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DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Issue 5
October 2011

GERIATRIC MEDICINE

at the University of Toronto



Celebrating the Life of Dr. Howard Dombrower

The Division of Geriatric Medicine recently lost a respected faculty member, Dr. Howard Dombrower. A memorial service was hosted on October 26 at Baycrest and was well attended by the numerous colleagues, friends and family whose lives Howard touched. The following was written by fellow faculty member Dr. Michael Gordon:

On Sunday, October 2, 2011, Baycrest and the University of Toronto's Division of Geriatric Medicine lost a dear and beloved colleague, Dr. Howard Dombrower. Howard, or Howie as he liked to be called when being addressed informally, did his geriatric training at the University of Toronto which he completed in 1998; I hired him as a staff geriatrician in that same year. From the earliest days of his career, Howard demonstrated an

inordinate energy and desire to take on new tasks and challenges and he quickly made his mark at Baycrest with his ability engage in administrative leadership positions in the Hospital as well as in the Home for the Aged where he held medical program director positions.

Howard held many positions at Baycrest including being a member of the Community Outreach Team and as medical program director of the Rehabilitation Program. In 2011, he assumed the role of medical program director of the new Slow Stream Rehabilitation Program which was a novel undertaking in Baycrest Hospital. As part of this new role, he became the Executive Medical Director of the newly expanded Rehabilitation Program and in that role he demonstrated his usual dedication and com-

mitment to the patients enrolled in the program as well as to the multidisciplinary staff with whom he worked.

He also served many external organizations, especially in the York Region, including the Unionville Home Society and the Markham Stouffville Hospital where he utilized his expertise in geriatric medicine and administration. He was an enthusiastic educator with a talent for giving talks to audiences large and small and used his ambulatory clinic as an active site for teaching. He developed special educational interests in dementia and incontinence, two of the giants of geriatric medicine. He was a



SEE "Remembering Howard", PAGE 2

Remembering Howard

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life-long learner and often brought new ideas to the department and endeavoured to be sure that as a group we were up to date on many aspects of geriatric medicine.

"...his wit and playfulness were cherished by all..."

For those of us at Baycrest who worked closely with Howard over the almost 15 years that he was either in training or on staff, what endeared him most of all to us was his indomitable energy, ability to take on new challenges and the absence of "no" from his vocabulary. His wit and playfulness were cherished by all who worked with him and many of us would like to drop into his office for a few minutes to "chat" during a busy day - by the time one exited, it was likely that it would be with a laugh at a good story and some new twist to the political landscape.

I had the good fortune of being his direct neighbour when I moved my office to the clinic area upon my retirement from my VP Medicine role. That meant I was so close to him we shared a common wall and, most importantly, we could drop in on each other for a good "kibbitz" and always a good laugh.

Howard was a devoted physician who cared very much about his patients, his colleagues and his family, especially his three daughters. He was a beloved member of the Baycrest family, the University of Toronto community and the network of those in Canada who practice geriatrics as we are still a small and very cohesive group.

He will be missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him, work with him, share in his life or be cared for by him.

UofT Trainees attend Summer Institute in Geriatrics

Earlier this year in June, medical postgraduate students Manveen Puri and Judith Seary joined a group of 28 PGY1s/PGY2s from across Canada at the 2011 Summer Institute in Geriatrics hosted by the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Western Ontario.

Sponsored by the Canadian Geriatrics Society, this five day conference aimed to provide students with an opportunity to gain clinical and academic exposure to geriatrics. Participants took part in a variety of activities ranging from a didactic session on research opportunities in geriatrics to a hands-on "Clinical Skills Café" to attending clinics and speaking with geriatric patients. Trainees also learned and reviewed numerous skills including how to conduct a Critically Appraised Topic, transfer a patient as well as assess swallowing at the bedside.



2011 Summer Institute in Geriatrics participants, London, ON



Judith (centre, background) participates in a clinic with Geriatric patients

Judith and Manveen are grateful for the hospitality of the preceptors who hosted dinners in their homes and also enjoyed networking at some of the planned social engagements, including a performance of Camelot at the Stratford Festival and discussing the depiction of Alzheimer's disease in Lisa Genova's *Still Alice*. Upon review of their experiences, the trainees remarked that this experience provided them with key insights regarding what a career in geriatrics, geriatric psychiatry or family medicine with care of the elderly training could look like, "it was an invaluable opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals and trainees from across the country".

For both Judith and Manveen, participating in the Summer Institute in Geriatrics reinforced the need for all medical practitioners to be knowledgeable about the care of older adults which is increasingly important given our aging population. In all, it was a memorable and engaging learning experience!

Manveen Puri and Judith Seary



Manveen (far right) networks with other students overlooking the Thames

Announcements

DOM Postgraduate Innovation Fund 2012 Competition

In support of the DOM strategic goal to increase scholarship and education, funds are available to explore new theories, technologies and innovations relevant to postgraduate medical education (\$20k, max. annual total).

Application deadline: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

To review eligibility criteria or additional details, visit:
<http://www.deptmedicine.utoronto.ca/pginnofund.htm>

Previously funded innovations include Division member Dr. Camilla Wong's *Use of Video-Recording Technology and team StACERS to Improve Competencies in Communicator and Collaborator Roles in an Interprofessional Setting (2011)*.



Dr. Kevin Young was selected as a recipient of the 2011 Canadian Conference on Dementia (CCD) Leader Award for Geriatrics. Kevin received this distinction as part of a ceremony at this year's Montreal proceedings that was well-attended by other trainees and Division members.



Dr. Nishi Varshney and her husband Dr. Vineet Bhan, a Cardiology trainee, are excited to announce that they are expecting. Both parents feel blessed and are looking forward to welcoming their first child in late February/early March 2012.

Congratulations from the Division, Nishi!

The Symposium on Geriatric Assessment in the Oncology Setting

On October 11, Dr. Shabbir Alibhai and Dr. Martine Puts (co-principal investigators) hosted *The Symposium on Geriatric Assessment in the Oncology Setting* at Hart House to explore related issues in geriatric oncology. This dissemination event was in support of their CIHR-funded knowledge synthesis research on the role of comprehensive geriatric assessment in oncology patients; members of this research team include Dr. Johanne Monette and Veronique Girre.

This research initiative is exploring the feasibility and effectiveness of existing geriatric assessment tools. Upwards of 40% of incident cancer cases occurs in the 70+ age demographic, however, older patients with significant co-morbidities are both under treated and underrepresented in clinical trials thus compounding the difficulty in determining treatment options.

International experts from across Canada, the United States and Europe gathered to learn of research findings to date and further the discussion regarding issues related to geriatric oncology. The Canadian Geriatric society, invited as a key stakeholder to provide feedback on the investigators' systematic review, was represented by Dr. Barbara Liu who also provided welcoming remarks at the afternoon symposium. This event was also attended by Division members and some of the current trainees (see insert).



(L-R): Krupa Dighe, Kartika Malik, Vicky Chau, Shabbir Alibhai, Rajin Mehta

The workshop and symposium provided a valuable opportunity for Canadian, American and European experts to exchange ideas and identify opportunities for future research and collaboration.

Upcoming Events

* Dr. Rosanne Leipzig, "Blended Learning in Geriatrics" (Thurs, Nov 3 –12:00pm-1:00pm) Baycrest, rm. 2E01

Videoconferencing available at:

- Mount Sinai
- Sunnybrook

* Dr. Jim Kirkland, "Aging, Frailty and Cellular Senescence" (Fri, Nov 4 –12:00pm-1:00pm) Baycrest, Classrooms ABC

Videoconferencing available at:

- Sunnybrook (rm. C103)

AFP Forms—deadline to submit (Mon, Nov 14, 2011)

Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto AGM, "Hearing the Voice of Seniors in a Senior Friendly Hospital" - Keynote speaker Sholom Glouberman (Thurs, Nov 17) Sunnybrook, EG61/EG18a

- Business—3:00pm
- Keynote Speaker—3:30pm
- Poster Expo & Reception—4:30pm

* Journal Club (Fri, Nov 25—8:00am-9:00am) St. Michael's, rm. 211-Li Ka Shing

Videoconferencing available at:

- Baycrest
- Mount Sinai
- Sunnybrook

Program Committee Meeting (Wed, Nov 30, 2011—5:30pm via teleconference)

Division (mini) Retreat (Fri, Dec 2, 2011—1:00pm start) LOCATION TBD

**Trainee participation is mandatory*

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



Recent Faculty Publications

[Predictors of Family Caregiver Ratings of Patient Quality of Life in Alzheimer Disease: Cross-Sectional Results from the Canadian Alzheimer's Disease Quality of Life Study.](#)

Naglie G, Hogan DB, Krahn M, Black SE, Beattie BL, Patterson C, Macknight C, Freedman M, Borrie M, Byszewski A, Bergman H, Streiner D, Irvine J, Ritvo P, Comrie J, Kowgier M, Tomlinson G.
Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2011 Oct;19(10):891-901.
PMID: 21946805 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
[Related citations](#)

[Predictors of Patient Self-Ratings of Quality of Life in Alzheimer Disease: Cross-Sectional Results From the Canadian Alzheimer's Disease Quality of Life Study.](#)

Naglie G, Hogan DB, Krahn M, Beattie BL, Black SE, Macknight C, Freedman M, Patterson C, Borrie M, Bergman H, Byszewski A, Streiner D, Irvine J, Ritvo P, Comrie J, Kowgier M, Tomlinson G.
Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2011 Oct;19(10):881-890.
PMID: 21946804 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
[Related citations](#)

[Balance Assessment Practices and Use of Standardized Balance Measures Among Ontario Physical Therapists.](#)

Sibley KM, **Straus SE**, Inness EL, Salbach NM, Jaglal SB.
Phys Ther. 2011 Aug 25. [Epub ahead of print]
PMID:21868613 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
[Related citations](#)

[Evaluation of a clinical decision support tool for osteoporosis disease management: protocol for an interrupted time series design.](#)

Kastner M, Sawka A, Thorpe K, Chignel M, Marquez C, Newton D, **Straus SE**.
Implement Sci. 2011 Jul 22;6:77.
PMID: 21781318 [PubMed - in process]
[Related citations](#)

[Antimicrobial stewardship: opportunities in long-term care homes.](#)

Daneman N, **Rochon P**.
Drugs Aging. 2011 Oct 1;28(10):765-7. doi: 10.2165/11596440-000000000-00000. No abstract available.
PMID: 21970304 [PubMed - in process]
[Related citations](#)

[Information needs of men on androgen deprivation therapy.](#)

Soeyonggo T, Warde P, Fleshner N, Timilshina N, **Alibhai SM**.
BJU Int. 2011 Aug 24. doi: 10.1111/j.1464-410X.2011.10475.x. [Epub ahead of print]
PMID: 21883845 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
[Related citations](#)

[Impact of androgen deprivation therapy on depressive symptoms in men with nonmetastatic prostate cancer.](#)

Timilshina N, Breunis H, **Alibhai S**.
Cancer. 2011 Aug 25. doi: 10.1002/cncr.26477. [Epub ahead of print]
PMID: 22009684 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
[Related citations](#)



Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto

Faculty Profile: Maria L. (Marisa) Zorzitto

Here are a few things that you may not already know about your colleague:

My very first job was:

- I was a clerk at a grocery store at age 14 and learned anatomy at the meat counter

Why I chose Geriatric Medicine as a subspecialty:

- I completed an elective in my first year at Sunnybrook and found this to be the most holistic and satisfying medical practice

Where I completed my training:

- University of Toronto

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

- Anthropology or archaeology, though I would have enjoyed being a story teller

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

- My Swiss Army knife...so useful and reliable

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

- A glass of wine and good music, preferably an opera

The words I live by are:

- My mother taught me to "lead by example"