

December 2018 – Issue #9

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DIVISION DIRECTOR'S COLUMN – Dr. Douglas Bradley

Renewal of the Strategic Plan for 2018-2023

In October of 2017, Respiriology underwent an external review. The reviewers recommended renewal of the Strategic Plan (SP) and expansion of our areas of excellence. In particular, they felt that serious consideration should be given to strengthening research in airways diseases. To this end, a 17 member SP Committee was struck. Following two initial meetings of this Committee, a SP retreat, to which all members of the Division were invited, was held on October 26, 2018. Forty-eight members attended.

The previous SP was a great success because it propelled the Division on a pathway to achieving its vision of “international leadership in innovative, productive and world-class respiratory research and training programs”. Of its 55 objectives, 52 were achieved with 3 in progress. Perhaps the most important milestone attained was the funding of the Godfrey S. Pettit Chair in Respiratory Medicine. The endowment from this Chair provided the means to achieve other major objectives, including funding for the Pettit Block-Term Grant program administered by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), partial salary support for a PhD scientist, **Gaspard Montandon**, and funding for the Pettit Distinguished Visiting Professorship. Other notable achievements included: the establishment of the RAC, led by **Jane Batt**; the institution of a research rotation for Respiriology residents; resumption of Research in Progress Rounds under **Matthew Binnie**; appointments of leads in Quality Improvement (**Kieran McIntyre**), Faculty Development (**Liz**



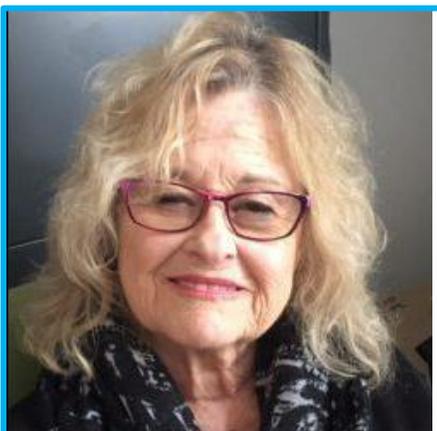
Tullis); Continuing Medical Education (CME) (**John Thenganatt**), and establishment of the John and Frances Dawson Fellowship, the Jae Yang Resident Teaching Award, the Excellence in Research Faculty Award, the Outstanding Research Trainee Award and the establishment of an Interventional Pulmonology program. The net result has been substantial upsurges in scientific publications, research grants, applications to our residency program and number of fellows, certification of our Training Program by the RCPSC and a successful external review.

With respect to the new SP, it is essentially a renewal of the previous one and builds on past success. The main topics for discussion at the SP retreat were as follows. First, in addition to our three established areas of excellence, Lung Transplant, Sleep and Control of Breathing and Cystic Fibrosis, it was decided that the most logical and fruitful new area of excellence would be Airways Diseases (AWD). To this end, an AWD group was struck under the leadership of **Chung-Wai Chow**. She will provide me with a report on the recommendations of this group to enhance research in AWD. Once received, it will be discussed by the SP committee and a decision will be made as to whether AWD research will be deemed a new area of excellence. Second, the new SP called for the appointment of a separate Fellowship Program Director because of the large increase in the number of fellows in our Division. **Cecilia Chaparro** has agreed to take on this role. Third, the new SP also established a CME Fellowship, funded by profits from our very successful CME programs. The first call for applications has gone out for the academic year 2019-2020. Fourth, the new SP calls for the establishment of a Faculty Mentorship Award. The first award will be presented at Research Day in June 2019. Fifth, another area highlighted by the new SP is expansion of our CME activities. Under **John Thenganatt**, we have expanded from one to three events per year. The ultimate goal is to establish a national CME event. Profits from these activities will be used to support our academic enterprise. Finally, an objective of the new SP is to engage in fund raising. We plan to coordinate our fund raising activities with Department of Medicine which is embarking on a campaign beginning in early 2019, to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Sir John and Lady Eaton Chair. Its initial focus will be on current faculty and alumni.

A template of the new SP arising from the SP retreat is being drafted and once it is complete will be circulated to the SP Committee for comments and approval, after which it will be posted on our Respirology webpage. It is my hope that it will build on the success of the previous SP and enhance the quality of all our academic and clinical activities. I thank everyone who participated in the SP Committee and at the SP retreat for their input on this important initiative, and look forward to sharing the new SP with all our faculty and trainees.

This is the last issue of RespNews for 2018, so I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very pleasant Holiday Season and best wishes for Health and Happiness in the New Year.

Unfortunately, my column must end on an unhappy note. It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the sudden passing of **Dr. Frances Silverman**. Fran was a good friend, colleague, researcher and mentor to many of us; she will be missed. Please find below a brief memorial to Frances.



Dr. Frances Silverman

Frances Sommerfreund Silverman was born in Shanghai, China after her family fled Vienna in 1942, to escape Hitler's tyranny. Frances lived in Wuhu, China to the age of 6 before immigrating to Canada where her family settled in Montreal.

Frances obtained her PhD in respiratory physiology at McGill University in 1968. She moved to Toronto in 1978 to direct the Pulmonary Function

Laboratory at the Gage Research Institute. Frances' research focused on air contaminants and pollution including ozone, cigarette smoke, allergens and particulate matter arising from industry and motor vehicles. Frances' earliest work on the health consequences of ozone exposure in the 1970s was formative and continues to be cited regularly. She is recognized as one of the founding researchers in this area.

Subsequently, Frances' work expanded beyond airways measurements to developing sophisticated measures of genetic and epigenetic markers, inflammatory mediators, and vascular measures. Work by Frances and her colleagues in the early 2000s first established a mechanistic link between air pollution exposure and acute cardiovascular events.

Frances held appointments in the Department of Medicine (Division of Respiriology), the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (Division of Occupational and Environmental Health), The School of the Environment, the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, and the University Health Network. She also served as Acting Director and a member of the Board of Directors of the Gage Research Institute.

FEATURE ARTICLE – Dr. Chris Li

Spotlight on the Introduction to Respiriology and Bronchoscopy Course

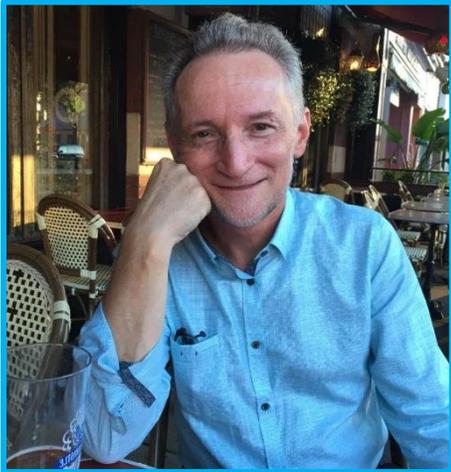
Each year, the University of Toronto's Division of Respiriology hosts a province-wide educational event, the **Introduction to Respiriology and Bronchoscopy Course**. This 4-day event, held during the first week of July, serves as a "boot camp" for all first-year Respiriology residents in the province of Ontario. Both adult and pediatric Respiriology residents attend the course.

The didactic portion of the course, which is coordinated by our own **Matthew Binnie** includes didactic sessions on a wide range of core topics in Respiriology, from asthma and COPD to lung cancer, interstitial lung disease, chest radiology, and sleep disordered breathing. By the end of the three-day didactic portion, residents have acquired some of the crucial knowledge and skills needed for them to "hit the ground running" on Respiriology services in their respective institutions. While lecturers are recruited from all of the Ontario training programs, there is always a large contingent of our expert teachers from the University of Toronto. The course figures prominently in the curricula of the Ontario training programs and is very well received.

Harvey Wong coordinates the 1-day Bronchoscopy Course. This course teaches first-year Respiriology residents the basics of bronchoscopy, with some didactic sessions on endobronchial anatomy and some of the practical aspects of bronchoscopy, followed by an opportunity for residents to apply their new-found skills on simulators. The day always ends with a friendly but intense competition to see which novice bronchoscopists have the slickest technique! The University of Toronto program provides the faculty and senior Respiriology resident tutors to guide the learners in their small group hands-on sessions; this is another example of how expert teachers from our institution are leading in education and having an impact on trainees across the province. The course is an opportunity for our future Respiriology colleagues to learn collaboratively and form invaluable connections across the province where most of them will ultimately set up their practices. Although the introduction to subspecialty-specific knowledge and skills is certainly important, the course serves an equally important function as an introduction to the Respiriology community. One of the highlights of the course is always a convivial night out for course participants, to network and simply enjoy the company of their fellow trainees.

RESIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM ALUMNI – Dr. Arthur Vanek

Subsequent to completing my residency in Respiriology at the University of Toronto in 1987, I took a contract position as a Respiriologist/Intensivist at Women’s College Hospital where I shared the workload with Shelly Mintz. Eighteen months later, I moved to St. Joseph’s Health Centre in Toronto where I have enjoyed a diverse work experience including Respiriology (in-patient consultations and primary care, hospital-based clinics and



private outpatient practice), ICU, Internal Medicine (until 4 years ago), and once our sleep lab opened in 1995, Sleep Medicine.

I initially had a strong interest in “cough”; even going so far as to label my office “the Chronic Cough Clinic”. However, my passion has always been the care of in-patients. Unlike most aging Respiriologists, I chose to concentrate on this rather than my private office, which I closed in 2014. While looking after in-patients, I developed a strong interest in the problem of ‘poor respiratory drive’.

I have always tried to keep one half day weekly free for outside activities and once I paid off my mortgage, two half days. This time is filled with golf, reading, and now bridge. Once my two children Allison, a lawyer and grievance officer for OPSEU in Toronto and Jaclyn, a family practice

resident in Peterborough, were old enough, Ellen and I began to travel extensively, primarily to enjoy our passion for hiking (not trekking – we always aim for a nice meal, great wine, good bed and warm shower at the end of the day!

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI – Dr. Takatoshi Kasai



I am presently an Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Juntendo University School of Medicine and Cardiovascular Respiratory Sleep Medicine at the Juntendo University Graduate School of Medicine in Tokyo, Japan. I received my MD from Juntendo University in 1998 after which I completed training in Internal Medicine and Cardiology in Toranomon Hospital, also in Tokyo. Subsequently, completed a PhD in cardiovascular science in 2006 from Juntendo University. Following training in Sleep Medicine in the Sleep Centre of Toranomon Hospital from 2006-2008, I decided to come to the University of Toronto to undertake a research fellowship with Doug Bradley from 2009-2012. Under Dr. Bradley’s supervision, I was able to complete and publish many research projects regarding the role of overnight fluid shift in sleep disordered breathing in patients with cardiovascular diseases. This experience helped pave the way to a successful career as a clinician scientist upon my return to Tokyo.

Currently, I am Chief of the Heart Failure program at Juntendo University Hospital, and also work in the Sleep and Sleep Disordered Breathing Centre with Dr. Satomi Shiota, also a former fellow of Dr. Bradley’s. In addition, I serve as a program officer for the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, and as an Associate Editor for Sleep and Biological Rhythms, the Journal of the Japanese Society of Sleep Research, and Frontiers in

Cardiovascular Medicine. My main research topic is investigating relationships between sleep disordered breathing and cardiovascular diseases. I am fortunate to have published over 150 papers and to have supervised 10 post graduate students. In my spare time, I enjoy playing basketball, and spending family time with my wife, Etsuko, and 3 children, Mao, Ryuta and Shiori.

Program Director Report – Dr Chris Li

Medicine Subspecialty Match

I am very pleased to announce the cohort of 5 residents who will be joining us for the 2019-20 academic year.

Dr Fatimah Al Faraj (University of Toronto)
Dr. Eric Carelli (McGill University)
Dr. Nermin Diab (University of Ottawa)
Dr. Chris Kawala (University of Toronto)
Dr. Nicole Kraus (University of Toronto)
Dr. Jesse Lu (University of Calgary)

This year our Chief Resident is Ahmad Zaheen, and our Resident's Year 1 Representative is Alina Blazer.



Many thanks to this year's selection committee for donating their time to the file, review and interview process.

Royal College Examinations in Respiriology

Four of our graduates sat for their Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada examination in Respiriology this Fall. I am happy to report that all of our graduates were successful. Congratulations to:

Dr. Hadeel Khadawardi
Dr. Hashim Khan
Dr. Shazmeen Manji
Dr. Andrei Vagaon

Fellowship Director Report – Dr Cecilia Chaparro

As many of you know, I was interim fellowship director June to November 2018, now I am fully in the position of Fellowship Director. Thank you to Dr. Bradley for his confidence in offering me this position. Also, I would like to thank Chris Li and Rhiannon Davies for their support as I take up this new role.

As a past fellow, I know some of the difficulties when transitioning to a new country and a new health care system, which is why I feel I could offer my help and understanding to our fellows. My major focus is to provide fellows with a sense of belonging to our division and to foster better integration between

faculty and fellows. My first step will be to support fellows with stronger orientation sessions at the outset of their fellowships.

The Respiriology Division should be proud of the number of fellows that we have in our different programs; the quality of education and research is the reason our fellowship programs attract fellows from around the world. Below is the current list of our trainees and the Programs they are pursuing. Take note of the range of countries that fellows travel from to train here in Toronto.

Trainee Name	Subprogram	Citizenship
Alshareif, Ashwag B	Cystic Fibrosis	SAUDI ARABIA
Baillie, Timothy	Pulmonary Hypertension	AUSTRALIA
Bergeron, Christelle	Cystic Fibrosis	CANADA
Corriveau, Sophie Lynne	Cystic Fibrosis	CANADA
Cunha Birriel, Daniella	Lung Transplantation	BRAZIL
Darley, David Ross	Lung Transplantation	AUSTRALIA
Davydchenko, Svetlana	Rehab & Chronic Ventilation	CANADA
Fernandez Castillo, Juan	Lung Transplantation	PERU
Harper, Lea	Lung Transplantation	CANADA
Heliovaara, Elina	Lung Transplantation	FINLAND
Khadawardi, Hadeel	Tb & Nontuberculous Mycobacter	SAUDI ARABIA
Khan, Hashim	Airway Diseases	CANADA
Kouri, Andrew	Knowledge Translation In Resp	CANADA
Lin, Chou-Han	Sleep Medicine	CHINA
Makhdhari, Shareefah	Rehab & Chronic Ventilation	SAUDI ARABIA
Manji, Shazmeen	Tb & Nontuberculous Mycobacter	CANADA
Nicholson, John	Cystic Fibrosis	CANADA
Pease, Christopher	Tb & Nontuberculous Mycobacter	CANADA
Riddell, Peter Roland	Lung Transplantation	UNITED KINGDOM
Saad, Emad Youssef	Cystic Fibrosis	CANADA
Sanderson, Anna Leslie	Cystic Fibrosis & Lung Trans	CANADA
Sinha Roy, Soumitra	Lung Transplantation	INDIA
Vagaon, Andrei Iulian	Interstitial Lung Diseases	CANADA
Watt, Kristina Nancy	Cystic Fibrosis	CANADA

Annual Respiriology Research Day – Gaspard Montandon

We are delighted to announce the XIX Annual Research Day in Respiriology - Wednesday June 19, 2019. Research Day is an excellent opportunity for faculty, fellows, residents and students to highlight and discuss their research with colleagues. Basic science, knowledge translation and clinical research submissions from students and investigators in Adult and Pediatric Respiriology, Sleep Research, Thoracic Surgery, Anesthesia, Critical Care Medicine, and Biomedical Engineering are all welcome!

Please mark your calendars

Call for Abstracts: April 1, 2019

Call for Judges: May 1, 2019

Deadline for abstract submission: May 10, 2019

Confirmation of accepted abstracts and oral presentations will be May 31, 2019

Annual Research Day is June 19, 2019 – please mark your calendars!

Continuing Medical Education Update – Dr John Thenganatt

The 2nd Annual Respiriology Year in Review was held on the evening of November 15, 2017. Despite the first snowstorm of the year, sixty-five physicians attended the event. The speakers for the evening were **Matthew**

Stanbrook (COPD) and **Kasia Czarnecka** (Interventional Pulmonology). The presentations highlighted the new developments in these topic areas and the audience feedback regarding the event was very positive. The 12th Annual Day in Respiriology was held on November 16, 2018. Over 200 hundred registrants attended this year's event focused on Interstitial Lung Diseases. Our two invited guest speakers were **Dr David Lederer** (Columbia University) and **Dr Martin Kolb** (McMaster University). Local University of Toronto Respiriology faculty included **Drs Ambrose Lau, Meyer Balter, Matthew Binnie, Shane Shapera, Lee Fidler, Lianne Singer, and Jolene Fisher**. We once again were able to offer Section 3 Royal College CME Credits to our learners using our Conference App. I would like to thank the Annual Day Organizing Committee (**Drs. Shane Shapera** (Chair), **Jolene Fisher, Lee Fidler, Matthew Binnie, and Andrew Youn**) for their hard work in putting together such a wonderful agenda. Special thanks goes to **Karen Forai** for her tireless work and dedication to CME activities in our Division.

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONOURS AND NEWS

AWARDS and GRANTS

Jane Batt: Genomic Epidemiology of M. Abcessus in Pulmonary Disease - Ontario Lung Association, Ontario Grand-in-Aid Award

Chung-Wai Chow: Impulse oscillometry for early detection of small airway obstruction - Ontario Lung Association, Ontario Grand-in-Aid Award

Richard Horner: won the Excellence in Undergraduate Small Class Teaching. PSL472H1S (2018) – Sleep Physiology and Chronobiology.

Nicholas Vozoris: The potential impact of synthetic oral cannabinoid use on respiratory outcomes among older adults with COPD, Ontario Lung Association, Ontario Grand-in-Aid Award

Azadeh Yadollahi: Investigating whether bronchodilator medications can prevent effects of rostral fluid shift on airway narrowing in asthma - Ontario Lung Association, Ontario Grand-in-Aid Award

Susan Tarlo, received Occupational and Environmental Medicine Association of Canada Distinguished Service Award, presented at the OEMAC annual meeting Calgary Sept 2018.

National Awards and Honours

Douglas Bradley: gave the Ronald Christie Honorary Lecture at the Joint Meeting of the Canadian Thoracic Society and American College of Chest Physicians in October 2018 in San Antonio, Texas.

Shiphra Ginsburg: Medical Council of Canada, Outstanding Achievement Award in the Evaluation of Clinical Competence. This prestigious distinction recognizes an individual or group who demonstrate sustained excellence in Canadian health care and/or health-care research.

Lianne Singer: received the Joel Cooper award for lung transplantation at the Canadian Society Transplantation annual meeting.

NEWS

Dmitry and his wife Yulia have a 2nd baby girl, Mila Rozenberg, born on September 19 – congratulations to big sister, Dmitry, and Yulia!



Retirements

Neil Lazar : will retire as of this December 2018

Charlie Chan: will retire as of December 2018 from both his administrative and clinical roles at UHN.

Monica Avendano: will retire on January 31, 2019

Arthur Slutsky: will retire from his role as Vice President Research, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute Dec 31, 2018

We thank them all for their contributions to the Division of Respiriology, and we wish them all the very best in their new endeavours, and hope to see them all at Research Day!

Reminders

Interview Day for 2019, will be September 24th, 2019 - at Li Ka Shing

Annual Respiriology Research Day, June 19, 2019, at the Munk Centre

Pettit Block Term Grant application deadline is April 15, 2019

*Please note for any errors in this newsletter, only send Rhiannon emails if the error relates to you. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, send Rhiannon an email with unsubscribe in the subject line. **Thank you**, to everyone who sent in items for inclusion in this newsletter!*