Our Mission
We are a Department of Medicine, characterized by a collegial, interprofessional, and interinstitutional cooperation, working to achieve our goals of excellence in health education, research and clinical care which embraces the continuum from the basic science laboratory to the individual patient to the health care system.

Our Goals

To facilitate the provision of the highest possible quality of care of the medical diseases of adults, giving appropriate consideration to costs and utilities.

To take responsibility for the quality of the education programs offered by McMaster University for physicians in training and practice in the disciplines of general internal medicine and the medical subspecialties and to provide many of the planners and teachers for this broad undertaking. To be involved as appropriate in the education programs offered by McMaster University for non-physician scientists working in health-related fields and non-physician health professionals.

To develop and critically evaluate new knowledge across a wide range of disciplines from basic science to the clinical disciplines of general internal medicine and its subspecialties, to the health care system itself. The Department of Medicine will set priorities for its research endeavours, based upon excellence, societal relevance, the availability of collaborative links, the opportunity for national and international significance, and additional criteria as judged appropriate.
I am delighted to offer my congratulations to the Department of Medicine on yet another year of excellent accomplishments in research, teaching and clinical care. I very much appreciate the dedication and commitment of everyone in the Department to ensuring that McMaster is world-renowned for its creativity, innovation and excellence.

The global impact and standing of the Department of Medicine is clear from the news media. Our groundbreaking studies make international headlines, the views of our experts on the world’s most pressing health issues are consistently sought, and our graduates achieve great things in the field of medicine.

All of these accomplishments support the University’s stellar reputation of excellence. As our largest single department, the Department of Medicine is a key contributor to McMaster’s position in the top 100 Universities in the world, one of only four Canadian Universities consistently ranked in this way. In four international rankings, McMaster places in the top 50 globally for the category of medicine and health. In addition, researchers in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and its academic hospital partners, oversee $240 million in research funding a year, placing McMaster among the top four universities in Canada for biomedical and health research.

Maclean’s University Rankings placed McMaster sixth among 15 Canadian schools in the medical-doctoral category for the seventh year in a row.

The talented scholars within the Department of Medicine are also consistently published and cited in the medical field’s most prestigious journals. It’s because of this tireless pursuit of knowledge that the Department attracts millions of dollars in research grants and support from federal and provincial governments, industry and charitable organizations, and significant funding from private donors.

I am tremendously proud of McMaster’s place among the top universities in the world, and look forward to many more years as a global leader in medicine. Year after year, teachers, researchers, administrators and technical staff work tirelessly and collaboratively to ensure that this Faculty and University maintain their reputation and exceed expectations.

Congratulations to all members of the Department on your outstanding accomplishments throughout 2014-2015. I commend you on your achievements, and look forward to even greater success in the future.

Patrick Deane, BA (Hons), MA, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
McMaster University

“In four international rankings, McMaster places in the top 50 globally for the category of medicine and health.”

— Dr. Patrick Deane
This past year has seen many achievements by the faculty and staff of McMaster’s Department of Medicine, and I would like to congratulate everyone for these significant contributions.

With more than 600 faculty members — including 235 full time members, 41 professor emeriti, 33 joint and associate members, 288 part-time faculty and 14 clinical scholars — spanning 17 divisions, the Department is committed to excellence across all branches of medicine. Its dedication to scholarship in care, research and education is unparalleled.

Research from the Department is having an impact locally, nationally and internationally and research projects and discoveries are being broadcasted around the world. To highlight just a few of those making headlines:

- Professor Gregory Steinberg co-authored a study identifying an important hormone that is elevated in obese people contributing to obesity and diabetes by inhibiting brown fat activity. The study is the first to show that blocking the production of peripheral serotonin makes the brown fat more active.

- A study led by Assistant Professor Jocelyn Srigley found that hospitalized patients wash their hands infrequently, an important factor in the risk of picking up infections in hospitals.

- Associate Professor Bruno Salena is developing fluorescent DNAzymes that will detect cancer markers in stool samples. If cancer is present, the molecules will glow, leading to early treatment and better outcomes for patients.

- Research led by Associate Professor Jeff Healey suggested that defibrillator testing during certain types of heart surgery is not helpful and could possibly be harmful.

Over the course of the last year, Department members have also collected numerous awards and accolades. This included Professor Deborah Cook and Professor Paul O’Byrne being named Distinguished University Professors of McMaster University. The lifetime title is the University’s highest honour for those professors who have achieved the highest level of excellence in teaching, learning and research. Dr. Cook also received the 2015 Elizabeth J. Latimer Prize in Palliative Care.

The Department’s excellence is proven. There are nine Canada Research chairs and 32 endowed chairs and professorships held by members of the Department during 2014-2015. Because of these positions, our top scientists can focus on critically important areas of study and recruit and develop tomorrow’s generation of researchers. They also serve to attract and retain the best minds in the world, ensuring a world-class education for our students.

Congratulations on a banner year for the Department of Medicine.

On behalf of the Faculty of Health Sciences, I want to thank you for your tireless commitment to improving the health of patients everywhere.

Best wishes and continued success in the year ahead.

Dr. John G. Kelton
Dean and Vice-President
Faculty of Health Sciences
Dean of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine
During the academic year 2014-2015, the Department of Medicine continues to increase its number of faculty, its academic productivity and impact. There were a further 14 new geographic full-time faculty members appointed to the Department, which now has a total of 609 faculty members, of which 225 are geographic full-time faculty, 288 part-time faculty, 41 professor emeriti, 14 clinical scholars, and 31 joint and associate members. The Department is the largest in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the largest single Department at McMaster University.

Patient care is the cornerstone of the Department’s activity, and is the foundation upon which all of its scholarly activity occurs. The Department works within the framework of two hospital systems, Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) and St. Joseph’s Healthcare (SJH). Because of the efforts of the Chiefs of Medicine in these two hospital systems, Dr. Barry Lumb at HHS and Dr. David Russell at SJH, the facilities, the infrastructure, and the quality of the teaching continue to improve. This has been the result, in part, of recruitment of outstanding young clinician educators. These new faculty, together with a core of some of the highest regarded teachers in the Faculty of Health Sciences, have ensured that the clinical teaching units at three of our hospital sites (Hamilton General Hospital, Juravinski Hospital and St. Joseph’s Hospital) continue to be outstanding learning environments.

The Department has 18 training programs in Internal Medicine and its specialties accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). The Royal College accreditation process this year confirmed the excellence of these programs. Our Internal Medicine program was reviewed by the RCPSC accreditors and received full approved with many strengths identified. In addition, all of the sub-speciality programs have received full accreditation. This excellence has been reflected in the quality of evaluations from both residents and undergraduate trainers. Drs. Lumb and Russell, together with Dr. Shariq Haider, the postgraduate Program Director, are committed to ensuring that our training programs remain amongst the most sought after in Canada.

Undergraduate and postgraduate medical education is a vitally important academic endeavour of the Department. The Department provides almost one-third of all educational activities within the Faculty of Health Sciences and it has opportunities to undertake stimulating and valuable educational roles. This remains a major reason that we were able to attract so many high-quality, young clinician educators to the Faculty of Health Sciences. The Associate Chair, Education, Dr. Ameen Patel, has made a major effort to ensure the careful documentation of the magnitude of the contributions made by faculty members. This is crucial not only at the time of promotion and tenure, but also because the allocation of resources such as the Alternative Funding Plan (AFP) are made based, in part, on these educational contributions.

Postgraduate training in the Department of Medicine also continues to move from strength to strength. The Internal Medicine Residency Training Program is now regarded as one of the most sought after in Canada for newly qualified physicians to begin their training in Medicine. The program has attracted almost 350 applications in the past year for 21 positions, which included some of the very best applicants in the country. All of this success can be accounted for by the energy and commitment of Dr. Shariq Haider, the Program Director, and Jan Taylor, the Program Administrator, along with the residents currently in the program and the clinical educators in the Department, who have gone to remarkable lengths to ensure the program is seen to be vibrant, energetic, and forward-looking. Initiatives that continue to be very successful have been the International Health Program, which allows residents to travel to Uganda each year to spend time working in Makerere University in Kampala. In addition, the development of Canada’s first ambulatory Clinical Teaching Unit was advanced by the opening of the Boris Academic Medicine Outpatient Clinic at McMaster University Medical Centre, under the leadership of Dr Akbar Panju.

The parameters which would indicate success in research have also increased over the past year. Dr. Jeff Weitz remains as the Associate Chair, Research for the Department. Faculty in the Department currently hold 32 endowed chairs or professorships, and 9 Canada Research Chairs. The number of high profile peer-reviewed papers has also increased during 2014 to more than 600 separate publications. Many of them are in the highest quality peer-reviewed journals. The number and quality of these papers attest to the continuing impact that the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Department of Medicine have on basic clinical research, both in Canada and internationally. The research contributions highlight the

**“The Royal College accreditation process this year confirmed the excellence of these programs. Our Internal Medicine program was reviewed by the RCPSC accreditors and received full approved with many strengths identified.”**

— Dr. Paul O’Byrne
The ongoing success of members of the Department and by the Faculty of Health Sciences in obtaining peer-reviewed grants and resources for new infrastructure and personal support have made the past few years an exciting time for both expansion and recruitment. The past year has seen the distance educational initiatives for McMaster medical students in Kitchener-Waterloo and in St. Catharines both expanding. This is yet another exciting initiative for the Faculty of Health Sciences and for the Department of Medicine. It also brings challenges in terms of recruiting new faculty and educators to undertake the roles needed to ensure that these educational sites remain strong.

I remain excited and energized by successes that the Department has enjoyed over the past year. Problems remain, but none of these are insurmountable, and indeed, the challenges in solving these bring their own rewards. I also regard it as a great privilege to have the opportunity of working closely with so many outstanding colleagues who are committed to scholarship at the highest level. This is what makes the Department of Medicine at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University a success.

Paul M. O’Byrne, MB, FRCP(C), FRSC
E.J. Moran Campbell Professor
Chair, Department of Medicine

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE: INVITED PRESENTATIONS
2014-2015

The total amount of funding represents more than 30 percent of the entire funding obtained by the Faculty of Health Sciences and does not include many of our industry-sponsored studies, whose budgets are held in our partner hospitals. The total research support received by the Department in 2014-15 was in excess of $210M.

The Department has improved its communication strategies with faculty and with the rest of the world. The Department of Medicine website is fully functional, easy to use and dynamic. It contains a completely novel Events Tracking Assistant with an ability to document the presence at Rounds which is required for MDCONF credits. The website allows faculty to document their educational contributions, and includes Divisional sites which highlight the expertise of members, monthly publication highlights, and a number of new initiatives that are being developed.

While the successes enjoyed by the Department of Medicine during the 2014-15 academic year are impressive and rewarding, a number of challenges remain. A major challenge continues to be ensuring the best quality in patient care in light of continuing resource constraints imposed on our hospital systems. In addition, maintaining the level and quality of scholarship in both education and research, which is an absolute requirement for a vibrant, energetic Department, continues to be difficult in the face of increasing clinical loads.

The amount in 2014-15 was more than $38M. Research funding is also a mark of research success and this is reflected in the number of peer-reviewed grants and industrial awards to members of the Department. The amount in 2014-15 was

Mark Crowther, who was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.

Dr. John Kelton was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.

Dr. John Kelton was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.

Dr. John Kelton was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.

Dr. John Kelton was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.

Dr. John Kelton was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.

Dr. John Kelton was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.

Dr. John Kelton was appointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and also was the recipient of the 2015 Jack Hirsh Award, which is the Department’s highest accolade for academic achievement. Other outstanding contributions to scholarship were recognized by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. John Kelton. Dr. Deborah Cook and I were appointed Distinguished University Professors. Drs. P.J. Devereaux and Greg Steinberg were appointed as Distinguished University Scholars.
FACULTY AWARDS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Khalid Al-Nedawi

Movember Discovery Grant, Prostate Cancer Canada

Dr. Donnie Arnold

John G. Kelton Chair in Translational Research

Dr. Khalid Azzam

Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award, Internal Medicine Residency Program, Department of Medicine, McMaster University

Dr. John Bienenstock

Inducted into the Faculty of Health Sciences’ Community of Distinction, McMaster University

Dr. Birubi Binam

Academic Teacher Award 2015, Department of Internal Medicine, Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Dr. Teresa Chan

McMaster Emergency Medicine Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award

Class of 2015 Teaching Award in Emergency Medicine Clerkship, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine

Victoria College Emerging Leader Award

Dr. Deborah Cook

Distinguished University Professor, McMaster University

Officer of the Order of Canada

2015 Elizabeth J. Latimer Prize in Palliative Care

Group Research Award, Canadian Association of Spiritual Care

Dr. Andrew Costa

Named as Chair holder of the new Schlegel Chair in Clinical Epidemiology and Aging

Dr. Mark Crowther

Appointed Chair, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

Jack Hirsh Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Department of Medicine

Dr. Catherine Demers

President’s Award for Distinguished Service, Medical Staff Association, Hamilton General Hospital

Dr. P.J. Devereaux

Distinguished University Scholar, McMaster University

Dr. Nicole Didyk

Certificate of Merit for Teaching Excellence in Medicine Subspecialty Selective

Dr. Jacob Gelberg

Cancer Quality Council of Ontario Award

Clinical Educator Award, Division of Respiratory, Department of Medicine

Dr. Shariq Haider

Nominated for Lois H. Ross Resident Advocate Award, PARO Awards

Dr. Raj Hannah

Certificate of Merit for Teaching Excellence in Internal Medicine Core Clerkship

Dr. Will Harper

Certificate of Merit for Teaching Excellence in Internal Medicine Core Clerkship

Dr. Mary Jackson

Certificate of Merit for Teaching Excellence in Internal Medicine Core Clerkship

“... the views of our experts on the world’s most pressing health issues are consistently sought...”

— Dr. Patrick Deane

Dr. Massoud Jalayer

Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Luke Janssen

2014 NSERC Award

Dr. John Kelton

Officer of the Order of Canada

Dr. Aliya Khan

International Hypoparathyroidism Award, Hypoparathyroidism Association

Dr. Paul Kim

Hamilton Health Sciences Early Career Award

Hamilton Health Sciences New Investigator Fund

Dr. Martin Kolb

Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Fellowship Award

Dr. Peter Kraus

Certificate of Merit for Teaching Excellence in Medicine Subspecialty Selective

Dr. Mark Larche

Received the David W. Talmage Lectureship Award

Dr. Kim Legault

Internal Career Award, Department of Medicine

Dr. Tom Liu

Namesake of the Tom Liu Renal Dialysis Unit, Grand River Hospital

Dr. Mark Matsos

Clinical Teacher / Educator Award, The Arthritis Society

Service Award for Geriatric Excellence: Individual Award

Dr. Maureen Meade

Deborah J. Cook Critical Care Research Mentor Award, Canadian Critical Care Trials Group

Dr. Dominik Mertz

Inducted into the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum

Dr. Amin Mulji

Ernest Fallen Teaching Excellence in Cardiology 2015

Dr. Parameswaran Nair

Distinguished University Professor, McMaster University

Dr. Julian Owen

Internal Medicine Emergency Department Mentorship Award

Outstanding Contributions to the FRCP Residency Program

Dr. Akbar Panju

Certificate of Merit for Teaching Excellence in Internal Medicine Core Clerkship
PUBLIC HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2014

AUGUST 2014

SEPTEMBER 2014

OCTOBER 2014

NOVEMBER 2014

DECEMBER 2014

JANUARY 2015

FEBRUARY 2015

MARCH 2015
McMaster researchers don’t let the dust settle after exciting findings receive major media exposure, and there were more than a few global stories this past year. They are already building on knowledge gains with clinical research in hopes of developing a bench-to-bedside outcome, and, in many cases, succeeding. This past year there were several headline-hitting studies that promise to contribute to major treatment strides.

“McMaster and Hamilton Health Sciences really provide a fantastic platform for doing paradigm-changing work,” points out Dr. Jeff Weitz, Director of the Thrombosis & Atherosclerosis Research Institute. He’s referring not only to the expansive laboratory environment and funding support, but also the culture, which is rooted in encouraging innovation, putting patients first and collaboration.

For all these reasons, Dr. Weitz and co-investigators have recently had two change-maker findings published in the New England Journal of Medicine. First, they are testing their breakthrough findings in ASD (antisense oligonucleotides) knocking out factor XI and preventing blood clot formation after knee surgery in a new susceptible patient group. “Our goal is to find the right dose for use of ASD in stroke prevention for patients with end-stage renal disease on dialysis with the risk of atrial fibrillation.” Second, they recently reported on a phase three trial on the first-ever reversal agent designed to alleviate bleeding associated with the newest factor Xa anticoagulants. The results were so strong they’re enrolling up to 500 patients in the study. “The drug has already been recommended for approval in Europe, and we expect recommendation for approval in North America in a few months’ time,” says Dr. Weitz.

This year, Medicine faculty Dr. Pramyl Berincic and Dr. Stephen Collins published exciting preclinical research in Nature Communications showing that depression does not occur in mice unless there is the presence of bacteria in the gut. “It’s the first study of its kind attempting link the expression of depressive-like behaviour with the presence of gut bacteria,” says Dr. Collins. Dr. Collins and co-investigators also followed up on previous preclinical work that showed probiotics can have an impact on depression with research on a patient population, and presented at the International Conference on Environmental, Industrial and Applied Microbiology. Dr. Collins adds that “There’s a lot of skepticism around preclinical research. We showed that you are in fact able to use preclinical studies as a platform for developing an effective intervention in humans.”

These teams aren’t the only department faculty conquering new frontiers. Dr. John Eikelboom pursued a highly efficient and novel way to conduct a large first-of-its-kind study assessing the quality of fresh versus stored donor blood. Multiple ethics committees approved their streamlined approach, which eliminates the need for patient consent since not participating guaranteed older blood as per standard practice, paving the way to collect data across four countries and 30,000 patients. “Results are expected six months from now. But whatever the findings, we’ll be in a much better position to find ways to process blood to improve patient situations that wouldn’t be the case without this study,” says Dr. Eikelboom.

Such a patient-first research philosophy was behind the innovative research into the final days of dying ICU patients, conducted by medicine faculty member Dr. Deborah Cook at St. Joseph’s Healthcare The project, which began two years ago, grants three wishes to dying patients at a cost of $0 to $200 with great success, as reported in the Annals of Internal Medicine. “The ICU is a place that needs humanizing,” points out Dr. Jack Gauldie, Vice President, Research, St. Joseph’s Healthcare. “The benefit of the Three Wish program to the dying patient and their families is fantastic. This is clearly a study that was generated by our patient-oriented culture.”

Another important cornerstone of Department-led research, collaboration, is at the heart of well-publicized research in Nature Medicine that showed that by inhibiting the serotonin hormone, the body’s “parking brake” on brown fat is released. Brown fat plays an important role in burning calories. This discovery, which could be a possible solution to obesity, wouldn’t have been possible without a strong support among McMaster faculty, points out Dr. Gregory Steinberg, professor of medicine at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. “It was Waliul Khan in gastroenterology who has been working on this pathway for inflammatory bowel disease. He was the one who suggested investigating the importance of this for obesity.”

This is a perfect example of how a shared quest for findings that change lives is the fundamental driver in department faculty, who keep their nose to the ground chasing answers with rigorous evidence-based standards and a determination that knows no bounds.
Two themes underscore the pioneering care models developed by McMaster educators: flexibility and patient outcomes. As people live longer, chronic diseases increase, and so does the frequency of patient visits, explains Dr. Akbar Panju, Associate Chair, Clinical. Therefore, patient health and cost-effective care hinge on the ability of providers to collaborate and manage several conditions in tandem in an outpatient setting. That’s why the teams are already seeking ways to enhance the brand new McMaster-driven models of care.

The first-of-its-kind, The Boris Clinic, just completed phase two, its final opening phase, at the McMaster University Medical Centre in 2015. Now, what’s always been dubbed “the Mayo Clinic of the north,” offers an truly nimble, effective ambulatory treatment environment that includes a diabetes unit, a general internist clinic, a medical daycare and a subspecialties clinic. At any one time, there are 14 specialists, plus 20 to 30 residents, to treat the 48,000 patients who visit annually, says Panju.

The clinic strives to achieve excellence in three areas: clinical care, research and education, says Dr. Panju. "In the old system, a patient might come into the hospital with joint pain and a rash. They would be sent to a rheumatologist and a dermatologist, both of which could each take weeks. Here the patient sees both specialists and gets diagnoses on the same day.” Always aiming for the highest standards in care, McMaster educators are already conducting research into the outcomes and quality of care at the Boris Clinic. Findings will be assessed and opportunities for improvement pursued.

Dr. Barry Lumb points out how the clinic represents an expansion of academic opportunities in research beyond conventional preclinical and clinical research trials. "Patient safety is an evolving discipline and a career opportunity for our trainees. The clinic offers the opportunity to do cutting edge research into quality of patient safety and innovation in care models.”

The clinic strives to achieve excellence in three areas: clinical care, research and education, says Dr. Panju. "In the old system, a patient might come into the hospital with joint pain and a rash. They would be sent to a rheumatologist and a dermatologist, both of which could each take weeks. Here the patient sees both specialists and gets diagnoses on the same day.” Always aiming for the highest standards in care, McMaster educators are already conducting research into the outcomes and quality of care at the Boris Clinic. Findings will be assessed and opportunities for improvement pursued.

Dr. Barry Lumb points out how the clinic represents an expansion of academic opportunities in research beyond conventional preclinical and clinical research trials. "Patient safety is an evolving discipline and a career opportunity for our trainees. The clinic offers the opportunity to do cutting edge research into quality of patient safety and innovation in care models.”

No one’s lost sight of the teaching aspect of the Boris Clinic. Its General Internal Medicine Rapid Assessment Clinic is also now fully operational and part of that innovation. "Now all of our residents will gain enhanced learning opportunities for how best to take care of ambulatory patients," says Dr. Barry Lumb, Physician-in-Chief at HHS. "It’s nothing short of transformative.”

The clinic strives to achieve excellence in three areas: clinical care, research and education, says Dr. Panju. "In the old system, a patient might come into the hospital with joint pain and a rash. They would be sent to a rheumatologist and a dermatologist, both of which could each take weeks. Here the patient sees both specialists and gets diagnoses on the same day.” Always aiming for the highest standards in care, McMaster educators are already conducting research into the outcomes and quality of care at the Boris Clinic. Findings will be assessed and opportunities for improvement pursued.

Dr. Barry Lumb points out how the clinic represents an expansion of academic opportunities in research beyond conventional preclinical and clinical research trials. "Patient safety is an evolving discipline and a career opportunity for our trainees. The clinic offers the opportunity to do cutting edge research into quality of patient safety and innovation in care models.”

No one’s lost sight of the teaching aspect of the Boris Clinic. Its General Internal Medicine Rapid Assessment Clinic is also now fully operational and part of that innovation. "Now all of our residents will gain enhanced learning opportunities for how best to take care of ambulatory patients," says Dr. Barry Lumb, Physician-in-Chief at HHS. "It’s nothing short of transformative.”

HHS has also been pursuing innovative in-patient solutions to manage increasing patient loads on general internalists and the non-teaching teams. Specifically, Juravinski Hospital has implemented a Hospitalist Program to decant non-acute in-patients to out-patient care. “This allows general internists to focus on the sickest patients, and provides the best quality of care in circumstances where we can’t rely on the support of residents to fill in care gaps,” explains Dr. Lumb.

In 2015, the Department of Medicine also helped to launch the new Community-based Internal Medicine Rapid Assess Clinic (C-IMRAC) at the new West 5th Campus, which is now seeing 25 to 30 patients weekly. “The clinic provides ‘urgent’ access directly from primary care to General Internal Medicine and an inter-professional team,” says Dr. Ingram, Chief of Medicine, St. Joseph’s Healthcare. "It reconnects the fragmented relationship that currently exists with family physicians and a complex patient care.”

Two new teams were recently added to yet another innovative patient-centered model of care—the Integrated Comprehensive Care (iC) project, which supports early discharges from C-IMRAC with adult-at-home support, adds Dr. Ingram. The Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease team is there to assist the most common patient type, and the Congestive Heart Failure team model has also been added to manage the second most common diagnosis category. "The pioneering model enables better communication, and a real continuity of care that’s resulting in better outcomes for patients," says Dr. Ingram. Indeed, it’s a patient-first focus to help address the changing emphasis on wellness of individuals that’s behind such innovative, gold-standard models of care.

"At any one time, there are 14 specialists, plus 20 to 30 residents, to treat the 48,000 patients who visit annually,” — Dr. Akbar Panju

Patients who visit The Boris Clinic annually
a passion for knowledge

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

A dedication to advancing learning is why McMaster is ranked among the top medical universities in the world.

It’s hard to keep track of all the firsts McMaster University’s medical school has accomplished in the field of learning. Since its founding in 1966, it is credited with creating a shift worldwide in health care education by pioneering the “problem-based learning” curriculum, which emphasizes student-driven, small-group, case-based learning. It also developed an objective method for assessing knowledge gain in the “personal progress index”, which is now commonly used around the world.

And, of course, its faculty developed and coined the term “evidence-based medicine” to capture its highly innovative approach to clinical problem solving.

Today, its innovative educators are making yet more progressive strides in educating physicians. And this was acknowledged by high praise in three areas from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons program accreditation progress report, including having a dynamic and engaged program director, a robust academic curriculum, and highly functional clinical teaching units (CTUs). “Our accomplishments are rooted in a culture of pursuing excellence that puts learners first within a patient-centered perspective,” says Dr. Haider, Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program. “This encourages proactive thinking and strategies that are responsive to fast-changing, complex health care needs and ongoing fiscal restraints.”

This year, Dr. Haider’s leadership was also recognized by a nomination for the Royal College Program Director of the Year award. Specific accolades cited include encouraging faculty to pioneer a new resident reduced-working-hour model, which reduces impacts of fatigue, and preserves sub-specialty training as well as time for residents to pursue research interests. In addition, Dr. Haider and Dr. Mohamed Panju, Assistant Professor, were recognized for developing a novel curriculum for the first-of-its-kind outpatient general internal medicine CTU in Canada at The Boris Clinic.

The CTU learner environment at The Boris Clinic is not only ambulatory; to help train residents to work in the health care model of the future as more patients are treated on an outpatient basis, but it is also heavily integrated with Family Medicine residents. “We’re teaching about how to manage practice in an ambulatory setting for complex medical patients with the goal of ensuring a continuity of care from specialists to family doctor,” explains Dr. Panju. “We do see this being the model of the future and our hope is that we are developing physicians who will be ambassadors for change.”

The Royal College accreditors also noted the General Internal Medicine Academic Curriculum Subcommittee as being a highly functional evaluation tool that regularly assesses speakers and lectures, provides feedback and encourages real-time improvements. Finally, praise was awarded for its breadth and depth of the three Clinical Teaching Units (St. Joseph’s Hospital, Juravinski Hospital, and Hamilton General Hospital).

Given the success of the Internal Medicine program, it’s no wonder that the department has had to turn away students applying for its elective. However, thanks to a massive administrative effort across three teaching hospitals, the department restructured its elective and increased it to 174 from 94. “It’s huge kudos to the department. That’s a 75 percent increase in students doing electives on the internal medicine award,” says Dr. Jill Rudkowski, Faculty Clerkship Director. “They’re coming into the CTU not doing the rotation they must do, but the rotation they want to do and gaining great exposure.”

To ensure faculty build on their educator skills, Dr. Parveen Wasi, Director of Faculty Development, has been building a Faculty Development Program that includes mandatory workshops on the main and distributive campuses in areas such as clinical scholarship and direct observation and feedback, to name but a few. “Many faculty have a graduate degree but that training may not focus on making them better teachers,” explains Dr. Ameen Patel, Associate Chair, Education. “No matter where they are in their career, we provide workshops to improve on their ability to be a better doctor and a better teacher.”

Dr. Haider adds that one of the best signs that the program fosters a culture of life-long learning and future physicians who strive for evidence-based excellence in care was the Royal College’s 2015 Kirstin Sivenz Resident Leadership Award being award to third-year Internal Medicine resident Hassan Mir. “Hassan was exceptionally engaged. And I like to think our program, being highly resident-centered, from design to implementation to assessment, can take some of the credit.”

... committed to ensuring that our training programs remain amongst the most sought after in Canada.”

— Dr. Paul O’Byrne

Percent increase in students doing electives on the internal medicine award

75%
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Capacity-building, community service and mentorship are behind McMaster’s ever-evolving international outreach initiatives

If we learn by practice, as Aristotle noted, then we learn even better by practicing in a variety of diverse environments. McMaster’s Core Internal Medicine Program is already a benchmark for others to follow in terms of inspiring a desire for lifelong learning among its residents, essential to the pursuit of evidence-based care throughout a career.

It only makes sense then that it’s growing a best-in-class global health program that includes international teaching and clinical outreach, a popular postgraduate Global Health curriculum, an annual Global Health Retreat, and the creation of sustainable long-term, longitudinal research programs. The goal is to give its residents, as well as international residents, the exposure they need to build superior capacity while at the same time, acting as a model of community service.

At the heart of these efforts are a team of faculty dedicated to mentorship in this burgeoning field of health. Dr. Ally Prebtani founded the International Health Program in Internal Medicine 12 years ago. Since then, Medicine residents have been traveling to Uganda for one month to gain unparalleled learning in international health at Makerere University, while also exchanging their own medical knowledge through formal and informal teaching, beside teaching and supervision of interns.

Building on that in a highly responsive manner, faculty, including Department of Medicine Chair, Dr. Paul O’Byrne, recently launched a new component of the program to meet an acute Uganda need: sub-specialty training. The brand new Fellowship Exchange Program was a massive project that required united assistance across various departments, and it paid off. Just this year, the Department brought over five Uganda residents to receive much-needed subspecialty training in areas such as hematology, respirology and geriatric medicine. “The training they get in Canada will be of invaluable help to them in implementing and improving education and clinical care in Uganda,” says Dr. Prebtani.

“It’s an example of the commitment of McMaster to international outreach,” adds long-time global health contributor Dr. Tim O’Shea, Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases. “Subspecialty training was something that was asked for by our colleagues in Uganda and we were able to respond with a very elegant program. It also reflects a degree of maturity in Uganda. Their general internist training program reflects a degree of maturity in Uganda. McMaster has been helping the first year internal medicine program director with resident teaching, curriculum development and supervision of interns. One example of this is Dr. Christian Kraeker’s work overseeing the development of an internal medicine curriculum in South Africa. “He’s starting at the ground level, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to define the core subject areas and evaluating what should be done so that residents will graduate confident and competent providers of internal medicine services.”

In Guyana, South America, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Dr. Zahira Kahid, has been helping the first year internal medicine program director with resident teaching, curriculum development and patient care. “McMaster gave me my first exposure to global health with the Uganda exchange,” says Dr. Kahid. “It helped me develop connections, and over the last eight years I’ve had great mentors from the Department.” She says they’ve inspired her to give back locally, as well, for the past five years with the Shelter Health Network, which provides primary care for high-risk populations who do not have housing and who have complex health problems.

“These opportunities give me so much learning. They create challenges that force me to be innovative in providing health care in an unusual setting, to think outside the box, and to recognize that one size does not fit all.” Of course, the contributions also ensure the Department’s global outreach providers impact the accesses and quality of care in communities in dire need—the most important global connection of all.
The mandate of the Associate Chair, Research is to promote and facilitate research within the Department. To meet this mandate, the Associate Chair has focused on the following activities: (1) ensuring the success of junior faculty involved in research activities, (2) updating the scoring system that was implemented to quantify research output of faculty for purposes of remuneration and promotion and tenure, (3) ensuring that adequate departmental resources are earmarked for research, and (4) coordinating internal peer review of tri-council grant submissions.

The Associate Chair, Research meets with all new recruits and provides feedback to the Department Chair regarding their research potential. Those selected for faculty appointments in the research stream meet with the Associate Chair on a regular basis for mentorship and advice regarding grant applications, funding and career planning. The Associate Chair also provides advice to department members regarding new funding opportunities and research strategies.

The Associate Chair, Research serves as a member of the Departmental Executive, Research Executive, Promotion and Tenure, Finance, and Alternate Funding Plan Committees. The role of the Associate Chair on these committees is to advise and advocate for research.

The Department of Medicine offers Internal Career Awards for new faculty members. These awards have tenure for up to three years and are granted on a competitive basis. Awards are available for both research and education and are aimed at fostering the next generation of researchers and educators. Funding from this source can be used to offset clinical expenses, thereby increasing protected time for research. The Associate Chair, Research is a member of the committee that reviews and prioritizes the application for Internal Career Awards.

The Department of Medicine continues to be a major contributor to the research productivity of McMaster University. The amount of research funding for 2014-15 was just over $38 million. The majority of this funding came from peer-reviewed sources. In fact, 39% was from tri-council, 12% from national Centres of Excellence, 4% from the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada and 7% from other disease-specific funding agencies. Members of the Department of Medicine also received a considerable amount of funding from industry. These funds are mainly administered through the hospitals. The research accomplishments of the department are particularly noteworthy given the increasing emphasis on clinical productivity and the competitive nature of the grant review process.

"... researchers in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and its academic hospital partners, oversee $240 million in research funding a year, placing McMaster among the top four universities in Canada for biomedical and health research."

— Dr. Patrick Deane

Dr. Jeffrey I. Weitz
MD, FRCP(C), FACP, FCCP
Associate Chair, Research
Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Medical Sciences, McMaster University
Director, Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute
HSFU, Fraser Mustard Chair in Cardiovascular Research
Canada Research Chair in Thrombosis (Tier 1)

"Our groundbreaking studies make international headlines"
— Dr. Patrick Deane
The Department of Medicine has 16 Royal College accredited postgraduate training programs. This includes a program in Internal Medicine (core training) along with 15 subspecialty residency training programs. In addition, several divisions provide structured fellowship training or diploma training in an area of focused competence. During the 2014-2015 academic year, all Royal College approved postgraduate training programs underwent accreditation; an exercise that ensures the ability of these programs to provide residents with the knowledge and expertise necessary for specialty practice. The accreditation process is rigorous and requires extensive documentation by Program Directors and administrative assistants. The Department of Medicine has an excellent track record for approval of postgraduate training programs and this past review continued this tradition with recognition of excellence of our training programs by the Royal College. All of our postgraduate training programs received approval including the General Internal Medicine and Endocrinology and Metabolism Training Programs which were successful in their first full Royal College accreditation. Congratulations to all Program Directors with special mention to Drs. Haider (core Internal Medicine), Gangji (Nephrology and Chair of the Subspecialty Program Directors Committee), Hanmiah (General Internal Medicine) and Prebtani (Endocrinology). The success of our postgraduate training programs is the result of the hard work and dedication of the individual Program Directors, program administrative teams, and of the support provided by the Chair and Division Directors. The longstanding success of our training programs is vital to the success of the department and to the recruitment of elite trainees. Our training programs afford the department the ability to work for extended periods with outstanding trainees who are important for the ongoing success of the department’s recruitment ambitions.

The 2014-2015 academic year continued the department’s history of successful promotion of eligible candidates. There were eight members successfully promoted to Associate Professor with CAWAR and four members promoted to full Professor. One part-time faculty was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor.

The Department of Medicine Education Academic Contribution forms underwent review by the Departments Education Database Committee with the newest iteration featuring updates to the face sheet, glossary and role descriptions, core principals and the assigned value for all roles. The changes introduced last year were well received and the forms will continue to undergo annual review with modifications based on feedback. There will be changes introduced for the calendar year 2015 that include increasing the minimum number of education hours and dates for distribution and return of the forms for review and submission by Division Directors. There has been excellent acceptance of the forms and all questions on roles and their values were resolved without need for involvement of the Ombuds Committee. I would like to thank Mr. Graeme Matheson for his ongoing administrative leadership and to the Education Database Committee (Drs. O’Byrne, Wasi, Marr, Allaby and St. Onge) for their expertise and review of many of the education roles over the past year.

The top education contributors based on the AFP form from each Division were: Dr. Philip Devereaux (Cardiology), Dr. Susan Waserman (Clinical Immunology), Dr. Anne Holbrook (Clinical Pharmacology), Dr. Andreas Freitag (Critical Care), Dr. Hermanio Lima (Dermatology), Dr. Jonathan Sherburn (Emergency Medicine), Dr. Aly Prebtani (Endocrinology), Dr. Marco Puglia (Gastroenterology), Dr. Sharon Marr (Geriatrics), Dr. Ameen Patel (General Internal Medicine), Dr. Parveen Wasi (Hematology), Dr. Shariq Haider (Infectious Disease), Dr. Azim Gangji (Nephrology), Dr.
Demetrios Sahlas (Neurology), Dr. Christopher Marriott (Nuclear Medicine), Dr. Sharon Grad (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation), Dr. Martin Kobl (Respirology) and Dr. Nader Khalidi (Rheumatology). The past academic year saw significant progress towards resolution of compensation for teaching done by Department of Medicine members in other departments and avoidance of duplicate payments to members who hold cross appointments in other departments with AFPs.

The recipients of the Department of Medicine Teaching Awards were: Dr. Azim Gangji (Postgraduate Internal Medicine), Dr. Aly Prebani (Postgraduate Internal Medicine), Dr. Tricia Voo (Undergraduate MD Program) and Dr. Peter Margetts (Graduate Studies). There was strong competition for Department of Medicine Career Awards. The winners were: Dr. Kim Legault (Medicine Internal Career Award), Dr. Isaac Nazli (Medicine Internal Career Award), Dr. Barry Leong (E.J. Moran Campbell AFP Internal Career Research Award), Dr. Matt Sibbald (W. Watson Buchanan AFP Clinician Educator Award), Dr. Waled Alhazzani (AFP Internal Career Research Award) and Dr. Craig Ainsworth (AFP Clinician Educator Award). This is an area, together with faculty development, that the Department has prioritized. Dr. Matthew Sibbald, Division of Cardiology, was recruited as a Clinician Educator who, together with Dr. Kelly Dore, brings education research experience to the department. Dr. Sibbald is the new Director of the Simulation Lab and, working with the already established Simulation Research Committee, aims to increase simulation research and publication productivity. Drs. Dore and Sibbald hold cross appointments in the Program for Educational Research and Development. Dr. Dore is the Director of the Masters of Health Sciences Education Program with expertise in assessment/evaluation, measures of admission, the process of clinical handover and psychological factors relevant to clinical decision making. Dr. Wasi, the Director of Faculty Development for the Department of Medicine, continues to build the Department of Medicine specific faculty development workshops at both the central and distributed campuses. The Clinician Educator Workshop is now well established and is jointly delivered by the Program for Faculty Development and the clinical departments. Faculty development workshops over the past academic year included: “Scholarship and Innovation in Medical Education” (Dr. Mark Goldszmidt), “Scholarship and Innovation in Medical Education” (Dr. Mark Goldszmidt, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry), “Direct Observation and Feedback” (Drs. Parveen Wasi, Sharon Marr and Ameen Patel), “The Learner in Difficulty” (Dr. Shirley Lee, University of Toronto), “How to Write Meaningful Comments on In-Training Evaluation Reports” (Drs. Azim Gangji and Ameen Patel), “How to use the RIME Model” (Dr. Sharon Marr) and “Teaching in the Ambulatory Care Setting” (Drs. Sharq Haider, Mohamed Panju and Zahira Khalid).

In my role as Associate Chair, I met with all potential recruits to review education opportunities and to review reappointment and promotion expectations. Following recruitment, I have a second meeting with all recruits who are new to McMaster within the first six months of their start date to ensure they have successfully mapped out their educational activities and to assist with any questions. In both the first and the second meetings, there is detailed discussion on how educational contributions are entered onto MacFACTS CV, the importance of maintaining dossiers and updating their MacFACTS CV, and the requirements for demonstrating effectiveness as a teacher through evaluations. For the 2014-2015 academic year, all postgraduate education activities within the Department of Medicine were entered onto MacFACTS CV by Ms. Melissa Robinson. There has been discussion with Dr. Azim Gangji, Chair of the Subspecialty Program Directors Committee; Mr. Graeme Matheson; Ms. Annette Rosati and myself on facilitating and ensuring that we capture all of our activities more accurately. To this end, the department will be looking to develop a new role and recruit an individual who will be responsible for further enhancing our ability to capture and enter postgraduate education activities into MacFACTS. This initiative has been led by Dr. Azim Gangji and Mr. Graeme Matheson and is in line with one of the department’s goals of capturing education activities at their source using education scheduling rather than having individuals report their activities. Cathy Stampfl, Department Academic Coordinator, and Sharon Hendershot, my assistant, continued to provide extraordinary support for candidates in preparation of their documentation for both reappointment and promotion.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the department continued its staunch record of teaching within the Faculty of Health Sciences: 89,972.07 total weighted hours of teaching by department members in the Faculty of Health Sciences. This included 30,522.68 weighted hours of teaching in the Undergraduate Medical Program, 14,753.11 weighted hours in the Undergraduate Medical Clerkship Program, 1,109.00 weighted hours in the Physician Assistant Education Program, 1,957.39 weighted hours in the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program, 2,486.00 weighted hours in Continuing Education, 1,538.69 weighted hours in Biochemistry (Undergraduate), 851.25 weighted hours in Biochemistry (Graduate) and 521.00 weighted hours in Faculty Development. This does not include contributions by members of other departments/faculties.

My sincerest thanks to Dr. O’Byrne, Division and Program Directors and their administrative assistants, undergraduate and postgraduate education leaders and all the full-time and part-time members of the department for their ongoing dedication and commitment to education at all levels within the Faculty of Health Sciences.
I am delighted to overview developments and accomplishments in our Residency Training Program for 2014-2015. The year was marked once again by a highly successful CARSME PGY-1 match, a strong testament to the strength of our Faculty and Institutions at McMaster University.

Our Residency Program takes pride in offering an academic environment that fosters development of future leaders and encourages residents in our training program to aspire to leadership roles. Dr. Hasan Mir, a PGY-3 in Internal Medicine, has enhanced the visibility of the American College of Physicians (ACP) Chapter for Ontario amongst all Internal Medicine Residents in his capacity as the resident representative on the executive council. He was awarded the 2015 ACP Chapter Excellence Award for his advocacy for residency education. His leadership had led to a growth in both quantity and quality of abstracts submitted to the ACP Ontario Chapter meeting, with the top abstract being selected from our training program to be presented at the National ACP meeting in Boston. Dr. Hasan Mir has also been selected as a recipient for the prestigious Kristin Sivertz Resident Leadership Award from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada 2015.

Our residency program continues to support scholarly output with a well-structured Resident Research Program under the leadership of our Resident Research Director, Dr. Donnie Arnold, and supported in this role by our Deputy Research Director, Dr. Christine Ribic. A recent publication in the Canadian Journal of Internal Medicine (2015) titled Scholarly Output Among Internal Medicine Residents in Canada, co-authored by Dr. Kashia Jerzak, a graduate of our Internal Medicine Residency Program, and Drs. Haider and Arnold was a survey of scholarly output in Internal Medicine Residency Programs. This study affirmed that our residency program leads the country in scholarly output largely due to excellent resources for resident research (dedicated research curriculum, dedicated mentors, statistical support, protected time and dedicated funding including resident grant competitions).

Dr. Meera Luthra joined our residency training program as our new Director of Assessments. Since her appointment, she has been an invaluable addition having helped develop a formal remediation contract, and working with our postgraduate department in developing a new policy on assessments and remediation.

Our residency program has been a leader in establishing a reduced resident working hour model; we have developed a night float call system for senior residents that in its second iteration has been universally accepted as a very positive development in residency education. PARO has recognized our leadership in this area and identified our model as a platform for other residency programs considering a reduced working hour model of call.

New challenges that we face in residency education have included rising patient volumes and its impact on residency education. I am grateful for the level of engagement at both the Hospital and Department of Medicine to provide models to support rising volumes with non-teaching teams and a developing hospitalist model. Our next greatest challenge will be the shift to a competency-based CANMEDS curriculum. This will be a substantive shift in our delivery of education, assessments and accreditation process. I will be counting on the support of leaders in the Department of Medicine and our amazing Faculty as we implement pilot initiatives toward competency training over the next two years.

I remain excited about the future of residency education at McMaster University, and feel confident that we are delivering a quality educational experience validated by our recent Royal College External Review, where the program received a full approval by the onsite reviewer in April 2015. I wish to thank Jan Taylor, Susie Serra, Christine Knight, and Sharlene Honoizer, our wonderful administrative staff, who were instrumental in the accreditation success. A small testament for our program was my recent nomination for the RCPSC Program Director of the year for 2015. I wish to thank our residents and Dr. Paul O’Byrne for the honor of this nomination.

The success of our residency training program is only possible with the support of our dynamic faculty within the Department of Medicine, I remain grateful for your engagement and commitment to developing the next generation of internists in Canada.

A small testament for our program was my recent nomination for the RCPSC Program Director of the year for 2015. I wish to thank our residents and Dr. Paul O’Byrne for the honor of this nomination.

The success of our residency training program is only possible with the support of our dynamic faculty within the Department of Medicine, I remain grateful for your engagement and commitment to developing the next generation of internists in Canada.

I am delighted to overview developments and accomplishments in our Residency Training Program for 2014-2015. The year was marked once again by a highly successful CARSME PGY-1 match, a strong testament to the strength of our Faculty and Institutions at McMaster University.

Our Residency Program takes pride in offering an academic environment that fosters development of future leaders and encourages residents in our training program to aspire to leadership roles. Dr. Hasan Mir, a PGY-3 in Internal Medicine, has enhanced the visibility of the American College of Physicians (ACP) Chapter for Ontario amongst all Internal Medicine Residents in his capacity as the resident representative on the executive council. He was awarded the 2015 ACP Chapter Excellence Award for his advocacy for residency education. His leadership had led to a growth in both quantity and quality of abstracts submitted to the ACP Ontario Chapter meeting, with the top abstract being selected from our training program to be presented at the National ACP meeting in Boston. Dr. Hasan Mir has also been selected as a recipient for the prestigious Kristin Sivertz Resident Leadership Award from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada 2015.

Our residency program continues to support scholarly output with a well-structured Resident Research Program under the leadership of our Resident Research Director, Dr. Donnie Arnold, and supported in this role by our Deputy Research Director, Dr. Christine Ribic. A recent publication in the Canadian Journal of Internal Medicine (2015) titled Scholarly Output Among Internal Medicine Residents in Canada, co-authored by Dr. Kashia Jerzak, a graduate of our Internal Medicine Residency Program, and Drs. Haider and Arnold was a survey of scholarly output in Internal Medicine Residency Programs. This study affirmed that our residency program leads the country in scholarly output largely due to excellent resources for resident research (dedicated research curriculum, dedicated mentors, statistical support, protected time and dedicated funding including resident grant competitions).

Dr. Meera Luthra joined our residency training program as our new Director of Assessments. Since her appointment, she has been an invaluable addition having helped develop a formal remediation contract, and working with our postgraduate department in developing a new policy on assessments and remediation.

Our residency program has been a leader in establishing a reduced resident working hour model; we have developed a night float call system for senior residents that in its second iteration has been universally accepted as a very positive development in residency education. PARO has recognized our leadership in this area and identified our model as a platform for other residency programs considering a reduced working hour model of call.

New challenges that we face in residency education have included rising patient volumes and its impact on residency education. I am grateful for the level of engagement at both the Hospital and Department of Medicine to provide models to support rising volumes with non-teaching teams and a developing hospitalist model. Our next greatest challenge will be the shift to a competency-based CANMEDS curriculum. This will be a substantive shift in our delivery of education, assessments and accreditation process. I will be counting on the support of leaders in the Department of Medicine and our amazing Faculty as we implement pilot initiatives toward competency training over the next two years.

I remain excited about the future of residency education at McMaster University, and feel confident that we are delivering a quality educational experience validated by our recent Royal College External Review, where the program received a full approval by the onsite reviewer in April 2015. I wish to thank Jan Taylor, Susie Serra, Christine Knight, and Sharlene Honoizer, our wonderful administrative staff, who were instrumental in the accreditation success. A small testament for our program was my recent nomination for the RCPSC Program Director of the year for 2015. I wish to thank our residents and Dr. Paul O’Byrne for the honor of this nomination.

The success of our residency training program is only possible with the support of our dynamic faculty within the Department of Medicine, I remain grateful for your engagement and commitment to developing the next generation of internists in Canada.

A small testament for our program was my recent nomination for the RCPSC Program Director of the year for 2015. I wish to thank our residents and Dr. Paul O’Byrne for the honor of this nomination.

The success of our residency training program is only possible with the support of our dynamic faculty within the Department of Medicine, I remain grateful for your engagement and commitment to developing the next generation of internists in Canada.

A small testament for our program was my recent nomination for the RCPSC Program Director of the year for 2015. I wish to thank our residents and Dr. Paul O’Byrne for the honor of this nomination.

The success of our residency training program is only possible with the support of our dynamic faculty within the Department of Medicine, I remain grateful for your engagement and commitment to developing the next generation of internists in Canada.

A small testament for our program was my recent nomination for the RCPSC Program Director of the year for 2015. I wish to thank our residents and Dr. Paul O’Byrne for the honor of this nomination.
The Department of Medicine has exceptional involvement from its faculty in all areas of Undergraduate Medical Education. The Internal Medicine and Medical Subspecialty Selectives Clerkship programs had a successful year in 2014-2015. The Medicine Clerkship Program is mandatory for all McMaster medical students and consists of a 6-week “core” rotation and a 2-week Medical Subspecialty Selective (MSS) rotation. The Department of Medicine faculty within the Hamilton, Niagara, and Waterloo campuses work in close collaboration to ensure that our program provides excellence in clinical education to our medical students. The dedication, leadership and pursuit of teaching excellence by our faculty and their support staff are the key components to the program’s ongoing success.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Two hundred and six McMaster medical students in the Class of 2015 completed their Internal Medicine and MSS Clerkship rotations at all three campus sites. The Class of 2018 started this Fall with a total of 149 students based in Hamilton and 28 students based at each of the Waterloo and Niagara campuses. Our programs work cooperatively to ensure an equitable and challenging training program at all sites.

An accreditation survey team reviewed the medical school in May 2015 on 132 standards in 5 domains (Institution, Program, Students, Faculty, Resources). The team identified 10 standards of concern. This was a very good result! The survey team’s report is expected to be reviewed by CACMS (Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools) in September and a final decision will be made on all 132 standards. This outcome will then be sent to the American version of CACMS (Canadian medical schools are jointly accredited in Canada and the United States). We expect to receive the final outcome in October.

... campuses work in close collaboration to ensure that our program provides excellence in clinical education to our medical students.”

— Dr. Jill Rudkowski

Dr. Jill Rudkowski
BSc, MD, FRCPC
Undergraduate Director

The Niagara and Waterloo regional campuses celebrated the graduation of the class of 2015. Drs. Eli Rabin and Mary Jackson, Regional Education Leaders (REL) for Internal Medicine, continue to contribute a wealth of experience and dedication to ensure the success of our Medicine Clerkship Programs in the Niagara and Waterloo Regional Campuses. Dr. Eli Rabin completed his term in NRC and we are grateful to him for his dedication to the students and the program through the years. Dr. Andrea Delrue has taken over as IM REL in NRC and we welcome her. Dr. Nicole Didyk has moved into a Postgraduate leadership role and she is commended for her contributions to the MSS program in helping to provide diverse Selectives opportunities. Dr. Theresa Liu is welcomed as the new MSS REL in WRC. Dr. Raji Sethuraman replaced Dr. Jaffer Syed for the NRC team as the Clinical Education Coordinator joining Dr. Val Mueter in WRC. We thank them for their ongoing support of the IM and MSS programs. Each of the regional campuses continues to recruit enthusiastic new faculty who contribute to the solid clinical teaching provided in the Medicine rotations. Both campuses are moving to Clinical Teaching Units reflecting state of the art Internal Medicine teaching and practice starting in July 2015.

Within the Hamilton campus, the students participate in their core rotations on the Clinical Teaching Units (CTUs) at the Hamilton General Hospital (HGH), the Juravinski Hospital (JH) and St. Joseph’s Hospital (SJH). The Site Coordinators: Drs. Juan Guzman (HGH), Christian Kraeker (JH) and Zara Khalid (SJH) continue to collaborate with local faculty and students on a day-to-day basis. The CTUs continue to provide an excellent and innovative teaching environment for the clerks. This is due to the support from the CTU directors: Drs. Marianne Talman, Ameen Patel, and Raj Hamiah, as well as their administrative assistants. The Chief Medical Residents and Dr. Shariq Haider, Internal Medicine Residency Program Director, are invaluable in their support of the Internal Medicine Clerkship program in Hamilton.
The Internal Medicine and MSS Clerkships at all campuses continue to provide a framework for educational innovation. Both committees have been fortunate to engage Internal Medicine and Subspecialty Medicine resident representatives on their committees who both recognize and enhance the role of residents in the IM core and subspecialty fellowship programs and MSS clerkships.

Dr. Azim Gangji, as the MSS Director, has continued to work with the MSS committee and REls of each campus to standardize and innovate within the MSS curriculum. Drs. George Zimakas and Theresa Liu, REls for NRC and WRC respectively, and the MSS committee have devoted a great deal of time and energy in standardizing the curriculum across the three campuses and in developing a summative assessment tool that can be utilized across the broad medical specialties. A new MSS manual has also been developed, alongside an updated medportal website. The MSS Coordinators at the Hamilton campus (listed below) have devoted an enormous amount of time and effort in ensuring an excellent educational experience is provided for all clinical clerks. Drs. Syam Divakaranmenon (Cardiology), Peter Kraus (Critical Care), Marco Pugila (Gastroenterology), Tricia Woo (Geriatrics), Kylie Lepic (Hematology), Christine Ribic (Nephrology), Louise Bordleau (Medical Oncology), and Maggie Larché (Rheumatology) have all been instrumental in ensuring broad clinical exposures for students in their MSS rotations. These significant achievements contributed to the MSS rotation completing its first accreditation in the spring of 2015 with the final report pending. The MSS team would like to acknowledge the contributions by the Medical Subspecialty faculty, residents, and fellows across all campuses for dedicating their time and knowledge in educating our future physicians.

AWARDS

The Medicine Clerkship Program has been privileged to offer a number of awards to students and faculty since 2011. One medical student from each of the five training sites has been chosen to receive the “Dr. Paul O’Byrne Award for Outstanding Clinical and Academic Achievement”. The Medicine Selective Subspecialty Program awards one student from each campus the “Dr. Alan Neville Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance”. Dr. O’Byrne’s and Dr. Neville’s dedication, enthusiasm, and passion for medical education and its learners has inspired and supported many students to specialize in this field and has helped to strengthen our Medicine Clerkship Program. We are grateful to Drs. Fred Bianchi, Irene Turpie, and David Russell for their generosity in sponsoring individual awards for the Rheumatology, Geriatrics, and Nephrology selectives respectively. Nominees for all of these awards are recognized for their outstanding performance by having their names posted on the medportal IM and MSS clerkship websites. The awards are presented at the annual awards dinner every spring. At this year’s dinner, we were honoured to have as guests, Drs. Paul O’Byrne, Rob Whyte, Irene Turpie, Alan Neville, Raja Bobba, David Russell, and Jaffer Syed to help present our awards. We were also honoured to have Dr. Holder provide a keynote address and introduced the inaugural Dr. Doug Holder Academic Achievement Award for MSS in Cardiology. Faculty from the Department of Medicine were recognized for their excellence in teaching during our medicine clerkship rotations.

PROGRAM UPDATES

The Internal Medicine and MSS Clerkship Programs have been collecting data on the clinical clerks’ clinical experiences, rotation specifics, and professional competencies since 2009. The data collected has been invaluable, as all medical school campuses must ensure that the patient clinical experiences are comparable between teaching sites and meet the program’s learning objectives. Data collected continue to show that the students have comparable clinical experiences across all rotation sites in all three campuses. The IM and MSS programs continue to make improvements and changes in the rotations based on valuable feedback from the students. The Internal Medicine Clerkship Committees, with representation from Faculty within the regional and Hamilton campuses from the core and MSS programs, second and third year classes, IM residents, and administrative staff, continues to be an integral part of our program. The committees hosted their combined annual retreat and faculty development session in December 2014. This meeting serves both as an annual review of the core and MSS programs and a chance for the committee members to enhance their professional skills. Dr. Alynn Walsh presented a faculty development session on “Optimizing the Learning Environment” which was well received by all attendees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Internal Medicine Clerkship Program and the medical students, I would like to express my deepest thanks to the following people and groups without whom these programs would not be possible: Dr. Azim Gangji and Joyce Munga, MSS Director and MSS program administrator; Ms. Tina Laporte, the Medicine Clerkship administrative program coordinator; the Medicine and MSS Clerkship Committee members; the REls, site coordinators, MSS coordinators, and their assistants; Dr. Paul O’Byrne; Ms. Annette Rosati; the Department of Medicine division heads, their faculty and assistants; Dr. Ameen Patel, Associate Chair, Education; Dr. Barry Lumb, Physician-in-Chief, Department of Medicine; Dr. David Russell, Chief, Department of Medicine; the CTU Directors and their assistants; Dr. Paul O’Byrne, Chief, Department of Medicine; the CTU Directors and their assistants; Dr. Rob Whyte, Val Mueller, Karl Stobbe, Cathy Morris, and Jaffer Syed; Ms. Cathy Gushoshum, Mr. Chris Henderson, Ms. Tami Everding, and the Undergraduate MD office; Dr. Shaqir Heider, Ms. Jan Taylor; the Hamilton Medicine Residency Program, its residents and administrative staff. It is due to the generous support and commitment to teaching excellence that our Medicine Clerkship Programs continue to grow and maintain their high academic standard.

Finally, a thank you to the patients and their families as their generosity and patience is the key to successful learning for all of our students.

DR. PAUL O’BYRNE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

For the Class of 2015 “Dr. Paul O’Byrne Award for Academic Achievement” during the Internal Medicine core clerkship rotation was awarded to the following students:

Hamilton Campus - Sites
HGH – Chris Young
JH – Casey Park
SJH – William Fung
Waterloo Regional Campus
Alyssa Canarutti
Niagara Regional Campus
Vastal Trivedi

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Hamilton Campus
Internal Medicine
HGH – Dr. Will Harper
JH – Dr. Akbar Panju
SJH – Dr. Raj Hannah
MSS – Dr. Peter Kraus
Waterloo Regional Campus
Internal Medicine
Dr. Mary Jackson
Niagara Regional Campus
Internal Medicine
Dr. Eli Rabin
MSS – Dr. Jennifer Tsang

DR. ALAN NEVILLE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The MSS clerkship rotation awards were given to the following students:

Hamilton Campus – Amrit Rai
Waterloo Regional Campus – Liam Jackson
Niagara Regional Campus – Miona Milutinov
Geriatric Medicine, Dr. Irene Turpie Award – Stephanie Kwok
Rheumatology, Dr. Fred Bianchi Award – Anne Lialis
Nephrology, Dr. David Russell Award – Lakshan Vasanathamohan
Cardiology, Dr. Doug Holder Award – Abid Ismail

“The dedication, leadership and pursuit of teaching excellence by our faculty and their support staff are the key components to the program’s ongoing success.”
— Dr. Jill Rudkowski
The 2014-15 academic year proved to be successful and challenging for the Department of Medicine. As Director of Administration for the Department of Medicine, I have the privilege of working with many exceptional faculty and staff. In fact, there was a dramatic increase of new faculty recruits during this year which has led to an increase in the number of staff to provide support. These dedicated and talented individuals span across all hospital sites including Hamilton Health Sciences (McMaster University Medical Centre, Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, and the Hamilton General Hospital) and St. Joseph’s Healthcare, Hamilton. The department continued to maintain a healthy financial position in 2014-15 and was able to continue to support important educational initiatives. Faculty development is also a key priority in the department as we identify talented faculty to be mentored for leadership positions within the department. Our Council of Medicine held another leadership retreat in January 2015 at the Pillar & Post, Niagara-on-the-Lake. The retreat enables our division directors and the department’s other leadership to liaise in a non-working environment and hopefully learn important leadership and management information along the way.

The university continues to be committed to developing its management teams and provide the tools in order that managers can be effective and successful during these challenging times of adapting to technological changes. The DeGroote School of Business has developed an advanced executive management program and an executive management program. These courses are developed to further the management skills of our executive team and provide the tools in order that managers can be effective and successful during these challenging times of adapting to technological changes.

Many strategic decisions are made by the core leadership group within the academic Department of Medicine. This cohesiveness and collegial executive team consists of Dr. Paul O’Byrne (Chair), Dr. Barry Lumb (Physician-in-Chief, Hamilton Health Sciences), Dr. David Russell (Chief of Medicine, St. Joseph’s Healthcare, Hamilton), Dr. Akbar Panju (Associate Chair, Clinical), Dr. Jeff Weitz (Associate Chair, Research) and Dr. Ameen Patel (Associate Chair, Education). This group continues to provide invaluable insight related to the challenges in clinical service, research and education. Departmental leadership is instrumental in sustaining the academic mission of the department.

The 2014-15 academic year saw the opening of a fully functional Boris Clinic. The objective for this new and innovative adult outpatient facility is to ensure a coordinated approach to patient care with linkages to other clinical programs. The General Internal Medicine Clinic and Diabetes Clinic opened first followed by the sub-specialty clinics and Medical Day Care. The Boris Clinic is an integral part of the education mission of the department and will certainly enhance the academic environment for learners.

The department continued to re-align administrative services during the past year. Changes were implemented for cost saving measures and to better streamline organizational structure to better serve our faculty, students and staff. Our dedicated team of site Business Managers continue to effectively manage issues as they emerge at the hospital sites. The team consists of Gail Laforme (Juravinski Hospital), Roberta Petitti (Hamilton General Hospital) and Zrinka DiVincenzo (St. Joseph’s Healthcare) and Leslie Steinberg (Medical Day Care). The Boris Clinic is an integral part of the education mission of the department and will certainly enhance the academic environment for learners.

The university continues to make essential and necessary changes to its finance, human resources and student services systems. The new Human Resources System in Mosaic, went live in October 2014. Faculty and staff had adjusted and are more comfortable with using the Mosaic financial system as well. To manage these changes effectively, it is imperative to have effective communication to keep faculty, students and staff informed of proposed changes implemented by the university. The Department of Medicine’s leadership and management teams are committed to support the university’s initiatives and to advocate the merits of change to our faculty, students and staff.
Over the last five years, I have been very fortunate to work with Dr. David Russell as the Chief of Medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital. David stepped down this year from his Chief position, and has retired. It has been an amazing pleasure to deal with David. David had a constant desire to always “do the right thing”, notwithstanding institutional barriers. This relationship has resulted in a number of very positive directions for the department based on the premise that we represent a citywide department with common academic and clinical goals.

Dr. Alistair Ingram has taken over as the Chief at St. Joseph’s Hospital and I am already convinced that this kind of relationship between the institutions and the Faculty of Health Sciences will continue.

As always, there is a long list of other individuals in the department to thank. In particular, it is always a pleasure to deal with Dr. Paul O’Byrne and Ms. Annette Rosati at the senior faculty level. There are many other individuals within the Department who continue to provide exceptional leadership. I would like to personally thank Dr. Martha Fulford, Chief of Medicine for MUMC site; and Dr. WH Harper, Chief of Medicine at the Hamilton General Site. Dr. Khalid Azzam has assumed an interim role as Chief at the Hamilton General, and has already been extremely helpful. A few other individuals who need special thanks include Drs. Akbar Panju, Ameen Patel, Shariq Haider and Marion Talman.

There have been three new Division Directors named effective July 1, 2015. These individuals are also taking on the Head of Service roles within HHS. It has been my pleasure to begin to work with Dr. P.J. Devereaux in Cardiology, Dr. Herminio Lima in Dermatology and Dr. Wes Oczkowski in Neurology.

The development in The Boris Clinic has continued this year. Construction is now complete and really has culminated in a truly exceptional physical space. Dr. Akbar Panju continues in his role as the Clinic Director, and is supported by Martha Fulford, Mohammed Panju and Karen Prine. We have successfully launched the General Internal Medicine Ambulatory CTU, the first of its kind in the country, and it has already been very favourably received by the residents and staff. This move to a very much more moving away from the inpatient domain to the ambulatory world. Clearly, we will continue to require expert internal medicine support of our inpatient units. As beds become increasingly pressured however, the greatest priority is admission avoidance, and strong ambulatory care is obviously one of the keys in this direction. Within the structure of The Boris Clinic, the EPIC ambulatory electronic medical record has been deployed, and is receiving positive feedback. As this expands throughout Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Hospital, the opportunities for enhanced care, and in particular communication between practitioners, will only grow.

The Department of Medicine, completed the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Accreditation of our Postgraduate Programs in April 2015. All of our programs were very positively rated and in particular, our CTUs were pointed out as a source of strength. Dr. Haider deserves special mention in this regard. As resident work hours and numbers continue to be pressured, there will be a need for continued careful support of the inpatient resident teaching opportunities. In response to these challenges, together with challenges in oncology and orthopedics, we have launched a Hospitalist Program at the Juravinski site. This is very much in its early days, but it has so far been quite successful in decanting sub acute care from our very busy GIM physicians. The relative contribution of Hospitalist versus general internal medicine in the day to day care of inpatients, will continue to evolve.

It is critical that our internists focus on the care of acutely ill patients on the wards while maintaining an exceptional teaching experience. Hamilton Health Sciences is in the process of completing a comprehensive review of the clinical services at all of our sites. This will culminate in the submission of a detailed master plan to the Ministry of Health. This review will touch on every aspect of our clinical services and physical plant operations. This will, of course, need to be done in conjunction with our other partners including St. Joseph’s Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine. The fiscal pressures on all hospitals in Ontario continues to be extremely challenging. The opportunities for easy reductions in day to day operating costs are long past. The current budget environment is extremely challenging, and requires careful input from physicians in order to preserve our research and teaching mandate as well as the quality of our clinical services. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new faculty which includes: Dr. Anjali Shroff, GIM; Dr. Kanjana Perera, Neurology; Dr. Suresh Menon, Neurology; Dr. Ahraaz Wyne, GIM; Dr. Mohammad Yaghoobi, GIM; and Dr. Taryn Simms in Respirology.

NEW DIVISION DIRECTORS
Dr. P.J. Devereaux, Cardiology
Dr. Herminio Lima, Dermatology
Dr. Wes Oczkowski, Neurology

NEW FACULTY
Dr. Anjali Shroff, GIM
Dr. Kanjana Perera, Neurology
Dr. Suresh Menon, Neurology
Dr. Ahraaz Wyne, GIM
Dr. Mohammad Yaghoobi, GIM
Dr. Taryn Simms, Respirology

“We have successfully launched the General Internal Medicine Ambulatory CTU, the first of its kind in the country...”
— Dr. Barry Lumb
It is a pleasure for me to present my first Annual Report as Chief of Medicine at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH). It should be recognized that the events I refer to here occurred during the tenure of my predecessor Dr. David Russell. During the past academic year, there have been a number of major changes in the department which directly enhance the hospital’s academic and clinical mission.

The successful Royal College Accreditation in April 2015 was a testament to the engagement of general internists in education despite a daunting clinical workload and to the focus of the leadership of the program, particularly Dr. Sharif Haider, on education. The maximum accreditation time period of six years was achieved by both the core Internal Medicine program (R1-R2) and, remarkably, the new 2-year GIM (R4-R5) training program headed by SJHH’s own Raj Hanmiah. Heartiest congratulations are clearly due to both.

During preparation for the accreditation, we internally flagged growth in both the number and acuteness of in-patients cared for by general internists as an issue warranting attention. The former approach of general internists working on both teaching and non-teaching teams was no longer sustainable from an academic or professional perspective. Thus, David Russell and Joe McMullin instituted a Hospitalist Program. Three hospitalists have been hired – Rebecca Dallman, Vivian Ho and Gemma Edwards. It is anticipated that a fourth will be hired shortly. The Hospitalist Program provides direct care of 25 to 30 patients. We are also approaching this problem from another angle by instituting a COPD team led by Respirology, particularly Dr. David Higgins and Dr. Ian Preyra for their invaluable guidance to me as I assume this new role, and Dr. Paul O’Byrne for advice and support. I look forward to a continuing close relationship with Dr. Barry Lumb, Chief of Medicine at HHS, in planning and recruiting faculty to maintain support for the three city-wide CTUs. Finally, I look forward to working with St. Joseph’s incoming Chief of Staff, Dr. Tom Stewart, as we seek to position the hospital to weather the challenging times ahead.

Several members of the department received awards last year. The Outstanding General Internal Medicine Clinical Teaching Award is given to a general internist at each of the three CTU sites and Dr. Joseph McMullin was selected for St. Joseph’s. Dr. Mitch Levine was given the Shali Award by St. Joseph’s. Dr. Mitch Levine was given the Shali Award by St. Joseph’s. Dr. Mitch Levine was given the Shali Award by St. Joseph’s. Dr. Mitch Levine was given the Shali Award by St. Joseph’s. I am particularly pleased to congratulate Param Nair in Respirology on his appointment to Full Professor. Well deserved to all!

In addition to Drs. Stewart and Gauldie, there will be a number of new appointments to academic and educational leadership positions for St. Joseph’s faculty or which will directly affect St. Joseph’s. Dr. Joe McMullin will step down as Head of Service of General Internal Medicine in July 2015 after you- man service in this role for a number of years. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Jenny Legasse who has agreed to step in an interim Head, and expect to name a permanent Head in this vital position by November. Dr. PJ Devereaux will be the new Academic Division Director of Cardiology and Dr. Wes Ockwold is the new Academic Head of Neurology. Dr. Susan Goodwin begins her term as new Head of Service of Neurology in the fall of 2015. I have become Chief of Medicine after the retirement of Dr. David Russell this summer.

I am pleased to welcome a number of new physicians to St. Joseph’s. New GFT appointments include Arthur Lai in Rheumatology, Jason Cheung in GIM, Daniel Brandt Vegas in GIM and Amber Molnar in Nephrology. New Clinical Scholars in respirology include Marina Lerner, Muntaar Saffie and Salman Chaudry. Joining the hospitalist program are Rebecca Dallman, Vivian Ho and Gemma Edwards. I am also pleased to report the academic promotion to Associate Professor of Raj Bobba, Raj Cormara and Mark Matos (all Rheumatology), Jill Rudikowski in Critical Care, Kevin Woodward in Infectious Diseases and Robert Yang in Nephrology. I am particularly pleased to congratulate Param Nair in Respirology on his appointment to Full Professor. Well deserved to all!

In the clinical realm, a new era of close collaboration with the Niagara Health System is in the offing. SJHH and Niagara Health System will soon share a common CEO, Dr. Kevin Smith, and a common Chief of Staff, Dr. Tom Stewart. Tom will assume his role at SJHH in October 2015. The area of closest initial collaboration is in the Kidney and Urinary realm, particularly dialysis, as we leverage SJHH clinical expertise to ensure both institutions meet or exceed Ontario Renal Network quality measures.

The Research Institute of SJHH comprises 130 investigators from four main research programs at St. Joseph’s: Kidney and Urinary Diseases, Respiratory Medicine and Thoracic Surgery, the Father Sean O’Sullivan Research group and Mental Health and Addictions. We are fortunate to have been able to attract Dr. Jack Gauldie, an internationally recognized researcher, to head this institute and take the role of VP research for the hospital. I would like to highlight two New England Journal of Medicine publications in the past year: Gail O’Guroe and Paul O’Byrne’s work on efforts to TLR-7L and antibody to allergen induced asthma and James Douketis’ practice - changing trial on perioperative bridging anticoagulation for patients with atrial fibrillation. Congratulations on such high-impact work.