

DECEMBER 2016 – Issue #6

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DIVISION DIRECTOR'S COLUMN – Dr Douglas Bradley

Fellowship Programs in Respiriology:

A Sign of Strength and International Impact

According to our Strategic Plan of 2013, the vision of the University of Toronto's Division of Respiriology is to attain and maintain *"International leadership and productive world class respiratory research and training programs"*. So, three years later, how much progress have we made towards achieving this goal? In this issue of RespNews, I will focus on the success and international impact of our Fellowship training programs.



Douglas Bradley

Since 2000, we have attracted 169 individuals, or approximately 10 new Fellows per year. Of course this only represents Fellows who were accepted and for whom funding was obtained: many-fold more would have applied but not been accepted. What is truly amazing is that these individuals have come from every corner of the earth, including all six inhabited continents and 32 countries. The 13 countries from which at least three Fellows have come (with the number of fellows in brackets) include: Canada (60), Brazil (19), India (9), Japan (8), Saudi Arabia (8), the United Kingdom (7), Australia (6), Israel (5), Germany (4), Italy (4), the United Arab Emirates (4), Ireland (3) and Jamaica (3). That we are able to attract such a large number of Fellows from such a diversity of countries speaks volumes about the excellence of our clinical and research training programs as well as our international impact. This is something for which we can all be proud.

Are there trends in the numbers of Fellows accepted into our programs over the years? As one might expect, there has been some fluctuation in the numbers of Fellows from year-to-year, but there is a definite upward trend over time. If we divide the period from 2000 to 2016 into quartiles, the average number of new Fellows per year for 2000 – 2004 was 9, from 2004 – 2008 was 12, from 2008 – 2012 was 10, and from 2012 – 2016 was 13. What if any effect has the development of our 2013 Strategic Plan and our vision statement had on the numbers of fellows accepted into our programs? While this is difficult say because of the many variables at play, again there is a definite upward trend: in

the 2012, the year before our Strategic Plan was ratified, there were 10 new Fellows, and this has increased to 15, in 2016, the highest number ever.

What areas are these Fellows attracted to? In the last five years, they have been attracted into a wide variety of programs including Lung Transplantation (20), Sleep Medicine (14), Cystic Fibrosis (8), General Respiriology (6), Interstitial Lung Disease (5), Airways Diseases (4), Interventional Pulmonology (3), Mycobacterial Diseases (2), and Occupational Lung Diseases (1). This indicates international impact in many areas. It is, nevertheless, noteworthy that the top three programs, in terms of numbers of Fellows, are also our three priority programs, suggesting that focusing on these areas has promoted growth towards, or achievement of a critical mass for research and clinical excellence, which is a key objective of the Strategic Plan. Taken together, the above data leave no doubt that we have achieved “*International leadership in training programs*” and that our leadership role appears to be strengthening thanks to the excellence of our clinician teachers and investigators, and our trainees. And with that I would like to wish you all a very Restful Holiday Season, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia - Dr Marie Faughnan

Only 20 years ago, Canadians with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT) had nowhere to go for specialized care for their rare disease, and they were worried for their children and other family members who also had the disease. When Dr. Bob Hyland and his fellow at the time, Dr. Marie Faughnan, saw a young woman with HHT, who had sadly had a preventable debilitating stroke from her pulmonary arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), they got excited about what they could offer patients with HHT. It was clear that Canadians needed a specialized HHT Centre where they could access preventative embolization for pulmonary AVMs, as well as diagnostics and care for all aspects of this multi-organ disease. They established the first Canadian HHT Centre at the Wellesley Hospital (In 1997) that eventually moved to St. Michael’s Hospital, building a multidisciplinary team of experts from all of the University of Toronto hospitals. Developing and leading the clinic became Marie’s mission, with the wise guidance of Bob Hyland.



Marie Faughnan

Now, the Toronto HHT Centre is one of four Canadian HHT Centres and one of the largest in North America, looking after more than 1300 patients. Families are generally first assessed at the Adult HHT Clinic at St. Michael’s Hospital by Dr. Faughnan or Dr. Nick Vozoris, supported by Rose Pantalone, the HHT nurse coordinator, and a multidisciplinary team of 25 doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, genetic counselors, nutritionists and pharmacists. Children are seen at the pediatric HHT Clinic at Sick Kids Hospital by Dr. Felix Ratjen and nurse coordinator, Susan Carpenter. Adults and children have access to the screening, treatment, including embolization of pulmonary AVMs, and education they need for their HHT.



Rose Pantalone

Research in HHT is moving rapidly, from the discovery of novel antiangiogenic therapies to clinical trials that will hopefully provide some therapeutic options for patients with chronic severe bleeding and other challenging manifestations of HHT.

Toronto HHT team members are leading local and international projects studying everything from mechanisms of disease, biomarkers, genetic determinants of disease severity, rare disease diagnostic methods, to clinical trials of novel therapies. These projects have been supported by the Keenan Research Centre and Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital, NIH grants, the International HHT Foundation, HHT Canada and the Nelson Arthur Hyland Foundation.

There is much to do in HHT care and research, but as Dr. Faughnan says "We are passionate about HHT care. We want to get the word out that HHT is a treatable disease and we want to bring excellent care to families with HHT." The Toronto HHT Centre team is making that happen.

RESIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM ALUMNI - Dr Max Huang

William Osler Health System (WOHS) – Etobicoke General Hospital

Following the completion of his fellowship training in Respiriology in 2006 and his Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology in 2007 at the University of Toronto, Dr Max Huang joined the staff at Etobicoke General Hospital in Toronto. In addition to his busy clinical duties, Max became involved with various committees including the WOHS Asthma and COPD Advisory Committee, and the WOHS Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. In 2012, Max became certified in Sleep Medicine.

Max enjoyed his time in the University of Toronto's Respiriology Training Program. His fondest memories include the close relationships that were built with the other Respiriology fellows. Max was also particularly inspired by working with outstanding clinicians such as **Drs. Victor Hoffstein, Jae Yang, Meyer Balter, Charlie Chan and Lianne Singer**. This experience proved to



Photo Credit, Mia Huang

be invaluable and continues to influence his clinical work. Within Max's general clinical respiriology practice, his main clinical interests include advanced obstructive lung disease, and the broad spectrum of asthma and COPD phenotypes.

Max continues to work with the University of Toronto Respiriology Resident Training Program and oversees the community Respiriology rotation at Etobicoke General Hospital. Residents are exposed to a busy consult service involving a multi-cultural population with often challenging medical and socioeconomic dilemmas.

In his spare time, Max enjoys reading, cycling, working out, the study of watchmaking and collecting watches. With wife, Janet, Max tries to keep up with their two rambunctious children, Mia (8) and Ryan (5).

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI – Dr Michael Artz

University of Regensburg Hospital, Regensburg, Germany

Dr Michael Artz is Professor of Internal Medicine, Sleep and Ventilation and Head of the Sleep Centre of the Department of Internal Medicine II at the University Hospital Regensburg, Germany. Michael completed his MD degree at the University of Regensburg in 2001. Subsequently, he completed specialty training at the University of Regensburg in Internal Medicine and Sleep Medicine both in 2008. Between 2004 and 2006 he trained at the University of Toronto, Division of Respiriology, under the supervision of Doug Bradley as a research and clinical fellow in Sleep Medicine. This fellowship fostered his career as a clinician scientist focussing on epidemiology, pathophysiology and treatment of sleep apnea and cardiovascular disease. This training also enabled him to perform investigator-initiated clinical trials in sleep apnea and cardiovascular diseases. Michael has published more than 100 papers and book chapters on sleep and sleep apnea. He is also the Editor of *Somnology*, Journal of the German Society of Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine. In 2010, Michael received the prestigious James B. Skatrud New Investigator Award from the Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology section of the American Thoracic Society.



Michael Artz

Michael is the father of 5 children, of whom one was born in Toronto during the period of the fellowship. Together with his wife Barbara and the kids he keeps traveling regularly to Toronto to catch up, since Canada feels like a second home for the entire family. Indeed, his oldest son is preparing for a high school year in Canada.

Resident Training Program Director Report – Dr Christopher Li

CaRMS Match



Chris Li

Results from the CaRMS match were released on November 9, 2016. This year, our program was allotted 5 ministry-funded positions; we also matched 1 foreign-funded trainee. We are very pleased to welcome the following residents to our program, starting in July 2017:

Laura Budd (University of Toronto)
Yahya Habis (McGill University)
Vanessa Martelli (University of Toronto)
Erica Merman (University of Toronto)
Jason Rajchgot (University of Toronto)
Ahmad Zaheen (University of Toronto)

I would like to thank all of our faculty and residents who invested their time and energy in the selection process. Each year, I am impressed by the incredible quality of the candidates who apply to our program. We continue to attract some of the very best residents in the country to the University of Toronto, and I believe this is a reflection of our faculty's dedication to excellence in our training program.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Examination in Adult Respiriology

I am very pleased to announce that all 6 of our University of Toronto candidates were successful at the examination this fall. My most heartfelt congratulations go to:

Meghan Aversa, Salman Chaudhry, Lee Fidler, Christine McDonald, Navjeet Uppal and Kelly Wilton

This achievement represents the culmination of many years of hard work. We welcome our newest colleagues to the profession, and take great pride in their accomplishment.

Research Advisory Committee – Dr Jane Batt

Meet the Investigator - Sept 2016



Meet the Investigators

Meet the Investigators Night

This event was held on September 21st at Oro restaurant Humidor Room and was attended by 25 faculty and Respiriology residents and fellows. The new location was a great success as facilities were superior to those of previous venues. Investigators who presented slides, included **Doug Bradley, Chung-Wai Chow, Marie Faughnan, Andrea Gershon, Richard Horner, Stephen Juvet, Ted Marras, Tereza Martinu, Geeta Mehta, Owen Lyons, Matthew Stanbrook, Susan Tarlo and Noe Zamel**. Faculty presentations were uniformly informative, clever and witty. Trainees greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn about the exciting array of research available to them, as well as to have the opportunity to socialize with faculty in a convivial atmosphere. All-in-all, it was a great success.

Pettit Block Term Grants – Nov 2016

Applications received for the November 22, 2016 competition are now being reviewed by the RAC. The new terms of reference state that there is a \$10,000 budgetary limit. One may apply for an additional \$5,000 top up if: 1) the applicant can describe an additional component of the project that would require the extra funding, 2) the project is deemed exceptional, and 3) it is the top scoring project in that competition. However, if the top up is not approved, but the project is otherwise deemed worthy, it will be funded up to the \$10,000 maximum.

Thank You – Dr Khalil Sivjee

Khalil Sivjee was recruited directly from sunny California to become Division Head of Respiriology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in 2006. He immediately made his mark by helping launch the first Hospitalist training program nationally and leading it until 2011. During his ten-year tenure as Division Head, he revamped the Division by doubling its size and making it one of the strongest teaching rotations at the University of Toronto. He was also instrumental in building a strong relationship between the Division and the Odette Cancer Centre by initiating the first clinic to address respiratory disease in cancer patients. Among the accolades he received for these contributions was The Feldman Patient Safety award in 2011.



From 2010 until 2012, he led the University of Toronto's Division of Respiriology as Interim Departmental Division Director. In this position, he led by example with focus and determination, while at the same time, remaining very approachable and personable.

He ensured all faculty of the Division were excited about their contributions and enthusiastic to come to work in the morning. He always provided invaluable guidance to the physicians he led, allowing them to develop their own pathways and areas in which they could excel.

As a teacher he has received many honors and has been consistently ranked as one of the superb teachers in the Division. As a physician, he has an empathic bedside manner, and is well respected by his peers for his diagnostic abilities and his common sense approach to complex medical problems.

We wish him all the best in his new position as Medical Director of Cleveland Clinic Canada. I am sure he will continue to excel and leave his mark as he did at Sunnybrook and the University of Toronto.

Dr. Anu Tandon

Also a warm welcome to the new **Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Respiriology, Division Head – Dr Anu Tandon**, and to the new **SHSC, Educational Site Director, Dr Harvey Wong**.

EVENTS PROMOTIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS AND NEWS

EVENTS

Annual Day in Respiriology – Dr John Thenganatt

The inaugural Respiriology Year in Review was held on the evening of November 24, 2016. Eighty physicians attended the event. The featured speakers were **Drs John Granton** (PAH), **Matthew Stanbrook** (COPD), and **Shane Shapera** (ILD). The presentations were well-balanced and highlighted the new developments in the three topic areas in 2016. There was a lively Q&A between the speakers and audience.

The 11th Annual Day in Respiriology was held on November 25, 2016. Over 225 registrants attended this year's event focused on Sleep Medicine. The two invited guest speakers were **Drs Katherine Sharkey** (Brown University) and **John Kimoff** (McGill University). Local UofT Respiriology faculty included **Drs Chris Li, Richard Leung, Nicholas Vozoris, Owen**

Lyons, Anu Tandon, Clodagh Ryan, and Doug Bradley. For the first time we were able to offer Section 3 Royal College CME Credits to our learners using a new Conference App. I would like to thank the Annual Day Organizing Committee for their hard work in putting together such a wonderful agenda. A special thanks goes to Karen Forai for her tireless work and dedication to CME activities in our Division.



The Annual Day in Respiriology Committee: Laura Goode, Owen Lyons, Clodagh Ryan, John Thenganatt and Anju Anand, with Karen Forai (front)

AWARDS

Dr Douglas Bradley, along with **Dr Hisham Alshaer** and **Dr Geoff Fernie** have been awarded **UHN's Inventor of the Year Award** for the development of BresDx, a portable, home sleep apnea diagnostic device.

Drs Bradley, Alshaer and Fernie also founded a UHN spin-off company, Bresotec Inc. that won the **Product of Outstanding Interest (POINT)** award from the **European Respiratory Society** at its annual meeting in London, UK, in September of 2016 for the development of the home sleep apnea monitoring device, BresDx.

Dr Cecilia Chaparro, was awarded the **Gary Levy Leadership Award** by the Multi Organ Transplant Program, UHN. She was given this award for her courage, compassion, professionalism in practice, among many other attributes that demonstrate her commitment and dedication in promoting clinical and academic excellence.

Dr Chung-Wai Chow was awarded an EMHSeed Grant from the Faculties of Medicine, and Engineering.

Dr Bill Geerts has been awarded the Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, **Department of Medicine, Leadership Award for 2016**. For a lifetime of service to Sunnybrook and in particular for his senior role in promoting Quality and Patient Safety well before it became mainstream.

Dr Margaret Herridge has been bestowed with the **ESICM Honorary Membership- 2016** - European Society of Intensive Care Medicine. This honorary membership is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the specialty of Intensive Care Medicine. This was awarded to Margaret and her ICU group for their ICU outcomes work for patients and families after critical illness.

Dr Samir Gupta has been awarded "The Michael Locke Chair in Knowledge Translation and Rare Lung Disease Research" at St. Michaels' Hospital for a 5 year term.

Dr Stephen Juvet was awarded an **Ontario Thoracic Society Grant-in-Aid** for his research on *Targetting pulmonary CD103+ dendritic cells to prevent chronic lung allograft rejection.*

Dr Warren Lee was awarded a **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Grant** for his work on *Molecular mechanisms of LDL transcytosis*, along with an **Ontario Thoracic Society Grant-in-Aid** to support his project: *Discovery of novel antiinfluenza drugs – a high-throughput approach using zebrafish and mice.*

Dr Mingyao Lui, Shaf Keshavjee, and Marcelo Cypel received a **Canadian Institutes of Health for Research Grant** for their project: *Prevention of primary graft dysfunction after lung transplantation; a bench to bedside approach*

Dr Clodagh Ryan received a **Physician's Service Incorporated Grant** for her project: *Sleep - pediatric transition clinic cohort study - bridging the gap between paediatric and adult sleep medicine.*

Dr Harvey Wong was award the **SHSC Department of Medicine Ambulatory Teaching Award for 2016** for his excellence in teaching in the ambulatory environment as well as his contributions in other areas of education which have benefitted students.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr Jussi Tikkenan, Assistant Professor, Clinician Investigator in Lung Transplantation at UHN Toronto General Hospital.

Dr Sarah Brode, Assistant Professor, Clinician Investigator in TB at UHN Toronto Western Hospital and West Park Health Centre.

Dr James Downar has been appointed as the interim director of the newly created *Palliative Medicine Residency Training Program.*

NEWS – Congratulations to the following individuals:

Dr Chung-Wai Chow has been appointed **Chair of the Ontario Thoracic Society, Research Advisory Committee** starting January 1, 2017 for a seven year term.

Dr Richard Horner has been appointed Graduate Coordinator in the **Institute of Medical Science (IMS).**

Dr Jeff Man and **Karen Lan Le** tied the knot this summer! Jeff, a former Respiriology Resident with the division went on to pursue PhD with Dr Phil Marsden while he continues to do clinical work at UHN in the ICU.

Dr Shiphra Ginsburg - Sept 1, 2016 marks the date Shiphra completed her PhD in Health Professions Education at Maastricht University.

Dr Tetyana Kendzerska on her appointment to the University of Ottawa.

Reminders:

Interview Day for 2017 is October 3: if you plan to be on an interview panel please make a note of this date.

Annual Respiriology Research Day, June 7th, 2017: the call for abstracts goes out at March break

Dawson Fellowship deadline is January 31, 2017, the call for applications goes out in December

Please note that if there are any errors in this newsletter, we apologize ahead of time. Please, only send Rhiannon emails if the error relates to you. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, send Rhiannon an email with unsubscribe in the subject line. **Thank you**, to everyone who sent in items for inclusion in this newsletter!