

## Department of Medicine newsletter



June 2019 Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 2

### Messages from the Outgoing and Incoming Physicians-in-Chief Drs. Kevin Imrie and Michelle Hladunewich



#### *Message from Kevin Imrie*

Dear Colleagues:

This will be my last time communicating with you in this way. As you all know by now, after 10 years, my term as Physician-in-Chief will end this labor-day weekend when my successor, Michelle Hladunewich takes over the role. I am delighted; I can't think of a better person to hand over the mantle to. It has been a real privilege getting to be the face of this amazing

department over the past decade, a time that has seen the Women and Babies program come to Sunnybrook, the merger with St John's with a new commitment to leadership in rehabilitation medicine, the creation of a novel offsite dialysis program, Complex Malignant Hematology and now the beginning of a new integration with our community in North Toronto. Over that time, our Department has grown by a stunning 40% in size and increased its profile in Education and Research as well as becoming a leader in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. The legacy I am proudest of is our people. We brought on 45 amazing teachers, educators, investigators, scientists and quality improver in my time in the chair and I was delighted to see 55 promoted to senior professorial ranks.

I am particularly thankful to have had the advice and leadership of a fantastic leadership team of division heads and committee chairs. I am particularly grateful for the triumvirate of Gemini Tanna in Education, Rob Fowler in Research, and Steve Shadowitz for basically everything else, who did all the real work. I have had the pleasure of being able to partner with great practice plan leads in Chris Morgan, Matthew Oliver and Ilana Halpern. Finally, I also want to thank our amazing Department staff, headed by Denise Campbell, with the indomitable Claudette Chambers, Wissen Tam, and the whole team.

Michelle and I will be spending the summer planning a seamless hand-off. The annual activity report and promotion processes will continue through the summer into the fall, Michelle and I will collaborate on these. I am hoping to meet with a number of you, particularly those going for Continuing Faculty Review or promotion, between now and September.

At this year's Department of Medicine Annual Day, the new Academy of Master Clinicians was announced. Of the five members of the inaugural class, two were from Sunnybrook - Maureen Trudeau and Scott Walsh. Rob Fowler also won the Bob Hyland mentorship award. Please join me in congratulating Maureen, Scott and Rob.

That's all for now. I hope to see you at our informal get together at Terroni's next Wednesday. Partners/Spouses of all genders are welcome!

Kevin

*Message from Michelle Hladunewich*

Dear Colleagues

For those of you who don't know me well, I am what you call a Sunnybrook lifetime physician. I have been here since I was an intern - back in the days when all non-Torontonians were placed at Sunnybrook, and I consider that one of the luckiest things to ever happen to me. On July 1, many, many years ago, I was a first-year intern and Mark Cheung was enjoying his first day as an attending – guess which one of us was more nervous (definitely was Mark). I went on to spend most of my residency here and then went on to be the chief medical resident under the late Dr. John Edmeads, who was a spectacular mentor to me. He was my first insight into the magic that was Sunnybrook. He had an open-door policy and entertained all ideas. I left to complete further training in the US, but I came back, and I have been here ever since, serving as the Head of Obstetrics Medicine as well as Nephrology for the last 10 years.

When I thought about applying to be PIC, I spent a lot of time reflecting on both the magnitude and importance of the role. I was truly daunted by the notion of my size 5 feet filling Kevin's big shoes. How exactly does one follow Kevin? The answer is by fiercely protecting all that he has built. I am so very thankful to Kevin who has done such a spectacular job with our Department of Medicine by laying out our practice plan, the appointment of excellent internal leadership as well as the many very successful hires who all work together in a shockingly collegial fashion. I am humbled by the many successes of my colleagues and I am very proud of the culture of respect that has been cultivated by his leadership. Because of all that has already been accomplished, as the next PIC, I have been afforded the time and opportunity to develop both processes and partnerships that extend beyond the walls of Sunnybrook to serve our members. I am very aware of the challenges that face us in the coming years due to lack of space and infrastructure, coupled with the growing clinical loads faced by all of our divisions. I know how hard individuals work to keep our department strong. Being your PIC is my opportunity to serve my colleagues in the department of medicine and to give back to the hospital and university that has done so much for my career over the years.

Kevin will spend the summer orientating me, while I work on scrubbing at least some of those 4 letter words out of my vocabulary, but please don't hesitate to reach out and start teaching me all that I need to know about your divisional needs and personal career aspirations.

Michelle

## Pride



As part of their broad commitment to Mentorship Diversity and Equity, both the Faculty and Department of Medicine have a number of initiatives in support of the LGBTQ2S community surrounding Pride this year.

The University's initiatives are highlighted on the [DOM website](#). These include

marching with the Ontario Doctors and Allies in the Pride parades, a fundraising and running team for The Pride and Remembrance Run, Toronto Medicine Proud T-Shirts, buttons and positive space stickers which are all available through the DOM office. The page also outlines a number of initiatives to support and showcase LGBTQ2S faculty and trainees.

Sunnybrook also has a number of Pride related initiatives. These include profiles on Sunnynet's [Celebrating our Pride](#) page. There will also be a Pride flag in the M wing and T wing entrances as well as awesome Sunnybrook Pride buttons. We also have a number of Positive Space stickers you can have to signal a welcoming environment in your offices or clinic spaces. These are available in the DOM office.

Happy Pride!

## Welcome to new member of staff



The **Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology** welcomes **Dr. Houman Khosravani**.

Dr. Khosravani is a graduate of the University of Calgary. He subsequently completed Adult Critical Care Medicine training at Western University, a fellowship in Neurocritical Care at the University of Toronto, and a Stroke fellowship at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Khosravani has extensive training in neurology, internal medicine, critical care, and stroke. He has been on staff at Western University as an Adjunct Professor and has practiced at Lakeridge, Cambridge Memorial and Southlake on staff. He has been a Clinical Associate at Sunnybrook for the last year. Dr. Khosravani is an Assistant Professor at the

University of Toronto and will function as a Clinician in Quality and Innovation (CQI).

Clinically, Dr. Khosravani will serve as Medical Director of the Inpatient Stoke Unit (C4). He will also be providing out-patient care in the Rapid TIA/Stroke Clinic. (ext 89124 fax 4833)

Dr. Khosravani's office will be located in Room H335 and he can be reached via pager ID 1935.

## Promotions

Congrats to the following physicians who will be promoted on July 1, 2019.

### Professors



**Dr. Eugene Crystal**



**Dr. Michelle Hladunewich**



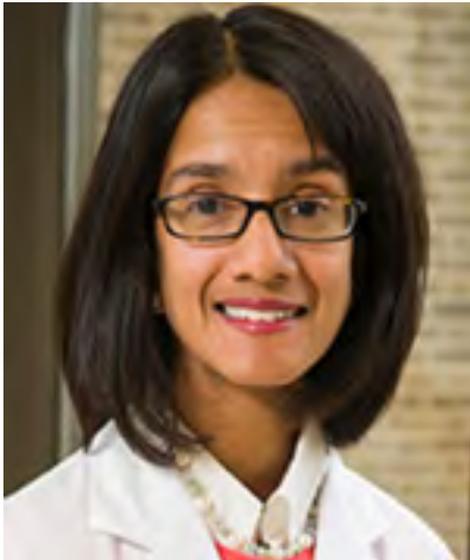
**Dr. Barbara Liu**



**Dr. Helen MacKay**

---

**Associate Professors**



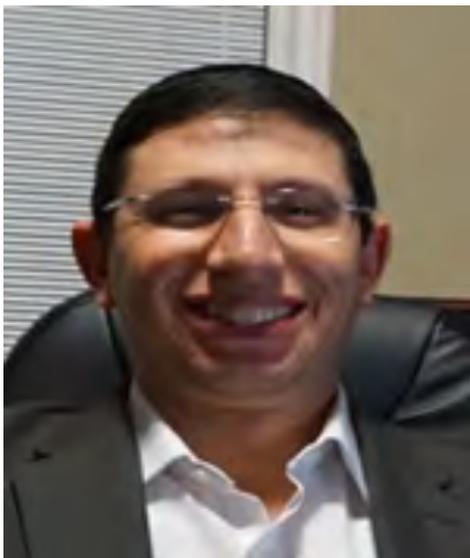
**Dr. Shaheeda Ahmed**



**Dr. Adrienne Chan**



**Dr. Andrew Lim**





**Dr. Richard Swartz**

## Honours & awards

### **Academy of Master Clinicians:**

Congrats to the following physicians who were named The University of Toronto, Department of Medicine, established an **Academy of Master Clinicians** to “honour clinicians who have demonstrated consistent outstanding clinical performance and the highest standard of patient care”. We are delighted to announce that Drs. Maureen Trudeau, Medical Oncology and Scott Walsh, Dermatology have been named to the Inaugural Master Clinician Class. Congrats to both on this prestigious honour.



Dr. Maureen Trudeau



Dr. Scott Walsh

### **Dr. Shaheeda Ahmed**

- Received the 2019 Douglas Wigle Teaching Award. This is a University Wide Divisional award for teaching in the Cardiology training program.

### **Dr. Mark Boulos**

- Trainee Awards
  - 2019 Apr - 2020 Aug           **Master's Grant**, Master's degree student, Awardee Name: Laavanya Dharmakulaseelan. BranchOut Neurological Foundation, Ontario, Canada *Total Amount: 22,000 CAD*
  - 2019 May - 2019 Aug           **Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students (CREMS) Summer Studentship**, CREMS Summer Student, Awardee Name: Kathy Xiong. University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada *Summer Studentship. Total Amount: 2,750 CAD*
  - 2019 May - 2019 Aug           D + H Sunnybrook Research Institute Summer Studentship, Research Assistant, Awardee Name: Laavanya Dharmakulaseelan. Sunnybrook Research Institute, Ontario, Canada

*Summer Studentship. Total Amount: 3,200 CAD*

- 2019 May - 2019 Aug      Hurvitz Brain Sciences Research Program Summer Studentship, Research Assistant, Awardee  
Name: Laavanya Dharmakulaseelan. Sunnybrook Research Institute, Ontario, Canada *Summer Studentship. Total Amount: 3,200 CAD*

### **Dr. Robert Fowler**

- Received the UofT Department of Medicine Robert Hyland Award for Excellence in Mentorship

### **Dr. Kasia Jerzak**

- Received a 2019 Conquer Cancer Foundation of American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Career Development Award. Dr. Jerzak is the first person from Sunnybrook to receive this international award.

### **Dr. Brian Murray**

- Honor Award Certificate from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) for winning the Nakano Citation: Standard for Scientific Excellence, 2019, for contribution to the publication “Narcolepsy and adjuvanted pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 vaccines - multi-country assessment”, Weibel D et al, *Vaccine*; 36(41):6202-6211, Oct 1 2018. Received March 18 2019

### **Dr. Larry Robinson**

- Received a specially created 5 Year Exceptional Leadership Award from the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Division

[View the full list of grants and publications](#)

Department of Medicine Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre  
2075 Bayview Ave Suite D4-74 Toronto Ontario M4N 3M5  
Phone: 416-480-4592 Fax: 416-480-6191  
Email: [department.medicine@sunnybrook.ca](mailto:department.medicine@sunnybrook.ca)

Fully affiliated with the University of Toronto  
For questions, comments and submissions, please contact Denise Campbell  
[Denise.campbell@sunnybrook.ca](mailto:Denise.campbell@sunnybrook.ca) or 416-480-6100 x2007

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre 2075 Bayview Avenue Toronto, Ontario M4N3M5  
Canada

[Forward](#)