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DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Volume 1, Issue 1

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GERIATRIC MEDICINE

at the University of Toronto



Welcome to the Geriatric Medicine Newsletter!

Welcome to the first, bimonthly Newsletter for the Division of Geriatric Medicine!

Geriatric Medicine is a unique and dynamic division and it is my pleasure and distinct privilege to work with such accomplished and talented trainees and faculty members. I look forward to working with you to grow our Division and to achieve our shared goals of delivering high quality care, providing innovative learning and practice environments, and engaging in scholarly work to promote enhanced outcomes for our population.

I am also pleased to let you know that Dr. Barbara Liu is serving as the Geriatric Medicine Postgraduate Program Director

and her leadership in this role will help to further develop the training program.

Thanks to Liis-Ann Klein and David Newton for developing this opportunity to enhance our communication!

Please share your ideas, achievements, and challenges with us through this Newsletter so that we can all continue to learn from each other. Your feedback is important.

Enjoy!

Sharon

2010/2011 Trainees

To date, current residents have met many of the faculty through placements, Journal Club or the seminar series. If you haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting this fine crew, keep an eye out— both current and upcoming rotations are listed below beside each trainees name (January/February).

- Karen D'Silva (Mt. Sinai)
- Dov Gandell (Baycrest)
Chief Resident: April 1-June 30, 2011
- Kartika Malik (Baycrest)
- Karen Ng (North York General/TEGH Research rotation)
Chief Resident: January 1-March 31, 2011
- Vincent Tsui (Sunnybrook/St. Michael's)
Chief Resident: September 1–December 31, 2010
- Nishi Varshney (Sunnybrook)
- Kevin Young (St. Michael's)

Congratulations to Joanne Ho, who completed her training at Sunnybrook in December!

Announcements

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Gary Naglie was recently appointed as the Chief of Medicine at Baycrest and brings with him his expertise in the rehabilitation of the frail elderly, drug policy and evaluation. Dr. Naglie currently holds the Mary Trimmer Chair in Geriatric Medicine Research at UofT; as a clinical researcher, his work focuses on outcomes and quality of life assessment of the frail elderly as well as cost-effectiveness analysis of interventions, including dementia, Parkinson's, end-stage renal failure on dialysis, prostate cancer and hip fractures.

Dr. Paul Katz, an internationally respected expert within the fields of geriatric medicine, education and nursing home care, has been appointed as the Vice-President, Medical Services and Chief of Staff at Baycrest and as a Professor of Medicine at UofT. Dr. Katz has served in several prominent positions and appointments include American Medical Directors Association President, Medical Director at the renowned Monroe Community Hospital, Chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Aging and faculty at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and American Geriatrics Society.

BIRTH

Noam Kuper was born October 20, 2010 to Andrew Baker and Ayelet Kuper. He is growing like a weed and everyone is doing well (see insert).



Noam Zev Baker Kuper

FOM Education Development Fund

As per the published RFA, it is essential for to understand that all application must have secured 1:1 funding from Wendy Levinson. Due to limited available funds, there will be an internal adjudication process and preference will be given to proposals that compliment and advance the strategic planning priorities of the DOM and Faculty. The Department Chair will only support applications identified and ranked through this internal process.



PLEASE NOTE—only summarized materials are needed for the internal review phase. Proposals should be sufficiently complete so that merit and budget can be assessed and must include a project overview, ballpark budget and names of PI and participants.

Internal Review Timeframe:

- DOM Internal submission deadline to Allison Hardisty (a.hardisty@utoronto.ca): Wednesday, January 19, 2011 — applications received after this date will neither be considered nor supported for matched funds)
- Adjudication: Thursday, January 20, 2011
- Recommendations to Chair: Monday, January 24
- FOM deadline: Monday, January 31, 2011

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca/about/governance/council/edf.htm>

Faculty of Medicine contact:

Morag Paton

(morag.paton@utoronto.ca / 416-946-8067)

Upcoming Events

Executive Committee Meeting (February 23, 2011 — 5:30pm via teleconference)

Journal Club (February 25, 2011—8:00am-9:00am)

Mt. Sinai (Videoconferencing available at Sunnybrook, St. Michael's)

2nd Annual DOM Faculty Networking Event (February 1, 2011; Massey College—5:30pm-9:30pm)

INNOVATION & COMMERCIALIZATION Seminar Series

- *Grant Application Planning* (February 17, 2011; Red Seminar Room, CCBR — 9:00am-12:00pm)
- *Intellectual Property* (March 17; Red Seminar Room, CCBR—9:00am-12:00pm)

THEIR GENERATION: Feisty seniors burn up YouTube with Who single

At first, it seems like a typical bit of viral video, the sort of YouTube confection that gets passed around offices like a box of oversweet chocolates. A clutch of seniors calling themselves the Zimmers gather in a recording studio to have a spirited go at the Who's classic 1965 single *My Generation*. Naturally, it's the delivery that makes it novel. The lead vocalist is a gap-toothed nonagenarian named Alf Carretta, who sings the lyrics in an endearingly halting manner, while a chorus of his contemporaries chimes in with the recurring mantra "Talkin' 'bout my generation!"

Watching a group of seniors do a deadpan version of a snotty rock 'n' roll anthem is innately droll, but that's not the intention; there's a message here. Pete Townshend originally wrote the song in defence of the Mods, the skinny-suit-wearing, Vespa-driving, amphetamine-popping British teens who scandalized their elders in the early to mid-'60s. When the Who's Roger Daltrey sang, "I hope I die before I get old," he was extolling the heady pleasures of youth; once youth was gone, there wasn't much point in going on. Coming from Carretta's lips, the immortal line becomes even more poignant — and given how robust he seems at age 90, not a little defiant. (At the end of the clip, he knocks over the drum set, Keith Moon-style.)



A group of British seniors calling themselves the Zimmers have become an internet sensation for their cover of the Who's *My Generation*. This screen shot from the video features Zimmers lead singer Alf Carretta, who is 90. (YouTube)

Indeed, the Zimmers clip is nothing if not a celebration of the pre-boomer generation. The project is largely the effort of documentarian Tim Samuels, who struck upon the idea while shooting a BBC series on British seniors. The series was meant to show the loneliness and neglect of the aged, as well as debunk their image of fragility. Toward the end of shooting, Samuels decided to gather his subjects to make a musical statement. As Samuels told London's Daily Mail, "We decided to get them recording a single to highlight the way they are mistreated in this country, by challenging the misconceptions we have about them." The call went out, strings were pulled and lo, the gang booked Abbey Road Studios — immortalized by the Beatles — for one unforgettable

recording session.

The Zimmers' version of *My Generation* will be available as a download May 21, and in British stores May 28. Profits from the sales of the single will go to an agency called Age Concern, which advocates on behalf of British seniors.

While Carretta is the Zimmers' frontman, the most famous band member is Peter Oakley, better known to his acolytes as blogger Geriatric 1927 (a reference to his birth year). Over the past year, Oakley has gained an ardent following through his video diaries on YouTube, in which the 79-year-old Londoner narrates his life. The lo-fi clips are captivating in their utter honesty, and demonstrate that YouTube can be home to more than just rare TV clips and stuff that's too stupid or tasteless for *America's Funniest Home Videos*.

Oakley's status has helped promote the project, which has not only become a viral success but has received significant press in Britain. There are rumblings that the Zimmers will even do a live club performance — albeit one with plenty of chairs on stage, for delicate knees. The Zimmers' *My Generation* not only shows the gusto of British seniors but challenges the notion that fame only favours the young.

Andre Mayer (source: www.cbc.ca)

Faculty Profile: Barbara Liu

How well do you know your colleagues? Here are a few things that you may not already know about Barbara Liu:

My very first job was:

- A security guard at the CNE. I was only 15 years old—no kidding!

Why I chose Geriatric Medicine as a subspecialty:

- my family influences

If I could have any career outside of Geriatric Medicine it would be:

- Anthropologist

The one gadget or piece of gear that I could not do without is:

- Post-it notes

The words I live by are:

- Be the kind of person your dog thinks you are

Gerimed Medical Director, Geriatric Services—Sudbury, ON

The Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) is currently recruiting for a Geriatric Services Medical Director position. The hiring committee is interested in speaking to trainees who have recently graduated, or are about to graduate, from Geriatric Medicine programs and hopes to have the successful candidate in place by Spring 2011..

The income model is a blend of fee-for-service, combined with a stipend for the leadership as Medical Director. Serious applicants would be eligible for recruitment incentives and a regional retention bonus.

Interested candidates should forward a copy of their CV to Ginette Vezina (gvezina@hrsrh.on.ca) by Friday, February 4 or call 1-866-469-0822, ext. 3046 for further information.

Recent Publications by Geriatric Medicine Faculty

[Impact of positive surgical margins after radical prostatectomy differs by disease risk group.](#)

Alkhatteeb S, **Alibhai S**, Fleshner N, Finelli A, Jewett M, Zlotta A, Nesbitt M, Lockwood G, Trachtenberg J. *J Urol*. 2010 Jan;183(1):145-50. Epub .PMID: 19913824 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

[Related citations](#)

[Impact of androgen-deprivation therapy on physical function and quality of life in men with nonmetastatic prostate cancer.](#)

Alibhai SM, Breunis H, Timilshina N, Johnston C, Tomlinson G, Tannock I, Krahn M, Fleshner NE, Warde P, Canning SD, Klotz L, **Naglie G**. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010 Dec 1;28(34):5038-45. Epub 2010 Nov 1.PMID: 21041715 [PubMed - in process]

[Related citations](#)

[Impact of androgen-deprivation therapy on cognitive function in men with nonmetastatic prostate cancer.](#)

Alibhai SM, Breunis H, Timilshina N, Marzouk S, Stewart D, Tannock I, **Naglie G**, Tomlinson G, Fleshner N, Krahn M, Warde P, Canning SD. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010 Dec 1;28(34):5030-7. Epub 2010 Nov 1.PMID: 21041708 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

[Related citations](#)

[Comparison of Health-Related Quality of Life 5 Years After SPIRIT: Surgical Prostatectomy Versus Interstitial Radiation Intervention Trial.](#)

Crook JM, Gomez-Iturriaga A, Wallace K, Ma C, Fung S, **Alibhai S**, Jewett M, Fleshner N. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010 Dec 13. [Epub ahead of print]PMID: 21149658 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

[Related citations](#)

[Exercise program to enhance physical performance and quality of life of older hemodialysis patients: a feasibility study.](#)

Nonoyama ML, Brooks D, Ponikvar A, Jassal SV, Kontos P, Devins GM, Spanjevic L, Heck C, Laprade J, **Naglie G**. *Int Urol Nephrol*. 2010 Dec;42(4):1125-30. Epub 2010 Mar 7.PMID: 20213292 [PubMed - in process]

[Related citations](#)

[Usability evaluation of a clinical decision support tool for osteoporosis disease management.](#)

Kastner M, Lottridge D, Marquez C, Newton D, **Straus SE**. *Implement Sci*. 2010 Dec 10;5:96.PMID: 21143978 [PubMed - in process]Free PMC Article

[Related citations](#)

[Delaying the onset of Alzheimer disease: bilingualism as a form of cognitive reserve.](#)

Craik FI, Bialystok E, **Freedman M**. *Neurology*. 2010 Nov 9;75(19):1726-9.PMID: 21060095 [PubMed - in process]

[Related citations](#)

[Hip fracture prevention strategies in long-term care: a survey of Canadian physicians' opinions.](#)

Sawka AM, Ismaila N, Raina P, Thabane L, **Straus S**, Adachi JD, Gafni A, Papaioannou A. *Can Fam Physician*. 2010 Nov;56(11):e392-7.PMID: 21075980 [PubMed - in process]

[Related citations](#)

[Frontotemporal dementia and pharmacologic interventions.](#)

Kaye ED, Petrovic-Poljak A, Verhoeff NP, **Freedman M**. *J Neuropsychiatry Clin Neurosci*. 2010 Winter;22(1):19-29. Review.PMID: 20160206 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

[Related citations](#)

[Occupation attributes relate to location of atrophy in frontotemporal lobar degeneration.](#)

Spreng RN, Rosen HJ, Strother S, Chow TW, Diehl-Schmid J, **Freedman M**, Graff-Radford NR, Hodges JR, Lipton AM, Mendez MF, Morelli SA, Black SE, Miller BL, Levine B. *Neuropsychologia*. 2010 Oct;48(12):3634-41. Epub 2010 Aug 26.PMID: 20800604 [PubMed - in process]

[Related citations](#)

[A phase I trial of deep brain stimulation of memory circuits in Alzheimer's disease.](#)

Laxton AW, Tang-Wai DF, McAndrews MP, Zumsteg D, Wennberg R, Keren R, Wherrett J, **Naglie G**, Hamani C, Smith GS, Lozano AM. *Ann Neurol*. 2010 Oct;68(4):521-34.PMID: 20687206 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

[Related citations](#)

[A pragmatic study exploring the prevention of delirium among hospitalized older hip fracture patients: Applying evidence to routine clinical practice using clinical decision support.](#)

Holroyd-Leduc JM, Abelseth GA, Khandwala F, Silvius JL, Horgan DB, Schmaltz HN, Frank CB, **Straus SE**. *Implement Sci*. 2010 Oct ;5:81.

[Related citations](#)

[Interventions Encouraging the Use of Systematic Reviews in Clinical Decision-Making: A Systematic Review.](#)

Perrier L, Mrklas K, Shepperd S, Dobbins M, McKibbon KA, **Straus SE**. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2010 Oct 16. [Epub ahead of print]PMID: 20953729

[Related citations](#)

[Several factors increase risk of fracture with androgen deprivation for prostate cancer.](#)

Alibhai S, Duong-Hua M, Cheung A, Sutradhar R, Warde P, Fleshner N, Paszat L. Fracture types and risk factors in men with prostate cancer on androgen deprivation therapy: a matched cohort study of 19,079 men. *J Urol*. 2010; 184(3):918-23.

[Prevalence of primitive reflexes and Parkinsonian signs in dementia.](#)

Links KA, Merims D, Binns MA, **Freedman M**, Chow TW. *Can J Neurol Sci*. 2010 Sep;37(5):601-7.PMID: 21059505 [PubMed - in process]

[Related citations](#)

[An observational study of a wireless temporal artery bandage thermometer.](#)

Stelfox HT, **Straus SE**, Khandwala F, Conly J, Haslett J, Zwierchowski S. *Can J Anaesth*. 2010 Sep;57(9):870-1. Epub 2010 Jun 15. No abstract available. PMID: 20552419

[Related citations](#)

[Finding knowledge translation articles in CINAHL.](#)

Lokker C, McKibbon KA, Wilczynski NL, Haynes RB, Ciliska D, Dobbins M, Davis DA, **Straus SE**. *Stud Health Technol Inform*. 2010;160(Pt 2):1179-83.PMID: 20841870 [PubMed - in process]

[Related citations](#)

[A usability study of a computerized decision aid to help patients with early stage papillary thyroid carcinoma in decision-making on adjuvant radioactive iodine treatment.](#)

Sawka AM, **Straus S**, Gafni A, Meiyappan S, O'Brien MA, Briereley JD, Tsang RW, Rotstein L, Thabane L, Rodin G, George SR, Goldstein DP. *Patient Educ Couns*. 2010 Aug 21. [Epub ahead of print]PMID: 20732775 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher] [Related citations](#)