

PROMOTIONS

PROMOTION MATTERS!

In this special edition of Medicine Matters we feature the most recent individuals who have been promoted in the academic ranks of our Department. Information for these profiles has been collated from their promotion files as well as some personal information provided from the individuals featured.

Promotion at one edge of the spectrum suggests a singular endeavour, something that is sought by an individual in light of his or her life long achievements. It is recognition of significant accomplishments in academic medicine but not one that is static or historical only but more of a goalpost along the highway of an ongoing career path, which does recognize the future directions and potential of the person being promoted. In that way, each successive promotion brings a validated and justifiable endpoint to a rigorous process of ongoing assessment. However, promotions can never be viewed in isolation as they very much occur in the context of the lives of the people being promoted in terms of their family and friend as well as their colleagues. People are never successful on their own – nevertheless, when they do succeed we all share in congratulating them on these successes. We are all better off for having successful people in our world!

So let me sincerely congratulate all of those who have been promoted this year and in the past. You deserve kudos and best wishes for long and ongoing successful careers. Please enjoy the 'moment' and savor your successes!

And, of course, a special thanks to Lynn Johnston and the Promotions and CARP Review Committee, Drs. David Anderson, Bryce Kiberd, Nancy MacDonald, Sunil Patel, Sue Robinson and John Sapp, for the hard work they did on our behalf.



R. Allan Purdy, MD, FRCPC, FACP
Professor and Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie
District Chief, Department of Medicine, Capital Health



STEPHEN BEED
PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF CRITICAL CARE

“He is a strong role model and a leader who leads by example. He treats residents with great respect and is tremendously respected in return.” (STUDENT REFERENCE)

Stephen Beed, MD FRCPC, Dip ABA, CCM, received his medical degree from Dalhousie in 1987, and went to the University of Western Ontario for a rotating internship, followed by a two-year posting with the Canadian Armed Forces in Ottawa as a resident in cardiopulmonary medicine, and on to a one-year posting at CFB Cornwallis as a general duty medical officer. Concurrently, he had a general practice and worked in the ER.

Upon completion of his military obligation, Steve went to Harvard for a residency in anesthesia and a fellowship in critical care medicine at Mass General Hospital, followed by a fellowship in trauma at the University of Toronto Sunnybrook Hospital. He returned to Dalhousie for two years as an attending physician in anesthesia before returning to Harvard as an attending physician at the Brigham and Women's Hospital practising thoracic anesthesia and surgical critical care. He returned to Halifax in 1999, working with us as an anesthesiologist and critical care physician.

Steve has held many administrative and educational roles, including Chair of the Clinical Competency Committee, Dept of Anesthesia at the Brigham, revising the education curriculum and evaluation process. He helped establish an intensive care consult service at the Brigham.

Steve served as the first Division Head for Critical Care at the QEII HSC, during the period when critical care went from a non-aligned clinical service to a Division in the Department of Medicine. He played a key role in the negotiation of the Critical Care AFP, which has enabled the Division to stabilize the delivery of clinical care, successfully recruit, increase research output and develop a Royal College training program. Steve now serves as the Division's program director.

Steve has received several teaching awards including "Teacher of the Year" at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, a commendation for teaching from the QEII Department of Anesthesia, and a DoM *Excellence in Education Award*.

Steve has major regional and national involvement in the development of the services to support organ and tissue donation, serving as Chair of the *Clarica* project; medical advisor for the provincial donation program; leadership roles within the Canadian Council on Donation & Transplantation; and serving on the Organ Expert Committee for Canadian Blood Services, which has been tasked with defining the model for a national donation and transplant program.

Steve proudly says his most important role is as a husband and as Dad to Genna (6) and Catie (3).



STEPHEN COUBAN
PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY

"I have come to appreciate his superb clinical skills, excellent communication skills and ability to collaborate for the good of all patients." (LETTER OF SUPPORT)

"(Administratively) he has the unique ability to identify an issue, the core elements of that and to proceed to problem solve. He is able to do that because of his intelligent but self-effacing and humble approach."
(LETTER OF SUPPORT)

Stephen Couban received a Bachelor of Science degree from McGill University in 1982 and his M.D. from Dalhousie University in 1986. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Dalhousie University in Halifax and went on to complete a fellowship in Hematology at McMaster University in Hamilton. He also undertook two years of specialty training in bone marrow transplantation at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto as a National Cancer Institute of Canada Terry Fox Research Fellow.

Stephen joined the Department of Medicine in 1997. Currently, he is Service Chief in the Division of Hematology and Director of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program.

He was Service Chief of the Department of Medicine Medical Teaching Unit.

His research interests have focused on allografting, and in particular, on exploration of different types of grafts including G-CSF stimulated allogeneic peripheral blood allografts and G-CSF stimulated bone marrow allografts.

Stephen is Past-President of the Canadian Blood and Marrow Transplant Group, Secretary of the Canadian Hematology Society and Co-Chair of the Hematology Site Group of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Groups.



SULTAN DARVESH
PROFESSOR
DIVISIONS OF NEUROLOGY
AND GERIATRIC MEDICINE

"He has an extremely accomplished track record of original research, which has led to recognition nationally and internationally in the area of behavioral neurologic science." (LETTER OF SUPPORT)

"He is an excellent role model for thorough, thoughtful, careful patient care. I think it is important to highlight how much fun it is to work with Dr. Darvesh." (STUDENT REFERENCE)

Sultan Darvesh, MD, PhD, FRCPC, undertook his undergraduate work at the University of New Brunswick and received his internal medicine and residence training at Dalhousie. He was appointed to the Department of Medicine in 1995, where he established the Behavioural Neurology Program (clinic, consultation and teaching services), the only one in the Atlantic Provinces. He also holds appointments in the Departments of Anatomy & Neurobiology and Chemistry, Dalhousie University.

Sultan has a major research appointment in the DoM. He has been successful in developing a major collaborative interdisciplinary research program focused on the clinical and basic neuroscience aspects of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. He is one of the co-founders of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank, the only facility of its kind in Atlantic Canada. He has been director of the facility since its establishment in 1994.

He has had continuous financial support for his research, from agencies such as the Canadian Institute of Health Research, National Institute of Health (USA), Brain Tumor Foundation of Canada, MS Society of Nova Scotia, CDHA Research Fund, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Alzheimer's Society of Canada, and Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada. He has two patents issued for chemical compounds developed with colleagues as potential treatments for Alzheimer's and a copyright for a Behavioural Neurology Assessment Tool.

Sultan received an *Excellence in Basic Science Research Award* by the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (2003), and three *Excellence in Research Awards* from the Department of Medicine. He research endeavours were recognized with a *Dalhousie Clinical Research Scholar Award* in 1999.

The promotion process is a rigorous assessment of our colleagues' contributions to education, research, clinical care, and administration. Each year, as it reviews the applications, the Promotions Committee is very impressed by our Department Members' productivity and achievements locally, nationally, and internationally. On behalf of the Committee, congratulations to those who have been promoted this year. This recognition is well deserved.

Lynn Johnston, MD FRCPC
Chair, DoM Promotion and CAPR Review Committee



RICHARD LANGLEY
PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF DERMATOLOGY

"It is difficult to imagine another individual who could have accomplished as much as Dr. Langley in the past 15 years."

(EXTERNAL REFEREE)

Richard Langley received his Doctor of Medicine from Dalhousie in 1990, followed by a comprehensive medicine internship at the University of Toronto Sunnybrook HSC and an Anatomical Pathology residency at St. Michael's Hospital University of Toronto, before undertaking residency training in Dermatology at Dalhousie, finishing it at Harvard University and University of Toronto. He was on staff at Massachusetts General Hospital and an instructor at Harvard. He came to the DoM in 2000.

He is recognized nationally and internationally as an excellent speaker, having provided over 200 CMEs in the past 10 years. He has developed a number of learning resources that have been adopted by other universities. In particular, he developed as teaching tools a number of tattoos representing skin diseases. He compiled an atlas on skin cancer that has been distributed to all Maritime physicians, and has developed an on-line course in skin cancer. He authored a book on psoriasis (41,000 copies sold) and book on skin cancer is in press.

Richard's excellence in teaching has been recognized with a number of awards, including *Faculty of Medicine Professor of the Year* (2nd year class) in 2001, 2003 and 2007; the *Dalhousie Student Union Teaching Award for Medicine* in 2007; and the *Faculty of Medicine Silver Shovel Award for Outstanding Teacher* in 2008.

The majority of his position in the DoM is research. He has 92 publications and has funding from the Canadian Dermatology Foundation, the Nova Scotia Research Foundation and over \$8m in contract research for 121 clinical trials.

Richard is one of the most recognized dermatologists in Canada, with one of the strongest international reputations. His colleagues note his ability to conceive, initiate, complete and publish translational research in clinical dermatology.

All of this with a 38% appointment in the DoM and a community-based practice.

Danny Rayson completed his medical training at Dalhousie University and went on to specialize in Internal Medicine and Hematology/Medical Oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Danny's main areas of clinical care and research are in breast and gastrointestinal neuroendocrine oncology, with major areas of interest in cancer genetics, clinical trial development, breast cancer health services and translational research. He has been the Chair of the Provincial Breast Cancer Site Team since 2000, as well as the Medical Director of the Lymphedema Clinic since its inception.

Danny is the Chair of the Clinical Trial Grant Panel Review Committee of the National Cancer Institute of Canada and serves as a member of the Scientific Advisory Panel for the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada. He has been both international and national principle investigator on a number of breast cancer clinical trials and, in February 2008, was appointed Director of the Atlantic Clinical Cancer Research Unit.



S. NEIL FINKLE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY

"He willingly takes on responsibility and quietly gets things done without a lot of fuss or bother. As such he is one of the unsung heroes in the undergraduate medical curriculum..."

(LETTER OF SUPPORT)

Neil Finkle, MD, FRCPC, completed his Internal Medicine and Nephrology training at Dalhousie, coming to us from the University of Manitoba. He is the medical director of the NS-PEI Peritoneal Dialysis Program and has actively been involved in improving our centre's surgical outcomes in PD. He was divisional secretary from 2001-04. He chaired the Infection Control Committee for Capital Health from 2002-06. And he has acted as a medical advisor to the Kidney Foundation.

With a strong focus on education, Neil has held a wide range of education roles at the undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education levels. He has served as head of the GGM unit and genitourinary component head, and as such, updated course material and produced evaluation tools. He is the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education for the Division of Nephrology.

In 2006 Neil assumed the role of Clerkship Director for the Department and Unit Chair for Internal Medicine for Med III at Dalhousie, where he has refined course curriculum and objectives, developed on-line course interface, established a remedial OSCE for history taking and clinical exam, and has contributed to the planning of the New Brunswick Dalhousie medical education program.

He has done extensive work in the area of program development. And, in 2006 he received a *Department of Medicine Excellence in Medical Education Award*. In keeping with his commitment to improving his skills as an educator, Neil has taken numerous professional development courses.



DANIEL RAYSON
PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

"I have come to consider him a trusted colleague and friend, and often call upon him for his opinion regarding patient care. In addition to being an excellent teacher and

researcher, he is probably one of the best physicians I have ever had the privilege of knowing and working with." (LETTER OF SUPPORT)



MICHAEL LOVE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY

"I regard Dr. Michael Love as an exceptional academic cardiologist, a wonderful teacher, a great mentor and a warm and caring individual who leads by example.

He has a balanced perspective on both life and work."
(STUDENT REFERENCE)

Michael Love, MB ChB MD MRCP, went to medical school and trained in internal medicine and cardiology in Scotland. He came to Canada in 2001 to do an interventional fellowship at Toronto General (his first day at work in Canada was 9/11). Michael was appointed to his current position in August 2002. His principal function is as a clinical interventional cardiologist. Specialist cath lab skills include transradial access and alcohol septal ablation for patients with hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy.

20% of his time is allocated to research. He has developed a focus in acute coronary syndrome and coronary revascularization outcomes research and became a member of the Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team (CCORT) in 2006. He was clinical lead and primary author of the 2008 *Cardiovascular Health Nova Scotia Non-ST Elevation Acute Coronary Syndrome Guidelines* and was recently formally appointed as a Clinical Advisor to CVHNS.

Michael is currently Atlantic Representative and Vice President of the Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology (CAIC). He was the primary author of a joint CAIC/Canadian Cardiovascular Society position statement on drug-eluting stents published in 2007.

In 2007/08 he participated in national expert panels addressing quality indicators in acute myocardial infarction and percutaneous coronary intervention and was co-author on subsequent journal publications

He is a keen participant in a number of postgraduate teaching activities within the Division of Cardiology. His principal teaching function is in the cardiac catheterization laboratory where interventional fellows and subspecialty residents participate in the majority of his procedures. Since 2005 he has been an organiser and supervisor of the Discover Course which provides cardiology trainees with a background in research methods and related issues. He has a very hands-on approach to invasive training and believes his teaching style simultaneously optimizes patient outcomes and trainee learning.

He has a number of local, provincial and national administrative and leadership responsibilities. He is a local Director of Revascularization Outcomes Research and currently sits on the Division of Cardiology's Research Management and just completed a term on the Faculty of Medicine's Research Committee.

He emphasises, most important of all, he is married to Annette (a New Brunswicker and nurse he met in Toronto) and has two wonderful sons; Calum, aged 4, and Andrew, who will be 2 in September.



RATIKA PARKASH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY

"Dr. Parkash has demonstrated the commitment, skill and ability to be an academic leader at her center."

(EXTERNAL REVIEWER)

Ratika Parkash, a Dal grad, took her internal medicine training at the University of Ottawa and her Cardiology training at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. She received an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health and did a Fellowship at Brigham & Women's Hospital in 2002-2004. Ratika maintains a busy clinical cardiac electro-physiology practice; the foundation of her work since her appointment to the DoM in 2004. She is actively involved in improving patient care for arrhythmia issues as well as for patients with implantable cardiac devices (pacemakers/ defibrillators). She developed an EP laboratory database which tracks all procedures done in the EP laboratory and allows for easy access as to dates and details of prior procedures. This allows quality assurance data to be generated easily on their EP laboratory procedures. In addition, under her direction, the group has separately begun an ablation registry for atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia. Both require complex ablation techniques and require careful monitoring of complications and outcomes, in order to ensure safe and proper patient care for these procedures.

Ratika is a member of the Residency Training Committee for cardiac electrophysiology. She assumed the role of Program Director for the Electrophysiology Fellowship program in 2006. Since 2005 she has worked with the residents to improve training during the EP block. She has been the course director of the Annual Pacemaker/ICD course.

Ratika was honoured with a DoM Young Investigator Award (2006), as well as the Dalhousie Community of Scholar Award for Excellence in Clinical Research (2008). She has been successful in obtaining a number of research grants, including a Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada grant-in-aid AIRCRAFT (Abnormalities in Rhythm in Cardiac Resynchronization/ Defibrillation in ambulatory heart failure trial) to study a detailed evaluation of the effect of cardiac resynchronization on ventricular arrhythmia in a randomized clinical trial. This study of 1,800 patients, the largest study of its kind to examine this effect, will have a significant impact on the scientific basis for the use of resynchronization therapy in heart failure patients. She received the 2007 Dr. Greg Ferrier Award from Heart and Stroke Foundation of NS, awarded to highest ranked grant-in-aid submission.

In 2008 she received two years support from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (\$160,000) for the Randomized Clinical Trials Mentor Program (mentor Dr. George Wells, University of Ottawa Heart Institute).

She is proud to have been successful in establishing a registry of patients assessed for implantation of an ICD (implantable cardioverter defibrillator) in the Maritimes. Her long-term goals include continuation of independent clinical research focused on initiation, and administration of clinical trials and outcomes research in atrial fibrillation and sudden death.