MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

To All Faculty and Colleagues,

As we approach the end of 2016 we should all take the opportunity to pause and reflect upon our great fortune to live in a country such as Canada. We are truly blessed to live in a stable, peaceful country when many others around the world are considerably less fortunate.

Midway through the academic year we continue to be successful in our academic mission here at McMaster. Recently, we met to solidify our clinical practice plan to further support our residents and faculty in answering their many research questions in women’s health. In addition to our continued role in training the next generation of medical students and specialists in obstetrics and gynecology, we seek to develop and expand our understanding and the improvement of care provided to women and their families. This is our mandate and what we all must contribute to achieving as we move into 2017.

I look forward to working with the entire faculty to continue to develop and execute our academic mission moving forward as a department and to...

“Become a Leading Academic Program in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Canada”.

Nicholas Leyland
Congratulations to the following residents for their recent accomplishments:

- **Dr. Sabrina Youash**, PGY 3, was the recipient of the 2016 McMaster Family Planning Grant for her project “Does intensive house-staff education with e-learning increase the uptake of postpartum contraception among women delivering in teaching hospitals”.
- **Dr. Andrea Mosher**, PGY2, was successful in her PSI grant application! Her project title is ‘Investigating the role of melatonin and prostaglandins in endometriosis’.
- **Dr. Alison Carter-Ramirez**, PGY2, was awarded an RMA Scholarship for her project “Maternal and perinatal outcomes in women who experience incarceration in Ontario, Canada: a retrospective cohort study”.
- **Dr. Brigid Dineley**, PGY5, has accepted a position in the Family Planning Fellowship Program at the University of British Columbia.
- **Dr. Katy Tafler**, PGY5, has accepted a position in the Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship Program at McMaster University.
- **Dr. Jehan Karim**, PGY3, has published the following paper:
  

Dr Daniel Horspool and his fiancée Cassandra welcomed their first baby into the world on September 22, 2016. Ariella Scarlett Horspool was born one month premature via csection, and after a two week stay at McMaster’s NICU the happy family brought their little pumpkin home. Daniel and Cassandra send their thanks and appreciation to Dr Brennan, Dr DeFrance, Dr Winsor (and the rest of the 4B1 team), and all the wonderful nurses on L&D, ICU, 4B, and the NICU.

**Resident Retreat**

On Wednesday August 24th, the residents participated in the annual resident retreat. A day out of the hospital was spent with a lecture from Kathy Somers on how to manage stress, followed by a tour of Dundurn Castle. In the afternoon, the residents competed in a scavenger hunt at the Hamilton Bayfront; The Diva Cups (R1s), The Golden Year (R2s), The Ova-Achievers (R3s), The Gellhorn Pessaries (R4s) and the Vagi-Femmes (R5s). A special shout-out to the PGY3, Ova-Achievers who finished in first place!
Left to right, Winners! The Ova-Achievers: Meghan O’Leary, Sabrina Youash, Emily Brander, Nicole Hill, Cassie Greenberg, Jehan Karim and Heather MacDonald

Left to right, The Diva-Cups: Nadiya Goswami, Megan Alton, Alex Norgaard, Yasaman Pazouki, Iryna Vyarvelski, Sarah Turvey, Avi Vandersluis

Left to right, The Golden Year: Nourah Ibrahim, Alison Carter-Ramirez, Kate Pizzuto, Jay Tigdi, Andrea Mosher, Rita Sassi, Ashley Musci

Left to right, The Gellhorn Pessaries: Nermine Azer, Ali Marseu, Jayna Amting, Daniel Horspool, Alysha Nensi, Marie Buitendyk

Left to right, The Vagi-Femmes: Katy Tafler, Elizabeth Markowski, Elissa Tepperman, Waseema Hoosainny, Andrea Mousseau, Stephanie Leung
**Dan Reilly, Associate Clinical Professor (Undergraduate Program Director)**

I officially started in my new role as Undergraduate Director on Sept 1 and have been busy travelling across our region to wine and dine with our preceptors. To date, I have visited with Dr. Umeh in Orangeville and with Dr. S. Grossman and her colleagues in Richmond Hill. I will soon be meeting with Dr. Bates and his colleagues in Brantford. My plan is to connect with all our preceptors in Hamilton and in the communities over the next few months.

Recruitment for 2017 core and elective placements (including Post MF4), as well as teaching sessions, are underway. The requests and schedules will be sent out soon; however if you are interested in teaching, please contact us.

The MD program Electives Fair was held on October 5th at McMaster Innovation Park for first year medical students. The event was a big success; Elizabeth attended to represent Obgyn Undergrad and as always reported that O&G had a lot of interest.

A reminder that visiting elective students are not given access to patient records in Meditech. Currently, they are only given security access to the specific areas to which they are assigned, Dictation and ScrubEx codes. If you require your elective student to have Meditech access, please let us know.

This year marks a special anniversary for the UG teaching curriculum as we celebrate 10 years of the Survivors Teaching Students program with Ovarian Cancer Canada. A special celebration for the ladies will be organized soon to recognize their efforts. A special thank you to Niky Melichar for her leadership role within this group.

Please contact me at dreilly@mcmaster.ca or Elizabeth at dossant@mcmaster.ca should you have any questions or comments.

**Dustin Costescu, Director Continuing Education**

It has been a busy fall for the CE program, as we adapt to faculty requests and smooth out some of the technical glitches with videoconferencing. I am pleased to report that, so far this academic year, we have successfully broadcasted to all registered sites! Moving forward, we will be commencing rounds at 8AM. This is to align with other academic events, and is much preferred by our out of town guests.

Over the past few rounds, we have noticed that the satellite sites are a bit quiet – if you have questions, please feel free to ask them during question period. If you are unfamiliar with using the OTN controls, please contact your site’s IT department.

This fall, we welcomed Dr. Sony Singh, who was also our special guest at RT Weaver day. In November, we hosted two rounds - Dr. Laura Didomizio, one of our new urogynaecologists, provided an evidence-based approach to urodynamics testing, which will lead to improvements in current practice; and Dr. Ahmet Baschat the Head of MFM at Johns Hopkins University, one of the “gurus” of Doppler velocimetry testing.

We are grateful to our industry partners who support the CE program in an unrestricted fashion. In 2016, we were supported by Allergan, Merck, Bayer, Abbvie, Hologic. We look forward to forging ahead in 2017 together!
Congratulations to:
Dr. Tetsuya Isayama, a neonatologist and a PhD student with Dr McDonald, who determined the gentlest way to assist premature babies to breathe in a manuscript published in the Journal of American Medical Association entitled: “Association of Non-Invasive Ventilation Strategies with Mortality and Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia among Preterm Infants - A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis”. He also won the Graduate Student Award at the Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology RT Weaver Research Day Oct 2016 for this research. To read the related article, please follow: https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/main/news/news_2016/chronic_lung_disease_preterm_infants.html

Associated publications:
Dr Adam Hulman, a former postdoc with Dr McDonald, found that women who quit smoking are at increased risk of excessive pregnancy weight gain. His manuscript was published in the BioMed Central Pregnancy and Childbirth, “Are women who quit smoking at high risk of excess weight gain throughout pregnancy?” in August 2016. (Yes, they are.)

GRANT SUBMISSIONS (as co-Investigator):
Dr. McDonald was pleased to contribute as a co-Principal Investigator on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant “Improving Outcomes for Preterm Infants and their Families: A Canadian Collaborative Network” led by Dr Prakesh Shah with other co-Principal Investigators: Drs Prakesh Shah; Karel O’Brien; Jean-Charles Pasquier; Jon Barrett; Nils Chaillet; KS Joseph; Thierry Lacaze-Masmonteil; Sandesh Shivananda; Bruno Piedboeuf; Anne Synnes; Jonathan Foster; Kate Robson; Petros Pechlivanoglou. This was the writing team on behalf of a team of 100 coinvestigators, MFM, Neonatologists, policy makers, administrators and patients. Throughout the spring and summer, the writing team had Friday afternoon teleconferences to discuss the grant and edit it. Submitted 2016Sept06

Dr. McDonald enjoyed participating in Dr Feng Xie’s CIHR grant on women’s decision making on thromboprophylaxis a co-investigator. The monthly meetings over the last 4 years with Drs Xie, Shannon Bates, Gord Guyyatt, Mark Eckman, Pablo Alonso Coello. and others as we completed the pilot work that laid the foundation for this grant have been a great opportunity to learn from such prominent researchers. The team also submitted a grant to the Institute of Health Carlos III, Thromboprophylactic Therapy during Pregnancy Added Value of Decision Analysis Project under the leadership of Dr Pablo Alonso Coello.

Dr. McDonald was grateful for the chance to be involved as a co-investigator on Dr Russ de Souza's grant submitted to CIHR grant - A DiEt and physical activity intervention in South Asian women at risk of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: a feasibility study and pilot randomized trial (DESI-GDM) and on a similar grant submitted to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Dr. McDonald was delighted to contribute as a co-Investigator to Dr KS Joseph’s CIHR grant submission A Systems Approach for Enhancing Perinatal Care Regionalization.

Dr. McDonald enjoyed participating in Dr Sonia Anand’s LOI for a CIHR grant submission to Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative Linked International Intervention Cohorts: Pregnancy and early life determinants of childhood adiposity and metabolic syndrome in India.
Welcome:
We welcomed 3 students to the team: Simran Sharma, Laura Nguyen, and Cathy Lu who have joined our team to help us to help women and infants be healthier! Welcome to the team!

Invitations:
Dr McDonald was excited to participate in the Prematurity Awareness session at (Queen’s) Park on Oct 20, 2016 with Members of Provincial Parliament, parents, and health care providers.

The first CIHR Clinician-Investigator Teams Meeting was held in Toronto on Oct 18 with each of the 5 teams across the country awarded this prestigious award. Dr Beth Murray-Davis, co-Principal Investigator, was awarded this with other co-Principal Investigators Drs Nir Melamed (MFM, Sunnybrook) and Howard Berger (MFM, St Mike’s).

The CIHR funded McMaster-University of Toronto team grant includes: (back row) Dr Joel Ray (Mentor), Dr Mike Geary (Mentor), Dr Howard Berger (co-Principal Investigator), (front row) Dr Jon Barrett (Mentor), Dr Nir Melamed (co-Principal Investigator), Dr Sarah McDonald (Mentor), Dr Beth Murray-Davis (co-Principal Investigator).

News from Dr. Warren Foster, Professor (Division of Reproductive Biology)

Dr. Warren Foster received the Award of Excellence in Reproductive Medicine - An honour reserved for members of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society for an outstanding contribution to, and leadership in, the field of Reproductive Medicine and Science. The recipient must demonstrate tremendous dedication to advancing the field in Reproductive Medicine and Science in research, clinical activity, teaching and consulting activities. Recognized as an innovator and scholar by peers—as shown by invitations to participate in professional societies and associations, providing service to the field in international, national or provincial public advisory groups, scholarly activities, such as symposia or workshops; applied experimental and clinical results to the benefit of society; shared research and clinical experience willingly with other members of the medical and scientific community through various activities, such as offering expert advice, demonstrating new techniques, communication with lay support groups and related public relations and, conveying original research and clinical results lucidly and in a time manner to peers via journals and scientific meetings. Dr. Foster is one of only three scholars in Canada to be awarded this honour while simultaneously being elected into the Fellowship of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS).
In the Media:
Dr. Foster’s report titled; Searching for new biomarkers of endometriosis appeared in the May/June 2016 issue of Scientia Magazine.

Contributions to Peer Reviewed Presentations:
Dr. Foster travelled to Lyon France as an invited contributor to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) assessment and monographs of the Evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, Volume 117: Pentachlorophenol and some related compounds. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization. The objective of the IARC is to promote international collaboration in cancer research. The Agency is inter-disciplinary, bringing together skills in epidemiology, laboratory sciences and biostatistics to identify the causes of cancer so that preventive measures may be adopted and the burden of disease and associated suffering reduced. A significant feature of the IARC is its expertise in coordinating research across countries and organizations; its independent role as an international organization facilitates this activity. The Agency has a particular interest in conducting research in low and middle-income countries through partnerships and collaborations with researchers in these regions.

News from Dr. Derek Lobb, Associate Professor (Division of Reproductive Biology)
Presentations:

News from Dr. E. Hutton, Professor and Dr. B. Murray-Davis, Associate Professor (Midwifery Program)
Baby & Pre-Mi Study Starting!

Led by Dr. Eileen Hutton, the Baby & Pre-Mi cohort will soon begin recruiting participants. The study is funded by CIHR as part of an international collaboration between investigators in Canada, the Netherlands and Germany. The goal of the consortium is to understand what factors influence the development of the gut microbiome in early life, with a particular focus on diet. The primary objective of Baby & Pre-Mi is to compare the intestinal microbiome throughout the first 3 years of life between pre-term and full-term infants (from the Baby & Mi cohort). This cohort will also serve as a pilot study to determine feasibility of recruiting and enrolling pre-term infants into a microbiome study.

Publications:
Dr. Eileen Hutton:

News from Dr. Laurie Elit, Professor (Division of Gynelogic Oncology)

Gyn Oncology
On Oct 31, 2016 Dr. Francois Moens retired from a long career based in Hamilton in Gynecologic Oncology. During his time laparoscopic surgery and the outpost gyn cancer clinic in ThunderBay became a reality.

Heidi Thomas RN was honored at the Canadian Nursing Oncology (CANO) meeting with Excellence in Nursing Clinical Practice award.

Gyn Oncology welcomes Sandy Vuong as our first Physician Assistant and the first PA at the Juravinski site. Sandy trained here at McMaster. We were successful in obtaining a Health Force Ontario start up grant to bring Sandy onto the team.

News from Dr. Bruce Wainman, Professor (Associate Member)

Bruce Wainman, PhD Associate member of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has been given The Osler Lecture award. Each year, McMaster Medicine Student Affairs hosts a tri-class meet-and-greet at the McMaster University Club. This gathering is over "life lessons and anecdotes" a talk given by a student-chosen faculty. The Osler Lecture's goal is to inspire, promote wellness, ease CaRMS fright, and network 2018/2019 students with senior student-mentors. The 2017 and 2018 classes were asked for their "most inspiring and passionate role model in medicine from McMaster." Professor Bruce Wainman, director of the anatomy program at Mac and recent 3M national teaching fellow, was the recipient of this year's students'-choice award.
**News from Dr. Denis Crankshaw, Professor Emeritus (Division of Reproductive Biology)**

**News**

Dr Crankshaw spent the summer of 2016 working in the Human Myometrial Research Laboratory in the Lambe Institute for Translational Research at the National University of Ireland, Galway and cycling the back roads of Co. Galway.

**Recent Publications**


---

**News from Dr. Elissa Tepperman, PGY5**

Dr. Tepperman’s study with Dr Steven Bates was accepted for presentation at the AAGL conference in November.

Virtual poster presentation: “Cystometrogram at the Time of Urodynamics: How Sensitive is this Diagnostic Test?” will be presented at the upcoming AAGL meeting in Orlando, Florida.
**Announcements:**

Congratulations to Dr. Beth Murray Davis and Brent Davis on the birth of their daughter, Iris Elizabeth Murray Davis, on August 20!

---

**Welcome:**

We are pleased to welcome the following faculty and staff to our department:

**Assistant Professors (Urogynecology):**
- Dr. Laura Didomizio
- Dr. Ola Malabarey

**Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct):**
- Dr. Peter Potts – Grand River Hospital
- Dr. Ummi Habiba – Burlington CEC

**Administrative Assistant (Urogynecology):**
- Rena Rice

---

**EDITOR:**

Bev Pindar-Donick, Director of Administration (pindon@mcmaster.ca)

If you wish to contribute to a future newsletter, please contact:

Colleen Scourfield, Administrative Assistant (scourfc@mcmaster.ca)

1280 Main St West, 2F Administration Office
Hamilton, ON L8S 4K1