

## January 2014 – THE INAUGURAL EDITION

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### DIVISION DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

#### Douglas Bradley, MD, FRCPC

Following our Strategic Planning retreat in June of 2103, there was a sense that we needed some sort of regular forum to allow Division members and trainees to stay in touch with developments in Respiriology across the city. To this end, I am pleased to present this inaugural edition of RespNews. As you can see from this issue's contents, there have been many newsworthy developments in the Division over the last year that are both interesting and informative. If you have any comments on this edition, or any suggestions to improve future editions, please contact Rhiannon Davies ([rhiannon.davies@utoronto.ca](mailto:rhiannon.davies@utoronto.ca)) or myself

([douglas.bradley@utoronto.ca](mailto:douglas.bradley@utoronto.ca)). We welcome any feedback you may have and look forward to receiving your direct input to improve RespNews. Indeed, I will be calling upon many of you to provide material for future editions highlighting important Divisional activities. It is my hope that this newsletter will build on the great legacy of our Division by communicating our dedication to excellence in research, teaching and clinical care, and celebrating the accomplishments our colleagues. Finally, I want to thank **Rhiannon Davies** for her dedication to the concept of RespNews, and for her contributions to the design and layout of the newsletter, which I am sure you will agree looks just great. I hope you enjoy it.



### FEATURE ARTICLE

#### Eliot A. Phillipson, MD, FRCPC, Appointed Officer of the Order of Canada

It gives me great pleasure to say that this inaugural edition of the Division of Respiriology's newsletter begins on a most auspicious note. As many of you will already know, our esteemed colleague, Eliot Phillipson, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada on December 30, 2013. This recognizes a lifetime of achievement and merit of a high degree, especially in service to Canada or to humanity at large. In Eliot's case, the official citation read:

**Eliot A. Phillipson, O.C. Toronto. For his contributions to the field of sleep medicine and for his visionary stewardship of health and science institutions.**

This is a great honour for Eliot and evidence of the great tradition of research and medical leadership in the University of Toronto's Division of Respiriology, which should inspire us all.



Eliot is a native of Edmonton, where he received his M.D. with Distinction (1963) and his M.Sc. (1965) from the University of Alberta. Following postgraduate training in Internal Medicine, he undertook research training at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California San Francisco. In 1971, he was appointed to the University of Toronto as a clinician-scientist with a research focus in the regulation of respiration. His basic research provided seminal observations on how sleep altered control of breathing and formed the basis for understanding the pathophysiology of several sleep-related breathing disorders. In 1978, this allowed him to develop one of the first human sleep laboratories in North America dedicated to the investigation, diagnosis and treatment of sleep-related breathing disturbances. As we all know, sleep medicine has flourished since then in no small part due to Eliot's influence.

Eliot has had a truly distinguished career, during which he has served many important roles at the University of Toronto and its affiliated teaching hospitals, as well as in an agency of the Federal government. He was Departmental Division Director of

Respirology from 1980 to 1990, Physician-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital from 1987-97, and Sir John and Lady Eaton Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine of the University of Toronto from 1993 to 2004. In this latter position, he played an instrumental role in founding the Clinician Scientist Training program in the Department of Medicine which now bears his name. Following his retirement from the University of Toronto, he went on to national prominence, serving as President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), from 2004 to 2010. The CFI is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research equipment and infrastructure in Canadian universities, colleges, and research hospitals.

From my personal perspective, I had the privilege of being one of Eliot's research fellows from 1982-1984. During this time he introduced me to the challenges and profound satisfaction of medical research. I came to appreciate his imaginative and calm approach to science, his honesty, integrity, wisdom, good humour, humanity and productivity. It was a very satisfying and productive time for me and launched me on my own career as a clinician scientist. I will always be grateful to Eliot for all he taught me, for his sage advice and his friendship. We in the Division of Respirology are blessed by his legacy of excellence in research, teaching, and administration and congratulate him on his latest achievement.

### Strategic Plan 2013

Following my appointment as University of DDD in Respirology in January of 2012, the Division undertook a series of meetings to update our strategic plan (SP) to take into account new developments. Such a plan is helpful in guiding the development of our research, training, quality improvement and clinical programs, particularly as it relates to recruitment and resource allocation. The development of the SP had broad input and was facilitated by the expertise of Helena Axler and Allison Hardisty. The SP was presented to the entire Division at a Retreat held on June 10, 2013, where it was vigorously discussed and refined. I want to take this opportunity to thank members of the SP Committee and all the members of the Division for their valuable contributions to this plan which has since been posted on our Divisional website (<http://www.utoronto.ca/respirology/pdf/Strategic%20Planning%20Report-August2013.pdf>).

The SP is guided by our vision to maintain and enhance "*International leadership and productive world class respiratory research and training programs*". Highlights of the plan include our vision for strengthening our research enterprise. To accomplish this, we plan to concentrate recruitment and resource allocation for clinician scientists and investigators into areas of excellence where we wish to strengthen our position as international leaders in Lung Transplantation, Sleep and Control of Breathing, Cystic Fibrosis and Acute Lung Injury. Areas of Opportunity were also identified in which we perceived the potential for growth and international recognition in Rare Lung Diseases, Airways Diseases and Knowledge Translation/Outcomes Research, but in which recruitment and resource allocation would be more limited. To implement such a policy formal searches for all Clinician Scientist and Clinician Investigator positions will be undertaken to ensure best possible candidates are hired and supported by the Divisional leadership.

To enhance our research enterprise, a 3-month research rotation was implemented for our new Respirology residents. To facilitate the success of this new rotation, I appointed **Dr Niall Ferguson** to head a Research Advisory Committee one of whose tasks it is to meet with the Trainees and advise them on research projects and supervisors for their research. To increase access of Trainees to divisional investigators in a more informal venue, we will soon be holding a "*Meet the Investigators Evening*" with informal presentations, food and drink (see NEWS below).

To strengthen research communication and interactions, Research Rounds were reinstated on Friday mornings under the leadership of **Dr Matthew Binnie**, who has done a great job of organizing excellent speakers and improving attendance and participation. **Dr Richard Horner** has contributed to our goal of broadening our research perspectives and creating an environment in which a critical mass of investigators can capture team grants through his successful application for a DOM Integrative Challenge Fund entitled *Sleep and sedation – translational science to public health*.

To maintain and enhance the quality of our Educational programs, I appointed **Dr Chris Li** as our Training Program Director. Chris is a very accomplished educator who has won several awards for his teaching (see announcement below). Chris outlines developments in our Training Program in his column below.

Quality Improvement (QI) is now an integral part of resident training in the DOM, and to enhance our strength in this area, **Dr Kieran McIntyre** has agreed to take the lead in developing this area.

To smooth the way of our younger members through the 3 year review process, and our more senior members through the promotion process, there was a sense that a more formal mentoring program would be desirable to. To this end, **Dr Liz Tullis** agreed to head a mentoring and professional development program, the nature of which will unfold over the next several months.

To monitor progress and enhance accountability and transparency on achieving the objectives of our SP, we will be posting a SP checklist on our website. As we accomplish each of our goals, they will be ticked off on this checklist for all to see.



## Annual BBQ 2013 - McLean House

To foster a more sociable and collegial atmosphere for Staff, Trainees and their families across the city, we re-instituted our annual BBQ. It was held at the McLean Estate in Sunnybrook Park in September, 2013. It was a wonderful venue blessed by great weather and food, with over 70 attendees. A great time was had by all. Some photos of the venue and proceedings are inset below. I want to thank everyone for coming and a special thanks to **Rhiannon Davies** for organizing this wonderful event. We plan to continue this on an annual basis. If any of you have thoughts on attractive venues, please contact Rhiannon about your ideas.



## FACULTY APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to:

**Dr Nick Vozoris** on becoming an Assistant Professor, SMH

**Dr Cecila Chaparro** on promotion to Associate Professor, TGH

**Dr Shiphra Ginsburg** on promotion to Professor, MSH

**Dr Margaret Herridge** on promotion to Professor, TGH



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Awards

#### Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipients:



The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a commemorative medal established in 2012 to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne, which serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians in all fields of endeavour.

**Dr. Bob Hyland** received the medal (shown) from the Ontario Thoracic Society for his contributions to the care of people with lung disease in Ontario. **Dr. Liz Tullis** received the medal from Cystic Fibrosis Canada for her contributions to Cystic Fibrosis care in Canada.



Congratulations to Bob and Liz on these significant achievements that bring honour and inspiration to us all!



**Dr Marie Faughnan** received the Robert Berkman Leadership Award from the International HHT Foundation



**Dr Chris Li** received the University of Toronto, Department of Medicine Faculty Teaching Award

**Dr Rebecca Colman** received the first Jae Yang Memorial Award for Resident Teaching

**Dr Kamyar Soghrati** received the Undergraduate Teaching Award

**Dr Chris Li** received the 2013 Respiriology Resident Teaching Award

**Dr Peter Webster** received the Lifetime Contribution to Medical Education Award

## Grants

**Dr Chung-Wai Chow** received a 5 year CIHR Grant for a project, Traffic-Related Air Pollutants and the Transplanted Lung  
**Dr Warren Lee** received a 5 year CIHR Grant for a project entitled, Influenza and acute lung injury: priming, platelets and permeability.

**Dr Richard Horner** received a Department of Medicine, Integrated Challenge Grant for a project entitled, Sleep and Sedation – Translational Science to Public Health.

**Dr Andrea Gershon** received a Fellowship for Translational Health Research from the Physicians' Services Incorporated (PSI) Foundation.

**Dr Deborah Casey** received the first, GREAT Fellowship in Respiratory Leadership. This one year fellowship is a joint initiative of the OLA, GSK, UHN, and Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

## News

### **Dr David Stather - Taken from us too soon on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2014:**

Dr Stather, a former trainee in Respiriology and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Toronto, was a passionate leader of one of the first interventional respirology programs in Canada and was a respected teacher and clinician at the Foothills Hospital of the University of Calgary. Many of us have very fond memories of David as an outgoing charismatic individual who was committed to his work with a passion for the outdoors. David died tragically while base jumping in the Grand Canyon, Arizona. He will be greatly missed.



**Jae Yang Memorial Award for Resident Teaching:** To honour Jae Yang's many contributions to teaching and resident mentoring, the Division established this award to be given annually to the a Respiriology Resident for excellence in teaching. Fund raising has been very successful; we are still receiving donations more than a year after we open up the link. We thank everyone for their support and their donations, and encourage others to contribute to this valuable award as well.

**Dr Chris Li** was appointed Respiriology Training Program Director in July 2013 for a 5 year term.

**Dr Doug Bradley** received the Clifford Nordal Chair in Sleep Apnea and Rehabilitation Research from Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.

MOHLTC has provided expanded funding of **SMH** Centre for Therapeutic Endoscopy which has allowed for expansion of EBUS program led by **Dr Kieran McIntyre**.

Sunnybrook Respiriology staff launched the **EPIC** (effusions procedures interdisciplinary clinic) clinic at the Odette Cancer Centre, **SHSC** in January 2013 specializing in drainage of malignant pleural effusions via insertion of tunneled pleural catheters. This new clinic kept dozens of patients with malignant pleural effusions out of hospital and at home. This clinic, along with TRAPP (treatment of respiratory and pleural problems in cancer) will play an integral role as **Dr. Harvey Wong** develops the Interventional Curriculum for our Respiriology Trainees.

**Dr Khalil Sivjee** and his wife Dr Rifat Jaffer had a second daughter, Layla, on May 19, 2013.

**Dr Adam Hutchinson-Jaffe** had a baby boy, Evan, on May 28, 2013

**Dr Rebecca Colman** had a baby girl, Raya, in July, 2013

**Dr Ambrose Lau** had a baby boy

**Dr Harvey Wong** had a baby boy; Alexander, on March 5, 2013.

**Annual Respiriology Research Day:** Will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Munk Centre for Global Affairs, 1 Devonshire Place, 8am-5pm. Call for abstracts will go out in March 2014.

**Meet the Investigator Night:** Will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm at ADEGA Restaurant.

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

**Chris Li, MD, FRCPC**

### **CHEST Challenge Championship 2013**

Following our team's 2nd place finish in the 2012 competition, we looked forward to another exciting year. We were thrilled when our team once again qualified through online preliminary competition to compete in face-to-face competition in August 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. Our team of Drs. Sacha Bhinder, Simon Houston, and Taryn Simms acquitted themselves admirably, but drew the defending champs in the semi-final round and went out in a closely-fought battle. Congratulations to the team for representing us with pride and valour.

### **Congratulations to the following Trainees for passing their Royal College Examinations in Respiriology in 2013!**

Dr. Saif Al-Mubhaisi  
Dr. Althea Burrell (Barthos)  
Dr. Rebecca Colman  
Dr. Woganee Filate  
Dr. Jolene Fisher  
Dr. Laura Goode  
Dr. Adam Hutchinson-Jaffe  
Dr. Dmitry Rozenberg  
Dr. Joanna Zurawska

### **Academic Half Day Seminar Series**

After 4 years of very successfully coordinating the Academic Half Day Seminar Series for our residents, **Dr John Thenganatt** has decided to move on from this position so that he may take on new educational roles. The academic half day he developed is one of the strongest aspects of our program, and I would like to thank him for these years of service.

I am pleased to announce that **Dr Shane Shapera**, also a respected educator from Toronto General Hospital, has stepped into the coordinator position this year. I look forward to working with Dr. Shapera in this capacity and I am certain he will maintain the tradition of excellence in this important component of the program.

Incoming Residents 2014

## Incoming Residents 2014

This past November, we completed our selection process for our training program through the CaRMS match. I am excited to welcome the following residents to our program:

**Dr. Meghan Aversa**  
**Dr. Lee Fidler**  
**Dr. Christine McDonald**  
**Dr. Navjeet Uppal**  
**Dr. Kelly Wilton**

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to the faculty and residents who volunteered their time to participate in the selection process. We look forward to working with this newest group of residents in July.

## Continuing Education

This is an important part of Respiriology's mission to enhance education and extend our influence not only among students and residents, but also to allied health professionals and physicians outside the University of Toronto. To this end, we have had a very successful year as outlined below.

This year, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Day in Respiriology was on "Updates in Sleep Medicine" at the Westin Prince Hotel. It attracted our largest attendance to date of 205. It show-cased the Sleep Medicine program at the University of Toronto, and was extremely well received. Hats off to **Drs Clodagh Ryan** and **Anna Day** for this organizing this successful event.

The University of Toronto, Sleep Medicine Rounds are now in their 14th year and are attended mainly by respiratory specialists. They generally draw a local crowd of 70-90 and are now video- and webcast to approximately 25 sites across Ontario, as well as one in Paris, France. In 2013, our visiting speakers included renowned sleep medicine investigators, Dr. Atul Malholtra (Boston), Dr. Marc Poulin (Calgary), and former post-doctoral fellow, Michael Arzt (Regensburg, Germany).

*The next edition of RespNews will follow in in 3-4 months. Please send all news, awards and promotion information to Rhiannon Davies so that they can be included in the next edition. Thank you to everyone for your contributions."*

We might we have missed some very important information, if that is the case, please accept our apologies and send us along the details, we might be able to include in the next edition.