Inaugural Dr. Fred Baxter Award

Anyone who knows Dr. Fred Baxter knows he is a role model in all CanMEDS domains. He has contributed significantly in the areas of patient advocacy, patient safety, and patient care. Dr. Baxter has been integral in collaborating with the Division of Nephrology and has always demonstrated a strong commitment in the provision of comprehensive and patient-centred care to individuals with renal failure. With that in mind, the Division of Nephrology has created the Dr. Fred Baxter Award for Excellence in Nephrology and Patient Care. This inaugural award has been awarded to Josh Peachey (PGY4) and Brent MacCallan (PGY4) for their comprehensive and dedicated patient care during their Nephrology and AKI rotations during this academic year. Both Josh and Brent demonstrated exemplary professionalism, communication and collaboration. Congratulations to both of you on receiving this distinguished award!

Personal Achievements

Congratulations to Dr. Joanna Rieber who recently won her 3rd National Powerlifting Championship in the Women’s Open 52kg Class Division (23-39 year olds). Dr. Rieber reached her personal best squat of 30kg, a National Record bench press of 8.5kg and a personal best deadlift of 152.5kg. These lifts solidified not only a win, but a personal best deadlift of 152.5kg. These lifts solidified not only a win, but a personal best deadlift of 152.5kg. These lifts solidified not only a win, but a personal best deadlift of 152.5kg. These lifts solidified not only a win, but a personal best deadlift of 152.5kg.

Josh Peachey at the 2016 Powerlifting Championships


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Interview with Dr. Susan O’Leary, Chief HHSC

I sat down with Susan O Leary, the new Chief of Anesthesia at Hamilton Health Sciences, who is also the current President of the Canadian Anesthesiologist’s Society (CAS), to chat about her career, life and thoughts on the future of our profession. Born and raised in Newfoundland, Susan came to medicine after training and working as a physiotherapist. After completing medical school at Memorial, Susan stayed there to complete anesthesia residency. “I sort of fell into anesthesia. I had to do a selective in my surgery block, and it was either anesthesia or ophthalmology. I ended my week of anesthesia thinking ‘this is not so bad after all’.”

Susan had a busy time in residency, not only because of the usual clinical load, but because she had her first child in her PGY2 year. “There was definitely a bit of survival!” she laughs.

“I think for myself, as well as a number of other women in medicine, you spend a number of years working and being Mom, and doing all the other things that come with that; so it probably took 7 or 8 years before there was good time and opportunity to really develop an interest outside of clinical anesthesia.” Susan said what making being a busy Mom, clinical work, and educator possible was a combination of full-time reliable child care, and a supportive family.

She was thus able to develop what she had a real interest and love for – medical education.

“We had a retreat and an opportunity arose to be a Royal College examiner. Next thing you know I found myself on the exam board. Out of all the things I have done, being on the exam board was one of the most exciting, encouraging and exhilarating things to do. You get to be a part of a very keen and interested group of people who are like-minded and who ensure that the practicing anesthetists in Canada are truly competent. If you want to sit around a table with some real leaders in anesthesia in Canada, that is one place to do it.”

As a past Royal College Examiner and Program Director, Susan gave her thoughts on Competence Based Design (CBD). “As anesthesiologists we practice this method of education already although we haven’t labeled it that way. We are one on one with our learners every day. We watch them, we give them constant feedback. There is work to be done but we are further ahead than some others and I think that there, we can be leaders.”

Speaking of leadership, I asked Susan about her time with the CAS. “The CAS thing happened by chance. They were looking for a treasurer at the time and I had a phone call from the past President and I kind of just jumped in with both feet. It was such an amazing committed group of individuals. So when the opportunity came up for VP, it just kind of went from there.”

With Susan’s leadership roles in our specialty, I asked her for her thoughts regarding the biggest challenges facing us as anesthesiologist in the next 5 – 10 years.

“I don’t know that there are challenges as much as really, really great opportunities. I think as a profession we are growing and expanding at a very tremendous pace in terms of the scope of the work that we do. If I think back to 20 or 25 years ago, when I started in anesthesia, it was with a mindset that I am going to take care of patients in the O.R. every day, and that was really about 90% of what we did. But there wasn’t an idea that we were perioperative physicians. And I think the concept that we have so much to offer outside of the O.R. is our greatest opportunity.”

I wanted to find out from Susan how she saw us harnessing this opportunity.

“Like any change it takes time. It takes a generational change or a new cohort. Not everyone is engaged in this idea yet. But we need to lead the charge. We need to demonstrate to our medical, surgical, nursing colleagues, and to the public, that we have the skills and the ability and the knowledge and everything it takes to contribute beyond that small area of the O.R. where we have historically existed.”

Continued on Page 2...
$12.5 Million From CIHR for Chronic Pain

Congratulations to Dr. Norm Buckley, recipient of a 12.5 million grant to lead the Chronic Pain Network under Canada’s Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) initiative! The Chronic Pain Network is a national collaboration of patients, researchers, healthcare professionals, educators and government policy advisors to direct new research and increase care for chronic pain. This achievement will further Dr. Buckley’s leadership in improving chronic pain care in Canada. For more information please visit: http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/main/news/news_2016/chronic_disease_research_announcement.html

Other Accolades

- Anesthesia Program Assistant, Candice Stroud was awarded the 2016 Program Administrator Award for Innovation and Excellence by the International Conference on Residency Education.
- Congratulations to Dr. Norm Buckley who was awarded the Humanitarian Award for Community & Global Service at the 2016 Medical Staff Association Awards held on June, 16, 2016.
- Congratulations to PGY4 Residents, Heung Kan Ma, recipient of the HHS Medical Staff Outstanding Resident of the Year Award and to PGY4 Resident Brent MacLellan, recipient of the SJH Medical Staff Best Resident Award in the Postgraduate Anesthesia Training Program.

WHAT IS “PAIN”, ALEX?

Under the category “Doctors Within Borders”, the contestants of College Jeopardy were given the following answer in February, 2016:

Dr. Joel Hamstra who is the recipient of the 2016 John Bradley Young Educator Award from the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society. This prestigious national award recognizes excellence and effectiveness in anesthesia education and is a testament to Joel’s outstanding contributions.

On Thursday, May 12, 2016 Critical Care Medicine Program Director, Dr. Tim Karachi received an award for his outstanding educational contributions to the McMaster General Surgery Postgraduate Program.

On Thursday, April 7, 2016 the Critical Care Medicine Residents traveled to Western University to showcase their current research at the Annual Research Exchange Day. Congratulations to Brian Buchanan—Comprehensive Ultrasound Evaluation of the Failure-to-Wean Patient: a Pilot Study for his 2nd place finish and to John Centofanti—Resident Reflections on End-of-Life Education: A Mixed-Methods Study of the 3 Wishes Project for his 3rd place finish. In addition John recently was published in BMJ Open (April 2016) about resident reflections on end-of-life education.

Congratulations to Dr. Daniel Cordovani who was awarded the Teaching Award in the Anesthesia Clerkship on May 27, 2016 at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine 2016 Oath Ceremony.

L-R: Norm Buckley, Nominated Principal Investigator for the Chronic Pain Network; Lynn Cooper, Patient Representative for the Chronic Pain Network; Alain Beaudet, President of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research; Patrick Deane, President of McMaster University; Canada’s Health Minister Jane Philpott; Filomena Tassi, MP for Hamilton-West Ancaster-Dundas; John Kelton, Dean and Vice-President, Faculty Health Sciences, McMaster University; Megan Henry, Patient Representative of SPOR IMAGINE; Paul Moayyedi, Nominated Principal Investigator SPOR IMAGINE Network.

Resident Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to express how extremely proud we are of our current PGY5s for all their dedication to the Royal College exams. We will miss their mentorship and wish them all the best in their future careers. Everyone is excited to celebrate your accomplishments at Reach for the Top! We are also thrilled to welcome another cohort of PGY1s to our Resident Family and look forward to mingling with you at the annual Program Director’s BBQ in July! In addition to our many individual awards, we should celebrate the many positive changes to our program this year including full academic days, improved simulation and in house exams. Here’s to another successful year in 2016-2017 Chief Resident—Brent MacLellan

Dr. Joel Hamstra
PGY4 Resident Joyce Magalhaes was awarded a recent RMA Scholarship Award for her Fascia Iliaca Study.

On Wednesday, May 4, PGY2 Anesthesiology Resident Caitlin VanDeCappelle and PGY1 Resident Natalie Lidster were recognized as recipients of a PGME Medical Education Research Grant for 2016 at the Program Directors’ Appreciation Dinner. Dr. Saroo Sharda is the Research Supervisor for their project entitled “Competency in Anesthesia: A Multidimensional Concept”.

On Thursday, May 4, 2016 the 2016 Oath Ceremony was held on the DeGroote Medical Staff Best Resident Award in the Postgraduate Anesthesia Training Program.

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Dr. David Lagrotteria, who won the McMaster Clerkship Preceptor Award and the McMaster Excellence in Teaching Clerkship Award. Dr. Lagrotteria completed his Anesthesia residency training at McMaster in 2012. He is currently the Niagara Campus Regional Education Leader (REL) for Anesthesia and frequently receives excellent feedback from his students. Now his excellence has been formally recognized!

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