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DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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GERIATRIC MEDICINE

at the University of Toronto

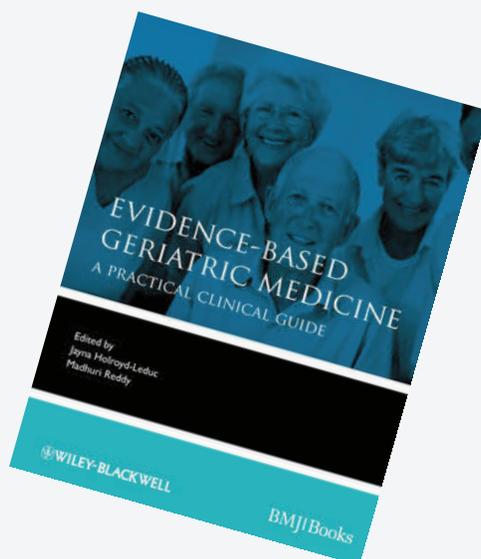


Welcome Message from Division Director *Continued Success in 2012-2013!*

As we begin another academic year, it's an opportunity to reflect on our amazing division members. You continue to demonstrate excellence in clinical care, education and research and serve as good role models for our trainees. You effectively collaborate in education and research initiatives across our Division and show leadership in these collaborative activities within the Department of Medicine and beyond.

Several of our Division members (Shabbir Alibhai, Paula Rochon) and our trainees (Dov Gandell, Emily Kwan) were involved with the production of a new textbook entitled 'Evidence-Based Geriatric Medicine, A practical clinical guide'. This book was published in May 2012 and was edited by 2 former members of our Division, Jayna Holroyd-Leduc and Madhuri Reddy. The royalties from the book will be contributed

to the Geriatrics Task Force of the Society of General Internal Medicine to promote resident participation in geriatric medicine events.



Available online (amazon.ca, chapters.ca) - eBook also available!

This textbook is already being used in educational curricula across Canada and each of our residents will receive a copy during the Boot Camp in August. We congratulate our Division members who contributed to this textbook; it will be an excellent resource for all clinicians interested in optimizing the care of the older person.

We are also privileged to have wonderful subspecialty residents and we look forward to welcoming our 3 new trainees, Raza Naqvi, Jarred Rosenberg and Catherine Talbot-Hamon.

Thank you very much for your dedication and commitment - it is truly a privilege to be a part of such a productive, collaborative and collegial Division.

Sharon

Pioneer in Geriatric Medicine Retires After Almost 40 Years of Distinguished Service at the University of Toronto

While enjoying the best view of Toronto's skyline from the RCYC, friends shared a quiet dinner in recognition of Dr. Fisher's indelible contributions to the landscape of geriatric medicine in Toronto and Canada (see insert below).



(L-R): John Marotta, Barbara Liu, Rajin Mehta, Marisa Zorzitto (front), Rory Fisher, Grant Nadon

Dr. Rory Fisher graduated from University of Dublin School of Medicine. In 1973, he was recruited to Sunnybrook Hospital, as the Head of the Department of Extended Care, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre. Dr. Fisher introduced innovative programs aimed at maintaining Veterans in the community by improving functional abilities through the use of a multidisciplinary team approach.

A Geriatric Day Hospital was started - the first in Ontario - followed by Geriatric Assessment and Rehabilitation units. An intermittent admission program was introduced as well as respite admissions. A Departmental approach to palliative care was established, with a committee, nurse consultant and a Departmental manual on symptom control. Later, a specific palliative care unit was set up for patients being directly admitted.

On the acute site of the hospital, Rory established an Acute Geriatric Unit, Outpatient Geriatric Clinic and Continence Clinic as well as a community geriatric outreach program to serve the community. In addition, an interdisciplinary geriatric consultation service provided access to geriatric expertise throughout the hospital, including a dedicated Geriatric Orthopedic link. These services later became foundational components of specialized geriatric services deployed elsewhere within the Regional Geriatric Programs.

At a time when geriatrics was fighting an uphill battle to gain recognition and support, Dr. Fisher stalwartly forged ahead to ensure that the care of elderly people was on the healthcare agenda. He has served on every important provincial and national



Dr. Rory Fisher

committee or association related to geriatric medicine and care of older people. As the ambassador for Canadian Geriatrics, he has forged international relationships in several South American countries and successfully advanced our profile in the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics.

As an academic leader, Dr. Fisher established the Inter-Departmental Division of Geriatrics at the University of Toronto. He was Head of the Department of Extended Care at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre for almost 20 years and served as the inaugural Program Director of postgraduate geriatric training at the University of Toronto. He has mentored and trained some of the most successful and recognized names in geriatric medicine in Canada.

Rory is highly regarded as a leader, a physician and as a gentleman of the highest integrity, advancing geriatric care and advocating for frail seniors as a pioneer in the field. At the heart of his work, Dr. Fisher provided his patients with exemplary care that was imbued with compassion and understanding. He was one of the first geriatricians in Canada, applying his experience from the United Kingdom.

Today, the health care system is "rediscovering" many of the principles of health service provision that Dr. Fisher pioneered in the 1970's and 80's. The current momentum to improve health care for older people is in large part the result of his efforts. He created the foundation on which Ontario's geriatric services are built.



Announcements

Dr. Samir Sinha appointed as Lead for Ontario's Seniors Care Strategy



As part of Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care launched in January, Dr. Sinha was appointed in the Spring to develop the Seniors Care Strategy as a means to establish sustainable best practices and policies that will support provincial coordination and delivery of health and social services to assist seniors stay healthier, and live at home, longer. Throughout the Summer months, Samir will be conducting broad consultations across all LHINs to inform an implementation plan that will be presented to the MOHLTC this Fall. Once approved, Samir will be working closely with the health care sector to implement the strategy.

One of the strategy's themes is to promote better equity, access, value and choice whilst improving coordination and integration of care in the community, hospitals and emergency departments as well as long-term care. At the July 19 Regional Geriatric Program network meeting, Samir spoke to the following enablers for change: a) preparing health human resources to meet the care needs of seniors, b) streamlining assessment and an referral processes, c) leveraging best practices and existing investments to enhance outcomes, and d) supporting functional integration across the care continuum.

In addition to this prestigious appointment, Samir was also recently selected as this year's recipient of the UWO Young Alumni Award. This award recognizes significant contributions by an individual, aged 40 years or younger, in their field of endeavour, whether through professional achievement or community service.



MOHLTC Minister, Deb Matthews, and Dr. Samir Sinha (www.ontariocfja.com)

Appointments and Awards

Dr. Karen D'Silva is joining the Division of Geriatric Medicine at St. Michael's as a Lecturer – welcome to the team, Karen!



Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc, mentee of Dr. Sharon Straus, received the Alberta Health Services "President's Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievements in Quality and Safety Improvement" in April regarding the Hip Fracture Delirium Prevention Team.

Dr. Raza Naqvi was the recipient of the 2011/12 "Best Resident Research Project" for his presentation at the Combined University Research Day that was hosted by Waterloo in June.

Determinants of Community Health (DOCH) student, **Richard Norman**, was awarded the AGS "Best Paper in Geriatrics Education Track" for a paper written in conjunction with **Dr. Samir Sinha** entitled Impact of Multi-Modal Education Intervention on Urinary Catheter Utilization in Older Adult Inpatients.

Congratulations!

Upcoming Events

Program Committee Meeting (Wed, July 25 – 5:30pm via teleconference)

- * Journal Club (Fri, July 27 – 8:00am-9:00am) Sunnybrook, rm. C103
Videoconferencing available at:
 - Baycrest, rm. 2E11
 - Mount Sinai, A01-212 rm. #1
 - St. Michael's, rm. 4-017 Bond

Annual Geriatric Medicine BBQ (Thurs, August 16–5:00pm-8:00pm) Sunnybrook, Blythwood Room/rm. HG15

Executive Committee Meeting (Wed, August 29 – 5:30pm via teleconference)

- * Journal Club (Fri, August 31 – 8:00am-9:00am) Sunnybrook, rm. C103
Videoconferencing available at:
 - Baycrest, rm. 2E11
 - Mount Sinai, A01-212 rm. #1
 - St. Michael's, rm. 4-017 Bond

- * QI Workshop (Thurs, September 13 – 12:00pm-5:00pm) Location TBD
 - PGY5s, only

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



On May 24, a baby shower was hosted at Sunnybrook to celebrate the arrival of Viraj Chandra Bhan, son and first child to **Dr. Nishi Varshney** (see insert). Residents and faculty gathered for a lunch.

Nishi will be returning to complete her PGY5 with the program in February 2013.

Education

Meet the NEW 2012/13 Trainees!

Raza Naqvi

Raza completed IM training at UofT and was a co-winner of the Saul Baker Award (2011). Raza's interests include cognitive disorders and bioethics; he has several publications and abstracts. He is active in several extracurricular activities, including ice hockey, and is a devoted father to his daughter.

- Currently on rotation at SMH

Jarred Rosenberg

Also a graduate of UofT's IM program, Jarred's interests include advocacy, global health and ageing, elder abuse as well as undergraduate curriculum. Jarred has been recognized for his outstanding accomplishments and was a co-winner of the Saul Baker

Award (2011) and the Sunnybrook Geriatric Resident Award (2010).

- Currently on rotation at UHN/MSH

Catherine Talbot-Hamon

Currently completing IM training at McGill University, Catherine will be joining the program in August. She has wide interests in geriatrics including chronic disease. Accomplishments include conducting a research project on the quality of care given to elderly patients with multiple chronic diseases on medical clinical teaching units under the supervision of Johanne Monette and François Béland.

- Will be on rotation at Baycrest

UofT's Geriatrics Interest Group – 2011-2012 Year in Review

Founded in September 2010, the University of Toronto Geriatrics Interest Group (GIG) is a student-led interest group aimed to fulfill the need for greater student awareness and engagement in issues relating to the health and wellness of older adults.

Under the guidance of Dr. Camilla Wong and Dr. Samir Sinha, we have had a very eventful academic year. Firstly, the UofT GIG hosted two interprofessional events: a Geriatrics Clinical Skills Day where students gained practical knowledge on how to improve management of various geriatrics related health issues; and a Geriatric Experience Day where students had opportunities to experience and appreciate the physical and psycho-social issues surrounding various geriatric syndromes. In addition, we hosted a career panel discussing 5 geriatrics-related specialties, as well as lunch-time talks delivered from the Parkinson's Society, Mount Sinai's CARERS program, and Dr. Sinha discussing his perspective as a geriatrician.

Throughout the year, students participated in mentorship and shadowing opportunities with faculty members. As well, the Division of Geriatric Medicine generously funded a meet and greet dinner (see insert below) where 22 students met

with faculty and residents to discuss their interest in geriatric medicine.



Students enjoy a time of mingling and dining with faculty and residents at the annual Geriatrics Interest Group Meet

Furthermore, due to generous support from the Division of Geriatric Medicine and the Canadian Geriatrics Society, over ten UofT medical students took part in this year's CGS annual scientific meeting in Quebec City in April.

The UofT GIG would like to express sincere gratitude to the Division of Geriatrics, our faculty advisors Dr. Camilla Wong and Dr. Samir Sinha as well as all the staff physicians, residents, and healthcare professionals who have generously donated their time and resources to our group – we could not have done it without you, and we thank you for greatly enriching our education.

Over the next few years the presence of UofT GIG will continue to expand at both St. George and Mississauga campuses and we invite staff and residents to partner with us with ideas, initiatives or opportunities to develop student experiences in geriatrics. Thank you!

www.TorontoMeds.com/geriatrics

Contributed by 2011/12 GIG Co-Chairs, Evelyn Cheung and Elizabeth Mui (uoft.gig@utoronto.ca)



Students gain a deeper understanding of the interaction between mobility and incontinence at this year's interprofessional Geriatric Experience Day



Recent Faculty Publications

[Randomized Controlled Trial of a Computerized Decision Aid on Adjuvant Radioactive Iodine Treatment for Patients With Early-Stage Papillary Thyroid Cancer.](#)

Sawka AM, **Straus S**, Rotstein L, Brierley JD, Tsang RW, Asa S, Segal P, Kelly C, Zahedi A, Freeman J, Solomon P, Anderson J, Thorpe KE, Gafni A, Rodin G, Goldstein DP.

J Clin Oncol. 2012 Jul 2. [Epub ahead of print]

[Trauma center quality improvement programs in the United States, Canada, and Australasia.](#)

Stelfox HT, **Straus SE**, Nathens A, Gruen RL, Hameed SM, Kirkpatrick A.

Ann Surg. 2012 Jul;256(1):163-9.

[Efficacy of cognitive enhancers for Alzheimer's disease Protocol for a systematic review and network meta-analysis.](#)

Tricco AC, Vandervaart S, Soobiah C, Lillie E, Perrier L, **Straus SE**.

Syst Rev. 2012 Jun 28;1(1):31. [Epub ahead of print]

[Designing and evaluating a web-based selfmanagement site for patients with type 2 diabetes - systematic web-site development and study protocol.](#)

Yu CH, Parsons J, Mamdani M, Lebovic G, Shah BR, Bhattacharyya O, Laupacis A, **Straus SE**.

BMC Med Inform Decis Mak. 2012 Jun 24;12(1):57. [Epub ahead of print]

[Older age is associated with similar quality of life and physical function compared to younger age during intensive chemotherapy for acute myeloid leukemia.](#)

Mohamedali H, Breunis H, Timilshina N, Brandwein JM, Gupta V, Li M, Tomlinson G, Buckstein R, **Alibhai SM**.

Leuk Res. 2012 Jun 21. [Epub ahead of print]

[A clinical trial of supervised exercise for adult inpatients with acute myeloid leukemia \(AML\) undergoing induction chemotherapy.](#)

Alibhai SM, O'Neill S, Fisher-Schlombs K, Breunis H, Brandwein JM, Timilshina N, Tomlinson GA, Klepin HD, Culos-Reed SN.

Leuk Res. 2012 Jun 20. [Epub ahead of print]

[Stroke family caregivers' support needs change across the care continuum: a qualitative study using the timing it right framework.](#)

Cameron JI, **Naglie G**, Silver FL, Gignac MA.

Disabil Rehabil. 2012 Jun 11. [Epub ahead of print]

[A systematic review of interventions to increase breast and cervical cancer screening uptake among Asian women.](#)

Lu M, Moritz S, Lorenzetti D, Sykes L, **Straus S**, Quan H.

BMC Public Health. 2012 Jun 7;12(1):413. [Epub ahead of print]

[Off-label prescribing in older people: the need for increased awareness and caution.](#)

Stephenson A, Anderson GM, **Rochon P**.

Drugs Aging. 2012 Jun 1;29(6):435-6. doi:

10.2165/11634620-000000000-00000. No abstract available.

[Impact of H1N1 on Socially Disadvantaged Populations: Systematic Review.](#)

Tricco AC, Lillie E, Soobiah C, Perrier L, **Straus SE**.

PLoS One. 2012;7(6):e39437. Epub 2012 Jun 25.

[Clinician-trialist rounds: 10. Mentoring - part 4: attributes of an effective mentor.](#)

Straus SE, Sackett DL.

Clin Trials. 2012;9(3):367-9. No abstract available.

[Exercise in clinical cancer care: a call to action and program development description.](#)

Santa Mina D, **Alibhai SM**, Matthew AG, Guglietti CL, Steele J, Trachtenberg J, Ritvo PG.

Curr Oncol. 2012 Jun;19(3):e136-44.

[Discrete choice experiment produced estimates of acceptable risks of therapeutic options in cancer patients with febrile neutropenia.](#)

Sung L, **Alibhai SM**, Ethier MC, Teuffel O, Cheng S, Fisman D, Regier DA.

J Clin Epidemiol. 2012 Jun;65(6):627-34. Epub 2012 Mar 15.

[Use of cognitive enhancers for mild cognitive impairment: protocol for a systematic review and network meta-analysis.](#)

Tricco AC, Soobiah C, Lillie E, Perrier L, Chen MH, Hemmelgarn B, Majumdar SR, **Straus SE**.

Syst Rev. 2012 May 30;1(1):25. [Epub ahead of print]

[An inpatient rehabilitation model of care targeting patients with cognitive impairment.](#)

McGilton KS, Davis A, Mahomed N, Flannery J, Jaglal S, Cott C, **Naglie G**, Rochon E.

BMC Geriatr. 2012 May 25;12(1):21. [Epub ahead of print]