It is with great pleasure that we bring you this fall/winter newsletter for 2014.

What a wonderful time of year to celebrate our remarkable residents, fellows, faculty and alumni. I hope you enjoy looking through some of the activities that have been going on in the Department since the start of the current 2014-15 academic year. It is hard to believe I am already half way through my 5-year term as Chair. The support of our department, our senior leaders and the University administration has been tremendous.

Dean Catharine Whiteside will finish her term on December 31, 2014. She has been a firm supporter of our department and is a person who commands respect for her intelligence, integrity, leadership and administrative capabilities. On behalf of our Department, I would like to thank Dean Whiteside for all of her support and wish her every success in the future for health and happiness. I look forward to working with Professor Trevor Young from the Department of Psychiatry who will take over as Dean of Medicine on January 1, 2015. Professor Young has an outstanding record of contributions in clinical practice, research and administration and is the right person to lead our Faculty to even greater heights.

Undergraduate medical education (UME) has become a priority for the department. I am so thankful to our community and full-time faculty who have contributed so much time and energy in delivering our expanded curriculum. I am so impressed how our community academic faculty stepped up to the plate to teach medical students in an exemplary fashion. This is evidenced by the dramatic rise in teaching evaluation scores for UME. The significant effort of our UME leadership (Drs. Al Vescan, John Lee and Brad Hubbard) and the countless hours put in by our faculty in teaching medical students is meaningful. Drs. Vito Forte and Paolo Campisi along with their OtoSim colleagues have also revolutionized the teaching of otoscopy skills to the preclerkship and clerkship levels. The medical students interested in our specialty this year seems to be at an all-time high judging by the excellent quality and quantity of elective and selective students visiting our department this fall.

continues....
Chair’s Message continued...

Postgraduate education under the leadership of Dr. Paolo Campisi and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) under the leadership of Dr. Yvonne Chan also continues to thrive. Dr. Campisi is helping to shape the future of residency training at the Royal College with the Competency by Design Project. Dr. Chan is coordinating a large numbers of courses and visiting professors this academic year. In October, we had an amazing five CPD courses put on by the HSC faculty!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our department and alumni to attend our Alumni & Friends Dinner on Saturday February 7, 2015 at Hart House. We are honouring the resident class of 1989 (Drs. Frank Bravo, Roman Chaban, Jean Davidson, Brian Hynes, Stan Jacobs, Bob Kassel and Oakley Smith) and the 2014 resident and fellow graduates.

My very best wishes to all for a happy and safe holiday season and a very productive and enjoyable New Year.

With warm regards,

Ian

The University office will be closed for the Holidays for the period December 22, 2014 to January 2, 2015
We will reopen on Monday January 5, 2015
Office hours: 8.30am-4.30pm

Keep in touch!
sonia.costantino@utoronto.ca
416.946.8742
www.otolaryngology.utoronto.ca

Save the Date!

February 6, 2015
5th International Voice Course University of Toronto Surgical Skills Centre @ Mt. Sinai Hospital

February 7, 2015
13th Annual Otalaryngology-HNS Update Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute @ St. Michael’s Hospital

Our newsletter is published biannually in June and December.
Please send us any items you would like included in subsequent issues to sonia.costantino@utoronto.ca

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2014 Executive Committee Reception December 2, 2014 McLean House, Estates of Sunnybrook
**Celebrating our Faculty**

A reception was held on September 30, 2014 in honour of our distinguished faculty:

Drs. Oakley Smith (stepping down as Chief at TEGH), Al Chiodo, Danny Enepekides and Kevin Higgins for their promotion to Associate Professor.

This event was held at the University of Toronto’s Faculty Club.

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**Celebration Dinner of TEGH and NYGH Faculty**

**November 19, 2014 at Auberge du Pommier**

Honouring Dr. Oakley Smith for his 10 years of service as Otolaryngologist-in-Chief at TEGH & Dr. David Goldfarb for his years of service on staff at TEGH.

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L to R: Norah Higgins Burnham, Maureen Hill (nee Higgins), Gord Hill, Betsy Higgins Jones, Cathy Lewis (nee Higgins), Peter Higgins, Kevin Higgins, Shelagh Kellam (nee Higgins)

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L to R: Drs. Bill El Masri, Oakley Smith and Al Chiodo

Drs. Al Chiodo (left) & David Goldfarb
Departmental Academic Appointments

A {Warm Welcome} to our newest faculty

Full Professor: Doug Chepeha

Clinical Adjunct Lecturers:
Sarfaraz Banglawala
Greg Belchetz
Janet Chung
Bradley Hubbard
Aman Grewal
Mark Korman
Adrienne Wong

Save the Date!!

23rd Percy Ireland Academic Day - May 8, 2015

Visiting Professor Dr. Bradley Welling
Walter Augustus LeCompte Chair
Harvard Department of Otology & Laryngology
Chief Otolaryngology Mass. Eye & Ear Infirmary
Chief Otolaryngology Mass. General Hospital
&
Guest of Honour: Dr. Ronald Fenton
Percy Ireland Dinner - May 7, 2015

Save the Date!!

17th Annual Wharton/Elia Day
May 15, 2015
Auditorium,
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
The Y in Otolaryngology stands for YACHT
for our beloved Dr. Patrick Gullane !!

Known by many names...Dr. G, PG, Pat, and now Captain! Read more about the life and times of our great Dr. Gullane in an interview by Professor Patrick J. Bradley and published in the September/October 2014 edition of ENT & Audiology News

http://www.otolaryngology.utoronto.ca/faculty/PJG.htm

Dr. Robert V. Harrison’s Garden Railway

To all who may have an obscure interest in or childhood regression into model railways, watch the video linked below of Bob’s third episode of his Garden Railway! Enjoy!!

http://youtu.be/mgz6CohxIjs

2015 Journal Club Dates
January 20       April 21
February 17      May 19
March 24         June 16

thank{you} Dr. Adrian James for coordinating monthly Journal Clubs!
Postgraduate Education

**July 1, 2014** saw the start of a new life for **PGY1 Residents & Fellows** in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery

Welcome...

**PGY1s**
- Yael Bensoussan
- Peter Dixon
- Weibo Hao
- Yelda Jozaghi
- Patrick Scheffler

**Fellows**
- **Otology/Neurotology**
  - Jihad Nassar
- **Pediatric Otolaryngology**
  - William Parkes
- **Laryngology**
  - Tulika Shinghal
- **Rhinology, Skull Base, H&N Oncology**
  - Yazeed Alghonaim
  - Eric Monteiro

**Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery**
- Elaheh Akbari
- Alipasha Rassouli
- Susan Tan

**Head & Neck Surgical Oncology**
- Eric Arruda
- Jon Chan
- Gilad Horowitz
- Daniel Rocke

**Otology - Skull Base**
- Ohad Hilly
- Euna Hwang

Photo Not Available:
- **Rhinology Research**
- Elhamy Samak
  - **Otology/Neurotology**
  - Iqbal Syed Hossain Hadi

**Returning fellows:**
- **Head & Neck Surgical Oncology**
  - Jonathan Bernstein, Lukasz Czerwonka, Andrew Foreman, Nidal Muhanna
- **Pediatric Otolaryngology**
  - Shazia Peer
- **Otology/Neurotology**
  - Ophir Ilan & Carolina Wuesthoff
Faculty News, Honours & Awards

**Dr. Jamil Asaria** was interviewed by the Toronto Star about eyebrow transplant. So the “bushy and caterpillar-like” look is back - who knew! Read the whole article: http://www.thestar.com/business/2014/08/19/big_eyebrow_trend_is_big_business_for_cosmetic_industry.html?app=noRedirect#

**Dr. Robert V. Harrison** is to be acknowledged for providing significant expertise and contributions to a report published Health Canada... “A Health Canada study has found no evidence to support a link between exposure to wind-turbine noise and health effects reported by people living near the towering structures”. Read the whole article: http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2014-11-06/article-3931605/Wind-turbine-noise-not-linked-to-perceived-health-effects%3A-report/1

Two new scholarship awards have been created in honor of **Dr. Arnold M. Noyek**, named The Arnold M. Noyek O. C Award. These scholarships will fund two student’s telehealth projects annually: one for a student in the Faculty of Medicine and the second for a student in the Dalla Lama School of Public Health.

The Hertz Multidisciplinary Neurotology Clinic at UHN/TGH, led by **Dr. John Rutka**, was selected as the recipient of the 2013-14 Award of Merit for an Outstanding Team that Role Models Interprofessional Collaboration for Patient-Centred Care to Learners through the University of Toronto’s Centre for Interprofessional Education.

**Dr. Oakley Smith**

was selected by the CPSO to be part of their 2014 Future Leaders Day representing our specialty.

Executive Committee’s visit to TEGH
October 7, 2014
Welcome BBQ for the 2014-15 Academic Year

Fun was had by all at the welcome BBQ for new residents hosted by Dr. Campisi on July 3, 2014 at his beautiful home in Etobicoke.

3rd Annual Emergencies in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Bootcamp

Our PGY1s attending bootcamp

London, Ontario, Canada – September 13, 2014

Important DATE!

CaRMS interviews will be held on January 30, 2015
{Congratulations} to **Tony Eskander**

Tony successfully completed his Master’s in Public Health in June 2014.

Tony with his wife Amal and son Luke

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and to **Jenny Wang**

Jenny was the 2014-15 recipient of the Joseph M. West Family Memorial Fund and William S. Fenwich Research Fellowship awards to carry out her research. **AND**...she received the AHNS Alando J. Ballantyne Resident Research Pilot Grant for her project titled *Chromatin Remodeling and Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma* on December 5, 2014

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Co-organizers Lukas Kus and Vinay Fernandes did a fantastic job organizing and orchestrating **OTOLARYNGOLOGY JEOPARDY!**

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to the winning Team!  
L to R: Yelda Jozaghi, Jonathan Yip & Ed Park
Annual Meeting of the AAO-HNS
September 21-24, 2014 - Orlando Florida

A dinner was held for the PGY4s in Orlando at Emeril’s Restaurant

Front Row, L to R: Drs. Yvonne Chan, Ed Park, Jenny Wang and Sarah Hugh.

Go-Karting fun!
September 25, 2014 @ Polson Pier

Drs. Ian Witterick (left), Eric Monteiro and Paolo Campisi setting the safety standards

Front Row L to R: Drs. Yazeed Alghonaim, Yelda Jozaghi, Gian-Marc Busato and Ms. Jessica Rabski
Back Row L to R: Drs. Eric Monteiro, Nik Wolter, Patrick Scheffler

Fearless leader Dr. Paolo Campisi

Nik Wolter
Continuing Professional Development

Events
We held a number of successful events including:

October 14-15, 2014
5th Annual Int’l Pediatric Vestibular and Balance Update
Toronto

October 14-15, 2014
Int’l Pediatric Temporal Bone Dissection Course
Toronto

October 15-18, 2014
8th Int’l Symposium on Objective Measures in Auditory Implants, Toronto

October 17, 2014
Int’l Pediatric Endoscopic Course
Toronto

October 17, 2014
Int’l Pediatric Open Airway Surgery Course
Toronto

**See page 21 for Alumni Events

thank{you} Dr. Vito Forte for coordinating weekly Grand Rounds!

Visiting Professors:

Sept 25&26, 2014  Dr. Juichi Ito
October 2&3, 2014  Dr. Franco Trabalzini
October 17, 2014  Dr. Michael Benninger
October 24, 2015  Dr. Richard Cooper
October 31, 2014  Dr. Giuseppe Spriano
Nov 6&7, 2014  Dr. Peter Roland
Nov 14, 2014  Dr. Prabhat Jha
Nov 21, 2014  Dr. Craig Buchman
Nov 28, 2014  Dr. Thomas Hummel

Upcoming
Jan 30, 2015  Dr. Catharine Whiteside
Feb 13, 2015  Dr. Peter Ferguson
Feb 20, 2015  Ms. Stacey Weber
Feb 27, 2015  Dr. Mark Shrime
March 31 & April 1, 2015  Dr. Allan Siperstein
April 10, 2015  Dr. John Yoo
May 1, 2015  Dr. Heinz Stammberger
May 22, 2015  Dr. Ricardo Carrau
June 4&5, 2015

Mark your calendars...

5th Toronto Voice Course
February 6-7, 2015

13th Annual Otolaryngology Update
February 7, 2015

Alumni & Friends Dinner
February 7, 2015

Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Course
Visiting Professor Dr. Heinz Stammberger
May 22-23, 2015

Toronto Endoscopic Ear Surgery Course
March 31 & April 1, 2015
Visiting Professor Juichi Ito (Centre)
Kyoto University
September 26, 2014

Visiting Professor Franco Trabalzini (right)
Siena, Italy
October 2-3, 2014
(with Dr. John Rutka)

Visiting Professor Michael Benninger
Cleveland Clinic
October 17, 2014
L to R: Drs. Theresa Holler, Jennifer Anderson, Taryn Davids, Manish Shah and Ian Witterick

Visiting Professor Craig Buchman (centre)
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
November 21, 2014
(with Drs. Julian Nedzelski and Joseph Chen)
2014 IFHNOS AHNS Annual Meeting - New York City, July 26-30, 2014

Dr. Pat Gullane (far right) gave the 2014 Hayes Martin Lecture on July 27, 2014
Pictured here with Drs. Jatin Shah (left) & Tery Day

Dr. Ralph Gilbert (left) gave the 2014 Jatin Shah Lecture on July 29, 2014
Pictured here with Dr. Jatin Shah

Dr. Raymond Ng (at podium)
Presenting on Trans-oral brush biopsies and PCR for EBV DNA detection and screening for NPC
July 29, 2014

International Paediatric Temporal Bone Surgery Course
Toronto, October 14-15, 2014

University of Toronto Surgical Skills Laboratory, at Mount Sinai Hospital
8th International Symposium on Objective Measures in Auditory Implants
Toronto, October 15-18, 2014

L to R: Drs. Blake Papsin, Sharon Cushing & Adrian James

5th Toronto International Pediatric Endoscopic Course
Toronto
October 16, 2014

Toronto International Pediatric Open Airway Surgery Course
Toronto, October 17, 2014

Dr. Bill Crysdale
Annual Research Evening held Wednesday November 13, 2014

Another successful research evening was held on November 13, 2014 in the SickKids Research and Learning Tower. The format changed this year with research groups giving brief oral presentations summarizing their research programs followed by review of specific research presented as posters strategically placed around the room. The room was full of medical students, residents, fellows and faculty. The overall evening was judged to be a tremendous success!

The agenda included the following presentations:

**Sunnybrook** - presented by Drs. Vincent Lin and Alain Dabdoub
**University Health Network** - presented by Drs. David Goldstein and David Pothier
**St. Michael’s** - presented by Ms. Carmen McKnight
**SickKids** - presented by Drs. Evan Propst and Karen Gordon
**Mt. Sinai** - presented by Dr. Allan Vescan

continues next page...
2014 Research Evening continued...

Excerpt from an article published on November 3, 2014 in the U of T News

University of Toronto is Canada’s top university: U.S. News & World Reporting Rankings
U of T continues to be recognized as global leader for academic research excellence


The survey examined 500 global institutions and focused on academic research and overall reputation.

Read the entire article at:
It gives me great pleasure to update our Department on a busy and rewarding first six months as the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education. Dr. Al Chiodo, did such a fantastic job as the previous Director that we have been busy trying to keep all of the excellent momentum that was previously generated.

Dr. Brad Hubbard has joined our UME leadership team and is serving as the Assistant Director responsible for the pre-clerkship component. Pre-clerkship is undergoing significant change at the University of Toronto. We will be seeing a new Curriculum rolling out over the next two Academic years with a focus on small-group learning and an emphasis on integration of clinical content. The direct effect on our footprint in UME still remains to be seen, however, we will be very active in maintaining our presence.

Dr. John Lee has been integral as the Post-clerkship Assistant UME director and has been busy with our faculty at St. Michael’s hospital with the cutting-edge new Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LInC). The program began this fall and has seen seven students enrolled in this new dynamic method of delivering clinical education during third year.

Our new community based clerkship, has been a great success to date. I would like to thank all of our new Community Academic faculty for doing a great job with our clerks. Our Teacher Evaluation Scores and Course Scores have improved significantly and that is directly related to the excellent teaching and mentorship our faculty are providing. The same can be said for our core Academic hospitals where the improved ratio of students to faculty has also led to improvement in evaluation scores.

Chair’s Note

Dr. Allan Vescan has now been the new Director of Undergraduate Medical Education since July 1, 2014. Dr. Vescan had been serving as the Assistant Director of UME (pre-clerkship) and has the necessary knowledge and experience to continue the strategic directions in UME for our Department. I know Dr. Vescan will serve in this role with distinction.

The Search Committee for the new Director of Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) met on June 20, 2014. The membership of the committee consisted of Ian Witterick (Chair), Molly Zirkle (Director, FitzGerald Academy UME), Vito Forte (Department of Oto-HNS), Laura Hans (Director of Emergency Medicine, SMH), Martin Schreiber (Curriculum Director, UME), Joel Davies (Medical Student, UofT) & Anna Goulding (Medical Student, UofT).

I want to thank Dr. Al Chiodo for his dedication, hard work and innovation in bringing the UME portfolio “to the next level’. We wish Dr. Chiodo every success as he takes on the role of Otolaryngologist-in-Chief at Toronto East General Hospital.
Announcements

Bundle of Joy!!

Mark Eskander
Proud parents Tony & Amal
Born on November 25, 2014
Weighing 7lbs 6oz

Congratulations!!

Xiao Zhao and Jenny Wang tied the knot on November 7, 2014 in Big Island, Hawaii!!

ROYAL COLLEGE EXAMS
(for PGY5s)
WRITTEN: May 4 & 5, 2015 / ORAL: June 23, 2015
What are they up to now ???
We have heard from a few of our most recent alumni and here is what they are up to:

**Eric Arruda**
I am currently working under the tutelage of Dr. Patrick Gullane at the Princess Margaret Cancer Center in Toronto. While learning about the intricacies in the management of Head and Neck cancer patients, I have the distinct pleasure of working alongside world renowned oncologists, both medical and surgical. Surrounded by wonderful nurses, residents and fellows who provide exemplary patient care, I am constantly reminded about the wonderful privilege it is to be a part of such an outstanding team. Throughout my time here, I have explored a number of career opportunities that will allow me to extend what I have learned beyond the walls of the PMH. I am indebted to the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology for their support of my fellowship and to the American Head and Neck Society for their leadership in fellowship training.

**Janet Chung**
I’m currently setting up clinic with Aman in Mississauga and learning the ropes of stafdom. Since the end of residency, I rode an elephant in Thailand and surfed the waves of Hawaii. Life has been good!

**Aman Grewal**
My wife Aline and I visited Italy for the first time and spent a few weeks. We are now both settling into working in Mississauga. Aline is practicing Family Medicine, and I am with Trillium Health Partners.

**Mazin Merdad**
I'm currently a head and neck fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The program is great and I’m getting great exposure to advanced oncology cases as well as robotic surgery.

In addition, I've enrolled in a masters program in Healthcare Management at the Carey School of Business at Johns Hopkins. That's keeping my evenings busy. Life is good and I’m learning new stuff everyday. Me and May (my wife) miss Toronto a lot and we are hoping to visit soon. My plans after graduation are to find the guy that painted the bench in the picture. I just want to talk to him... that's all!
Maria Brake

In September 2014, I started a practice in Ottawa, associated with the Queensway Carleton Hospital. Already, the majority of my patients are laryngology-related consults, which makes the efforts of building a laryngology program from ground zero even more motivating.

Maria at The Tablelands, in Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland - her home sweet home.

Dr. Edilberto O. Pelausa (far left in photo) a member of the Board of Directors of The Virginia Society of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery (VSO) has received the prestigious “Model Society Award” for 2014 from the Board of Governors of the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, in recognition of its campaigns to promote Otolaryngology to the public and primary care physicians, its efforts in state and federal advocacy and its exemplary educational programs.

“As a proud member of the Board of Directors, I can attest that this Award resulted from a determined team effort from the Board led by our immediate past President, Dr. Andy Heller of Richmond and our current President, Dr. Bradley Kesser of Charlottesville, over the past 2 years. Virginia is blessed with 4 ENT training programs - Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in Norfolk (I am affiliated as a Clinical Assistant Professor), the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) in Richmond and the University of Virginia (UVA) in Charlottesville. Each program is represented in our Board along with Otolaryngologists, like myself, in private practice. The VSO holds an annual convention each spring with excellent educational content. Our last 2 conventions, at the Hilton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach in

Tulika Shinghal

I’m currently doing my fellowship in Laryngology at St. Michael’s Hospital with Jennifer Anderson.
2013 and this year at the Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg were outstanding successes and helped us win this Award. We also hold 2 Head & Neck Cancer screenings yearly at the Richmond NASCAR Raceway deep in tobacco country, we participate in the White Coat Days at the Virginia legislature supporting the concerns of the House of Medicine and we encourage our members to volunteer their services in Medical Missions overseas, Virginia being the home state of Operation Smile! Our Board is now finalizing arrangements for an excellent convention to be held next May 29-30, 2015 at the Wintergreen Resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains, south of Charlottesville. As they say down here: ‘We sure hope y’all can come!’

Please check our Website: “vso-hns.org” and “like” us at our FaceBook page: “virginia society of otolaryngology”.

Alumni Events

Alumni & Friends Receptions held include:

Planetary Hollywood
New York City
IFHNOS/AHNS Meeting
July 27, 2014
In Memorium

Our colleague and friend Dr. Joseph (Joe) Wong passed away on August 13, 2014 at the age of 59. He fought a long and hard battle with cancer over the last several years. Joe was an inspiring volunteer and leader including being the founder and team leader of Smile China which helped so many unfortunate children in China with facial cleft deformities. Joe made a significant impact on our department, our specialty and the community he served.

Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies go out to his family. Joe will be missed by so many.
International Outreach

Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO)
Building bridges to peace... through academic medicine, public health, health care science and international cooperation
Dr. Arnold Noyek
More information about the Program can be found at:
http://www.cisepo.ca

The Toronto Star published an article about Dr. Arnold Noyek’s “brainchild” program which has, for many years, sent teams of doctors into refugee camps in the Middle East to operate on kids born with hearing problems. This program is called The International Paediatric Emergency Medicine Elective. The program is designed to promote the study of global health and pediatrics. It is also designed to build bridges of understanding. This is the 10th year of the program. There are roughly 100 alumni so far.

Read the article at:

In addition, on July 16, 2014 Dr. Noyek was interviewed by Matt Galloway of CBC (FM 99.1) regarding the long term importance of CISEPO programming and the IPEME 4-week senior student exchange program which began in late July 2014 in the context of the current conflict.

To listen to the interview (7 minutes):
http://www.cbc.ca/metromorning/episodes/2014/07/16/middle-east-doctors/
The Face the Future™ Foundation, which was founded by Dr. Adamson who also continues to lead, had an active fall season. A one-man mission, consisting of Dr. Kofi Boahene, a microvascular and reconstructive surgeon from Johns Hopkins University, spent one week in Kigali, Rwanda working with that country’s only plastic surgeon, Dr. Charles Furaha. A number of complex ablative and post-traumatic reconstructive facial surgeries were performed, along with one-on-one teaching in the operating room.

The Foundation is also in the latest planning stages for its next major mission to Rwanda in February, 2015. Dr. Kofi Boahene, once again, will be the Team Leader. He will be ably assisted by Dr. Anthony Brissett, a fellow Canadian facial plastic surgeon now working out of Baylor University in Houston. This team will consist of 11 members, with Dr. Adamson as Chef de Mission, and will have surgeons from several other American centres as well as Germany. It will be supported by anaesthesiologists, operating room nurses, an ICU medical specialist and a resident from Johns Hopkins University.

Future missions for 2015 are currently being planned for Ekaterinburg and Ulyanovsk in Russia, and pilot missions to Peru and Nicaragua.

**Peter A. Adamson, MD, FRCSC, FACS**
President and Founder
Face the Future Foundation

Professor and Head
Division of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
University of Toronto
paa@dradamson.com
Resource Exchange International (REI) is an international not-for-profit educational organization that has been working in Vietnam since 1992 to “build people to build a nation.” Over the years, over 350 professionals from various fields have travelled to Vietnam to help develop local expertise in areas such as medicine, veterinary sciences, business, and English education.

In March 2014, I joined Dr. Brent Senior’s (Rhinologist from UNC) team on his 17th annual humanitarian trip to Ho Chi Minh City for 1 week. It was a busy week for our team which consisted of 2 Rhinologists, 1 Rhinology fellow, 1 neurosurgeon, 1 otologist, 1 pediatric fellow, 1 neurosurgery fellow, and a pediatric resident. We started our 1st day with a 2-day course “UPDATE IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY and NEUROSURGERY WORKSHOP AT PHAM NGOC THACH UNIVERSITY, HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM”. Following the morning lectures we divided into teams and travelled to different hospitals for patient consultations and surgeries. The surgeries we performed included endoscopic sinus surgery procedures for mucoceles, chronic rhinosinusitis, nasal polyposis, septal deviation, and pituitary adenomas. Given the large population in Ho Chi Minh City, there is an emphasis placed on seeing as many patients as possible since the ENT Hospital in the city would see over 1200 patients in 1 day. In between our hectic schedules of lectures, patients, and OR, we always manage a proper sit-down hot meal for lunch and tea breaks.

During our downtime, the team was treated to delicious food at banquets provided by our friends at Gia Dinh Hospital and Nguyen Tri Phuong Hospital. A highlight was the team’s enjoyment of the Rooftop Garden Restaurant at the Rex Hotel, where international correspondents dined during the war in the 1960s.

During the course of our week, we cultivated delightful relationships within the team and with Vietnamese doctors. I certainly look forward to future trips back to Vietnam when I can reconnect with my new friends. If any of you are interested in joining this worthwhile cause, please let me know as I will be returning to Vietnam in March 2015.

Yvonne Chan, MD
Can you spot one of our faculty in this collage ????

Thank you as we embark on a new year
Let’s celebrate all we have accomplished.

Together, we are advancing the specialty and ensuring that we continue to deliver excellent patient care. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

From your friends at The Academy