Message from the Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Kevin Imrie

Dear Colleagues:

With any luck, things have quieted down a bit for many of you this summer and you will have some well-deserved time to get away from the hospital. As some of the committee work has slowed down, I am enjoying the opportunity of meeting with many of you for our annual meetings, and I hope to meet with many more of you in August and September. I enjoy the opportunity to hear about what you have been up to and how the Department can help you.

The lull has given me a chance to reflect a bit on the past year. I am very proud of what we have accomplished together in the past 9 months since I started in the role last September. I thought I would highlight a few things.

1. Recruitment: Since September, we have recruited eight great new faculty, five of whom joined us in July: Jeff Donovan, Andrea Gershon, Sheldon Singh, Harindra Wijeysundera, and Brian Wong. Scroll down further for more detail and photos. The hospital is updating its medical human resource plan this fall and I am working with the division heads to identify our recruitment needs for next year and beyond.

2. Financial matters: We are making great progress in the transition from ACMS to becoming a partnership. Many of you were at the Department Association meetings as well as the meeting we had with the dean for the Governing Council employees. We continue to work on this over the summer and anticipate that we will have a mature draft of the partnership agreement for you to review before labor day. There are still a number of details we have to resolve, but things are very much on track. Please contact Chris Morgan, David Watson or myself if you have any questions.

3. Patient flow/occupancy reduction: A lot of work has been done to try and make the flow of patients through our inpatient service more efficient. Under Steve Shadowitz's leadership, we concluded a successful pilot of a rapid referral clinic this spring and after a brief break, the clinic is set to resume in August. We are also working on processes for expedited access to subspecialty consultations and services such as endoscopy for patients that would otherwise require admission. This will continue to be a priority in the fall.

4. Improved business processes in the DOM office: We have done a number of things to make our work more efficient. We have tightened up our appointment processes, initiated a new orientation program for new recruits, made changes to our mentorship program to make it more formal, and revitalized our annual divisional review process. I want to continue to improve the support that the DOM office provides to you and would welcome any suggestions.

5. Communication: We have been working to raise the profile of the Department within the rest of the hospital and beyond. We have started with trying to better showcase the work of our researchers, Rob Fowler has been leading this effort. A visible sign of this are the posters that you may have seen on the fourth floor. Later this summer we will be initiating a refresh of the Department's Web presence to better tell others what we are doing. Again, any suggestions are most welcome.

6. Strategic plan: In order to help guide us in the next 4-5 years, we have been working on a strategic plan for the department. We have consulted extensively with leadership within the Department, Hospital, and University and have a mature draft of a plan that we will be seeking your input on later this summer.
That is all for now. I apologize for the length of this month’s newsletter, but there was a lot I wanted to share with you before the fall. I would encourage you, particularly those of you who are involved in research, to read Rob Fowler’s thorough research spotlight further down.

Kevin

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**Research Spotlight - Dr. Rob Fowler**

Dr. Rob Fowler

Thanks to Sheldon Tobe for his excellent stewardship over the past 5 years and to current Research Committee members, David Berbrayer, Julia Lowe, Don Redelmeier, Elaine Yong, Graham Wright, Eric Cohen, Sheldon Tobe, Lorne Zinnman, Sandra Black, Lynfa Stroud, Urban Emmenegger, Rob Fowler and Kevin Imrie.

I have had a chance to connect personally with all scientists and investigators to find out their needs and concerns. Emerging from these meetings were 3 themes: (1) stable salary support for all levels of researchers; (2) adequate space for research and staff; (3) the need for an analytical and coordinator support. We have subsequently met with all SRI Research Program Directors and Michael Julius to help plan how we can jointly meet these challenges.

In June we met to perform a critical component of the Research Committee – an annual review of researchers’ applications for salary support. Each application comprises an annual research activity report, a CIHR-format CV and letter outlining their research program. The committee rigorously reviewed each of the 23 applications and made recommendations to the Physician-in-Chief (PIC), Economics Committee and Department at large. The level of scholarship is truly incredible. We have seen a steadily growing absolute number of PubMed citations each of the past 5 years. Particular strengths include Health Services Research, Patient Safety, and foci of clinical investigation and research in our Divisions. Many of our scientists routinely contribute to 30-60 publications per year, and there is a combined total of over $50 Million in operating funds for this past year alone. Jack Tu and Dennis Ko were awarded the CIHR/Institute of Health Services & Policy Research Article of the Year Award for 2009. Sandra Black, Don Redelmeier, Jack Tu, Kaveh Shojania, Brad Strauss, Linda Rabeneck and James Perry all hold external research chairs. I have set up automatic alerts from PubMed – it is an impressive weekly list of citations. The Economics Committee and Department have generously increased their investment in research which will enable us to raise the ceiling support by 20% for 4 individuals, allow mid-career bridge support for 1, and welcome 3 new members from the recruitment budget.

This past month, working with Steve Shadowitz, we have helped to ramp up the DOM Resident Research Day. On May 12th in the McLaughlin Auditorium, nearly 2 dozen residents presented posters, there were 18 oral presentations in front of a large group of faculty and housestaff. Thanks to Steve and Eva Tatarski for organizing this event. Winners included Kavitha Passaperuma, PGY-3 (Is Mammographic Breast Density a Breast Cancer Risk Factor in Women with BRCA Mutations?) Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Warner; Geetha Subramanian, PGY-2 (“Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Among Visible Minorities in Canada: Prevalence and Future Risk of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus”, Supervisor: Dr. Baiju Shah); and Tasnim Vira, PGY-3 (“Discrepancies in Most Responsible Physician Documentation: Creating Potential for Flaws in Provision of Quality Healthcare”, Supervisors: Dr. Irfan Dhalla, Dr. Robert Wu, Dr. Ed Etchells & Dr. Brian Wong). A number of these
projects have already made it to peer-reviewed journals. Winners also presented their work at the Annual U of T DOM Research Day on May 31st.

One visible activity has been the initiation of a small internal media campaign to highlight researchers and educators in the Department. Dave Juurlink and Sandra Black have bravely been the first ‘faces’ of research, displayed on the wards and outside the Department offices on D4. Every 3-4 months, we’ll be adding an additional two (Brad Strauss and Ayelet Kuper are up next).

Over the next 6 months, I’ll be working with Kevin, the Economics Committee and the Hospital and Research Administration to explore the possibility of leveraging our own generous contributions to research through the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) program of the Canada Revenue Agency. With the hospital and SRI, we have already taken the first steps and are hopeful that by 2011 we’ll be in a position to lead the organization in this important mechanism to grow the research capacity for the Department and others in the hospital. This will offer substantial help in achieving a mandate of continued strategic academic recruitment, evolution of mechanisms to support junior, mid and senior investigators, and continued growth of our areas of strength.

Thank you for your support.

Rob

New Staff

Cardiology

Dr. Sheldon Singh

The Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology welcomes Dr. Sheldon Singh. Dr. Singh is a graduate of the University of Toronto who subsequently did specialty training in Internal Medicine and Cardiology. He completed a two year clinical and research fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA which was followed by a one-year complex ablation fellowship at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, NY.

Dr. Singh is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a clinician-investigator. His areas of academic interest include catheter ablation of persistent or long lasting atrial fibrillation, scar related ventricular tachycardia, and left atrial appendage occlusion strategies.

Clinically, Dr. Singh will serve as a Cardiology / Arrhythmia consultant. In addition to performing inpatient consultation, Dr. Singh will have a regular outpatient clinic. Clinical appointments can be booked at extension 7383 (fax: 416 480 6913).

Dr. Singh will be located in Room H453, and can be reached at extension 4701.
Dr. Harindra Wijeysundera

The Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology welcomes Dr. Harindra Wijeysundera. Dr. Wijeysundera is a graduate of the University of British Columbia who subsequently did specialty training in Internal Medicine and Adult Cardiology at the University of Toronto. He also completed fellowship training at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center in Interventional Cardiology. He is currently completing a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Wijeysundera is a Lecturer at the University of Toronto and will function as a clinician-scientist. His area of academic interest focus on the economic evaluation of health technologies in cardiac disease. This research is centered at the Schulich Heart Program, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and the Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment (THETA) collaborative.

Clinically, Dr. Wijeysundera will serve as a cardiology consultant and will have a regular outpatient clinic. Clinical appointments can be booked at extension 4527.

Dr. Wijeysundera will be located in Room A209d and can be reached at extension 4527.

Dermatology

Dr. Jeffrey Donovan

The Department of Medicine, Division of Dermatology welcomes Dr. Jeff Donovan. Dr. Donovan received his MD from the University of Ottawa. He completed his Dermatology residency and PhD training at the University of Toronto. Dr. Donovan completed fellowship training in hair diseases, including a post doctoral research fellowship in hair immunology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. His medical and surgical training in hair disorders were conducted at the University of California San Francisco, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania and at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Donovan is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a clinician-investigator. His research interests include scarring hair diseases, alopecia areata and hair transplantation.

Clinically, Dr. Donovan will serve as a consultant for adults and children with hair loss due to a wide variety of causes. He will have 3 half-day hair clinics each week and will perform hair transplantation surgery 2 days per week. Clinical appointments can be arranged by faxing referrals to the Dermatology office at (416) 480-6897.

Dr. Donovan will be located in Room M1-700 and can be reached at extension 4908.
**General Internal Medicine**

The **Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine** welcomes **Dr. Brian Wong**. Dr. Wong is a graduate of the University of Toronto who subsequently did specialty training in Internal Medicine. He completed advanced training in the form of a 2-year patient safety research fellowship funded by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. He served as Chief Medical Resident at Sunnybrook for the 2006-7 academic year.

Dr. Wong is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a clinician-educator. His area of academic interest lies at the intersection between patient safety and medical education. He will carry out patient safety research as a core faculty member of the Centre for Patient Safety, and will serve as the Deputy Site Program Director for the Core Internal Medicine training program.

Clinically Dr. Wong will serve as an attending on the General Internal Medicine clinical teaching units, and will supervise residents in the Ambulatory Internal Medicine teaching clinic.

Dr. Wong will be located in Room H466 and can be reached at extension 83709 or by emailing BrianM.Wong@sunnybrook.ca.

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**Respirology and Clinical Immunology**

**Dr. Andrea Gershon**

The **Department of Medicine, Division of Respirology and Clinical Immunology** welcomes **Dr. Andrea Gershon**. Dr. Gershon is a graduate of the University of Toronto who subsequently did specialty training in Internal Medicine and Respirology. She has a Masters of Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Toronto and completed postgraduate fellowships in Health Services Research at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and the Hospital for Sick Children.

Dr. Gershon is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and will function as a clinician-scientist. Her area of academic interest is Respiratory Health Services Research.

Clinically, Dr. Gershon will serve as a Respiratory consultant and will have a regular outpatient clinic for general respirology patients. Clinical appointments can be booked at extension 4758.

Dr. Gershon will be located at The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in the G-Wing and can be reached at extension 3619.
Division Head Nephrology

Dr. Michelle Hladunewich

Dr. Michelle Hladunewich has been appointed as Division Head of Nephrology effective July 9, 2010.

Dr. Hladunewich is an Assistant Professor and a Clinician Investigator at the University of Toronto. She was recently appointed as the Division Head of the newly created Division of Obstetrical Medicine and is also the Director of Acute Dialysis and Inpatient Services in the divisions of Nephrology and Critical Care at Sunnybrook. She completed her Medical Degree at the University of Alberta in 1994 and subsequently completed Fellowships in General Internal Medicine (1998, U of T) Critical Care Medicine (1999, Stanford University) and Nephrology (2003, Stanford University) and a Masters of Science in Clinical Epidemiology in 2003.

Dr. Hladunewich has received many honours and awards including the Sunnybrook Department of Medicine Women’s Health Teaching Award in 2005. She is well published in refereed publications and has held several peer-reviewed-grants as principal investigator. Her key area of interests are kidney disease in pregnancy, pre-eclampsia, gender differences in progression of Glomerular-Based Kidney Disease and gender differences in Critical Care.

Interim Division Director Respirology– University of Toronto

Dr. Khalil Sivjee and daughter at Fenway Park

Dr. Khalil Sivjee has been appointed interim Division Director of Respirology for the University of Toronto Department of Medicine effective June 1, 2010.

Dr. Sivjee joined the Sunnybrook Department of Medicine in 2005 and has served as co-leader for the Hospitalist Training Program. He was appointed Division Head for the Sunnybrook Division of Respirology & Clinical Immunology in June 2006. Dr. Sivjee has distinguished himself as an outstanding clinician, a gifted teacher and a skilled administrator. We congratulate him in this new role.
New Chief Medical Resident

Dr. Devon McDonald

Dr. Devon McDonald, a resident in his fourth year of training, is the new Chief Medical Resident in the Department of Medicine at Sunnybrook.

Devon grew up in the bustling metropolis of Brampton, Ontario and spent his youth playing representative hockey for the Chinguacousy Blues and lifeguarding at a local beach during the summer.

He moved to Kingston in 1999 and received his BSc in Life Sciences at Queen's University in 2003. He later completed his MD at the University of Toronto in 2007.

Many of you have probably passed Devon in the halls as he spent all four years of medical school in the Peters-Boyd Academy as well as his first and third post-graduate years based at Sunnybrook. As a result, he is very excited to be serving as CMR at Sunnybrook.

Devon has now exhausted his ability to write in the third person and will therefore conclude his brief biography.

He can be reached at 416-480-4594, but please feel free to visit him at his office in room D416b (he has candy).

Selected Publications


19. **Current evaluation and management of excessive daytime sleepiness.** 

20. **Discharge after discharge: predicting surgical site infections after patients leave hospital.** 

21. **A CHANGE TO RADIOLOGICAL PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CATHETER INSERTION: THREE-MONTH OUTCOMES.** 

22. **A multicenter assessment of the adequacy of cancer pain treatment using the pain management index.** 

23. **Prophylactic anticoagulation to prevent venous thromboembolism in traumatic intracranial hemorrhage: a decision analysis.** 

24. **The attitudes of women with BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations toward clinical breast examinations and breast self-examinations.** 

25. **Excessive neurotoxicity with ABVD when combined with protease inhibitor-based antiretroviral therapy in the treatment of AIDS-related Hodgkin lymphoma.** 

26. **Incidence, predictors, and prognostic implications of hospitalization for late bleeding after percutaneous coronary intervention for patients older than 65 years.** 

27. **Development of a self-administered early inflammatory arthritis detection tool.** 

28. **Effect of point-of-care computer reminders on physician behaviour: a systematic review.** 

29. **Association between colonoscopy rates and colorectal cancer mortality.** 

30. **Cost effectiveness of tac versus fac in adjuvant treatment of node-positive breast cancer.** 

31. **High levels of uPA and PAI-1 predict a good response to anthracyclines.**

32. Preventing deaths in the Canadian military.

33. Blood pressure 2 years after a chronic disease management intervention study.


35. Evaluating correlation and interrater reliability for four performance scales in the palliative care setting.

36. A proposed algorithm for diagnosing hypertension using automated office blood pressure measurement.


38. Determinants of cardiac catheterization use in older Medicare patients with acute myocardial infarction.

39. Outcomes following appeal and reversal of civil commitment.

40. Predictors of survival in patients with non-curative stage IV cancer and malignant bowel obstruction.

41. Tailored targeted therapy for all: a realistic and worthwhile objective against.

42. Are stentless valves hemodynamically superior to stented valves? Long-term follow-up of a randomized trial comparing Carpentier-Edwards pericardial valve with the Toronto Stentless Porcine Valve.

43. A Multicenter Study to Determine Disk Diffusion and Broth Microdilution Criteria for Prediction of High- and Low-Level Mupirocin Resistance in Staphylococcus aureus.

44. The role of CD200 in immunity to B cell lymphoma.
45. **Thoracic myelopathy from coincident fluorosis and epidural lipomatosis.**

46. **Effect of a perturbation-based balance training program on compensatory stepping and grasping reactions in older adults: a randomized controlled trial.**

47. **Evaluating correlation and interrater reliability for four performance scales in the palliative care setting.**

48. **A single set of numerical cutpoints to define moderate and severe symptoms for the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System.**

### Honours & Awards

**Medical Oncology & Haematology**

**Dr. Scott Berry:**
- Was one of 3 recipients to have been awarded the U of T Division of Medical Oncology Outstanding Teaching Award for the 2009/2010 academic year

**Dr. Sunil Verma:**
- Received the Division of Medical Oncology Educational Award from the Division of Medical Oncology, University of Toronto
- Received the Medical Oncology Training Program – Teacher of the Year Award from the Division of Medical Oncology, University of Toronto

**Neurology**

**Dr. Liesly Lee:**
- Awarded the U of T Division of Neurology John Edmeads Mentorship Award.

### Grants

**Gastroenterology**

**Dr. Jill Tinmouth:**
- New Investigator Award in the Area of HIV/AIDS Biomedical/Clinical Research. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. $300,000; 2010 - 2015.

**General Internal Medicine**

**Dr. Lynfa Stroud:**
- (Co-PI) was awarded $32, 870 for 2 years for a RCPSC Medical Education Research Grant entitled, “Towards contextualized performance assessments: The importance and influence of environmental factors on evaluation”.

**Neurology**

**Dr. Sandra Black:**
Department Notices

ACMS Timesheets
There has been a number of discrepancies in the authorization of timesheets for ACMS support staff. Please note that effective immediately physicians or their delegates are now required to sign (not initial) and date their support staff timesheets; support staff are not allowed to sign their own timesheets.

Please note also, ACMS does not have a formal policy on Lieu time, this is an internal matter between the physician and the support staff and should not be coded on the timesheet. Lieu hours should be tracked separately by the authorizing physician and the support staff.

U of T Internal Grant Review Service
The service is directed specifically for junior faculty members at the Assistant and Lecturer ranks. It is a non-threatening review of your grant designed to help improve your odds of getting funded. All you need to do is have your grant prepared 30 days prior to the submission date to allow time for the review. As you prepare your grant, talk to your University Division Director (ie at least 6 weeks before the grant deadline). They will help you choose 2 reviewers. For more information go to the DOM web site.
http://www.deptmedicine.utoronto.ca/Research/internalgrant.htm. You can also call Conrad Liles (416 340 3183) conrad.liles@uhn.on.ca, Professor and Vice Chair of Medicine who has created this program. Or contact Rob Fowler at Sunnybrook x 7471, rob.fowler@sunnybrook.ca.

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