MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

To All Faculty and Colleagues,

Our Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster has continued to become among the leading academic programs in Canada. 2016 is shaping up to be a remarkably successful year for our academic program. All of our senior residents were successful in passing their Royal College examinations! Congratulations to Dr. Esther Chin, Dr. Gillian Dharmai, Dr. Kelly Donovan, Dr. Sandra Gregorovich, Dr. Jessica Liauw and Dr. May Sanaee.

We welcome the recruitment of Drs. Stacey Deniz and Evan Taerk who have completed their REI fellowships and will be new faculty at MUMC and One Fertility. The division of Maternal Fetal Medicine welcomes their new trainee, Catherine Dagenais and REI welcomes David Gurau.

I would like to welcome Dr. Anita Kuriya, from McGill University, to our fellowship in MIGS. She will join Dr. Sarah Scattolon, who will be beginning her second year of training, in addition to completing her Master’s in Health Research Methodology here at McMaster. Dr. Jackie Thurston has completed her fellowship with us and is taking up an academic position with the University of Calgary this summer. Although we are very sad to lose her, we wish her every success in this next exciting phase of her career!

I wish everyone a safe and happy summer and I look forward to our coming academic year. I hope we can all continue to work together to further evaluate our department to “continue to be among the leading academic programs in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Canada”.

Nicholas Leyland
Val Mueller, Associate Professor (Postgraduate Program Director)

The annual Resident Appreciation Night was celebrated at the beautiful Ancaster Old Mill on Wednesday June 22nd. The residents and the faculty from St. Joe’s stepped up their game this year with some impressive videos and skits! This year teaching awards were presented to Dr. Waldo Jimenez (The H.R. Morgan Surgical Teaching Award), Dr. Nirupa Gangam (The Excellence in Resident Teaching Award), and Dr. Lua Eiriksson (The Council of Residency Education in Obstetrics & Gynecology Teaching Award). Dr. Peter Potts was the recipient of the inaugural John Mazurka Surgical Teaching Award. This award was developed on recommendation by the residents in order to recognize Dr. John Mazurka’s exceptional surgical teaching.

Congratulations to Dr. Tara Daley, PGY 5, and Dr. Ali Marseu, PGY 4, on being selected as recipients of a PGME Medical Education Research Grant for 2016. They were presented with this award during the Program Directors’ Appreciation Dinner held on May 4th.

Congratulations to Dr. Brigid Dineley, PGY 5, as she was selected as a recipient of this year’s Medical Staff Association (MSA) ‘Resident of the Year’ award.

The Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program came out on July 6th to welcome our new PGY1s to the program. A big thank you to Dr. Costescu and his partner, Michael, for hosting and baking this OBGYN-worthy cake!

Left to right: Yasaman Pazouki, Alexander Norgaard, Sarah Turvey, Valerie Bloomfield, Iryna Vyarvelska, Nadiya Goswami, Meghan Alton, Avi Vandersluis
On June 22, 2016, three remarkable residents were awarded the Everett Sargeant Teaching Award for Undergraduate teaching. All three recipients demonstrated a genuine interest in teaching, dedication and initiative. Thank you to Dr. Esther Chin, Dr. Sandra Gregorovich and Dr. Jessica Liauw. We wish you all the best with your future endeavors.

Dr. Denise Campeau and Dr. Andrew Stewart have been appointed as the new Regional Education Leaders for Niagara and Waterloo campuses, respectively. We welcome them into their new role and thank them for their commitment to undergraduate education. We would like to convey special thanks to their predecessors, Dr. Val Mueller and Dr. Andy Dobosiewicz. Their dedication to the distributed campuses have greatly contributed to the high educational standards.

Demand for placements in O&G continues to increase. Thank you to the preceptors in the community for your continued support to our program.

It’s a busy time for electives, a special thank you to all the preceptors, and staff for agreeing to supervise our Post MF4 students.

I would like to extend congratulations to Dr. Dan Reilly on his appointment as the Undergraduate Program Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology, effective September 1, 2016. Dr. Reilly is a graduate of Queen’s University’s medical program (2000). His Obstetrics and Gynecology residency was completed at the University of Ottawa (2005), followed by a Masters of Health Science in Bioethics at the University of Toronto (2007). Dr. Reilly is a staff physician at Groves Memorial Community Hospital, Fergus and a consulting Staff Physician at Palmerston and District Hospital, North Wellington Health Care Corp. At present, he is the President of the Medical Staff Association at Groves Memorial Hospital and the Chair, District 3 Ontario Medical Association. Dr. Reilly has been a faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology since 2005 and has been very involved in both Undergraduate and Postgraduate teaching throughout his faculty appointment.

A special thank you to Dr. Donna Fedorkow, who has been an outstanding Undergraduate Program Director since 2009. Her charisma and dedication will be missed. We hope she continues to support the program through teaching and supervision.

Events:
Congratulations to Dr. Eileen Hutton on receiving an honorary Doctorate of Science on June 6 from her alma mater, Queen’s University in Kingston, on the occasion of the university’s 175th anniversary. From the Queen’s Gazette, “Dr. Hutton linked her life’s work back to the first woman to receive an honorary degree at Queen’s, and indeed the first in Canada, in 1897. ‘I see my work as an extension of the work Lady Aberdeen did.’ Aberdeen was founding president of the National Council of Women, founder of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and wife of Governor General the Earl of Aberdeen. ‘She had a strong social conscience and played a significant role in health care, bringing basic care into the community and improving access in both urban and remote areas,’ said Dr. Hutton, adding that Aberdeen set the foundation for care for women giving birth at home. ‘The nursing program
at Queen’s gave me a strong foundation and well prepared me to deal with challenge. The instructors always said we should go out in pairs because the system needs change. And while I didn’t work with a Queen’s grad afterwards, that idea stayed with me – that the system needs change, and that change is possible. I think that was very formative for me’. Read more at: [http://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/leading-midwife-strong-links-queens-past](http://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/leading-midwife-strong-links-queens-past)

At this year’s annual Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM) conference held May 16-18, 2016 at the White Oaks Resort in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Dr. Hutton presented the keynote address on “Evaluation of Clinical Outcomes in Ontario”, and Dr. Beth Murray Davis presented research on “Exploring Women’s Preferences for Mode of Delivery in Twin Gestations: Results of the Twin Birth Study”. The AOM is the professional organization representing all 820+ Registered Midwives, Aboriginal Midwives and the practice of Midwifery in Ontario. This year’s conference theme was “Providing Excellence to All”.

Congratulations to Ms. Kristie Poole and Ms. Elissa Press, who both successfully defended their theses, respectively entitled “External cephalic version before term and preterm birth” (supervisors Dr. Eileen Hutton, with Dr. Sarah McDonald and Dr. Lauren Griffith) and “A Cost-Analysis of Midwife-Attended Home Births Compared to Midwife-Attended Hospital Births in Ontario” (supervisors Dr. Eileen Hutton and Dr. Amiram Gafni, with Dr. Joseph Beyene) in partial completion of the Master of Science degree program in Health Research Methodology.

Grants:
Congratulations to Dr. Beth Murray-Davis, with Dr. Howard Berger (Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Toronto), on receiving a Clinician-Investigator Teams in Obstetrics & Maternal-Fetal Medicine grant for $750,000 over five years to study “Non-communicable Diseases in Obstetrics: Improving Quality of Care and Maternal-Infant Outcomes through an Obstetrical Research Network,” and for receiving a second team grant in Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) Implications for Men, Women, Boys and Girls with Dr. Deborah Sloboda (Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, McMaster University) for $1,499,870 over five years to study “HUGS for HEALTH: Healthy Bugs for Healthy Babies DOHaD Team”.

Students:
Welcome to our Midwifery summer research students, Megan Bowen, Amanda Comeau, Ella Glabush and Samantha Krueger, who will be working on a variety of research topics. Samantha received the CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award to work on her project entitled "Mode of birth in breech fetuses turned by external cephalic version compared to spontaneous cephalic version”.

Publications:

News from Dr. Sarah McDonald, Professor (Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine)

Congratulations:
Dr Alexander Jarde, a postdoc with Dr McDonald, and to Dr Jean Chamberlain, and MW Lisa Sabatino who won an award at SOGC for their poster “What is the best intervention for preventing preterm birth: progesterone, cerclage or pessary? A systematic review and network meta-analysis” along with an international team (Jarde, A., Lutsiv, O., Park, C.K., Beyene, J., Dodd, J.M., Barrett, J., Shah, P.S., Cook, J.L., Saito, S., Biringer, A.B., Sabatino, L., Giglia, L., Han, Z., Staub, K., Mundle, W., Chamberlain, J., McDonald, S.D.; 2016 Jun 14-17; Vancouver, B.C.)

Congratulations to Dr. Tetsuya Isayama, a neonatologist and a PhD student of Dr McDonald’s, who won the Best Oral Award at the University of Toronto Neonatal Research Day! He did tremendous work on a network meta-analysis examining the best respiratory management for premature infants. Congratulations, Tetsuya, on this important advancement in caring for premature babies!

Tetsuya has also been awarded an Ontario Graduate Scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year. This award is funded in part by the Government of Ontario under the Ontario Graduate Scholarship and Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology awards program. Well done Tetsuya!

Pictured Above: Julie Yu presented her poster on the Clinical Carepath for women with obesity during pregnancy, and assisted the team with another the International Conference on Obesity in Vancouver in May 2016. Congratulations, Julie!

Welcome:
I am delighted to announce that the team has grown! Ms Deb Sleeth joined the team in the important role of Administrative Assistant, starting May 17, working three days/week over the summer.

Also in May, Dr Anne-Mary Saad, joined the team as a postdoctoral fellow in advanced topics in perinatal clinical epidemiology and meta-analysis.

Kristen Viaje is a Bachelor of Health Science student who joined us as a Summer Student Research Assistant!
In June 2016, we welcomed Marda Flores, a new Research Assistant to the team! Dr Marinela Grabovac, transitioned from her role as RA to Research Intern in Perinatal Clinical Epidemiology.

A celebration was held to acknowledge Dr. Sarah McDonald’s promotion to Professor effective July 1, 2016. ‘I want to thank all of the current and former team members’ research on which much of the promotion was founded. My goal for this change is that it will enable us to help women and infants more effectively!’ “Awards come to individuals, but communities matter, and teams get things done” (David Naylor)

Pictured above:
(Back row, left to right): Dr. Anne-Mary Saad, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Anna Yermachenko, Postdoctoral Fellow, Ms. Bronwen Wood, former Administrative Assistant, Dr Sarah McDonald, Dr. Marinela Grabovac, Research Intern in Perinatal Clinical Epidemiology, Marda Flores, Full-time Research Assistant, Deb Sleeth, Administrative Assistant, Dr. Alexander Jarde, Postdoctoral Fellow.
(Front row, left to right): Julianne Feng, Student Research Assistant, Sugee Korale-Liyanage, Student Research Assistant, Kristen Viaje, Student Research Assistant, Zelia McDonald, assistant to Drs Lobb, Holloway and Ms Joanne Otterspoor and Margaret Talbot, assistant to Dr Foster.

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

Dr. Warren Foster has been appointed to the position of Voluntary Clinical Professor, in the Department of Reproductive Medicine, at the University of California, San Diego, Health Sciences, San Diego, CA. This opportunity will enhance Dr. Foster’s endometriosis research and augment recruitment of study participants with early stage disease.

Dr. Hayley Furlong received the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Award for her work on ‘Novel microRNAs as biomarkers for toxic insult in the ovary’ at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction. San Diego, CA. July 16 – 20, 2016.


Dr. Hayley Furlong, PDF, presented the talk titled; ‘Novel microRNAs as biomarkers for toxic insult in the ovary’ at the Annual European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) in Helsinki, Finland. July 3 – 6, 2016.
Our studies on ovarian toxicology have received international recognition and through invitation to present results at The Reproductive Health Summit in London, UK in April 2016. Dr. Furlong gave the talk titled; ‘Environmental toxicant exposure and dysregulation of ovarian function’.

For the second consecutive year, Dr. Foster received a Postdoctoral Fellow Supervision Award from the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University.

Dr. Foster also received a Graduate Student Supervision Award from the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University for the second time in 3 years.

Congratulations:
Allegra Drumm has received early acceptance into the Medical School at the University of Ottawa. We wish Allegra congratulations and all the best along her journey to pursue her dream to become a physician.

Eli Crapper completed his MSc in June 2016 and has been accepted into the Medical School at Western University. Congratulations Eli. We wish you every success in your future studies.

Aamer Somani received early acceptance into the Medical School at Western University. Congratulations Aamer on your successful application. All the best in your chosen career path.

In the Media:
Dr. Warren Foster is frequently called upon by media for his expert opinion on toxicants in our environment and their relationship to women’s health and fertility. Recently he was asked to provide his knowledge to the following media sources:


c. How worried should we be about bisphenol A? The Hamilton Spectator, April 15, 2016.

Publications:


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

Presentations:


Welcome:
We are pleased to welcome the following learners to our department:
PGY1s:
Megan Alton, Valerie Bloomfield, Nadiya Goswami, Alex Norgaard, Yasaman Pazouki, Sarah Turvey, Avi Vandersluis, Iryna Vyarvelska

Fellows:
MIGS – Anita Kuriya
MFM – Catherine Dagenais
GREI – David Gurau

Assistant Clinical Professor – Adjunct:
Dr. Karen. Macmillan – Thorold, ON
Dr. Stacy Deniz – ONE Fertility, Burlington, ON

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is delighted to announce the recruitment of two new faculty members to the division of urogynecology. Dr. Laura Didomizio, who recently competed her fellowship in Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at the University of Ottawa, will be joining us on September 1st. This fall we will also welcome Dr. Ola Malabarey, who is currently a urogynecologist and reconstructive surgeon from the King Fahad Medical City, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Malabarey is also the current Director of the residency training program. We look forward to having them join the Urogynecology Division!

Congratulations:
The department would like to extend congratulations to the following faculty members on their recent promotions:
Dr. Sarah McDonald, Professor
Dr. Cara Donnery, Associate Professor
Dr. Nirupa Gangam, Associate Professor
Dr. Waldo Jimenez, Associate Professor
Dr. Beth Murray-Davis, Associate Professor
Congratulations to Mara Giardini, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Leyland, for completing her Qualified Administrative Assistant Certificate (QAA).

Dr. Warren Foster’s election to Fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) was approved by the Board of Directors. Congratulations to Dr. Foster!

Dr. Hal Hirte (medical oncology) was awarded the Steven Garrett award by the Medical Staff Association of Hamilton Health Sciences.

Dr. Laurie Elit received one of the four Senior Medical Staff awards from the Medical Staff Association of Hamilton Health Sciences. Dr. Elit also received the Presidential Medal from the Society of Gynecologic Oncology Canada.

Pictured above (left to right): Dr. Hal Hirte, Dr. Laurie Elit and Dr. Mark Levine at the HHSC Medical Staff Association awards.
Dr. Lua Eiriksson, (Division of Gynecologic Oncology) and her husband welcomed baby #3 in early May. Congratulations to the family on your latest addition!

Introducing Thomas Wolfgang Ellis Engels

News:

Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese is an associate professor with the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and is the Executive Director of Save the Mothers International.

Dr. Chamberlain, recently collaborated with Patricia Paddey, writer and editor, to write a new book entitled The Game Changers. Their book was released in May of this year at a cost of $19.99. Copies can be bought through the website www.savethemothers.org or at amazon.ca. All proceeds of books sold through the Save the Mothers website will go directly to Save the Mothers. For further details, please follow http://www.savethemothers.org/resources/game-changers/
Call for submissions:
The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology has 9 poster boards located on various floors within the MUMC building. The department is requesting submissions of posters, so that we can display new information. Posters can be research based or simply provide relevant information emerging from our department. If you have collaborated with someone or feel you have something to contribute, please contact Colleen Scourfield at scourfc@mcmaster.ca. We welcome submissions from everyone in our department including Associate Department Members and learners. It is important to note that posters should not exceed measurements of 93” wide x 45” high. This restriction is dictated by the size of the poster frames that are attached to the walls, therefore, the measurements cannot be adjusted.

Obituaries:
It is with great sadness that the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology announces the recent passing of Dr. John Hunter, on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Dr. Hunter was a member of our department from 1973-2002. A memorial service/reception was held on Thursday, June 16th at the Royal Warplane Heritage Museum. Further information can also be found at: http://www.canadianobituaries.com/kingston/29745-john-hunter-may-17-2016

Happy endings:
“The lens through which your brain views the world shapes your reality. If we can change the lens, not only can we change your happiness, we can change every single educational and business outcome at the same time. Happiness inspires us to be more productive.”
-from Shawn Achor: “The Happy Secret to Better Work” (Ted Talk)