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Prioritizing Pain

The 2015/2016 academic year promises to be one of new horizons and opportunities in the Department of Anesthesia! First, we congratulate Dr. Norm Buckley, Chair of the Department of Anesthesia on his recent appointment July 1, 2015 as Director of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Pain Research and Care. McMaster and Hamilton Health Sciences Pain Centre is the largest university-affiliated pain centre in Canada. Dr. Buckley is also leading a national team to apply for CIHR SPOR (Strategy for Patient Oriented Research) funding to create a national chronic pain network as a key initiative.

We are also launching our inaugural Pain Medicine Residency Program with Dr. Phil Chan as its Program Director. With all these exciting developments, the Department of Anesthesia and McMaster University are poised to lead nationally and internationally in the advancement of pain care and research. The only question remains, is where does Dr. Buckley find the time for sleep? - Dr. Anne Wong

McMaster-Guyana Anesthesia Partnership

The McMaster University Department of Anesthesia has recently formed a relationship with the Institute of Health Science Education (IHSE) at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GHPC) in Georgetown, Guyana. The McMaster University departments of Pediatrics and General Surgery have had longstanding relationships with the corresponding departments in Georgetown and have been instrumental in establishing residency training programs in their respective specialties. The McMaster Department of Anesthesia, in collaboration with the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society International Education Foundation (CASIEF), the Global Health Outreach (GHO) arm of the ASA as well as the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is looking to do the same.

The Anesthesia residency training program in Guyana is in its early stages as there are currently two residents in 3rd year (of a 4 year program), 1 resident in 2nd year and 4 1st year residents. The anesthesia department in Guyana is looking for our help with the residency education. We will provide this help in several ways.

First of all a videoconferencing link has been established between our MUMC site and Guyana, hopefully allowing some live feed during our academic sessions. There is already a precedent for this in our Family Medicine—Anesthesia program.

Secondly it is the plan of the Department of Anesthesia to recruit Anesthesia faculty from McMaster to go to Guyana to provide both clinical and didactic teaching. An information evening about this was held on August 11, 2015, and attracted approximately 10 faculty members.

Finally, there are plans in place to have residents from Guyana come to Hamilton to complete some of their clinical rotations in their senior years (much like residents we have had from Haiti and Uganda). The projected start date for this is January, 2016.

The McMaster-Guyana Anesthesia Partnership consisting of Drs. Norm Buckley, Alex Dauphin, Joel Hamstra and Anne Wong, look forward to your support and assistance in making this exciting project successful. For further information, please contact Dr. Joel Hamstra at jmhamstra@gmail.com
SPOR Chronic Pain Network

A nationwide group of pain researches led by Dr. Norm Buckley along with a number of key clinicians submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the CIHR SPOR (Strategy for Patient Oriented Research) competition for the development of a Canadian chronic pain network. The application was successful and ranked 3rd out of 35! Their proposal includes the creation of a network to address the problem of chronic pain in Canada throughout the lifespan, with a view to better understanding chronic pain, identifying those most at risk, and treating patients appropriately and safely. Pain is typically thought of as a symptom of another disease, but in its chronic form it is in fact a disease, altering physiology, changing behaviour, and leading to deterioration of function in personal, social and employment spheres. The mission of this study is “to innovate and improve the quality and delivery of pain prevention, assessment, management and research for all Canadians” which will be achieved through pursuit of the following research themes: applied and translational pre-clinical research, applied and translational behavioural pain research, clinical trials and observational studies, health services pain research and the creation and examination of patient registries and databases. A concerted effort is now underway to develop the full proposal that is due October 15, 2015. CIHR will award a total of four SPOR applications with a value of twenty-five million dollars each—$12.5 M from CHIR and $12.5 from matching funds.

McMaster Introduces Pain Medicine Residency Program

McMaster University and the Department of Anesthesia are pleased to announce the introduction of The Pain Medicine Residency Program. Pain Medicine is a new two-year subspecialty residency program initiated by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). This program will offer unparalleled learning opportunities leading to RCPSC certification in Pain Medicine. Eligibility requirements include FRCP(C) certification (or in a program leading to certification) in the following areas: Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Psychiatry and Rheumatology. Entry from other FRCP(C) programs such as Orthopedics, Neurosurgery and Palliative Care is possible in exceptional cases. University of Western Ontario accepted their first residents in July 2014. Other programs such as the University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, University of Ottawa and Université de Montréal are planning to start training residents by July 2016. For more information or application information, contact Dr. Phil Chan who has been appointed the Pain Medicine Residency Program Director. For further details please visit www.http://fms.mcmaster.ca/pain-medicine-residency/

Resident’s Corner

The 2015/2016 academic year has gotten underway and our incoming PGY1s are quickly acclimatizing to anesthesia residency. As the new year begins I’d like to congratulate our outgoing PGY5s, all of whom were successful in completing their Royal College exam! The annual McMaster-UWO Research Exchange Day was once again a notable highlight this year with accolades given to Mark Hindle and Lisa Udovic. The coveted trivia competition was won by McMaster, though credit should be given to UWO for their remarkable knowledge of pop culture. Special thanks to Candice Stroud, Eli Ady, Suzie Todd, Susan Jo and Eugenia Poon for their hard work that went into the always enjoyable annual event. Several residents presented research at the CAS in Ottawa in June. Congratulations to David Sussman, Kan Ma, Joyce Maghlhaes, Hilary MacCormick, Dina Aboutouk and Eugenia Poon for their accomplishments. In addition Jackie Gilbert completed her term as Chair of the CAS Resident Section. The year ended with the annual Reach for the Top dinner which provides residents and staff with the opportunity to celebrate the successes of the graduating class. Special note, the evening’s hotly contested Jeopardy event was decisively won by the resident group. As we start the academic year, we look forward to some of the exciting developments on the horizon, including simulation, curriculum improvements, a full day regional workshop and the opportunity for a Ugandan elective. We are looking forward to the rest of 2015/2016. Chief Resident, Jessica Spence.
Awards and Achievements

Drs. Dina Aboutouk and Eugenia Poon’s abstract "A mixed cohort study comparing persistent pain post thoracic surgery" (under the supervision of Dr. Harsha Shanthana) was accepted for the Residents Competition at the CAS 2015 Annual Meeting.

On Friday, June 12, 2015, Dr. Mark Hindle was awarded first prize for his Peripheral IV dislodgement forces; a comparison of two IV securement methods project at the Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine McMaster-Western Research Exchange Day at Convocation Hall. Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Udovic for her 3rd place research project entitled, Conus Medullaris Termination Study.

Congratulations to Dr. Annemaria DeTina, who was selected as the 2014 Best Resident in Anesthesia at the St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton Annual Medical Staff Dinner Meeting on January 16, 2015 at the Hamilton Golf & Country Club and to Dr. Suzanne Todd for being awarded the 2015 Outstanding Resident by the Hamilton Health Sciences staff. She received the Medical Staff Association Award on June 12, 2015.

HRM PhD Admissions Committee has recommended Dr. Harsha Shanthana for entry into the HRM PhD program as a full-time student for the 2015/16 academic year. Dr. Harsha Shanthana was also awarded the Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) Mentoring Award by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). This competitive award is given based on the potential of the candidate to develop as a future leader who can direct the conception, design and implementation of randomized controlled trial research.

Dr. Jason Busse received $433 914.00 in funding from Health Canada to support the process of updating the Canadian Opioid Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain. The guideline is a practical resource to provide Canadian physicians with the best available information, research and consensus of opinion.

Congratulations to Dr. Fred Baxter for winning the Canadian Anesthesiologists Society Clinical Practitioner Award in June, 2015. The award is given annually to a member of the CAS who has made a significant contribution to the practice of clinical anesthesia in Canada.

Other Accolades

Congratulations to the following:

Dr. Peter Moisiuk who won the 2015 Vince Politi Teaching Award

Dr. Joel Hamstra, winner of the Laurence Chiu Award and

Dr. Annemaria DeTina winner of the Hisham Zokari Award.

Dr. Kari G Smedstad’s (Professor Emerita) son-in-law Chris Williams won an Academy Award for Best Animated Picture for the movie Big Hero Six – he was one of the Directors. He is an animator who has worked for Disney for years and this is his first Academy Award; congratulations Chris!

A warm welcome to all Anesthesia & Critical Care Medicine Residents & Fellows who began their training on July 1, 2015.

Justine Denomme, Natalie Lidster, Scott McCusker, Tyler Oswald, Jeffery Overington, William Sanh, Michael Tronconne, Anthony Valente

Yousef AlMubarak, Ayed Asiri, Robert Coke, Benjamin Tam, Diana Ulic

Professional Association of Residents of Ontario (PARO) Nominations

Dr. Kan Ma (PGY3) was selected as the winner of the 2015 PAIRO (PARO) Resident Teaching Award for McMaster University. Dr. Ma was nominated by his Program Director, fellow residents and medical students. The Selection Committee was impressed in particular by the letters of support from medical students who were clearly impacted by his teaching skills.

Also notable, the McMaster Anesthesia Residency Program was nominated for the 2015 PARO Residency Program Excellence Award. This Award was established in 2006 by the PARO and is given to one Program in the province that consistently provides an exceptionally positive and rewarding experience to the residents, while producing physicians who are expertly trained to deal with the challenges in their upcoming careers.
Farewell—Best Wishes to Mrs. Bonnie Hugill

After 26 years at McMaster University and 24 of those years within the Department of Anesthesia, Mrs. Bonnie Hugill has retired from her position as Department Manager on June 30, 2015. Bonnie was the Department Manager for 15 of those years and had the pleasure of working with Department Chairs Dr. David Morison, Dr. Homer Yang and Dr. Norm Buckley. Over the years, Bonnie witnessed many changes in the department but the biggest ones she noted was the introduction of the Alternate Funding Plan (AFP) and the advent of two Associate Chairs — the Associate Chair of Research and the Associate Chair of Education, therefore confirming the strength and vitality of the department. Bonnie’s most memorable accomplishment was finding the space and equipment needed for Program Director, Dr. Greg Peachey at the time, to open the first Faculty of Health Sciences’ simulation facility. The Centre for Simulation Based Learning continues to be a robust component of hands on learning within the Department of Anesthesia to this day. Bonnie’s retirement plans include travel, playing more bridge; ultimately traveling to more bridge tournaments and spending time with family. She also hopes to volunteer her time within the community. Best wishes Bonnie for a well-deserved retirement!

Welcome—New Department Manager, Ms. Ksenija Kasumovich

A special welcome to new Department Manager, Ksenija Kasumovich! Ksenija has been with McMaster since 2009 working in both CAF (research facility) with FHS as both an Administrative Manager and Manager of Finance & Administration in CE&B. Ksenija brings to the department a wealth of knowledge and experience with an extensive background accounting, administration, real estate and hospitality. The University has experienced many changes lately and Ksenija is prepared to support the department as it evolves, stressing the importance of enjoying our work and having fun while doing so. Ksenija describes herself as confident, motivated, considerate and often a bit quirky when her sense of humour takes over. She is a Tiger Cats season ticket holder and a hopeful Leaf fan. Combining Ksenija’s priority of family first and her love of travel allows her to spend a great deal of time doing both—travelling to see family around the world. Don’t be afraid to stop in and introduce yourself to Ksenija when you are in the area! Her door is always open!

Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care
Accreditation a Success!

In May of 2015, both the Anesthesia and Critical Care Medicine Residency Programs were reviewed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada by way of an onsite survey with an appointed reviewer from the RCPSC. Numerous hours were spent preparing, collating and submitting documents to the Postgraduate Education Office before sending them to the RCPSC. Surveyors spent the day meeting with Program Directors, Faculty and Residents and traveling to each of teaching sites within Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare. Both Programs are thrilled to announce full approval with the next formal external review taking place in six years as we progress toward a Competency Based design model. Thank you to all Faculty and Residents who participated in the survey. A special thank you to Program Assistants Ms. Candice Stroud and Mrs. Sarah Richardson for ensuring the surveys were successful. The prosperity of our Programs would not be possible without the commitment and support from all of you!

New Faculty and Promotions

Dr. Norm Buckley — Scientific Director of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Pain Research - July 1, 2015

Dr. Mauricio Forero — promoted to Associate Professor, July 1, 2015

Dr. Mike Parrish — promoted to Associate Clinical Professor, July 1, 2015

Dr. Corey Sawchuk — promoted to Associate Clinical Professor, July 1, 2015

Dr. Amanda Whippey — appointed to Assistant Clinical Professor, July 1, 2015

Congratulations to our Retirees!

Drs. Roger Bell and Ama DeGraft-Johnson

Congratulations to Dr. Ama DeGraft-Johnson and Dr. Roger Bell celebrated their retirement after over 30 years service with the McMaster Department of Anesthesia! Many attended the gala event on May 29, 2015, sharing stories and tributes to these two inspirational faculty members! Our best wishes for continued success in the next chapter of their lives!

Contact Us

Are you interested in submitting an article for the Department’s next newsletter? Let us know!

Contact Us

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