Chair’s Message...

Recently we learned that the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto was named 6th in the world by the Times Higher Education ranking for clinical, preclinical and health programs. This is an incredible achievement and is up from 19th several years ago. In other ranking systems, the U of T’s seven top ten global subjective rankings are in medicine (3rd in Oncology, 4th in Surgery, 8th in Cardiac and Cardiovascular Systems and 9th in Psychiatry/Psychology). Whatever way you slice it, our University and Faculty of Medicine are doing very well and considered in the top ten in the world.

We recently moved our university office from the R. Fraser Elliott Building at Toronto General Hospital to the C. David Naylor Building on campus. We are still in the early phases of moving in but all is going well.

If you are into social media, please consider following us on Instagram (UofT_OHNS), Twitter (UofT_OHNS) and Facebook (UofTOHNS). Our residents put together some “fun” videos about many of our hospitals for our December 6, 2019 Grand Rounds available at this link on our website.

We have had lots of activity in research and education over the last six months. This includes multiple visiting professors and courses. The courses include an Upper Aerodigestive Tract Endoscopy Simulation Course, a Facial Injectable Course and Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Update in conjunction with the CAFPRS. We also held Dizziness Update on November 16, 2019. Our annual Joseph KH Wong/Smile China Lecture will be given by Dr. Yvonne Ying from the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University Ottawa. Her talk on Thursday February 27, 2020 will be “Global Surgery Outreach and Advocacy” and then the following day will be grand rounds titled “Global Surgery: Expanding the Scope to Inform Education and Advocacy”.

On February 21, 2020 we will have another Rhinology Update Course followed by our Annual Otolaryngology Update on February 22, 2020. Please consider coming to our Alumni & Friends Dinner at Hart House on the evening of February 21, 2020 where we will be honouring the class of 1994 which includes Drs. Lisa Elden, Andres Gantous, Andrew Golde, Mark Leakos and Robert Mounsey.
Chair’s Message Continued...

In research and advancement we continue to excel. We gave out more than $100,000 in Barberian grants to residents, fellows and faculty. We have awarded $600,000 in research grants through Raymond Ng and Wendy Chui Foundation for Innovation in Otolaryngology-HNS to three projects. These are to Vito Forte and Paolo Campisi for their project on “Development and Validation of an Intelligent Otoscope”, to Mike Daly and Jon Irish for their project on “3D Fluorescence Imaging for Guidance of Head & Neck Cancer Surgery” and to Allan Vescan, John Lee, Eric Monteiro, and John (Jong Wook) Lee for their project on “Cannabinoids for Chronic Rhinosinusitis (CRS): An untapped novel therapy”.

A large bequest from the estate of the late Dr. Elizabeth McKee has been made to our department. It will be used to create a sustainable endowed fund to support research in the department. Thank you as well to KY and Vera Chow for endowing an annual lectureship for our department which we will put to very good use.

I am the current President of the CSO-HNS and want to invite all of you to our annual meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick June 6-9, 2020. The theme of the meeting is Quality and Excellence in OHNS. We will have multiple pre-conference courses including thyroid ultrasound, thyroid oncology, ear surgery, endoscopic sinus surgery, sialendoscopy and airway endoscopy. I hope we have a great showing from our department and alumni.

Our department runs on the goodwill, tenacity and hard work of so many. I am very appreciative of the time and effort that our administrative staff, residents, fellows and faculty put into the day to day running of our hospitals and University department. Please accept my thanks and best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful holiday season and New Year!

Ian

Welcome to the department Safia Amin!

Safia has joined the team to fill a new position in the department as the Events and CBD Administrative Assistant. Her previous experience as the Marketing and Community Outreach Coordinator at George Brown College’s Gateway to Entrepreneurship makes her a perfect choice for this new role.

Safia has a BA Hons degree from the University of Toronto as well as a Digital Communications Certificate from Sheridan College.
Faculty of Medicine

Ranked 6th in the world

in the 2020
Times Higher Education report
Up from 13th in 2019, & 19th in 2018

Read the entire report:
World University Rankings 2020 by subject: clinical, pre-clinical and health

U of T placed 4th in the world for “Best Global Universities for Clinical Medicine”

Four more of U of T’s seven Top 10 global subject rankings are in Medicine:
3rd - Oncology
4th - Surgery
8th - Cardiac & Cardiovascular Systems
9th - Psychiatry/Psychology

And U of T is among the top 20 universities in the world in:
Biology & Biochemistry (11th)
Molecular Biology & Genetics (11th)
Neuroscience & Behaviour (17th)
Pharmacology & Toxicology (17th)

(US News & World Report)
The university department’s home for more than 15 years was at the Toronto General Hospital on the 3rd floor of the R. Fraser Elliott Building.
And then on a very rainy day....

The university department’s home now....

Main floor of the C. David Naylor Building on campus, Room 120

And our new view....
From ….

To FABULOUS!
In September, Ian was invited as faculty at the annual North American Masterclass in Endoscopic Sinus Surgery at McGill University. The aim of this course was to teach advanced techniques in endoscopic sinus surgery, including frontal recess dissection and drillout, medial maxillectomy, as well as common endoscopic skull base approaches to the pituitary region, clivus, anterior cranial and infratemporal fossae.

Trying on the Raptors’ Championship ring!

Courtesy of Mr. Larry Tanenbaum
Celebrating our Faculty

Dr. Robert V. Harrison

On September 19, 2019 we celebrated and thanked Bob for his 30+ years as our Director of Research and subsequently our Vice-Chair of Research.
Faculty Spotlight

Tony Eskander

Was the recipient of the inaugural *Hanna Research Award* for the research done in collaboration with Dr. Julie Hallet (Sunnybrook) on “Suicide and self-harm after a diagnosis of cancer: A population-based study”.

This award was established by the Division of Surgical Oncology in Dr. Sherif Hanna’s name in recognition of his tremendous leadership, vision, and service to the Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre program.

David Goldstein

Was the recipient of a *Canadian Cancer Society Research Impact, Innovation to Impact Award* for the research done in collaboration with Dr. Anna Sawka (UHN) on “Active surveillance of low risk papillary thyroid cancer: Program expansion in Quebec”

Everton Gooden

Was recently profiled as a featured alumnus of the University of Toronto and long-time NYGH Foundation supporter. Check out the video linked below to hear about his journey to become a physician.


Karen Gordon

Karen has taken on the role of Chair of the Graduate Faculty Appointments Committee of the Institute of Medical Science (IMS) in the Faculty of Medicine at U of T. This is a three-year term effective September 1, 2019.
Jonathan Irish

Was the recipient of a **CIHR Spring Project Grant Competition Award** for the research done in collaboration with Dr. David Urbach (Women’s College Hospital) on “Using real-world data to simulate the effects of efficient referral strategies on wait times for elective surgery in Canada”.

Fei-Fei Liu

Was the recipient of the **American Society for Radiation Oncology 2019 ASTRO Fellowship**, which recognizes contributions to radiation oncology and the Society through research, education, patient care and service to the field.

**Congratulations**

**Departmental Academic Appointments**

**A {Warm Welcome} to Lukas and Jonathan**

For their appointment to the department as **Clinical Adjunct Lecturers**

Lukas Kus

Jonathan Yip
9th CSO-HNS Undergraduate Medical Education Retreat, Curriculum Development for Modern Medical Education, Centre du Savoir, CHU Sainte-Justine, Montreal.

Thank you to Drs. Julian Savage, Adrian Gooi and Laurie McLean.

“I was pleased to represent our department and very impressed with the fantastic effort being co-ordinated across the country in undergraduate medical education.”

Ian Witterick
Welcome BBQ for Incoming Residents

The annual welcome BBQ for the incoming PGY1s took place on July 11, 2019 at the Campisi residence. It was a Cuban themed evening with great food, live entertainment and great weather. Thank you to Paolo and Susan for opening up your beautiful home once again for this event.
Our PGY1s participated in the London Otolaryngology-HNS Bootcamp held September 13-14, 2019.
Thank you to Dr. Evan Propst for helping as faculty!

November 15, 2019
Endoscopic skull base dissection course with our Neurosurgery colleagues
Terence Fu

Terence was the recipient of the 2019-2020 Miriam Neveren Memorial Postgraduate Research Award AND his publication entitled “Gentamicin Vestibulotoxicity: Further Insights from a Large Clinical Series” was accepted for publication by Otology & Neurotology.

Josie Xu

In May 2019, I attended the inaugural Stanford BioDesign EENT Innovation Course. This 4-day boot-camp was designed to emulate the pathway of health care product design from clinical needs assessment, to prototyping, to market analysis to business plan pitching. Amongst a diverse group of otolaryngologists, ophthalmologists, engineers, marketing specialists and entrepreneurs from the US, China, Germany and Australia, we were split into small groups and tasked to design a health care solution in 4 days. The intensive curriculum consisted of lectures from local experts, followed by tutorials to apply those concepts to our group project. Outside the formal curriculum, we toured the office of a budding ENT device start-up and heard stories of entrepreneurial success and rock-bottom failure.

After many late nights of preparation, my group pitched a retail product that allows patients to test for acute bacterial sinonasal infections at home. A panel of Silicon Valley investors judged the pitches, and ours was chosen as the winner! I won a textbook and my group is working on filing a provisional US patent.

I came away from this experience with a better understanding of how clinicians can impact patient care in a different way - through interdisciplinary collaboration and creativity, you can really push the frontier of patient care and impact health on a population-level. However, I also learned how different stakeholders design products to meet their own goals (i.e. financial vs. health outcomes priorities). I have decided that although I am very interested in innovation, health tech and patient education, my first goal is to become an excellent clinician!

My teammates from Texas, Pennsylvania and Australia
#WhyOHNS

“My interest in otolaryngology stems from an interest in finding a specialty that bridges the realms of technology, creativity, and surgical prowess. In no other field can the limits of autologous transplants be successfully implemented in the most medically complex patient populations. Despite the challenge of such surgical procedures, we see some of the highest improvements in patient quality of life and satisfaction. We are also one of the few specialties that both medically and surgically manage our patients. This provides constant diversity in practice and areas of constant growth that is fulfilling.”

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for more of these insights

#WhyOHNS

“The head and neck houses important functions that impact the everyday human experience - speaking, swallowing, breathing, hearing. I chose otolaryngology to serve a diverse population, to provide services ranging from functional to life-saving, and for the awesome challenge of working with such an incredibly complex part of the body.”

NEW

Laryngeal EMG Clinic at Sunnybrook

A new multidisciplinary laryngeal EMG clinic officially kicked off on Dec 10, 2019, staffed by Dr. R. Jun Lin (Laryngology) and Dr. Larry Robinson (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation).

Laryngeal EMG is a valuable diagnostic tool to evaluate neurologic causes of unilateral or bilateral vocal fold immobility and to predict spontaneous recovery of vocal fold motion following recurrent laryngeal nerve injury. LEMG is best performed within 6 months from the onset of nerve injury.

New referrals can be faxed to 416-480-5761.

Royal College Exams (for PGY5s)
Written: March 24-25, 2020
Oral: April 17, 2020
A big thank you to our hospitals for supporting our PGY4s to attend the meeting.

Dinner at Emeril’s Restaurant in New Orleans

Soft Tissue Dissection Course
November 4, 2019 ~ Skills Lab

A big thank you once again goes out to Drs. Michael Brandt & Ashlin Alexander for running this course.
Continuing Professional Development

Save the Dates

**February 21, 2020**  
**Rhinology Update**, Mount Sinai Auditorium

**February 22, 2020**  
**18th Annual Otolaryngology-HNS Update**,  
The SickKids Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning

**May 7-8, 2020**  
**Annual Percy Ireland Dinner & Academic Day**

Visit our website for more information:  
www.otolaryngology.utoronto.ca/cpd-courses

Upper Aerodigestive Tract Endoscopy Hands-on Simulation Course  
October 12, 2019 ~ Karl Storz Simulation Laboratory
CANADIAN ACADEMY OF FACIAL PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY
ACADEMIE CANADIENNE DE CHIRURGIE PLASTIQUE ET RECONSTRUCTIVE FACIALE

Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Update 2019: How I do it...
Saturday, November 2, 2019 7:30 am – 5:00 pm
Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, 209 Victoria Street, Toronto
Keenan RC Allan Waters Auditorium

FACIAL INJECTABLE WORKSHOP
Friday, Nov 1, 2019 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Face Toronto Cosmetic Surgery
251 Davenport Road, Toronto

Newsletter ~ July to December 2019
University of Toronto
Dizziness Update 2019
Saturday, November 16, 2019
7:30 am to 4:30 pm
November 29, 2019

AND THE WINNERS WERE....

Florence Mok
and
Adam Kwinter

L to R: Mirko Trebek, Florence Mok and Adam Kwinter

Dr. Peter Alberti, Former Chair of the department (1982-1992) has donated a significant collection of historical books and a few reprints related to otolaryngology to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, a University of Toronto library. He started collecting these books as a resident in the 1960's and continued through the 1980's.

Thank you Dr. Alberti!

View Collection Here
Visiting Professors

October 2019

4th
Dr. Matthew Old
Ohio State University

11th
Dr. Kristina Simonyan
Harvard Medical School

18th
Dr. Reza Rahbar
Harvard Medical School

November 2019

1st
Dr. Corey Moore
Western University

8th
Dr. Michiel van den Brekel
University of Amsterdam

15th
Dr. Darren Tse
University of Ottawa

Upcoming Visiting Professors

January 17, 2020
Dr. Soham Roy
University of Texas

February 28, 2020
Dr. Yvonne Ying
University of Ottawa
Joseph K.H Wong/Smile China Lecture

March 6, 2020
Dr. Louise Davies
Dartmouth College (New Hampshire, USA)
Quality & Safety Lecture
The Departments of Anesthesia, Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and Surgery once again collaborated to host the Annual Faculty Development Day on Monday November 11, 2019 at the Chestnut Residence and Conference Centre.

Theme: Challenge of Contemporary Practice - Finding Joy at Work

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mara Goldstein
Thank you

to the Chepeha’s
for hosting!

Thank you!

Drs. John de Almeida
& Eric Monteiro
for coordinating

Journal Club
Felipe became the first ever otolaryngologist to perform a reconstructive free flap surgery in Chile and one of the very few otolaryngology head and neck surgical oncologists and reconstructive surgeons in South America. He is building a strong oncology practice in a public academic hospital and also advising the Ministry of Health in cancer policies.

Yael Bensoussan

Yael is currently completing a Masters in System Innovation and Leadership at the IHPME.

“Working in collaboration with the Vector Institute of Toronto and the Mila Institute of Montreal, we are studying how to use Artificial Intelligence to develop treatment outcomes for voice surgery.

Apart from my main thesis, I am also learning about how to impact and optimize the current health care system by introducing innovations.

I will be starting my fellowship in laryngology and airway surgery in July 2020 at the University of Southern California next summer. With my training and interest in systems change, I wish to develop a Voice and Swallowing program in Toronto to serve the head and neck cancer patient population and offer them services to optimize functional outcomes such as voice and swallowing.”

Felipe Cardemil

Felipe Jozaghi

“\textcolor{red}{\textbf{I am having a phenomenal experience training at MD Anderson Cancer Center. I am exposed to the breadth of head and neck surgical oncology. \textcolor{red}{\textbf{I'm enjoying every second of it.}}}”}
Maya Kuroiwa

“I have restarted my jobs at a public and a private hospital, trying to use all the knowledge and skills acquired during my fellowship but still missing Toronto a lot.”

Michael Roskies

“I am currently the medical director of SpaMedica Canada and facial plastic surgeon in the plastic surgery division. I’m also faculty at Sinai Health System and am starting a non-profit to provide reconstructive services to patients affected by abuse, trauma or cancer.”

Sunil Sharma

“I’ve been in my consultant job in Paediatric ENT at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital for the past few months, and things are going well, developing the paediatric otology service here. Also, working through the waiting list for a season ticket for Liverpool FC games at Anfield!”

Peter Tomazic

“It’s good to be home but I miss my second home Toronto as well. Being active I try to share my gained knowledge as good as possible, here e.g. at the Annual German Skull Base Society Meeting....”
"I'm having a great time at my MD Anderson Cancer Center head and neck surgical oncology fellowship. Thought this photo would show the great representation of Toronto graduates at MDACC this year. Have wonderful holiday ya’ll!"

Alumni & Friends dinner at Les Etoiles, Rome Italy during the 2019 IAOO

Dr. Ralph Gilbert, presiding as President of the IAOO

Clockwise from left: Marian Milanovic, Vincent Gregoire, Pat Gullane, Christopher Yao, David Goldstein, John de Almeida, Eugene Yu, Ian Witterick, Doug Chepeha, Samip Patel, & Ralph Gilbert

A selfie with the Vatican in the background

L to R: Ian Witterick, Pat Gullane, Ralph Gilbert, Doug Chepeha and Vincent Gregoire
On October 25, a team of 6 surgeons, 2 anaesthesiologists and 3 OR nurses set off on the first medical mission under the Ukraine Surgical Educational and Training Partnership. The newly established partnership between Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Canada-Ukraine Foundation allowed the team to travel to the city of Lviv, Ukraine with a mission to perform live surgery demonstrations, run educational workshops, and a nation-wide symposium for specialists from all over the Ukraine. The Canadian team together with their Ukrainian colleagues, completed an initial outpatient pre-op clinic on Sunday Oct 27th, 2019 where they assessed 39 patients. Patients underwent multidisciplinary assessments and pre-op anesthesia evaluations.

The Sunnybrook team was divided into three groups, and surgery was conducted daily, in 3 different ORs simultaneously. A total of 24 surgical procedures were completed, on patients ranging in age from 9-65 years. The surgeries focused on the reconstruction of post traumatic or post ablative defects and deformities of the face, craniofacial skeleton, and upper extremity.

Etiology of the deformities varied, but the vast majority were war casualties, burn injuries, and defects or deformities resulting from previous cancer treatment.

...3 days, 24 Surgeries, Endless Education and Training at its Best...Sunnybrook

As part of the educational partnership, a nation-wide symposium, covering topics in Craniofacial Surgery and Microsurgery, was held on October 31, 2019 at the Bank Hotel. The symposium featured didactic lectures, a panel discussion of audience-prepared cases, and a surgical skills workshop offering hands-on facial bone fixation practice on a 3D facial fracture skull bio-model.

A total of 138 participants from various disciplines (ophthalmology, plastic surgery, trauma surgery, maxillofacial surgery and otolaryngology), trainees and surgeons, from all corners of the Ukraine took part.

L to R: Danny Enepekides, Steve McCabe, Oleh Antonyshyn, Kevin Higgins, Tara Teshima, Joshua DeSerres
A large bequest has been promised to our department at the University of Toronto from the estate of the late Dr. Mary Elizabeth McKee.

Dr. McKee was an otolaryngologist at Women’s College Hospital from 1962. In 1996, she was appointed Head of the Division of Otolaryngology at WCH. She retired from WCH in June 2002.

Dr. McKee passed away on March 21, 2018 at the age of 87.

Dean Young acknowledges and thanks our generous supporters of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at his annual lunch

The Dean’s Lunch – a special annual event, hosted by Dean Trevor Young, to celebrate our collective impact and recognize the generous commitment of our donors like the Joseph K.H. Wong/Smile China Project represented by Gaye Quan, widow of Dr. Joseph Wong and Sydney Reimer, former Board Director, Smile China as well as Raymond Ng and Wendy Chui who established the Raymond Ng and Wendy Chui Foundation Fund for Innovation. We are grateful for their support and commitment to helping us advance research and education in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Toronto.

With our Gratitude!

Thank you to KY and Vera Chow for endowing an annual lectureship for our department – The Kan Yan Chow and Vera Chow Lectureship
May the holiday season bring happiness and joy to you and your loved ones

Festivities at the Dept of OHNS, U of T

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Canada

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fax: 416-946-8744
www.otolaryngology.utoronto.ca

Follow Us On

Thanks for the great stocking stuffer
Dr. Witterick!
~Sonia