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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

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CARDIOLOGY • CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY & CUTANEOUS SCIENCE • DIGESTIVE CARE & ENDOSCOPY • ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM •  
GENERAL MEDICINE • GERIATRIC MEDICINE • HEMATOLOGY • INFECTIOUS DISEASES • MEDICAL ONCOLOGY • NEPHROLOGY •  
NEUROLOGY • PALLIATIVE MEDICINE • PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION • RESPIROLOGY • RHEUMATOLOGY

## DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE

Welcome to our first-year internal medicine residents and to our subspecialty residents. I trust your journey with our Department is off to a great start. I would also like to welcome our chief residents to their leadership roles in this academic year. Drs. **Alison Rodger, Marko Balan, Caitlin Lees** and **Aaron LeBlanc** have already demonstrated their commitment to the Department and their fellow residents. I look forward to working with them to ensure our residency program continues to offer an exceptional experience for our residents.

Our internal medicine residency program is in a period of transition that saw the Department implement changes beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. We began using newer technology to deliver our academic half-day sessions to all residents and introduced a revised academic curriculum for junior and senior residents. These changes are based on feedback from residents and faculty, and better position us for the Royal College's competency based medical education requirements.

July 1<sup>st</sup> also marked two other milestones. Eight department members received academic promotions to either professor or associate professor, and **Dr. David Anderson** officially assumed the role of Dean, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine.

As a final note, I encourage you to take time to enjoy our all too short summer season. Be sure to relax, revel or rejuvenate with family and friends.



**Simon Jackson, MD, FRCPC (C), MMedEd**  
*Interim Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University*  
*District Chief, Department of Medicine, Nova Scotia Health Authority*  
*Professor of Medicine, Dalhousie University*



## 2015 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following department members who received academic promotion as of July 1, 2015. All candidates who went through the academic promotion process were successful.

To Professor:

**Dr. Janet Gordon**, Division of Geriatric Medicine  
**Dr. Peter Green**, Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Science  
**Dr. Michael Love**, Division of Cardiology  
**Dr. Ratika Parkash**, Division of Cardiology

To Associate Professor:

**Dr. Arik Drucker**, Division of Medical Oncology  
**Dr. Ed Hanada**, Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
**Dr. Sonja McVeigh**, Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
**Dr. Masis Perk**, Division of General Internal Medicine

## NEW MEDICAL EDUCATION FUND

The Department of Medicine now provides funding to support excellence and innovation in medical education. The fund stems from the department's strategic priority to develop a culture of excellence and innovation in medical education.

**Two funding categories:**

- Category 1: Medical Education Research Grants to support research in the realm of medical education
- Category 2: Medical Education Training Grants to support the pursuit of further training/courses in medical education

**Application criteria:**

- Priority will be given to proposals that directly address the following:
  - Use of technology in medical education, such as online portfolio, online educational modules, simulation
  - Competency-based education
  - Transitions in training and career, e.g., medical student to resident, junior resident to senior resident, senior resident to staff
  - Mentorship
- Category 1 grants are limited to Department of Medicine faculty or residents with a Department of Medicine Member as a supervisor.
- Category 2 grants are limited to Department of Medicine members. Special consideration will be given to senior GIM and subspecialty

residents who will be imminently joining the Department.

- Successful applicants will be expected to present results of research (category 1) or overview of knowledge gained (category 2) at a knowledge translation event (e.g., DOM Research Day, national conference, DOM grand rounds).

**Application deadline is September 30, 2015.**

Funding announcements will be made November 16, 2015. For more information, contact Dr. Chris Gray, Education Director, [chris.gray@nshealth.ca](mailto:chris.gray@nshealth.ca)

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: QUALITY CARE

The Department of Medicine prioritized a department-wide approach to quality assurance and improvement in its strategic plan, and with that, revitalized the Quality and Professional Appraisal Committee, which holds responsibility for the department's quality performance. The committee is now chaired by Dr. Robbie Stewart, Division of Cardiology, and includes reps from all divisions.

“Our role is to support the divisions and service areas to deliver high quality, sustainable, interdisciplinary care through evidence based decision making. To do that, we are working to establish an interconnected quality structure wherein all divisions have quality processes in place,” says Dr. Stewart. “We have an oversight and mediator role whereas the hands-on quality work happens at the division and service level.”

Specifically, the committee's work includes reviewing NSHA and Canadian Institute for Health Information data and reports to identify challenges, opportunities and successes; initiating reviews as quality issues arise; supporting implementation of Choosing Wisely guidelines; and helping to establish division-specific quality processes. It has also facilitated specific quality projects such as establishing clinical pathways for heart failure and pneumonia.

“Our work has been gaining momentum over the last year and now with a new quality program leader in place, we expect that momentum to intensify to the point where all divisions will have identified indicators and established appropriate measures,” says Dr. Stewart.



## NEW QUALITY PROGRAM LEADER



Kate MacWilliams joined the Department of Medicine as its Quality Program Leader in May in a one-year term position. Her primary responsibility includes developing and administering the Department's quality management program. In doing so, she will work with the Quality and Performance Appraisal Committee and with the divisions to help identify quality performance indicators, benchmarks and measurement tools. “I expect that I will act as a resource for the committee and the divisions,” notes Kate. She has begun meeting with divisions to review quality indicators and identify existing processes.

Kate is a registered nurse who comes to the Department of Medicine from the emergency department at the QEII. She has been in nursing for 10 years, having started on the MTU. In October 2014, she graduated with a master's degree in nursing from Dalhousie. Kate can be reached at [kate.macwilliams@nshealth.ca](mailto:kate.macwilliams@nshealth.ca)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Canadian Dermatology Association Award of Merit

**Dr. Peter Hull**, Head, Division of Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Science, received the Canadian Dermatology Association's 2015 Award of Merit. The award recognizes excellence of leadership in contributions made to the association and the dermatology specialty.



### Ina Cummings Award

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) recognized **Dr. Rob Horton**, Division of Palliative Medicine, with the 2015 Ina Cummings Award. The award is given to a CHPCA member who exemplifies professional or personal commitment and achievement in the field of hospice palliative care in Canada. Dr. Horton has served on the board of directors of the Halifax Hospice Society and continues to advocate for establishment of robust community and residential hospice care in Nova Scotia.



## RIM IN ACTION: SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS

There are 17 medical students participating in research projects in areas across the Department this summer. The studentships are part of the Faculty of Medicine's Research in Medicine (RIM) program, which was initiated in 2013, and are made possible through the generosity of donors who have established endowment funds for medical and research education. Those donors include a number of faculty in the Department of Medicine as well as the department's University Internal Medicine Research Foundation.

RIM is the first program of its kind in Canada. It is a mandatory program that introduces medical students to research from the start of their medical training and aims to foster their research and critical thinking abilities.

## GRADUATING RESIDENTS

Congratulations to our graduates! The Department of Medicine is proud to announce its class of 2015. The following residents successfully completed the three-year internal medicine residency:

Dr. Coleman Black (SJ Associate Chief)	Dr. Clinton Lewis
Dr. Adel Alghamdi	Dr. Jeffrey Marr
Dr. Chinmoy Chowdhury	Dr. Megan McGarry
Dr. David Clark	Dr. Jennifer Melvin
Dr. Jean-Sebastien Daigle	Dr. Glenn Patriquin (Chief)
Dr. Nick Forward	Dr. Sam Searle
Dr. Cindy Hickey	Dr. Allen Tran (Associate Chief)
Dr. Hailey Hobbs (Chief)	Dr. Nadine Vaninetti



These residents successfully completed their subspecialty training:

Dr. Matthew Chamberlain, Cardiology	Dr. Oleg Veselskiy, Geriatrics
Dr. Jonathan Toma, Cardiology	Dr. Natasha Pardy, Hematology
Dr. Ariel Burns, Dermatology	Dr. Ahmed Ghaly, ID
Dr. Islam Eissa, GIM	Dr. Paramjot Bains, Med Onc
Dr. Magnus Mcleod, GIM	Dr. Sam Aseer, Rheumatology
Dr. Wendy House, GIM	

## MEET OUR 2015-16 CHIEF RESIDENTS



**DR. ALISON RODGER**, Co-Chief Medicine Resident, hails from Rothesay, New Brunswick, and earned her MD at Dalhousie.

**Why?** “Because I want to advocate for the residents in our program and contribute to making our program even stronger.”

**What?** “I believe the role of chief resident is to act as a positive role model for our program, to be approachable and to work hard to improve residents’ experience and ensure that they are well supported.”

**How?** “...by increasing resident wellbeing through promotion of a healthy work life balance, encouraging resident involvement and advocating for a positive, fair learning experience for all residents.”



**DR. MARKO BALAN**, Co-Chief Medicine Resident, hails from Toronto, Ontario, and received his MD from the University of Toronto.

**Why?** “...because I care deeply about the educational and professional experiences of our residents and want to work towards continuing to improve these over the next year. I am excited about the opportunity to be actively involved in leadership and advocacy within the program.”

**What?** “The primary role of the chief resident is to advocate for the residents in the IM program to ensure that, first and foremost, their educational needs are valued and effectively fulfilled in order to uphold the standards of the program. Chief residents must also advocate for residents’ overall wellbeing and should be a resource for those residents in need.”

**How?** “I hope to continue to improve the collaboration and community spirit among residents. Also, I will work toward improving education opportunities such as integrating point-of-care ultrasound training into the program.”



**DR. CAITLIN LEES**, Associate Chief Medicine Resident (Medical Teaching Unit, HI Site, QEII), hails from Cambridge, Ontario, and earned her MD at McMaster University.

**Why?** “I have a strong interest in medical education and wanted to become more actively involved in the internal medicine program. I see the associate chief resident role as a great opportunity to advocate for the resident body and ensure that our program continues to evolve in a way that enhances both our educational experience and patient care.”

**What?** “I view the associate chief resident role as one in which I can support learners in having the best educational experience possible and especially when rotating through the MTU. This includes soliciting feedback and suggestions from residents to improve education and patient care, as well as liaising between faculty, residents and allied health.”

**How?** “I would like to work toward more training for senior residents

in effective teaching techniques that could be applied at the bedside and during formal teaching sessions.”



**DR. AARON LEBLANC**, Associate Chief Medicine Resident (Saint John Site), hails from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and earned his MD from the Université de Sherbrooke.

**Why?** “I have a particular interest in developing and improving upon the current curriculum for internal medicine residents.”

**What?** “The role of chief resident, in my opinion, is to provide support and guidance for the residents.”

**How?** “I would like to develop a continuity clinic experience for our internal medicine residents.”

## SPRING PARTY RECAP

Faculty Excellence in Medical Education Awards were presented to:

**Dr. Ian Epstein**, Division of Digestive Care & Endoscopy

**Dr. Lori Connors**, Division of General Internal Medicine

**Dr. Alwin Jeyakumar**, Division of Medical Oncology

**Dr. Debra Morrison**, Division of Respiriology

**Dr. Andrea Kew**, Division of Hematology

**Dr. Babar Haroon**, Division of General Internal Medicine and Department of Critical Care, was recognized with the Resident’s Choice Award for Outstanding Faculty.



**Dr. Martin Gardner**, Division of Cardiology, was honoured with the Brian M. Chandler Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medical Education. Dr. Gardner is a professor of medicine and medical education, and assistant professor of physiology & biophysics. He has had an interest in medical education throughout his career, having earned his professorship in 1995. Dr. Gardner teaches at all levels of the undergraduate and postgraduate medical curriculum and has held a number of leadership positions, including Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine (2004 – 2012). He is also a sought after speaker and participates in many national and international continuing medical education events annually.

Dr. Gardner’s excellence in teaching and mentoring has been recognized throughout the decades with numerous awards and honours. He currently serves as a member of the Dalhousie University Senate and the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Nova Scotia Council, and as Director of Research in the Division of Cardiology.

**Dr. Darrell White**, Division of Hematology, received the Department of Medicine Achievement Award. Dr. White is a well-admired educator, accomplished education administrator having served as director of postgraduate education in the Department, and a respected clinician and researcher.



In 2014, he joined the Faculty of Medicine's leadership team as Senior Associate Dean, responsible for the delivery of the medical school's distributed medical education programs and several key portfolios, including provincial physician resource planning and the academic funding programs. Alongside his work in the dean's office, Dr. White has continued with clinical practice and as professor of medicine, teaching medical students and residents. His research interest is the treatment of multiple myeloma. He is a member of the myeloma subcommittee of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group (NCIC CTG), the Canadian Blood and Marrow Transplant Group (CBMTG), and the Scientific Advisory Board of Myeloma Canada.

A Dalhousie medicine graduate, Dr. White completed his residency training at the University of Western Ontario and Dalhousie. Following that, he went on to do a fellowship at the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. And since returning to Halifax, he obtained a master's degree in community health and epidemiology.

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## RESIDENT AWARDS

In addition to our faculty acknowledgements, members of the resident group were recognized for their contributions over the academic year:

**Dr. Aaron LeBlanc** (PGY-2) received the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award while **Dr. Tasha Kulai** (PGY-2) won the Excellence in Resident Research Award. Outstanding Resident Awards went to: **Dr. Marko Balan** (PGY-2), **Dr. Coleman Black** (PGY-3) and **Dr. Alexandra Legge** (PGY-1) who also won an Outstanding Academic Performance Award along with **Dr. Alison Dixon** (PGY-2) and **Dr. Allen Tran** (PGY-3). **Dr. Nicholas Forward** (PGY-3) received the Excellence in Summer Grand Rounds Award.

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## RESEARCH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



There is no more fitting recipient of the Department of Medicine Research Lifetime Achievement Award than **Dr. David Anderson**, Dalhousie's Dean of Medicine, which is why we restored the award this year. Dr. Anderson received the award at the department's annual research day in March.

Dr. Anderson has published in over 150 peer-reviewed publications and is a co-founder of the VECTOR Research Group, a multi-centre Canadian collaborative team focused on thromboembolic research that, to date, has received more than \$50 million in research funding. As well, Dr. Anderson has been consistently supported by peer-review granting councils throughout his career and has chaired the Department of Medicine's research committee for nearly 10 years. He is an endeared mentor, awarded teacher, and highly respected colleague whose contributions to research in the Department of Medicine have led to national and international recognitions. Congratulations Dr. Anderson!

## HOWARD WEBSTER RESEARCH CHAIR



**Dr. Leah Cahill**, Research Fellow, Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health, will join the Department of Medicine on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 as the Howard Webster Department of Medicine Research Chair.

Dr. Cahill's research focuses on the nutritional and genetic epidemiology of cardio-metabolic disease, especially cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity. She has 18 peer-reviewed publications (with 10 first authorships) and three book chapters to her credit, and has six manuscripts in progress.

Within the department, Dr. Cahill will act as the Department of Medicine's liaison with the Maritime SPOR Support Unit; and have a leadership role in supporting and growing research in the Department, including developing collaborative research to enhance the department's research productivity.

## WELCOME!



**Dr. Ravi Ramjeesingh**, Division of Medical Oncology, joined the Department as assistant professor on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Ramjeesingh received his MD and PhD from the University of Toronto. Before joining the department, he was chief resident at Queen's University/Kingston General Hospital, and completed a NCIC translational research fellowship.



**Dr. Laine Green**, Division of Neurology, joined the Department on July 1<sup>st</sup> as assistant professor. Dr. Green recently completed a fellowship in the Division of Neurology where he also did his subspecialty residency.



**Dr. Ellen Jost**, Division of Geriatric Medicine, joined the Department on July 1<sup>st</sup> in a locum position. She is an assistant professor and continues to be a member of the Dalhousie Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Jost completed her MD and family medicine residency with Dalhousie. (photo: Andrew Vaughan)



**Karmal Brouwer** joined the education portfolio on June 15<sup>th</sup>. She will replace Catriona Talbot as undergraduate medical education coordinator upon Catriona's retirement later this summer. Prior to joining the department, Karmal was an education officer at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, UK. Karmal holds degrees from the University of Greenwich and Kingston University.