MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

To All Faculty and Colleagues,

My mission, as always, is to elevate our Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster to among the leading academic programs in Canada.

2015 has been a remarkably successful year. The R.T Weaver research day presentations were such a high quality that the judges had great difficulty choosing the award winning papers. The successful award winners were:

Dr. Andrea Mosher – “Regional Variation in Prostaglandin E2 Activity and Receptor Expression in the Pregnant Human Uterus”

Dr. Jessica Liauw – “The Unmet Need for contraception Among Women in a Correctional Facility in Ontario, Canada”

Dr. Alexander Jarde – “What is the Best Intervention for Preventing Preterm Birth, Progesterone, Cervical Cerclage or Pessary? A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis”

Our invited speaker, Dr. Graeme Smith, presented his research into pre-eclampsia and following the dinner, he spoke about his fascinating work looking at the impact of this disease on later cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in women.

Every fall we support the Women’s and Children’s Conference in Hamilton. This excellent program has continued for many years following the initial impetus from Dr. Jean Chamberlain. This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Laurie Elit speaking on the implementation of cervical screening programs in low resource environments based on her important work in Mongolia.
Dr. Jean Chamberlain recently addressed a large group in Ancaster at a fund-raising initiative for her “Save the Mothers” campaign. Her talk was inspirational and very well received by the faculty and the community members in attendance.

I was privileged to participate in the American Association of Gynecological Laparoscopists Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA recently. You can imagine my shock and surprise when I came upon a VERY large lighted poster in the foyer at the conference centre.

I have had the great privilege to mentor and assist in the training of many residents and fellows in MIS gynecology, so this was a great honour.

I would like to wish everyone in the McMaster community a very safe, happy holiday season and a very prosperous new year. Over the next year I hope we can all continue to work together to evaluate our department to… “become a leading academic program in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Canada”.

Nicholas Leyland

Above:
Poster at the 2015 American Association of Gynecological Laparoscopists Conference,
Las Vegas, Nevada

Pictured left:
Dr. Susan Ellis (judge), Dr. Bruce Wainman (judge),
Dr. Andrea Mosher (Basic Science presentation winner),
Dr. Graeme Smith (guest of honor), Dr. Nicholas Leyland
Pictured above:
Dr. Bruce Wainman (judge), Dr. Susan Ellis (judge),
**Dr. Jessica Liauw** (Resident presentation winner),
Dr. Graeme Smith (guest of honor), Dr. Nicholas Leyland

Dr. Graeme Smith
Guest of Honour at RT Weaver

Pictured above:
Dr. Susan Ellis (judge), Dr. Bruce Wainman (judge),
**Dr. Alexander Jarde** (Post doc presentation winner),
Dr. Graeme Smith (guest of honor), Dr. Nicholas Leyland

Dr. Laurie Elit
Keynote at the International Women’s and Children’s Conference

Dr. Jean Chamberlain
Speaking at the Save the Mothers event
Greetings from the Associate Chair, Education

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our educators who work tirelessly to provide a stimulating, safe and thoughtful learning environment to all of the learners that we have the privilege to teach. In the current milieu of cutbacks and increasing clinical loads somehow you all find the energy to continue to support our trainees. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

This year we had a very successful educational retreat that was attended by both faculty and residents. Our guest speakers, Dr. K Dore, Ms. R Edwards, Dr. D Dath, Dr. S Bates and Dr. N Katz provided thought provoking talks on assessment, professionalism, competency based education, surgical education and feedback. Breakout workshops were well received. Thank you to Maria Benoit for her excellent organization of the event. Next year we are considering topics regarding teaching patient safety, education of effective handover and providing feedback in the operating room. If you have any other suggestions for topics please feel free to email me at cullimor@mcmaster.ca.

In December, McMaster residents along with residents from The University of Toronto, Manitoba and British Columbia will write the second COG-PPI (Canadian Obstetrics and Gynecology Postgraduate Progress Index). This is the first of its kind in postgraduate education. The Index is based on progress testing that occurs in undergraduate medicine at McMaster. Questions are based on the Medical Expert role as well as the Other CanMEDs roles. The goal of the COG-PPI is to provide residents with formative feedback regarding their progress three times per year. Thank you to Dr. Val Mueller, Dr. Cara Donnery, Dr. Dustin Costescu, Dr. Lua Eirikkson and Ms. Molly Pottruff (PERD) for their efforts on this project.

I wish you all a safe and meaningful holiday this winter.

Warm regards,
Amie Cullimore
Associate Chair, Education
Val Mueller, Associate Professor (Postgraduate Program Director)

Recent Events

Patio Night
In June 2015 the second annual "Patio Night" was hosted by the Department of ObGyn and included our colleagues from Nursing, Midwifery, Family Medicine and Anesthesia. Organized by the ObGyn residents, "Patio Night" is an annual interdisciplinary event bringing together all groups that work together to improve the health of women in Hamilton including family physicians, nurses, residents, midwives and obstetrician/gynecologists." We had a blast!

Resident Retreat
The residents enjoyed a day of wellness and team-building at their annual retreat on October 7th. The residents spent the morning at the ‘Altitude’ climbing towers, and the rest of the day showing off their artistic abilities!
Workshop
The residents participated in an NRP workshop for their Academic half day on October 28th. This session was facilitated by Dr. Cara Donnery, Dr. Andrew Latchman, Julie Pace and Susan Aliston.
Awards
Congratulations to Dr. Brigid Dineley, PGY 4 and Dr. Elissa Tepperman, PGY 4, who were recipients of the 2015 NAMS/Pfizer Medical Resident, Fellow, & DNP IN-Training Reporter Awards! They will be presenting some of the interesting things that they learned at an upcoming academic half-day session in 2016.

In October 2015, Kathleen Tafler (PGY4), was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame at Grand Valley State University, Michigan. Katy is considered one of the most prolific scorers in NCAA women’s soccer history — ranking third in all-time history. Congratulations Katy!

Grants
Kate Gerster, PGY 3, was the inaugural award winner for the McMaster Family Planning Grant, 2015 for her research project “A Qualitative Exploration of Family Planning Counselling Experiences of Adolescent and Young Mothers”. Congratulations Kate!

Presentations
Poster presentation "Canadian Obstetrics and Gynecology Residents: Are they ready for independent practice" was presented by May Sanaee, PGY5, at the latest ACOG District Meeting in Denver, Colorado in September 2015. This research is a national survey study conducted with co-investigators Dr. Mara Sobel, Dr. Kristina Arendas and Dr. Nicholas Leyland.

Upcoming Events
Please mark Monday, January 25th, 2016 in your calendars, as CaRMS interviews will take place this date! Thanks to all of you that have already volunteered to assist!
Dustin Costescu, Assistant Professor (Director Continuing Education)

The 2015-2016 CE program is off to a good start. In September, we welcomed Dr. Verinder Sharma from Western University to present on Bipolar Disorder in Pregnancy. In October, Drs. Lua Eiriksson and Clare Reade presented on the management of women with HNPCC. Next month, we welcome Dr. Carys Massarella, who will be presenting on Transgender Health issues for the Gynaecologist.

The CE program was happy to support another successful RT Weaver day, and we were thrilled that Dr Graeme Smith was able to join us from Queen’s University! Congratulations to all of the presenters.

This year, we have launched videoconferencing through the OTN network, and have rooms booked at MUMC, St Joes, and the Juravinski for most Grand Rounds. Wrinkles are being ironed out, so thank you for your patience. We have recently welcomed other hospitals to participate in rounds via OTN – if you are interested in accessing Grand Rounds at your hospital, please contact the CE program.

Finally, it is bittersweet that I inform you that our program assistant, Maria Benoit, will be taking a new position in the Department of Psychiatry. We thank her for her contribution to the program and wish her all the best!

Dustin Costescu

Faculty and Staff

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is pleased to welcome Dr. Mary Coll-Black in the role of General Obstetrician/Gynecologist with a specialty in minimally invasive surgery. She will be located at the St. Joseph’s site in the Fontbonne Building. Dr. Coll-Black recently completed her MIGS Fellowship here at McMaster.

In 2015 the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology welcomed the following new faculty appointments:

- Suha Eltayeb, Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct), Ajax, ON
- Andre LaRoche, Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct), Toronto, ON
- Matthew Laskin, Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct), Newmarket, ON
- Jessica Rollings-Scattergood, Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct), Fergus, ON
- Evgeniya Fefelova, Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct), Barrie, ON
It is with both appreciation and sadness that the Department announces the departure of Dr. Carolyn Best, Urogynecologist, at the end of this year. Dr. Best has accepted a wonderful opportunity in the community of Oakville and will be opening her own, highly specialized practice. Dr. Best has been a valuable asset to McMaster and this will be a great loss to the Urogynecology division at McMaster. In honour of Dr. Best, a farewell cocktail reception is being held at the Ancaster Mill on Wednesday, December 16th from 5:00pm-7:30pm for those who wish to come and celebrate this new chapter with Dr. Best.

**Administrative Staff**

We are pleased to welcome some new team members to the Department:

- Rebecca Cardwell, HR Coordinator
- Joanne Frankiewicz, Medical Secretary
- Rebecca Misiak, Education Program Associate

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge two long standing staff members who are moving on to further their careers. Tammy Purchase has worked in our Department for 13 years and Maria Benoit has been with us for 8 years. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to both employees for the valued contributions they have each made throughout the years. We wish them both luck and best wishes in their new roles at McMaster University.

On March 4, 2016 a Department Retreat will be held for faculty members at the Ancaster Mill. The retreat will run from 12pm-5pm. All Ob/Gyn faculty are encouraged to attend. Invitations will be sent out in the New Year and RSVPs will be collected by Colleen Scourfield at scourfc@mcmaster.ca.

Once again, the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology will host its Annual Dinner/Dance on Friday, January 22, 2016 for all faculty and administrative staff in the department. This year we will be returning to the Hamilton Golf & Country Club for an evening of fine dining and entertainment. Watch for your invitation to arrive in your inbox by mid-December. This is an event that is not to be missed and a great opportunity to mingle and relax with colleagues and friends. Dr. Joyce Zazulak (Department of Family Medicine) will be presenting a one hour talk on visual literacy.

The Division of Gynecologic Oncology is thrilled to announce that Dr. Clare Reade gave birth to a baby boy, Maxwell James, on October 21, 2015. Mother and baby are doing well!
News from Dr. D. Crankshaw, Professor Emeritus (Reproductive Biology Division)

News
Dr. Crankshaw spent the summer of 2015 setting up the Human Myometrial Research Laboratory in the new Lambe Institute for Translational Research at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Pictured right: The Lambe Institute for Translational Research, NUI, Galway. The Human Myometrial Research Laboratory is on the top floor.

News from Dr. B. Wainman, Associate Member (Director, Anatomy Education Program)

News
The Hamilton Spectator published a three-day series by feature writer Jon Wells, exploring McMaster's Anatomy lab, where the human body's mysteries are peeled back and the dead teach the living. Bruce Wainman (Director, Anatomy Education Program) figures prominently in the stories. The pieces started on the front page, leading to full pages inside each day. Read the full series at: http://thespec-reports.com/2015/10/02/body-and-soul/

Bruce Wainman, shown in the lab, says anatomy teaching must go much deeper than simply pointing out body parts.
Cathie Coward/Hamilton Spectator
News from Dr. D. Crankshaw, Professor Emeritus (Reproductive Biology Division)

Recent Publications


News from Dr. L. Elit, Professor (Division of Gynecologic Oncology)

Manuscripts

Elit LM, Charles CA, Gafni A. Oncologists’ perceptions of recurrent ovarian cancer patients’ preference for participation in treatment decision and making and strategies for when and how to involve patients in this process. Accepted IJSC Jul2015.


Books

Abstracts
ASCO 30May2015 Chicago (poster-presentation)
Elit L, Fyles A, Shu C, Pond G, Dayes I, Whelen T, Gulenchyn K, Levine M
The role of PET-CT in treatment decision making for women with locally advanced cervical cancer

CARO 2015 (presentation) 12Sep2015 (Reviewers’ Choice – best paper)
The role of PET-CT in treatment decision making for women with locally advanced cervical cancer

Elit L, Fyles A, Shu C, Pond G, rad oncs who adjudicated, Gulenchyn K, Levine M

ASTRO 2015 (poster) 12Oct2015
The role of PET-CT in treatment decision making for women with locally advanced cervical cancer
Elit L, Fyles A, Shu C, Pond G, rad oncs who adjudicated, Gulenchyn K, Levine M

GOC 12Jun2015 (presentation)
Gien L, Kroft JBernardini M, Elit L, Changes in Laparoscopy rates for endometrial cancer in Ontario over time

GOC 12Jun2015 (poster)

GOC 12Jun2015 (poster)

Canadian Laboratory Medicine Congress (CAP) presentation 23Jun2015

Quest for Humanitarian Effectiveness Manchester England 14-16Sept 2015

CCRA 2015 Nov9 (poster)
The role of PET-CT in treatment decision making for women with locally advanced cervical cancer
Elit L, Fyles A, Shu C, Pond G, rad onc who adjudicated, Gulenchyn K, Levine M

CCRA 9Nov2015, Montreal

Presentations
14Jun2015 Oncology Leadership Astra Zeneca Advisory Board
08Oct2015 Implementation of a cervical screening program FIGO
20Oct2015 HPV update in adult women JCC Nursing Rounds

News from Dr. E. Hutton, Professor and Dr. B. Murray-Davis, Assistant Professor (Midwifery Program)

News
Based on the success of previous courses, members of the department, Dr. Hunter, Dr. Lightheart, and Dr. Murray-Davis will once again be offering the Surgical Assistant in Obstetrics course Feb 4th & 5th 2016. [http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/conted/calendar.html](http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/conted/calendar.html)

Recent Publications


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

News
In the Fall of 2015, Dr. S. McDonald was awarded Adjunct Professor status at the University of Western Ontario’s Dept of Family Medicine. She is delighted to participate on the Dissertation Committee of Dr Helena Piccinni-Vallis, one of their PhD candidates.

Congratulations
Congratulations are extended to Christina Park on the successful completion of her Masters degree in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics with Dr McDonald. Christina was awarded both a School of Graduate Studies, McMaster University, Graduate Student Association Travel Assistance Award and a Scholarship Grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research (STIHR) in Reproduction, Early Development & the Impact on Health (REDIH).

We would like to congratulate Alexander Jarde, a postdoctoral fellow with Dr McDonald, who won an award for his research at RT Weaver Day, entitled "What is the best intervention for preventing preterm birth, progesterone, cerclage or pessary? A systematic review and network meta-analysis". Olha Lutsiv and Christina Park were the 2nd reviewers on this study involving an international team of collaborators.

We also congratulate Olha Lutsiv, MSc, and a former Research Intern with Dr McDonald, who was awarded a position as a Program Analyst with PCMCH (Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health).

Grant Submissions
With Drs. Beyene, Giglia and Hulman, Dr. McDonald submitted a grant to the HAHSO competition on preterm birth.

With Dr. Beth Murray Davis as co-PI with 2 other clinician investigators from Toronto, Dr Nir Melamed and Dr Howard Berger, Dr. McDonald is pleased to be participating in the creation of a CIHR grant for Clinician-Investigator Teams in Obstetrics and Maternal-Fetal Medicine with the University of Toronto, for submission in December 2015.

Dr. McDonald enjoyed being a co-investigator on Dr. Sloboda’s and Dr. Sonia Anand’s Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Team grants on the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHAD) submitted in Nov 2016.

Dr. McDonald was pleased to contribute as a Co-Investigator on Dr. Anne Berndl’s Academic Health Sciences Innovation Fund submission with Drs. Jon Barrett, Liz Astelos and Kellie Murphy. Dr. Berndl, a former MSc student of Dr. McDonald’s and graduate of the McMaster MFM Fellowship, is a Clinician-Scientist at the University of Toronto.
Peer Reviewed Publications

We observed a high degree of discordance between decisions in the direct-choice exercise and decision model recommendations to start thromboprophylaxis during pregnancy. Although which approach best captures individuals’ true values remains uncertain, we found that personalized decision support tools presenting results based on personalized risks and values may improve the decision making process.


We found that despite decreased odds of large for gestational age, increased odds of small gestational age and lack of information on preterm birth indicate that gestational weight loss should not be advocated in general for obese pregnant women.


We learned the majority of pregnant women viewed prenatal mental health screening favorably and were comfortable with a variety of screening methods. These findings provide evidence of high acceptability of screening—a key criterion for implementation of universal screening—and suggest that providers can select from a variety of screening methods best suited for their clinical setting.


We determined that approximately half of women receiving traditional prenatal care were interested in participating in GPC. Our findings will hopefully assist providers interested in optimizing satisfaction with traditional prenatal care and GPC by identifying important elements of each.


Oral Presentations


Dr. McDonald was asked to present her research on Maternal Weight and Weight Gain in Pregnancy as a key emerging area at the Maternal Health Surveillance session of the External Advisory Committee (EAC) of the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS). October 29, 2015. (National meeting)

**Poster Presentations**

**Olha Lutsiv**, MSc, has had her work accepted at the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) Atlanta, 2016 Feb, as has **Dr. Alexander Jarde**, a postdoctoral fellow with the team.

1. **Olha Lutsiv**, Christy Woolcott, Linda Dodds, Lucy Giglia, Joseph Beyene, B. Anthony Armson, **Sarah McDonald**. Is weight gain above the guidelines associated with less SGA in twins? (International conference)


**Invited Presentations**

1. **McDonald S**. Issues in preterm labour: where are we going? SOGC Regional Meeting December 4, 2015. (Regional meeting)


**National Representation**

**Dr. McDonald** participated in a recent meeting of the External Advisory Committee (EAC) of the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS), Ottawa, Ontario, October 27-29, 2015.

**Welcome**

**Angela Ma**, a Bachelor of Health Sciences student joined the team as a part time student research assistant, **Marinela Grabovac** who joined as a research assistant and **Jessica Kromhout** as a clinical/medical assistant.

Dr. McDonald is pleased to supervise Bachelor of Health Science students **Julie Yu**, **Ye Rin Seo** and **Sugee Liyanage**.