

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| RESEARCH UPDATE: 2011/2012 Funding Awarded                                    | 1-2 |
| EDUCATION UPDATE: Introducing the New Undergraduate Geriatrics Interest Group | 3   |
| Upcoming Events   | 4   |
| Maclean's Health Care Town Hall   | 4   |

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Division Announcements
- Faculty Profile
- Recent Faculty Publications



DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Issue 2  
March 2011

# GERIATRIC MEDICINE

at the University of Toronto



## RESEARCH UPDATE: Successful Multi-site Proposals Awarded 2011/2012 Funding



Division members Dr. Barbara Liu and Dr. Camilla Wong have recently been awarded funding for two, separate multi-site proposals that will soon be implemented at select sites across the GTA.

Dr. Liu is the Project Lead for an initiative that focuses on Early Mobilization and the proposal has received funding through the AFP Innovation Fund. This project has been funded through local

AFP competitions at Sunnybrook health Sciences Centre (lead site), Baycrest, St. Michael's, University Health Network/Mount Sinai and the Toronto Rehab. INNOVATION FUND. As this project represents a multi-site initiative, the Department of Medicine will also be contributing funding - many thanks to Dr. Wendy Levinson for this support. Congratulations to all leads at respective sites, including Drs. Liu, Izukawa, Sinha and Zorzitto.

Participating sites will be implementing and evaluating an evidence-based strategy to promote early mobilization and prevent functional decline for admitted seniors; activities include education for patients, families, health care providers and development of an order set and care pathway.

SEE "Multi-Site", PAGE 2

## CGS 2011 Resident Awards

*And the award goes to...*

We are excited to share news that Dr. Joanne Ho and Dr. Dov Gandell were each selected by the CGS Awards Committee to receive 1 of 4 CGS-Pfizer Resident Awards for Excellence. Awards are comprised of a \$1,000 prize and a commemorative certificate and will be presented at the conference next month in Vancouver, B.C. (April 14-16, 2011).

*Congratulations Joanne and Dov!*



## Multi-Site Research in Action *Cont'd from PAGE 1*

Evaluation of such strategies has demonstrated benefits in a variety of settings and populations, including stroke, hip fracture and pneumonia patients.



With funding from the Department of Medicine's Postgraduate Innovation Fund, Dr. Wong's initiative focuses on enhancing both the Communicator and Collaborator competencies of residents in the Geriatric Medicine and Internal Medicine programs by providing video feedback following completion of team StACERS. Assessment of residents' performance and interactions within this interprofessional setting is facilitated by playing back the video in order to highlight strengths as well as opportunities for improvement.

This initiative represents a pioneering extension of an innovative education technique as there are no reports of using this affordable and available technology to evaluate and improve and collaborative communication.

## Division Announcements

### APPOINTMENTS

**Dr. Bianca Petrut** has recently joined North York General Hospital and has joined our Division as an adjunct Lecturer. She received the CGS Resident Award for Excellence in 2010 and is known for her excellent teaching and clinical skills. We welcome her to our Division!



**Dr. Samir Sinha** (see insert) has been appointed as the new Director of Geriatrics at Mount Sinai and the University Health Network hospitals in Toronto and, as of October, has also joined the ranks of Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto.

Upon completing a Masters in Medical History and a Doctorate in Sociology at the University of Oxford's Institute of Ageing as a Rhodes Scholar, Dr. Sinha trained at UofT in Internal Medicine. Continuing his training in the States, he served as the Erikson/Reynolds Fellow in Clinical Geriatrics, Education and Leadership at the John Hopkins University of Medicine.

Dr. Sinha's breadth of training and experience has contributed to his growing expertise in health policy and the delivery of services related to the care of the elderly. In addition to his work in Canada, he has also consulted with international health authorities (Britain, the United States, China) regarding the implementation and administration of

innovative and integrated models of geriatric care that reduce disease burden and improve both access and capacity.



This past year, Dr. Sinha was awarded an Action Canada Fellowship and plans to further develop his policy and leadership skills throughout his term.

## Faculty Profile: Barry Joseph Goldlist

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

### *My very first job was:*

- Councillor at a summer day camp—I hated it and subsequent summers were spent working at gas stations before working in NYGH labs.

### *Why I chose Geriatric Medicine as a subspecialty:*

- My desire to be a subspecialist with a

focus on the entire human being, not just a single organ

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

- A great novelist

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

- During the work week, my Blackberry; while travelling, my iPad

### *My tip for relaxing after a stressful day/week/month:*

- Stressful day: quiet dinner with my wife
- Stressful week: movies, theatre, opera
- Stressful month: travel to visit family (a son in NY and adorable twin grandsons in Vancouver) - or to Florida if it's cold!

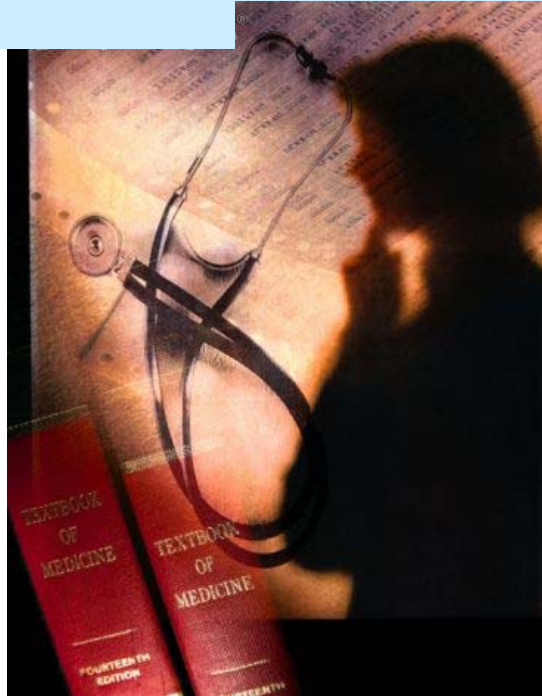
### *The words I live by are:*

- "It is a wonderful to live in a country like Canada" (Barry's father, WWII refugee)

## EDUCATION UPDATE

### NEW Undergraduate Geriatrics Interest Group (GIG)

The Geriatrics Interest Group (GIG) was founded in September 2010 and is affiliated with the National Geriatrics Interest Group (NGIG). They are supported by the Canadian Geriatrics Society (CGS) and the University of Toronto Medical Society. The mandate is to increase student awareness and engagement in issues relating to the health and wellness of older adults through mentorship, knowledge sharing, and education that complements the established curriculum. Two dynamic second YEAR medical students co-chair the organization, Amanda Lo and Judith Seary.



To kick start the year, the GIG hosted a panel discussion to explore careers in aging. The panelists included Robert Lam (family physician, care of the elderly), Don Melady (emergency physician with an interest in geriatrics), Samir Sinha, and Lesley Wiesenfeld (geriatric psychiatrist).

In January, the Division hosted a Meet & Greet dinner for an opportunity to engage pre-clerkship students in geriatrics. Some faculty from our Division, internal medicine residents and geriatric medicine residents attended. Special guests included representatives from the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO): Mr. Harold Braithwaite (Executive Director), Mr. Jim Sparrows (First VP), and Mr. Gordon Cressy (Director of Advancement and Funding). The RTO is interested in sup-

porting efforts around education and capacity building within geriatric medicine. The dinner was well received and over 20 students signed up!

In February, Mark Nowaczynski, Clinical Director of House Calls, gave a personalized tour to the students on his current exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum. *House Calls with my Camera* is a poignant series of photo essays capturing the lives of frail seniors.

In April, the GIG will be organizing the first annual Geriatrics Clinical Skills Day which will include medical students as well as students from other health disciplines. The students will gain hands-on experience with transferring elderly patients (Nadia Iannetta, PT), adaptive equipment (Jennifer Carr, OT Reg),

### Curriculum News

#### ASCM COURSE

Dr. Mireille Norris and Dr. Thiru Yogaparan have partnered as co-chairs and are revamping the undergraduate Art and Science of Clinical Medicine course for geriatrics.

#### COMING SOON: *New Geriatrics Course*

Dr. Sid Feldman and Dr. Mireille Norris are putting their heads together on an initiative to map the medical school's geriatrics curriculum and will be creating a new course.

wound dressings (Carol Ott) and medication adherence systems (Chris Fan-Lun, RPh).

Look out for details about upcoming events in future issues of the Division newsletter!

We want to also take this opportunity to thank members of our Division who have agreed to provide mentorship, observership and research opportunities for these students. It is through our collective efforts that we can build capacity in the next generation of physicians. For more information, please contact either one of us or visit the GIG website: [www.torontomed.com/geriatrics](http://www.torontomed.com/geriatrics).

*Thanks to Camilla Wong and Samir Sinha for submitting this editorial.*



## Recent Faculty Publications

### [Charting a professional course: a review of mentorship in medicine.](#)

McKenna AM, **Straus SE**.  
J Am Coll Radiol. 2011 Feb;8(2):109-12.  
PMID:21292186 [PubMed - in process]

### [Cost-effectiveness of outpatient management for febrile neutropenia in children with cancer.](#)

Teuffel O, Amir E, **Alibhai SM**, Beyene J, Sung L.  
Pediatrics. 2011 Feb;127(2):e279-86.  
Epub 2011 Jan 10. PMID:21220399  
[PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

### [Evidence for quality indicators to evaluate adult trauma care: A systematic review.](#)

Stelfox HT, **Straus SE**, Nathens A, Bibranska-Artiuch B.  
Crit Care Med. 2011 Feb 10. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:21317653 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

### [Predictors of time to requiring dopaminergic treatment in 2 Parkinson's disease cohorts.](#)

Marras C, McDermott MP, Marek K, **Rochon P**, **Naglie G**, Tanner CM, Rudolph A, Shoulson I, Lang AE; on behalf of the Parkinson Study Group DATATOP and PRECEPT investigators.  
Mov Disord. 2011 Feb 1. doi: 10.1002/mds.23581. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:21287602 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

### [Assessing the impact of comorbid illnesses on death within 10 years in prostate cancer treatment candidates.](#)

**Alibhai SM**.  
Cancer. 2011 Mar 1. doi: 10.1002/cncr.25976. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available. PMID:21365621 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

### [Detection and treatment of post stroke depression: results from the registry of the Canadian stroke network.](#)

Herrmann N, Seitz D, Fischer H, Saposnik G, Calzavara A, Anderson G, **Rochon P**.  
Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2011 Mar 1. doi: 10.1002/gps.2663. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:21360753 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

### [Impact and Feasibility of a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment in the Oncology Setting: A Pilot Study.](#)

Horgan AM, Leighl NB, Coate L, Liu G, Palepu P, Knox JJ, Perera N, Emami M, **Alibhai SM**.  
Am J Clin Oncol. 2011 Mar 17. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:21422992 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

### [Challenges in guideline methodology.](#)

**Straus SE**, Shepperd S.  
J Clin Epidemiol. 2011 Apr;64(4):347-8.  
PMID:21334572 [PubMed - in process]

### [How can we meet the information needs of patients with early stage papillary thyroid cancer considering radioactive iodine remnant ablation?](#)

Sawka AM, **Straus S**, Gafni A, Brierley JD, Tsang RW, Rotstein L, Ezzat S, Thabane L, Rodin G, Meiyappan S, David D, Goldstein DP.  
Clin Endocrinol (Oxf). 2011 Apr;74(4):419-23. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2265.2010.03966.x. PMID:21198742 [PubMed - in process]

### [Interventions encouraging the use of systematic reviews in clinical decision-making: a systematic review.](#)

Perrier L, Mrklas K, Shepperd S, Dobbins M, McKibbin KA, **Straus SE**.  
J Gen Intern Med. 2011 Apr;26(4):419-26.  
Epub 2010 Oct 16. PMID:20953729 [PubMed - in process]

## Upcoming Events

Journal Club (Friday, March 25—8:00am-9:00am) [Sunnybrook, rm. C103](#) (videoconferencing available at Baycrest, St. Michael's)

Promotion by Creative Professional Activity (CPA) Workshop (Tuesday, March 29—8:30am-12:30pm) [Li Ka Shing, 209 Victoria St rm. 216](#)

- Further information posted online: [Cfd.med.utoronto.ca](http://Cfd.med.utoronto.ca)
- To register: 416-864-6060, ext. 77418 / [mccaffrey@smh.ca](mailto:mccaffrey@smh.ca)

Prof. Henry Brodaty lecture (March 30—1:00pm-2:15pm) [Baycrest, Classrooms ABC](#)

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

Dr. Stephanie Studenski events (March 31—Seminar, 10:30am-12:00pm; Lecture, 1:00pm-2:15pm) [Baycrest, Classrooms ABC](#)

Action Canada Health Care Forum (Wednesday, April 6—time TBA) [Mount Sinai](#)

CGS 31st Annual Scientific Meeting (April 14-16, 2011) [The Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver](#)

Berris Lecture: Dr. Robert M. Palmer (Wednesday, April 27—12:00pm-1:00pm) [Mount Sinai, Ben Sadowski Auditorium](#)

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: Tri-University Research Day (Wednesday, May 4 by 12:00 noon)

- event scheduled to Wednesday, June 15—Hamilton (additional details to be announced soon)

Program Committee Meeting (May 25, 2011) [Additional details will be sent to members via email](#)

Have an upcoming event or announcement that you would like to share with the division in an upcoming issue?

Send pertinent details to: [liis-ann.klein@sunnybrook.ca](mailto:liis-ann.klein@sunnybrook.ca)

## Don't seniors deserve better?

As part of Maclean's magazine's "System Critical" series, a themed Town Hall was hosted earlier this month at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts. Many faculty were able to attend to join the dialogue surrounding the federal government's role in health care and debate regarding Canada Health Act reform.

The event was moderated by Maclean's own Ken MacQueen, who authored the recent "Don't seniors deserve better?" article

and CMA President Dr. Jeff Turnbull was on hand to deliver opening remarks.

Members of the panel included Mary Jo Haddad (Hospital for Sick Children, President and CEO), Dr. Mark MacLeod (OMA, President), Durhane Wong-Reiger (Institute for Optimizing Health Outcomes, President and CEO) and Andrew Coyne (Maclean's, National Editor).

To access MacQueen's article online, [CLICK HERE](#).