastatic melanoma and breast cancers. During her fellowship, she received a competitive Physician Fellowship Award from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation for her research on identifying mechanisms of acquired endocrine resistance in metastatic breast cancer. She is also involved in teaching at the undergraduate medical and postgraduate levels.

Clinically, Dr. Pezo will have a regular outpatient clinic focused on the care of breast and melanoma patients. She will have a special clinical interest in patients with metastatic melanoma and breast cancers on therapeutic clinical trials.

Dr. Pezo will be located in Room 126 in T wing and can be reached at extension 4757.

The Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology & Hematology welcomes Dr. Lisa Chodirker.
Dr. Chodirker obtained her MD degree in from the University of Ottawa and subsequently did specialty training in both Internal Medicine and Hematology at the University of Toronto. She completed a clinical and research fellowship in Lymphoma and Myelodysplastic Syndromes at the Odette Cancer Centre under the guidance of Dr. Rena Buckstein and Dr. Richard Wells. She then went on to complete the Master Teacher Certification Program at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Chodirker was a Clinical Associate at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre/Odette Cancer Centre focusing on the clinical care of hematology inpatients, as well as continuing to foster her love of teaching and education. She has taken an active role in teaching/education at all levels including: ASCM, undergraduate teaching seminars, core resident teaching sessions, academic half days, as well as participating as an examiner in hematology for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Dr. Chodirker is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a Clinician Teacher. She will assume the role of coordinator for the hematology inpatient rotation at Sunnybrook, as well as serving on the Resident Program Committee in Hematology. Her research interests are in Myelodysplastic Syndromes, where she has been involved in the Canadian MDS registry, as well as in lymphoma clinical trials. Her primary clinical interests are in malignant hematology and bone marrow failure.
Dr. Chodirker will be seeing malignant hematology patients. She will be located in Room T2-039 at Ext 5847.

The Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology welcomes Dr. Amy Yu.

Dr. Yu is a neurologist, graduated from McGill University. She completed fellowship training Stroke Neurology as well as a MSc in Health Services Research at the University of Calgary.

Her research program aims to link and analyze large administrative data sets to study cerebrovascular diseases in the population, assess health outcomes, and develop novel health outcome measurements for health services research.

Clinically, Dr. Yu will serve as a stroke neurologist consultant and will see patients regularly in the Rapid TIA clinic as well as the Regional Stroke Prevention clinic.

Dr. Yu will be located in Room A-442 and can be reached at extension 4866.

The Department of Medicine, Division of Respirology welcomes Dr. Christine McDonald.
Dr. McDonald completed her medical degree at the University of British Columbia and subsequently specialty training in Internal Medicine and Adult Respirology at the University of Toronto. She completed further fellowship training in Interventional Pulmonology at the Toronto General Hospital.

Dr. McDonald is a Lecturer at the University of Toronto and will function as a Clinician in Quality and Innovation. Her areas of academic interest are the use of minimally invasive diagnostic procedures including endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) and awake thoracoscopy, lung cancer diagnostic pathways, and patient safety surrounding procedures. She also has an interest in pleural diseases, including the management of malignant effusions.

Clinically, Dr. McDonald will serve as a Respirology consultant and will have outpatient clinics at Sunnybrook for general respirology patients, and at the Odette Cancer Centre for the Lung Diagnostic Assessment Program, TRAPP and EPIC clinic patients.

Dr. McDonald will be located in D647 and can be reached at extension 4758.

Honours & awards
2017 Department of Medicine Award Winners

RESEARCH
JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR AWARD - Dr. Jerome Leis
SENIOR INVESTIGATOR AWARD - Dr. James Perry

TEACHING
YOUNG TEACHER AWARD - Dr. Ilana Halperin
IN-PATIENT TEACHING AWARD - Dr. Julia Hopyan
PRE-CLERKSHIP TEACHING AWARD - Dr. Matthew Godleski
AMBULATORY TEACHING AWARD - Dr. David Berbrayer
PART-TIME TEACHING AWARD - Dr. Grant Chen
CONTINUING EDUCATION AWARD - Dr. Sam Radhakrishnan

QUALITY
QUALITY AWARD - Dr. Simron Singh

HUMANITARIAN
HUMANITARIAN AWARD - Dr. Eugenia Piliotis

LEADERSHIP
LEADERSHIP AWARD - Dr. Andrew Simor

MENTORSHIP
WILLIAM J. SIBBALD FACULTY MENTORSHIP AWARD - Dr. Robert Fowler

OTHER AWARDS

Dr. Sandra Black
Trainee Award: 2017 – Lauren Bechard; 9th CCD Travel Award

Dr. Maureen Trudeau
2017 Jan - 2017 Dec ASCO Young Investigator Award, Awardee Name: Clinical Fellow Ines Menjak. ASCO Geriatric Assessment in Chemotherapy decision making for older Breast Cancer Patients. Total Amount: 50,000 USD

Dr. Amy Yu
European Stroke Organization Young Investigator Award (European Stroke Organization Conference, Prague, Czech Republic)
Dr. Kelvin Chan
2017 June Young Investigator Award, University of Toronto. (Research Award)
Division of Medical Oncology, award for accomplishments in research. (July 2016-June 2017).

Grants and Publications

View the full list of Grants and Publications

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Forward