

NEWSLETTER

CHAIR'S REPORT

As the buds begin to peek out, albeit a little earlier than usual this year, it is a good time to reflect on our accomplishments and challenges over the past three to six months. Have we been hibernating or have we been as busy as ever? The metrics suggest the latter:

- New Heads have been appointed in three divisions:
 - Nephrology: Lisa Robinson took over the reins on April 1st, as Denis Geary steps down to move into the position of Medical Director of the Qatar project. Lisa is a graduate of the Pediatrician Scientist Development Program (she did her science training at Duke University), a highly accomplished Clinician-Scientist and originator of KidScience, a program that introduces science to disadvantaged teens. Lisa is the Health Sciences recipient of this year's Harry Jerome Award from the Black Business and Professional Association. Thanks to Valerie Langlois for her role as Interim Head since January 2010.
 - Haematology/Oncology: Jim Whitlock will join our department on July 1st succeeding Victor Blanchette. Jim comes from Vanderbilt University in Nashville and brings his huge enthusiasm and extensive interests in clinical oncology research and leadership in national and international organizations.
 - Paediatric Emergency Medicine: Stephen Porter is coming to Toronto in mid-September from Children's Hospital in Boston and will replace Bill Mounstephen. Steve is a keen informatics and process investigator and innovator.

These are three very exciting recruitments and our expectations ought to be high that Lisa, Jim and Steve will not only continue the rich traditions of Denis, Victor and Bill, but move our divisions and department to new heights. The renovated Emergency Department and new Haematology/Oncology Clinics provide welcome environments for change.

- In a time when federal grant funding is very tight, our department did very well indeed in the last round of CIHR grants. Congratulations to Andrew Redington, Mark Friedberg, Annie Huang, Yigal Dror, Lillian Sung, Paul Pencharz and Upton Allen for their success. Also to Bob Hamilton for his emerging team award and Catherine Birken as a new investigator as well as all the others who have received NCIC, POGO, or other grants recently.
- Just to put our department's research accomplishments in perspective: In the latest UofT publication, Performance Indicators for Governance, 2009 Summary, the rankings provide evidence that in 2008 we continued to rank No. 1 for publications and citations among the G13 Canadian universities and among all publicly-funded American universities. When all privately-funded American institutions are added, we ranked No. 2 for both publications and citations, an improvement from No. 2 for publications and No. 3 for citations in 2007. This remains a terrific metric and everyone ought to be very pleased by it! But this is not a reason to rest on our laurels.



- Promotions season for this academic year has been concluded with success for all 13 faculty members who went before the Decanal Promotions Committee. Very well done to the candidates, as well as to Mel Freedman and members of our Departmental Promotions Committee.
 - To Full Professor:
 - Edgar Jaeggi – Cardiology
 - Nicola Jones – Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
 - To Associate Professor:
 - Oussama Abl – Haematology Oncology
 - Ute Bartels – Haematology Oncology
 - Susa Benseler – Rheumatology
 - Sharon Dell – Respiratory Medicine
 - Adam Dubrowski – Learning Institute
 - Adam Gassas – Haematology Oncology
 - Astrid Guttmann – Paediatric Medicine
 - Tilman Humpl – Critical Care Medicine
 - Simon Ling – Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
 - Mindy Solomon – Respiratory Medicine
 - Michael Weinstein – Paediatric Medicine
- We continue to negotiate with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as adjustments in our AFP are required to create new positions, particularly in Oncology and BMT and Paediatric Emergency Medicine. We are optimistic that a positive response will be forthcoming now that the provincial budget has been tabled.
- Well done to Lee Ford-Jones and all the others involved in the wonderful conference, Achieving Health Equity for Kids: Whatever it Takes. The conference featured local, national and international speakers with very impressive attendance. Our Social Paediatrics program is attracting the attention it so well deserves.
- In July this year, we will formally open our Office of Faculty Development, led by Shelly Weiss from Neurology. Shelly will be speaking with many of the faculty in order to get direct input as she plans the initial agenda for this portfolio.
- Our performance at CaRMs this year was quite superb and this year's new group of PGY 1's, 17 Canadian grads and three international medical grads, promises to be another highly talented group. The next step is the new CaRMs process for subspecialty residencies.
- Recent award winners deserving mention and our applause include:
 - Adelle Atkinson (Medical Education and Immunology/Allergy) is the recipient of the 2010 Sarita Verma Award for Advocacy and Mentorship in Postgraduate Medicine.
 - Gidi Koren (Clinical Pharmacology) has been awarded the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation.
 - Sheila Weitzman (Haematology/Oncology) is one of the winners of the Postgraduate Medical Education Award for sustained excellence in teaching.
 - Helen Chan (Haematology/Oncology) became an Officer of the Order of Ontario.
- The Qatar project is now in full swing with Denis Geary leading our department's contributions. A few weeks ago, Anna Jarvis and Bruce Minnes, representing Paediatric Emergency Medicine, spent a fruitful week in Doha and further teams will be going soon.

Best wishes to all,
Denis

2010 PAEDIATRIC ADMINISTRATIVE AWARD

Congratulations to Deb Taylor, winner of the 2010 Paediatric Administrative Award. Deb is the Administrator for the Department's Division of Clinical and Metabolic Genetics and is responsible for leading the divisional administrative staff. Deb started her career at SickKids in January of 1999. She reflects the organizational values of excellence, integrity, innovation and collaboration. Her nomination package was replete with accolades for the excellent work that she does. She is noted as being a "key and valued leader" and "a role model for her direct reports, peers and colleagues". Deb's work ethic is outstanding and she never hesitates to take on whatever is needed to get the job done. She has superb leadership skills and personifies all of the qualities of an exceptional administrator. She is well-deserving of this recognition.

DEPARTMENTAL SHADOW BILLING INITIATIVE

Over the past year, members of the department have been involved in an initiative to improve shadow billings. Billing Champions from each division have worked hard to look for ways to improve the capture of our clinical activities. Presentations have been made at divisional meetings to help to educate about best billing practices and to provide the rationale behind the drive to increase our numbers.

We are happy to report that these efforts are paying off. Our billing numbers for the 2009-2010 fiscal year end show an increase of 18% over those reported for last year. This is an excellent accomplishment and thanks go out to all for the efforts made to help improve our billing and get our numbers up.

Over the next year, the Billing Champions group will continue to meet and work together to look for strategies to further improve our efforts to accurately capture our activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Please note the following important dates in your calendars:
 - **Pediatric Academic Societies' meeting** in Vancouver from April 30th to May 4th – the reception hosted by the Pediatric Chairs of Canada will be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall, Grand Ballroom A, Saturday, May 1st, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Come, bring your friends.
 - **Resident Research Day** – May 26th – this year at UofT's Chestnut Residence.
 - **Annual Awards Day** – June 16th in place of Grand Rounds.
 - **Annual Recognition Dinner** – June 16th at the Cricket Club. Invitations will be sent out by the end of April.



Division of Immunology/Allergy

Dr. Julia Upton is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario Medical School and completed her post-graduate training at McMaster University in Hamilton. This was followed by a two-year fellowship in Clinical Immunology and Allergy at the University of Toronto. In 2007, she joined the Division of Immunology/Allergy in the Department of Paediatrics at The Hospital for Sick Children as a Clinical Assistant. She became a major part-time Staff Physician in Clinical Immunology and Allergy in 2009.



Division of Paediatric Medicine (Dermatology)

Dr. Irene Lara-Corrales is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and a staff physician in Paediatric Dermatology at The Hospital for Sick Children. She completed her medical training and pediatric residency at the University of Costa Rica, in San Jose, Costa Rica. In 2008, Irene completed a three-year clinical fellowship in Paediatric Dermatology at The Hospital for Sick Children and in February 2010 she successfully completed a year and a half of research fellowship in the same field. During this time, she has also obtained a Master in Science degree from the University of Toronto. Irene is involved in numerous research endeavours, as well as in teaching commitments of residents and fellows. Her research interests include Epidermolysis Bullosa, Atopic Dermatitis, Psoriasis, Vitamin D and Vascular Anomalies.