MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

To All Faculty and Colleagues,

I would like to apprise all members of our community that Dr. Rory McDonagh has stepped down, after a long and productive tenure as Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Joseph’s. His tireless work for our department has advanced the care of women and their families tremendously. His dedication to the improvement of quality and patient safety has been exemplary. We wish him continued success in his professional life as he continues his academic career in our specialty.

It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dr. Susan Ellis to the role of Chief, Obstetrics and Gynecology. Susan formally took over the role on March 1st, 2018. Susan is a widely recognized and respected clinician and colleague. She is an exemplary clinician educator, having been recognized with a number of awards for her teaching and trainee involvement, including the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine Residents Award for Excellence in Teaching Obstetrics and Gynecology, The Association of Professionals in OB GYN Carl Nimrod Educator Award and the McMaster Department of OB GYN Certificate of Excellence for Sustained and Continuous Pursuit of Excellence in Obstetrical Teaching. We congratulate and welcome Susan in this new role and look forward to collaborating with her to continue to achieve our goal of “Becoming a Leading Academic Program in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Canada”.

Nicholas Leyland
Welcome:

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

Assistant Professor (Full-time):
Dr. Mark Osmond - Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist

Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct):
Dr. Yaakov Bentov - Waterloo, ON
Dr. Stephanie Ayre - Guelph, ON

Administrative Staff:
Kate Lockley - Education Program Associate
Tanya St. George - Assistant to the Chief/Chair
Leah MacDonald - Medical Secretary to Dr. McDonald
Thea Dosi - Medical Secretary to Drs. Costescu, Hamoudi, Scattolon (until October 2018-covering a mat leave)

Congratulations:

The Maternal Fetal Medicine Division would like to thank Dr. Barb Brennan for all of her hard work as Fellowship Program Director over the past five years. Dr. Michelle Morais assumed this role as of April 1st and she is excited to ensure the Fellowship maintains and further enhances its excellent training program.

Upcoming Events:

Please join us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at McMaster University. With 50 years of innovations and achievements to remember, we want to honour each and every distinguished individual that has been a part of our heritage. The celebrations will be taking place on Friday June 1st and Saturday June 2nd, 2018.

On Friday June 1st the department will be hosting a Meet and Greet from 6:00pm-9:00pm at the University Club, McMaster.

On Saturday June 2nd, our festivities will commence with breakfast at 9:00am. Dean and Vice President, Dr. Paul O’Byrne will start the day off with a warm greeting. Dr. Patrick Mohide, previous Chair (1999-2010), will transport us back in time with an informative talk on the history of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology over the last 50 years.

Following our morning talks, there will be guided tours taking place. At 12:00pm we will gather for a sit-down lunch, following which, Dr. Nicholas Leyland, current Chair and Chief of the department, will moderate an invigorating debate focused on “Residency Training – Better Then or Better Now?” The day will close with coffee, tea and dessert.
The 44th Annual R.T. Weaver Scientific Day is being held on Wednesday April 4th, 2018. The day will start at 8:00am with the Grand Rounds Presentation hosted at St. Joseph’s Hospital, followed by a Lunch & Learn at 11:15am, at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Learners (fellows, residents and grad students) will present their research in the afternoon where a panel will judge each presentation.

Dr. Emmanuel Bujold is the invited guest speaker for RT Weaver Day and will present Grand Rounds, the Lunch & Learn and an evening talk preceding the dinner. Dr. Bujold is a full professor in the Obstetrics & Gynecology Department at Université Laval Faculté de Médecine in Québec City, Québec.

Val Mueller, Associate Professor (Postgraduate Program Director)

The Postgraduate Education Program has completed a successful CaRMS match for 2018. We are pleased to welcome the following PGY1s for the upcoming academic year!

Katelyn Bartlett
Kaylee Clark
Mackenzie Grisdale
Mehdiya Hemani
Emily Landon
Erica Pascoal
Vasilia Vastis

The annual welcome barbeque will take place in July and you will have an opportunity to meet the new residents at the event.

The SOGC/APOG Ontario CME 2017 took place November 30-December 2, 2017 in Toronto. The following residents had oral presentations at the conference:

Dr. Kate Gerster (PGY5): A qualitative exploration of past family planning counselling of adolescent and young mothers

Dr. Harrison Banner (PGY5): Interprofessional perinatal simulation as a teaching tool for trainees in obstetrics and midwifery

Dr. Val Mueller (with Dr. Craig and Dr. Garber) presented a workshop on using simulation for assessment: ‘Who wants to assess competence using simulation? I do! I do!’

Dr. Alysha Nensi (PGY5) was awarded the Best Resident Award in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the medical staff at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton. This award was presented at the Annual Medical Staff Dinner Meeting on January 12, 2018 at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club. Congratulations, Dr. Nensi!
Congratulations to Dr. Sabrina Youash (PGY4) on the birth of her baby girl. Sabrina and Chris welcomed baby Lilah Ann Wei on March 10th. Thank you to Dr. Sibley, Dr. Scattolon, Harrison, Nermine, Dana and Sam.

**UNDERGRADUATE NEWS**

*Dan Reilly, Associate Clinical Professor (Undergraduate Program Director)*

In January, Obstetrics and Gynecology welcomed the class of 2019 clerks!

The UG program has eliminated the paper evaluations for our clerkship rotations, replacing them with three electronic processes. These evaluations include the Essential Clinical Encounter tracker (ECE tracker), McMaster Direct Observation Tool and in rotation On Demand Evaluations. If you have any questions regarding the new evaluation tools, please contact Sarah Chisholm at chishos@mcmaster.ca

Demand for placements and electives in Obstetrics and Gynecology continues to increase. We are looking for preceptors to supervise our Post MF4 students during July and August. If you are available to supervise during this time, please contact Sarah at chishos@mcmaster.ca.
**RESEARCH NEWS**

**Alison Holloway, Professor & Associate Chair, Research**

The Research Office has been busy since the last newsletter, working with faculty members to assist with grant proposals, HIRED applications, data collection tool development, data analyses, and dissemination tasks. We have also been working on increasing the visibility of our faculty’s research interests. To that end, we have added two new pages to the Departmental website, which lists faculty’s research themes and keywords. We invite you to review this and give us your feedback.

Additionally, we have been involved in bringing in RedCap, a project management tool, on a trial basis. Over the next year, we will review the usage and utility for the department. If deemed to be useful, it will continue for another year, while a cost recovery plan is developed for users. If you are interested in giving RedCap a try, please contact Nicole at ngerva@mcmaster.ca.

Nine applications were submitted to CIHR this round with departmental faculty as PIs, Co-Is, or contributors. We wish them good luck in the review process.

The Research Office regularly updates the department website with new funding opportunities as we are made aware of them, and we would be happy to assist with the application process.

**Presentations:**

We have had presentations at a wide range of conferences and research meetings in the last quarter, including the Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting, the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine Annual Conference, and sessions at Joseph Brant Hospital and McMaster University.

**Grants Received:**

Our congratulations to the researchers who have received grants since the last newsletter:

**Darling, L.** Association of Ontario Midwives, $40,000 Career Midwifery Research Grant, “Inadequate prenatal care in Hamilton: An investigation into how to improve prenatal care access for marginalized populations”.

**Holloway, A.** Canadian Institutes of Health Research, $634,952 “E-cigarette use during pregnancy: impact on metabolic health of the offspring.”

**Hutton, E.** Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Canadian Clinical Trial Network/Sunnybrook Research Institute, $80,000 grant, “The Cost Implications of Continuous Glucose Monitoring Versus Home Glucose Monitoring: An Assessment of Participating Sites in Canada and the United Kingdom (CONCEPTT)”.

**Reitsma, A., Hutton, E.** Association of Ontario Midwives, $4,929, Mentored Midwifery Research Grant, “Systematic review and meta-analyses of birth outcomes for women who intend at the onset of labour to give birth at home compared to women of low obstetrical risk who intend to give birth in hospital”.

**Murray-Davis, B.** Association of Ontario Midwives, $30,528 Career Midwifery Research Grant, “Gestational Diabetes, Obesity and Hypertension in the Midwifery Population”.


Publications:

We have had a very strong season for publications, with 28 articles and/or books published since November 2017. We're especially pleased with the number of collaborations within the department - over 20% of the publications - and the number of residents included in the author lists. Please see the end of this section for the publication list.

However, we would still love to see the size of this list grow in the next newsletter! The Research office can help you get your draft from the bottom of the desk to the pages of a journal. We can help you update your literature searches, edit and give feedback on draft manuscripts, provide suggestions for journals to submit to, and help format manuscripts for submission.

Publication List:


Dr. Foster has also contributed to:


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