MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

To All Faculty and Colleagues,

In July of 2010, I was afforded the privilege of becoming the Chair of our Department by the Dean. I was charged with the task of improving our academic productivity and to strive towards excellence in the achievement of our academic mission. My goal continues to be to elevate our Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to be among the leading academic programs in Canada.

To accomplish this goal we, as academic faculty, must be committed to excellence in achieving our academic mission. This mission includes excellence in research, the provision of clinical care and education. **To be a truly successful department, we must achieve success in all of these arenas.**

Our role as academic faculty is to expand our knowledge and understanding in Women’s Health and to demonstrate exemplary clinical practices to train the next generation of specialists. As those who have chosen to work in a university setting, we must practice at a level consistent with the best leading edge applications and based upon the best available evidence. Simply put, we must be setting the standards for our profession.

The next few years will be challenging for all of our faculty, trainees and administrative staff as we move into the era of competency by design, within an environment of ever diminishing resources to accomplish our goals. Achieving all of these lofty ideals has been confronted by many factors outside of our control. Our hospitals continue to be financially challenged, resulting in reductions in support for GFT faculty and reduced support for the provision of excellence in clinical care. Physician remuneration has been challenged of late and soon they may lose the benefits of incorporation, benefits that were obtained in lieu of fee increases in the recent past.

Despite all of these challenges we must continue to strive to accomplish the goals of an academic department. There are many benefits to working in the academic environment that those who have chosen a private practice career can enumerate. The recent changes in all of the above issues cannot and will not deter us from the important role that we all have in helping our department to:

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

Sincerely,

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

Assistant Professor GFT:
Dr. Sapna Sharma – Generalist, MFM Specialty, MUMC (August 1st)
Dr. Sarah Scattolon – Generalist, MIGS Specialty, MUMC (August 1st)

Assistant Professor P/T:
Dr. Evan Taerk – REI, ONE Fertility (May 9th)

Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct):
Dr. Cathy Andrus – Kitchener, ON

Staff:
Ola Carrier – Department Research Assistant, June 26th
Kate Lockley – Medical Secretary to Drs. Costescu and Hamoudi, June 28th (until June 2018 covering a mat leave)
Sarah Chisholm – Education Assistant (Clerkship/Electives Coordinator), July 10th
Dripan Jauhal – HR Coordinator, July 24th (until July 2018 covering a mat leave)
Mehek Sehgal – Education Program Associate, August 8th (until April 2018 covering a mat leave)

Congratulations:
Joanne Collina, medical secretary in Gynecology Oncology at JCC, received her 30 year-long service award from Hamilton Health Sciences Centre. We thank Joanne for her dedication and years of service to the Gyne/Oncology Division.

Dr. Sarah Scattolon was awarded an Educational Grant to attend the World Congress for Endometriosis, which took place in Vancouver in May. Sarah presented a poster on her project: “Ulipristal Acetate and Pelvic Pain” (Sarah Scattolon, Annette Bullen, Nicholas Leyland), as well as the collaborative project “Are We Following the Endometriosis Clinical Practice Guidelines? A Canadian Perspective” (Mara Sobel, Lindsay Mourant, Sarah Scattolon, Nicholas Leyland, Ally Murji).

Congratulations to Paula Dunn and new husband Jeff Philips, who were married on April 21, 2017. Paula is a Medical Secretary at the Juravinksi Cancer Centre, working in the division of Gynecology Oncology.
Events:
"CIRCLE THE DATE”:
Save the Mothers’ annual Gala and Auction will be held on Fri Nov 17, 2017 in Vaughan Ontario. Further details to follow. Contact Dr. Jean Chamberlain for more information (jchamber@mcmaster.ca) or visit www.savethemothers.org If you can’t make the event, feel free to contribute to this important cause of saving moms and babies in East Africa. Information about donating can be found on-line.

Val Mueller, Associate Professor (Postgraduate Program Director)

On Wednesday, June 28th residents and faculty came together at the Ancaster Old Mill to celebrate the residents and all of their hard work over the past year at the annual Resident Appreciation Night. As always, the residents and Dr. Fedorkow presented some very creative and entertaining videos which were enjoyed by all! The following faculty were chosen by the residents as the recipients for the teaching awards:

- Dr. Rory McDonagh (The H.R. Morgan Surgical Teaching Award)
- Dr. Caroline Sibley and Dr. Clare Reade (John Mazurka Surgical Teaching Award)
- Dr. Richard Persadie (The Excellence in Resident Teaching Award)
- Dr. Michelle Morais (The Council of Residency Education in Obstetrics & Gynecology Teaching Award)

Congratulations to Dr. Andrea Alarie, Dr. Tara Daley, Dr. Brigid Dineley, Dr. Waseema Hoosainny, Dr. Stephanie Leung, Dr. Elizabeth Markowski, Dr. Lindsay Mourant, Dr. Katy Tafler and Dr. Elissa Tepperman on your success in passing the Royal College examinations! We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

L to R: Dr. Elissa Tepperman, Dr. Elizabeth Markowski, Dr. Katy Tafler, Dr. Stephanie Leung, Dr. Andrea Alarie, Dr. Tara Daley, Dr. Waseema Hoosainny
We recently welcomed a new cohort of residents into the program. The new PGY1s began their year by participating in the Surgical Bootcamp.

The PGY1s had the opportunity to mingle with residents and faculty at the annual welcome barbeque on Wednesday July 5th.

Thank you to Dr. Costescu and Michael for opening up your home and hosting a great event!
Congratulations to Dr. Andrea Alarie, PGY5, for being awarded an Outstanding Resident of the Year Award from the Medical Staff Association.

Dr. Alysha Nensi, PGY5, was recently awarded one of the Quality Assurance Awards from the Postgraduate Education Office. Congratulations, Dr. Nensi!

Dr. Marie Buitendyk, PGY5, recently attended the International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis Conference in San Diego to present a poster of her project ‘Incidence of Soft Markers at the time of “Routine” 2nd Trimester Ultrasound at McMaster University Medical Centre’.

Dr. Harrison Banner, PGY5, and Dr. Kate Gerster, PGY4, recently led a session at the International Confederation of Midwives Conference in Toronto titled ‘Use of Foley Catheters for Cervical Ripening: Literature Review & Hands-On Session’.

The Obstetrics and Gynecology department was well represented at the recent Geoffrey Norman Day in Educational Research. The following residents and faculty presented their research at this event:

- CaRMS Portfolio Evaluation: Are there any pearls in the oysters?
  Kelly Dore; Donna Fedorkow; John Lamont; Joe Azzam: Nancy Dzaja
- 24 Hour Call VS. Night Float: A comparison of call systems in a Canadian obstetrics and gynaecology residency program.
  Alexandra Marseu; Tara Daley; Valerie Mueller; Kelly Dore
- Simulation in Obstetrics & Gynecology Clerkship in Canada.
  Donna Fedorkow; Kelly Dore; Amy Nakajima; Kelly Donovan
- Interprofessional Perinatal Simulation as a Teaching Tool for Trainees in Obstetrics and Midwifery: A Pilot Project.
  Harrison Banner; Lauren Columbus; Valerie Mueller; Cara Donnery; Kelly Dore; Beth Murray Davis; Susan Ellis.
- A Multi-Trainee, Multi-Level, Multi-Competency Simulation Approach to Training Obstetrical Emergencies
  Val Mueller; Susan Ellis, Beth Murray-Davis, Ranil Sonnadara and Lawrence Grierson

The Postgraduate Program had many residents present at the SOGC Conference from June 20 – 23:

- Harrison Banner presented his project ‘Interprofessional Perinatal Simulation as a Teaching Tool for Trainees in Obstetrics and Midwifery: A Pilot Project’
- Jay Tigdi presented his project ‘Speak with the Residents week: When a phone call unites Ob/Gyn residents and undergraduate medical students across the country’
- Andrea Mosher presented her project ‘The role of melatonin and prostaglandins in endometriosis’
- Waseema Hoosainny presented her project ‘Implementation of a Maternal Chorioamnionitis Pathway’

The McMaster Residents are also well represented in the SOGC Resident Development Committee, with Dr. Nadiya Goswami, PGY2, serving as junior representative and Dr. Jayesh Tigdi, PGY3, as senior member. Dr. Tigdi was also elected as Chair Elect for this Committee.

Dr. Alysha Nensi (PGY5) has been awarded the 2017 McMaster Postgraduate Quality Assurance Award for her project entitled “Implementation of a Same-Day Discharge Protocol Following Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy”. This project has previously been presented at RT Weaver and at the 45th Annual APOG Meeting in Toronto. The full manuscript has been accepted for publication in the JOGC.
Congratulations to Dr. Jayna Amting, PGY5, on the birth of her son Roman Frederick McAuley on May 20th!

Dr. Iryna Vyarvelska (PGY2) and husband Yurii are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Daniel Adam Zaiko, who was born on June 17th. Daniel weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and measured 22 inches long.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Dan Reilly, Associate Professor (Undergraduate Program Director)

We would like to welcome Sarah Chisholm to the role of Education Program Associate-Undergraduate Program, as Elizabeth dos Santos has recently accepted another position within McMaster University. Sarah comes to us from the School of Nursing and has been with McMaster since 2016. Please join us in wishing both Sarah and Elizabeth well in their new roles.

On June 28, 2017, two graduating residents were awarded the Everett Sargeant Teaching Award for Undergraduate teaching. The chosen recipients went above and beyond in their teaching of undergraduate learners and we receive positive feedback from their interactions. Thank you to Dr. Elizabeth Markowski and Dr. Andrea Alarie - we wish you all the best with your future endeavors. Dr. Peter Watt was awarded the inaugural Fedorkow- Mueller Excellence in Teaching Award. This award was created in honour of Dr. Val Mueller and Dr. Donna Fedorkow for their many years of innovation and service to Undergraduate Education and is awarded to faculty who also demonstrate a strong dedication to teaching.
CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS

Dustin Costescu, Assistant Professor (Director Continuing Education)

The CE program is on a short break as we prepare for the upcoming academic year and dedicate administrative time to ARCS. We hope to see everyone in the fall.

We have successfully launched multi-site Grand Rounds and are averaging five sites per month. Grand Rounds events are available on the OTN schedule. If you are interested in accessing Grand Rounds at your hospital in 2017-2018, you are encouraged to talk to your IT department to arrange access.

In 2018, we will be launching centralized Rounds Attendance, which will allow for auto-updating of room information, "snow day" notifications if there are last minute cancellations, as well as logging of CME credits across the distributed sites - an issue that has become apparent to those who are videoconferencing in. Details will be forthcoming for Faculty members.

Our first rounds event in September will be a Resident Research Rounds, in lieu of Fall RT Weaver. The RT Weaver program will be transitioning to the spring in order to align with other departments' academic calendars.

Dustin J Costescu

GYNELOGIC ONCOLOGY NEWS

Laurie Elit, Professor (Gynelocic Oncology Director)

The McMaster Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship has been approved by the Royal College. This undertaking was championed by Lua Eirikkson.
Two health sciences students, who worked on the gynecologic oncology e-learning modules, were accepted into Medical school – **Amber Murphy** to Queens and **Faith Michael** to McMaster.

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**RESEARCH NEWS**

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

**Congratulations:**

**Dr. Alexander Jarde**, a postdoctoral fellow with Dr McDonald, was awarded the “SOGC junior members – Best Obstetric Poster Presentation” at the 73rd Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Dr. Jarde presented a meta-analysis which demonstrated that natural progesterone improves some preterm birth related outcomes in women with a twin pregnancy, and revealed no benefit or harm in women receiving cerclage or pessary. Jarde, A., Lutsiv, O., Park, C.K., Barrett, J., Beyene, J., Saito, S., Dodd, J.M., Shah, P.S., Cook, J.L., Biringer, A.B., Giglia, L., Han, Z., Staub, K., Mundle, W., Vera, C., Sabatino, L., Liyanage, S.K., McDonald, S.D. "Preterm birth prevention in twin pregnancies with progesterone, pessary or cerclage: a systematic review and meta-analysis". 73rd Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, Ottawa, ON, June 22, 2017.

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Congratulations to **Dr. Christina Park** and **Dr. Tetsuya Isayama**, Dr. McDonald's former Masters student and current PhD student, respectively, for receiving the “Harold A. Kaminetzky Prize Paper for 2016, for the Best Article from a Non-U.S. Researcher” in the top ranked Obstetrics journal, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, "Antenatal corticosteroid therapy before 24 weeks of gestation: a systematic review and meta-analysis" (Obstet Gynecol 2016;127:715–25). Their meta-analysis demonstrated that neonates born before 24 weeks of gestation who received antenatal corticosteroids and active intensive treatment had significantly reduced odds of death.

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Congratulations to **Dr. Tetsuya Isayama**, a PhD student of Dr. McDonald's who was the winner of a Graduate Program Award at the Health Sciences Research Plenary held at McMaster University from May 16 – 18, 2017.

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**Grants Awarded:**

**Dr. McDonald** was awarded a CIHR Catalyst Grant: SPOR Innovative Health Trials with Co-Investigators Christopher Belanger (MOHLTC); Karim Keshavjee, Kate Robson, Prakesh Shah, and Lehana Thabane.

**Dr. McDonald** was also awarded a CIHR Program Operating Grant - Analyses of Existing Canadian Cohorts & Databases with Co-Investigators: Joseph Beyene, Lucy Giglia, and Adam Hulman.
Grants Submissions:

Dr. McDonald was pleased to contribute as a Co-Principal Investigator on Dr. Sonia Anand’s Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant with Drs. Shrikant Bangdiwala, Russell de Souza, Matthew Kwan, Katherine Morrison, Koon Teo, Gita Wahi and others on the Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative (HeLTI). This CIHR initiative aims to generate evidence to inform national policy and decision-making on health improvement and disease prevention, through its focus on the environmental factors that interact with genes during conception through to early childhood.

Invited presentations:

Dr. McDonald enjoyed presenting at the national Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference workshop entitled “Evidence-based Practice to Improve Quality: Training workshop”. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) PTB Network training session. Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference, June 20-23 2017 – Ottawa, ON. Dr Smith and Dr Morais both attended this workshop, so McMaster had great representation.

Interviews:

Dr. McDonald was delighted to participate in three interviews with local Hamilton news media to raise public awareness about preterm birth and impactful research on its prevention.

2017 Jul 6 “ McMaster researchers trying to predict premature birth and prevent it”. Interviewed by Jamie West, host of CHML radio. Funding source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)


News from Dr. Derek Lobb, Professor (Basic Science Division, Research)

Presentations:


News from Dr. Eileen Hutton, Professor, Dr. Beth Murray-Davis, Associate Professor and Dr. Liz Darling, Associate Professor (Division of Midwifery)

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Congress

Thousands of midwives from 114 countries attended the 31st Triennial International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Congress in Toronto from June 18-22, the largest global conference of midwives, hosted by the Canadian Association of Midwives and the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives. The congress works to strengthen over 130 professional associations of midwives throughout the world, through a rich diversity of clinical symposium, hundreds of oral presentations, skills workshops and scientific poster presentations. The McMaster Midwifery Education Program (MEP) division of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was well represented by students, faculty and staff who presented research, demonstrated the midwifery e-books, and interacted with midwives from around the world.

ICM Oral Presentations:

1. “Predicting Successful External Cephalic Version in the Early ECV2 and Pilot Trials Using Classification Tree Analysis”. Dr. Eileen Hutton, Ms. Julia Simioni
2. “Improving the Care of the Socially Vulnerable in Ontario. A Descriptive Analysis of the Women Who Received Midwifery Care Between 2006-2009”. Mr. Rashid Ahmed, Dr. Liz Darling, Dr. Eileen Hutton.
3. “What does continuity of care look like in the Ontario Model of Midwifery?” Dr. Vicki Van Wagner, Dr. Liz Darling.
4. “Do low risk definitions assist our understanding of midwifery practice or policy?” Dr. Liz Darling.
5. “Birth outcomes and distance from planned homebirths and emergency obstetrical services: An Ontario cohort study”. M. Kryzanauskas, Dr. Liz Darling.
6. “Outcomes of Ontario’s Birth Centre Demonstration Project”. Dr. Dana Sidney, Dr. Liz Darling
7. “Home, Hospital or Birth Centre: What Ontario midwifery clients want to know about choice of birthplace”. Dr. Beth Murray Davis.
8. “Transition to Practice Programmes in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and the Netherlands”. Dr. Beth Murray Davis.

ICM Poster Presentations:

1. “Integration of Birth Centres in Ontario: The experience of Health Care Providers”. Dr. Dana Sidney, Dr. Liz Darling
2. “Does the use of the SCOR computer application provide a feasible, acceptable, and reliable strategy for improving patient safety for mothers and newborns?”. Dr. Beth Murray-Davis
3. “From Student to Clinician: The Transition to Clinical Practice for New Registrant Midwives in Ontario.” Dr. Beth Murray Davis.
4. “Outcomes and Patterns of Primary Midwifery Care Received by Women and their Infants in Ontario Between 2006-2009”. Ms. Jordyn Horne, Ms. Angela Reitsma, Ms. Julia Simioni, Ms. Adriana Cappelletti, Dr. Eileen Hutton, Mr. Rashid Ahmed.

Grants:
Congratulations to Dr. Liz Darling, Erica Elderhorst, Erika Arseneau and Samantha Landry on receiving the first-ever Midwifery Research Grants offered from the Association of Ontario Midwives in March 2017!

1. Darling L. Exploring equitable access to midwifery care for people of low socio-economic status: facilitators and barriers. Grant category: Established Career Midwifery Research Grant ($40,000), Association of Ontario Midwives.
3. Elderhorst E. Birth outcomes for midwifery clients who begin post-dates induction of labour under midwifery care compared with those who are transferred to obstetrical care. Grant category: Early Career Research Midwifery Grant ($5,000), Association of Ontario Midwives.
4. Dufour S, Bernard S (Co-PIs), Murray-Davis B, Graham N. Establishing and Mobilizing Best Practice Principles for Compromised Abdominal Wall Integrity. MIIETL Teaching & Learning Grant, Sept 2016 - Sept 2018 ($2,000), McMaster University.
Upcoming Events:

The next “Surgical Assistant in Obstetrics: C-Section” two-day hands-on course will take place in Hamilton on November 17-18, 2017, for family physicians, midwives, nurses, and physician assistants. See attached brochure and register online at: https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/conted/documents/MYC_C-Section-SurgicalAssistant2017_HamON_web.pdf

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Sarah McDonald:

Through our systematic review, we found that late-preterm infants had higher risks for all-cause hospital admissions as well as for various cause-specific health service utilization during the neonatal period through adolescence. Isayama, Tetsuya; Lewis-Mikael, Anne-Mary; O’Reilly, Daria; Beyene, Joseph; McDonald, Sarah. “Health Services Use by Late Preterm and Term Infants from Infancy to Adulthood: A Meta-Analysis”, Jun 27, 2017 Pediatrics. 2017;140(1):e20170266


Dr. McDonald wrote an editorial on the importance of optimizing the timing of antenatal corticosteroids to improve the health outcomes of premature infants, reducing death and serious morbidities. "Antenatal corticosteroids for women at risk of preterm delivery: Timing is critical to maximizing benefits for very premature babies" March 24, 2017 British Medical Journal (BMJ) Editorial for The BMJ, BMJ 2017;356:j1467 doi: 10.1136/bmj.j1467 PMID: 28351845

Vanessa Ha, a graduate student who did her Independent Study with Dr McDonald, found that pregnant women preferred progesterone to other forms of prevention of preterm birth, but that likely more education about the risks of preterm birth is necessary.” Pregnant Women’s Preferences for and Concerns about Preterm Birth Prevention: A Cross-Sectional Survey”. 2017 BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth PRCH-D-16-00786 PMID: 28143534
Dr. Eileen Hutton:


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