



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Medicine
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
MEDICINE.USASK.CA



**Saskatchewan
Health Authority**



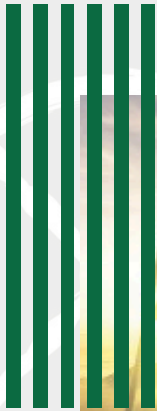
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
MEDICINE.USASK.CA**



The land on which our department members live and work includes the Treaties 2, 4, 5, 8, and 10 Territories and the Homeland of the Métis.

We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis Ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Table of Contents

Provincial Head Message	06
About Us	07
Department Structure	08
Promotions, Welcomes & Farewells	09
Quality of Care Committee Report	10
Education	11
Research	16
Celebrating Success	22
Saskatoon Division Reports	31
Regina Division Reports	54
SHA Areas	65

No part of this report may be used or reproduced in any manner for the purpose of training artificial intelligence technologies or systems.

Message from the Provincial Head

Our annual report is a yearly touchstone, presenting a snapshot of our department's activities from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. This year's report highlights our educational contributions, research advancements, and success as a department. I would like to thank all of our members for their outstanding work in balancing teaching and patient care within the province's healthcare system.

Teaching is at the heart of our work. Our faculty play an important role in facilitating clinical exposure for the College of Medicine's undergraduate medical education program, in addition to supporting our post-graduate training programs. We are proud to train 100 residents within our core internal medicine and subspecialty programs, who are widely regarded across the country as some of the best, most skilled, and dedicated in all areas of their training. I am immensely grateful for the work our program directors, faculty, and administrative staff put into making our programs so successful.



The University of Saskatchewan is one of the country's leaders in research, in no small part thanks to our diligent researchers with the Department of Medicine. In spite of busy clinical and teaching schedules, our faculty are highly committed to producing revolutionary research and hundreds of publications in a single year. Many of our esteemed researchers were honoured with national, provincial, and local awards for their outstanding contributions, which can be read about in the Celebrating our Success section of this report. Other accomplishments of our members are also highlighted in these pages.

Our faculty members play a vital role in healthcare delivery across the province. North to South, East to West, rural to urban, clinics to major hospitals, our members see thousands of patients each year across all of our subspecialties. Your dedication to patient care, quality improvement, and service to the people of Saskatchewan make this province a better place. I hope that you will enjoy this report and join us in reflecting on the countless achievements and accomplishments of our members over the past year in the Department of Medicine.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in yellow ink, appearing to read 'Haissam Haddad'.

Dr. Haissam Haddad, O.C., S.O.M., MD, FRCPC, FRCP

Professor and Head Department of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
Louis Horlick Chair in Medicine
Provincial Head, Medicine

About the Department of Medicine

The Department of Medicine is an academic and clinical department within the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). Most of the department members are located in Saskatoon or Regina, with additional members in Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Swift Current, and Yorkton.

Our Vision

We will be a provincial centre of excellence, partnering with the people of Saskatchewan to inspire hope through the highest quality care, education, innovation, research, and advocacy.

Our Mission

To the people of Saskatchewan: We provide equitable and accessible care and address health needs through collaboration, advocacy, and innovation.

To our learners: We inspire and prepare skilled clinicians and scientists by serving as role models and providing quality programming and a supportive learning environment.

To our colleagues: We support your wellness and all contributions to our shared vision.

323

Faculty members

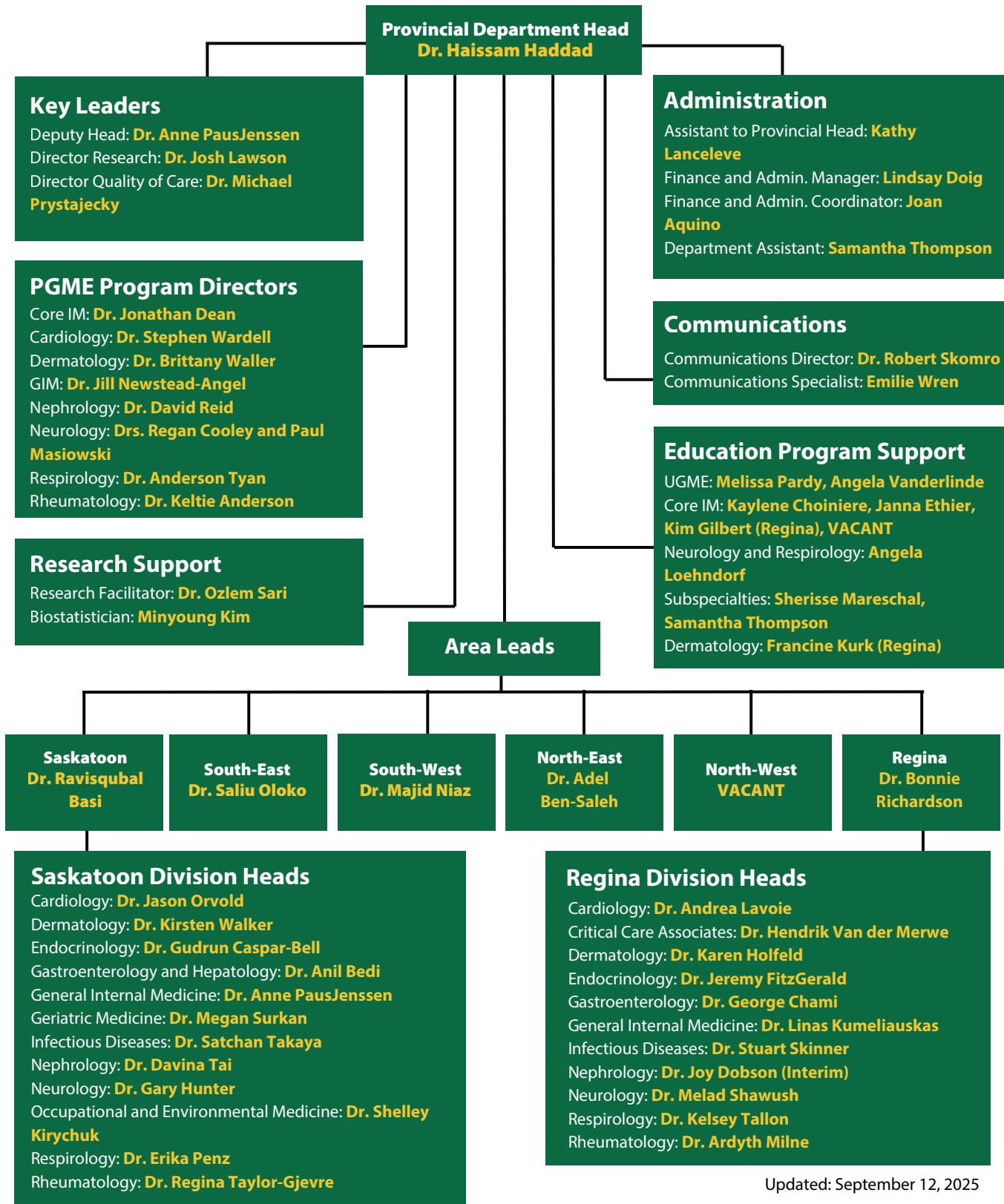
+\$4.2M

Research
funding

100

Residents

Department of Medicine



Updated: September 12, 2025

Welcomes & Farewells



Recruitment

Saskatoon

Dr. Troy Appleton (GIM), October 2024
Dr. Stephanie Ballendine (Neurology), November 2024
Dr. Jason Denis (GIM), September 2024
Dr. Andrew Frost (Cardiology), July 2024
Dr. Tony Haddad (Cardiology), June 2025
Dr. Anton Moshynskyy (Rheumatology), July 2024
Dr. Tosin Odeshi (Dermatology), August 2024
Dr. Matthew Patterson (Nephrology), July 2024
Dr. Moaaz Rashad (Respirology), January 2025
Dr. Michael Schinold (Rheumatology), June 2025
Dr. Shreyasi Sharma (Rheumatology), November 2024
Dr. Christina Shaw (Geriatric Medicine), November 2024
Dr. Cara Spence (Infectious Diseases), July 2024
Dr. Tara Swami (Rheumatology), June 2025
Dr. Tiffanie Tse (GIM), November 2024
Dr. Ryan Verity (Neurology), September 2024
Dr. Kristina Watt (Respirology), August 2024

Regina

Dr. Kelly Eggink (Critical Care Associates), August 2024
Dr. Scott Goerzen (GIM), November 2024
Dr. Gabrielle Levin (GIM), July 2024
Dr. Chris Lewis (Infectious Diseases), November 2024
Dr. Lindsay Richels (GIM), November 2024
Dr. Zunaira Shahad (GIM), September 2024
Dr. Anne Tremblay (GIM), June 2025
Dr. Krystyna Wang (GIM), October 2024

Prince Albert

Dr. Kiefer Lypka (GIM), October 2024

Yorkton

Dr. Razak Kehinde (GIM), June 2025



Departures

Saskatoon

Dr. Jessie Baptiste (GIM), June 2025
Dr. Gideon Dala (Endocrinology & Metabolism), July 2024
Dr. Michael Zawadowski (GIM), June 2025

Regina

Dr. Mowad Benguzzi (GIM), November 2024
Dr. James McHattie (Gastroenterology), Retired May 2025
Dr. Roberta McKay (Dermatology), Retired June 2025



Promotions

The following faculty received promotions as of July 1, 2024.



Dr. Sarah Oberholtzer

Rheumatology
Associate Professor



Dr. Sabira Valiani

GIM, Critical Care
Associate Professor



Granting of Tenure

The following faculty were granted tenure as of July 1, 2024.



Dr. Angelica Lang

Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health
Associate Professor

Quality of Care Committee



Report submitted by Dr. Michael Prystajewsky, Quality of Care Committee Chair

The Quality of Care Committee works with providers, patients, and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) to monitor and improve the quality of care provided to our patients.

We facilitated six patient safety rounds this year. Committee members and internal medicine trainees collaborated with key stakeholders to review patient safety incidents, raise awareness of safety hazards, and develop recommendations for improving care delivery. These rounds informed changes to the SHA High Alert Medication Policy and drug monographs.

The Committee has strengthened its partnership with the SHA. The Committee chair joined the SHA Quality and Safety Committee as the physician lead, providing an opportunity to guide and support unit-level quality improvement initiatives at Royal University Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital. The Saskatchewan Health Authority continues to share performance indicator data with committee, enabling the Department to identify areas of strength and opportunities for quality improvement.

The Committee supported quality improvement initiatives within the Department. The MENDO initiative continues to improve care for patients with infective endocarditis. Work is underway to reduce unnecessary foley catheter use on internal medicine wards.

Members of the Committee contributed to working groups responsible for revising order sets for venous thromboembolism prophylaxis, perioperative bridging anticoagulation, and diabetic ketoacidosis management. This work will support the implementation of clinical practice guideline recommendations into clinical practice.

This year we welcomed Dr. Dammy Bello (PGY3 Internal Medicine), Dr. Stephen Lee (Infectious Diseases), and Dr. Tia Shaw (Geriatrics) to the Committee. I thank Dr. Ben Leis, Dr. Rabia Shahid, and Dr. Anderson Tyan for their ongoing contributions.

- Dr. Michael Prystajewsky, Chair

EDUCATION

227

CoM Year 4 electives
completed in the
Department

7

CoM Year 4 electives
offered to visiting
students through the
Department

Pre-Clerkship: Year 1

Faculty members are involved in teaching the various modules (GI, Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Hematology, Nephrology, Rheumatology, Neurology, Endocrinology, Dermatology) of *Foundations in Clinical Medicine*. These modules build the foundation of clinical knowledge that will provide students with expertise in pathophysiology and management of common disease states.

Pre-Clerkship: Year 2

Faculty are involved in Community Patient Learning Experiences (ComPlex) teaching sessions in gastroenterology, cardiology, respiratory, neurology, and nephrology. Students engage in group learning with faculty.

Program Administrators

Melissa Pardy
Angela Vanderlinde

Clerkship: Year 3

Students complete seven blocks of rotations, spending two weeks in the Clinical Teaching Unit (CTU) and two weeks of ambulatory care at pre-scheduled clinics in hospital and offices. Clinical rotations are offered in nephrology, neurology, respirology, GI, hematology, cardiology, geriatrics, medical oncology, and the LiveWell Chronic Disease Centre with a 100 per cent pass rate. Department faculty will provide rotations for 67 students in Saskatoon and 39 in Regina in the 2025-26 academic year. This year, administrators in the Department of Medicine worked to facilitate new curriculum changes that were introduced in Year 3 & 4 for the 2024/25/26 academic year.

Clerkship: Year 4

Students complete two-week electives, two weeks of IM II in the Clinical Teaching Unit (CTU), and two weeks of subspecialty rotation with Department of Medicine faculty. The Department of Medicine facilitates electives in addictions medicine, cardiology CTU, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general internal medicine, geriatrics, hematology, ICU, infectious disease, medical oncology, nephrology, neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, radiation oncology, respirology, rheumatology and transplant medicine. Department faculty will provide rotations for 56 students in Saskatoon and 39 in Regina and 5 Rural in the 2025-26 academic year. The College of Medicine's Class of 2024 completed 165 electives in the Department of Medicine.

PGME

The Department of Medicine operates the Core IM training Program and seven subspecialty training programs.



Cardiology

Cardiology is a three-year subspecialty training program that provides comprehensive cardiology learning. The program fosters the career goals across the spectrum of opportunities available through hands-on experience and clinical exposures.



Dermatology

Dermatology is a five-year subspecialty training program that provides robust dermatology experience. Training within the program include patch testing, phototherapy, dermatopathology, wound care, dermatologic surgery, pediatric dermatology, laser therapy, and teledermatology.



General Internal Medicine

General Internal Medicine is a two-year subspecialty training program designed to prepare applicants for the diverse careers within internal medicine. It offers a variety of service and clinical rotations, as well as selective and elective blocks to focus on areas of interest.



Nephrology

Nephrology is a two-year subspecialty training program designed to provide comprehensive nephrology training. The program offers complete nephrology training to residents to produce nephrologists prepared for careers in academic centres or clinical and community focuses.



Neurology

Neurology is a five-year subspecialty training program designed to provide comprehensive education in neurology. It offers a structured and supportive training program designed to produce highly competent clinical neurologists.



Respirology

Respirology is a two-year subspecialty training program designed to provide comprehensive education in general respirology. It offers a supportive and collegial learning environment where residents gain hands-on experience in procedures and autonomy in exploring electives.



Rheumatology

Rheumatology is a two-year subspecialty training program that provides a wide breadth of clinical exposures and learning opportunities. The program allows learners to meet their goals and solidify the skills required for Adult Rheumatology certification.



Core Internal Medicine



Report submitted by Dr. Jon Dean, Core Internal Medicine Program Director

I am pleased to provide my first annual report on the activities and accomplishments of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program at the University of Saskatchewan. By way of introduction, my name is Jonathan Dean. I am proud to have called Saskatchewan my lifelong home and to practice as a general internist in Saskatoon. As a graduate of our own Internal Medicine residency program, I know the program firsthand and remain deeply committed to its continued growth and success.

Core IM is a three-year program with an option to complete a fourth year of internal medicine. The goal of the program is to prepare trainees to enter practice as an internist or to pursue internal medicine subspecialty training.

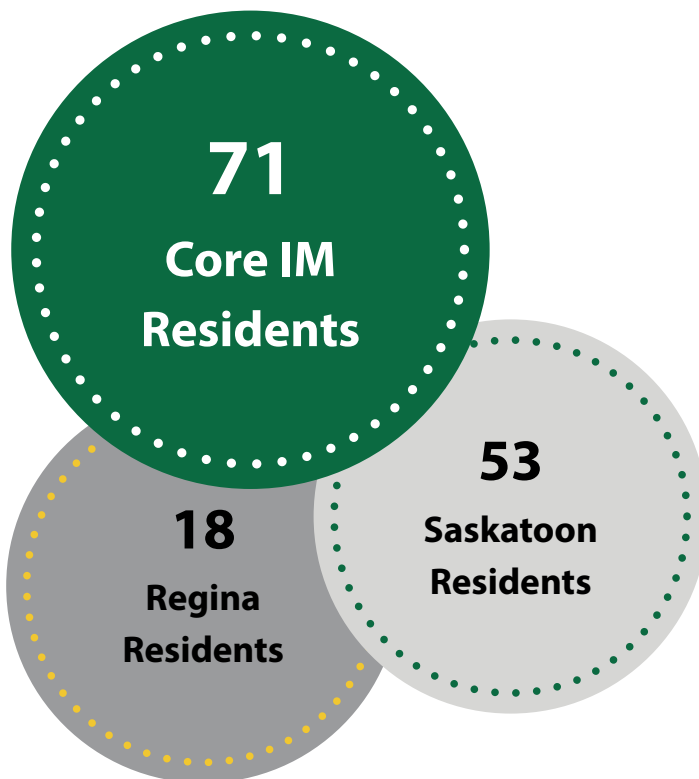
This year marked several important transitions within the program. In January 2025, I joined Dr. Jessie Baptiste as a Co-Program Director, with a transition to the role of sole Program Director in July. The program also welcomed several new members to our administrative teams across the province, including Rhonda Haase in Regina, and Angelica Dick and Bobbie Genereux in Saskatoon. Together, our team continues thoughtful and diligent work in support of our residents.

In the 2025 CaRMS match, we successfully filled all available residency positions following the second iteration. This upcoming year, our CaRMS quota will expand slightly to 18 residency positions in Saskatoon and 8 in Regina. This modest growth will support the continued development of our Regina training site, where planning is underway to introduce a second Clinical Teaching Unit (CTU) – an exciting advancement that will further strengthen both educational and clinical delivery. None of this work would be possible without the considerable efforts of faculty and residents alike. The CaRMS match process, from file review through interviews, requires substantial time and commitment, and I extend my sincere thanks to all who contributed.

One of the program's greatest strengths remains our residents. We benefit from strong resident engagement and representation across all committees, and many of our formal educational and wellness initiatives are informed or co-designed by residents. Our Lead Medical Residents (LMRs) play a particularly critical role in supporting their peers, ensuring consistent service coverage across teaching hospitals, and advancing key components of the program's educational mission. I am grateful to our administrative LMRs – Drs. Warda Shamim, Oluwakayode Adesina, and Rishi Thakkar – and our academic LMRs – Drs. Arshdeep Marwaha, Dammy Bello, and Muzzafar Haque – for a year of exceptional dedication and leadership.

Resident Research Days showcased 14 resident projects across two well-attended sessions. Under the leadership of Drs. Julian Tam and Stephen Lee, the event highlighted a broad range of scholarly work across multiple clinical domains. I thank our faculty judges and all those who supported our residents in their research endeavours.

As a program, we continue to evaluate and refine our educational processes. Our curriculum remains mapped across academic half-days, morning teaching sessions, journal clubs, simulation, quality improvement rounds, and research activities. Transparency and responsiveness remain priorities, supported by regular townhall-style meetings between the Program Director and residents. Several improvements were implemented this year in response to resident and faculty feedback, including updates to the weekly bedside teaching curriculum on our CTUs; the piloting of patient-volume caps on higher-acuity CTUs to preserve educational value and optimize patient care; and the renovation of a new dedicated workspace for internal medicine residents consulting in the Regina General Hospital emergency department.



The success of our program is closely tied to the dedication of our teaching faculty. I am grateful to the many faculty members who staff CTUs, facilitate bedside teaching, and provide educational support across multiple settings. I also wish to recognize the Competency Committee, chaired by Dr. Anne PausJenssen, for its essential role in supporting resident progression, as well as our academic advisors for their ongoing commitment to coaching and mentorship.

A special thank you goes to the members of our Residency Program Committee, who meet regularly to review feedback, address issues affecting residents, and work collaboratively to strengthen the Program. Committee members include Dr. Marc Reeson (Site Director, Regina), Dr. Praveena Sivapalan (Community Coordinator), Dr. Anne PausJenssen (CBD and CTU Leads), Drs. Julian Tam and Stephen Lee (Research Leads), Dr. Jeremy Katulka (Simulation Lead), Dr. Kathryn Whittemore (Wellness Lead), Christina Sparrow (CTU Nurse Coordinator, Saskatoon), and Jaimie Simpson (CTU Nurse Coordinator, Regina).

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to Provincial Department Head, Dr. Haissam Haddad, and to all members of the Department of Medicine for their continued support of resident education. Every faculty member who provides feedback, completes assessments, or contributes to teaching plays a meaningful role in our residents' success.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the program over this past year.

- Dr. Jonathan Dean, Core IM Program Director

Program Administrators

Janna Ethier
Kaylene Choiniere
Angelica Dick (until May 2025)
Brendan McCann (until August 2024)
Bobbie Genereux
Kim Gilbert (Regina)

RESEARCH

Research Report



Report submitted by Dr. Josh Lawson
Research Director

Research in the Department of Medicine continues to be a major focus with many highlights over the past year.

Several department members were recognized with major awards. Dr. Sam Haddad was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. While this award recognized his major contributions to health care leadership, not a small part was his contribution to research; both in terms of his own research but also his support of research infrastructure and mentorship. Dr. James Dosman was awarded the University of Saskatchewan's Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award for his impactful work in rural areas as a clinician-scientist as well as being the founder and long-time director of the Centre for Agricultural Medicine (now the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health (CCRAH)), an internationally recognized research centre. Dr. Don

Cockcroft was the recipient of the College of Medicine's Career Achievement Award in Research for his longstanding, and influential, research program looking at asthma.

Department members continue to be very successful in grant competitions locally, provincially, and nationally. A number of DoM researchers received funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Dr. Julie Kosteniuk was the Principal Investigator for a project looking at rural home-based virtual primary care for patients with dementia. Dr. Sharyle Fowler was a co-investigator on a project grant and a planning and dissemination grant looking at inflammatory bowel disease. Drs. James Dosman and Josh Lawson were co-investigators on bridge funding to look at farm injuries in young people.

The annual DoM Faculty Research Day was held in May with an excellent turnout and participation. We held it at the newly re-opened University Club where the setting was excellent! It was also the first time that our program allowed attendees to receive CME credit. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Darryl Davis, a clinician-scientist and cardiac electrophysiologist at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. He gave an excellent talk focusing on translational research. The Research Day presentations highlighted the intensity and high quality of research in the department. The topics varied from biomedical to clinical to population-based to health services research and demonstrated the diversity of research in the department.

Each year at the DoM research faculty day, we recognize three presentations with awards. This year Dr. Jay Shavadia (Cardiology) received the first place prize, Dr. Angelica Lang (CCRAH) received the second place prize, and Dr. Kerri Schellenberg (Neurology)

received the third place prize. We look forward to the next research day, anticipated for May 2026.

This year we were able to offer an internal DoM research grant funding competition. The grant recipients were Drs. Leis, Prasad, Schellenberg, Sy, and Valiani .

We would like to congratulate all members of the department for successes in and out of research. As always, we encourage you to contact the research committee and our departmental Research Facilitator, Dr. Ozlem Sari (ozlem.sari@usask.ca) about your projects and ways in which we can assist you. We hope that by working together, we will be able to continue to build on our momentum in research throughout the province.

We look forward to another exciting year of research!

- Dr. Joshua Lawson, Director of Research

Research Supports

Dr. Ozlem Sari (PhD)- Research Facilitator
Minyoung Kim (MSc) - Biostatistician



Researchers present at the annual DoM Faculty Research Day, held in May 2025. (Pictured top to bottom: Dr. Bhanu Prasad (Nephrology), Dr. Julie Kosteniuk (CCRAH), Dr. John Gordon (Respirology).

2024-2025 Department of Medicine internal research grant funding competition recipients:

- Dr. Benjamin Leis (Dr. Viktor A. Pollack and Mirka B. Pollak Cardiology Research Fund)
- Dr. Kerri Schellenberg (RUHF Chronic Disease Research Fund)
- Dr. Bhanu Prasad (DoM General Research Fund)
- Dr. Eric Sy (DoM General Research Fund)
- Dr. Sabira Valiani (DoM General Research Fund)

Grants & Publications

The following statistics represent the 2024/2025 fiscal year (May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025).

Source: University of Saskatchewan Data Warehouse, USask UView.



307 ||| Publications

19,888 ||| Citations

6 ||| Research chairs

81 ||| Research-active faculty

List of Research Chairs

Dr. Haissam Haddad - Louis Horlick Chair in Medicine
Dr. Alexandra King - Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness
Dr. Michael Levin - Saskatchewan Chair in Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Research
Dr. Donald Cockcroft - Distinguished Research Chair in Medicine
Dr. James Dosman - Distinguished Research Chair in Medicine
Dr. Ali Rajput - Distinguished Research Chair in Medicine



Scan the QR code above to find a full list of faculty grants and publications for the year.

Faculty Research Awards

The Department of Medicine's Faculty Research Day was held on May 2. Awards were presented at the Annual Banquet by Dr. Josh Lawson, the Director of Research for the Department of Medicine.



First place presentation

Dr. Jay Shavadia (Associate Professor Cardiology) (*right*)



Second place presentation

Dr. Angelica Lang (Assistant Professor CCRAH) (*right*)



Third place presentation

Dr. Kerri Schellenberg (Medical Director ALS Clinic,
Medical Director EMG Lab, Associate Professor Neurology)

Resident Research Awards

These resident research awards were based on the results of resident research days conducted in fall 2024 and spring 2025, in which residents presented quality assurance projects. These awards were presented by Dr. Julian Tam (Assistant Professor Respiriology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine), who is the research faculty lead for the Core IM program.



PGY1 Case Presentations First Prize

Dr. Addison Bertrand (*left*)



PGY1 Case Presentations Second Prize

Dr. Sehar Parvez (*no photo*)



PGY1 Case Presentations Third Prize

Dr. Nancy Cai (*left*)



PGY2 Fall Research Days First Prize

Drs. Belinda Yee & Nafisa
Absher (*no photo*)

PGY2 Fall Research Days Second Prize

Dr. Kayla Lett (*right*)

PGY2 Fall Research Days Third Prize

Dr. Tanna Lauriente (*right*)



The Kloppenburg Resident Research Prize in Medicine

Dr. Logan Hahn

Awarded to the PGY3 resident who has displayed consistent excellence in resident research throughout three core years of internal medicine training. Presented by Dr. Julian Tam (*left*) and Cheryl Kloppenburg (*right*).

**PGY1 Case Presentations
Honourable Mention**
Dr. Samantha Skebo

**PGY2 Fall Research Days
Honourable Mention**
Dr. Joel Tehse



CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

Honours & Accomplishments

Department members and staff make significant impacts in our communities and receive recognition for their work on an international, national and local level. The following awards are external to the Department of Medicine.

||| National Awards



Dr. Brett Graham (Neurology)
King Charles III Award
(Nominated by The Heart and Stroke Foundation)



Dr. Brian Graham (Respirology, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine)
King Charles III Award



Dr. Joanne Kappel (Nephrology) (centre)
King Charles III Award
(photo with Kurtis Krug, National President of Kidney Foundation of Canada, and Senator Tracy Muggli)



Dr. Andrea Lavoie (Division Head Cardiology-Regina)
King Charles III Award



Dr. Nabeel Samad (GIM)
King Charles III Award



Dr. Kerri Schellenberg (Neurology)
King Charles III Award
(Nominated by The ALS Society of Canada)



National Awards



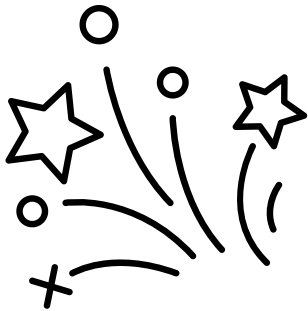
Dr. Sharon Card (GIM)
American College of Physicians,
Prairie Provinces Chapter,
Distinguished Teacher/Mentor
Award



**Dr. Angelica Lang
(Occupational &
Environmental Medicine)**
Canadian Institute of Health
Research, Outstanding
Reviewer, 2024-25



**Dr. Lawrence Worobetz
(Gastroenterology &
Hepatology)**
Canadian Association for the
Study of the Liver (CASL)
Distinguished Service Award



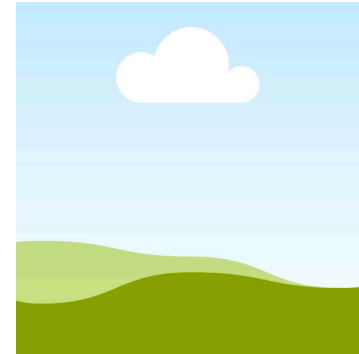
Provincial Awards



Dr. Idris Bare (Cardiology)
Resident Doctors of
Saskatchewan Exceptional
Teaching Award 2025



**Dr. Izn Shahab (Neurology
Regina, Fellowship)**
Resident Doctors of
Saskatchewan Exceptional
Teaching Award 2025



Dr. Alex Zhai (Cardiology)
Resident Doctors of
Saskatchewan Exceptional
Teaching Award 2025

National Recognition



**Dr. Alexandra King (Cameco
Chair in Indigenous Health
and Wellness, GIM)**
Recognized as a Canadian
Academy of Health Sciences
Fellow



Provincial Awards



Dr. Adedamola Bello (Core IM Resident)
2024 Resident Leader of the Year Award



Dr. Jarol Boan (GIM Regina)
2025 Saskatchewan Book Awards' First Book Award



Dr. Haissam Haddad (Provincial Department Head)

2025 Saskatchewan Order of Merit

Dr. Haissam Haddad was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. He was one of eight to receive the province's highest honour this year. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit was established in 1985 to celebrate excellence and achievements by Saskatchewan citizens. To date, 282 individuals have been invested with the Order in recognition of their significant contributions in areas such as agriculture, business, industry, community leadership, public service, art, research, and volunteering.



Dr. Gudrun Caspar-Bell (Endocrinology) & Dr. Mina Niazi (Gastroenterology & Hepatology)
2024 RUH Foundation Women Leading Philanthropy Grant Recipients



USask Awards



Dr. Don Cockcroft (Respirology, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine)
Research Career Achievement Award 2024



Dr. Jim Dosman (Occupational & Environmental Medicine)
2024 University of Saskatchewan Lifetime Achievement Award



College of Medicine Awards



Dr. Calvin Tsui (GIM)
College of Medicine Regina
Campus Teaching Award



Dr. Brittany Waller (Dermatology)
College of Medicine New
Teacher Award



Kim Gilbert (Program Administrator, Internal Medicine - Regina)
College of Medicine Strategic
Star Award

Post-Graduate Medical Education (PGME) Awards



Dr. Riad Al-Sabbagh (Respirology Resident)
1939 Resident Teacher Award
in Medicine



Dr. Dammy Bello (Core IM Resident)
Exemplary Resident Award



Dr. Alex Rajput (Neurology)
PGME Award for Exemplary
Role Model Faculty Member

Congratulations to all of our amazing faculty, staff, and residents!

We're so lucky to have you!

2025 Provincial Head Awards

The Provincial Head Awards were presented by Dr. Haissam Haddad (Provincial Department Head and Professor of Cardiology, Department of Medicine) to recognize the outstanding contributions of department members.



Administrator of the Year

Dr. Jessie Baptiste (GIM, Director of PGME) *(right)*



Clinician of the Year

Dr. Stephen Pylypchuk (Cardiology) *(right)*



Researcher of the Year

Dr. Angelica Lang (CCRAH) *(right)*



Teacher of the Year

Dr. Tom Guzowski (Gastroenterology & Hepatology) *(right)*

2025 Faculty Awards

The faculty awards were voted on by Core Internal Medicine (IM) residents to recognize teaching excellence within the department. Awards were presented by Dr. Haissam Haddad (Provincial Department Head and Professor of Cardiology, Department of Medicine).



Beside Teacher of the Year - Saskatoon
Dr. Linden Kolbenson (GIM) *(Photo 1, right)*



Beside Teacher of the Year - Regina
Dr. Lucas Diebel (GIM, Geriatrics) *(Photo 2)*

Teacher of the Year - Saskatoon
Dr. Linden Kolbenson (GIM) *(Photo 1, right)*

Teacher of the Year - Regina
Dr. Aadam Ijaz (GIM) *(no photo)*

Distinguished Lecturer Award
Dr. Kathryn Whittemore (Critical Care) *(no photo)*



- Beside Teacher of the Year - Awarded for outstanding bedside teaching
- Teacher of the Year - Awarded for excellence in informal and formal teaching
- Distinguished Lecturer Award - Awarded for outstanding contribution to Grand Rounds, Academic Half Day or Subspecialty Rounds

2025 Resident Awards

The following awards were voted on by faculty – and residents where noted – and awarded to residents in the Core IM program. The awards were presented by Dr. Jessie Baptiste (Assistant Professor GIM, Department of Medicine Core IM Program Director).

David Cotton Award

Dr. Dammy Bello (*no photo*)

Ian Holmes Award

Drs. Tanna Lauriente (*Photo 1, right-centre*) and Aubree Worobetz (*Photo 1, left-centre*)

Regina Resident of the Year

Dr. Kayla Lett (*Photo 1, right*)

W. Wilson Spirit Award, Saskatoon, *as voted on by residents*

Drs. Dammy Bello and Arsh Marwaha (*no photo*)

W. Wilson Spirit Award, Regina, *as voted on by residents*

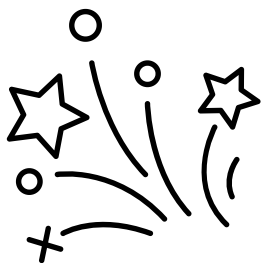
Dr. Juliane Markewich (*no photo*)

The Alex Trebek Award, Saskatoon

Drs. Logan Hahn (*Photo 2, right*) and Tanna Lauriente (*Photo 2, centre*)

The Alex Trebek Award, Regina

Dr. Jacob Myles (*no photo*)



2025 Program Awards

The following awards are designated and distributed within the Department of Medicine's PGME programs to faculty and residents where noted for their outstanding contributions.

GIM Training Program Awards

Clinician Teacher of the Year Award

Dr. Michael Prystajewsky (GIM)

Academic Half-Day Teaching Award

Dr. Benjamin Leis

Neurology Training Program Awards

Neurology Research Day Award Winner

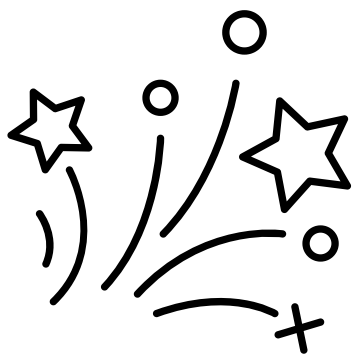
Dr. Julia Newton (R3)

Neurology Research Day Award Winner

Dr. Bashir Daud Shah (R4)

Neurology Research Day Award Winner

Dr. Kasia Zubkow (R4)



Congratulations to all of our amazing faculty, staff, and residents!

We're so lucky to have you!



SASKATOON DIVISION REPORTS

Cardiology



Division Head

Dr. Jason Orvold

The Saskatoon Division of Cardiology consists of a cohort of community and academic cardiologists that champion all aspects of cardiovascular care for Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan communities. Our faculty has a broad range of expertise in different areas of cardiology, consistent with a contemporary cardiology practice.

Division members are committed to under- and post-graduate education, with a high quality subspecialty cardiology training program.

The division also has a highly active research program. The USask Cardiovascular Research Group provides research opportunities for medical residents, students, and fellows.



Education

The division is grateful to have a full complement of Cardiology Residents attending the subspecialty program. Faculty members contribute to under- and post-graduate training through lectures at Grand Rounds. We are actively improving our educational capacities through partnerships with the College of Medicine and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.



FACULTY AND RANK

Professor

Dr. Haissam Haddad

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Jawad Akhtar

Dr. Rashpal Basran

Associate Professor

Dr. Jay Shavadia

Assistant Professor

Dr. Idris Bare

Dr. Terry Bree

Dr. Michael Cenkowski

Dr. Kelley Coverett

Dr. Jacobus de Villiers

Dr. Dalisizwe Dewa

Dr. Janine Eckstein

Dr. Andrew Frost (July 2024)

Dr. Tony Haddad (June 2025)

Dr. Dominique Kusherniuk

Dr. Shravankumar Nosib

Dr. Jason Orvold

Dr. Sarah Parent

Dr. Erik PausJenssen

Dr. Colin Pearce

Dr. Chris Pekrul

Dr. Steve Pylypchuk

Dr. Carlo Stuglin

Dr. Stephen Wardell

Dr. Calvin Wells

Dr. Alex Zhai



Research

Our faculty members are actively involved with a wide variety of research initiatives.

Several members are part of the Cardiology Research Group, pursuing research relevant to improving cardiac care delivery in Saskatchewan.

Dr. Jay Shavadia, Dr. Janine Eckstein, and Dr. Steven Wardell are investigators in several clinical trials. Our faculty have also been involved in a variety of interdisciplinary research studies.



We continue to evolve the division of ambulatory care, alongside our established clinics:

- rapid access clinics
- a heart function clinic
- structural clinics
 - ASD
 - PFO
 - LAA
 - transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI)
 - MitraClip
 - ASA
- atrial fibrillation clinic
- cardio-oncology clinic
- women's cardiovascular clinic.

The women's clinic has provided us with advanced microvascular testing equipment in the Cardiac Catheterization Labs (Cath Labs) to perform high-level vascular assessments.

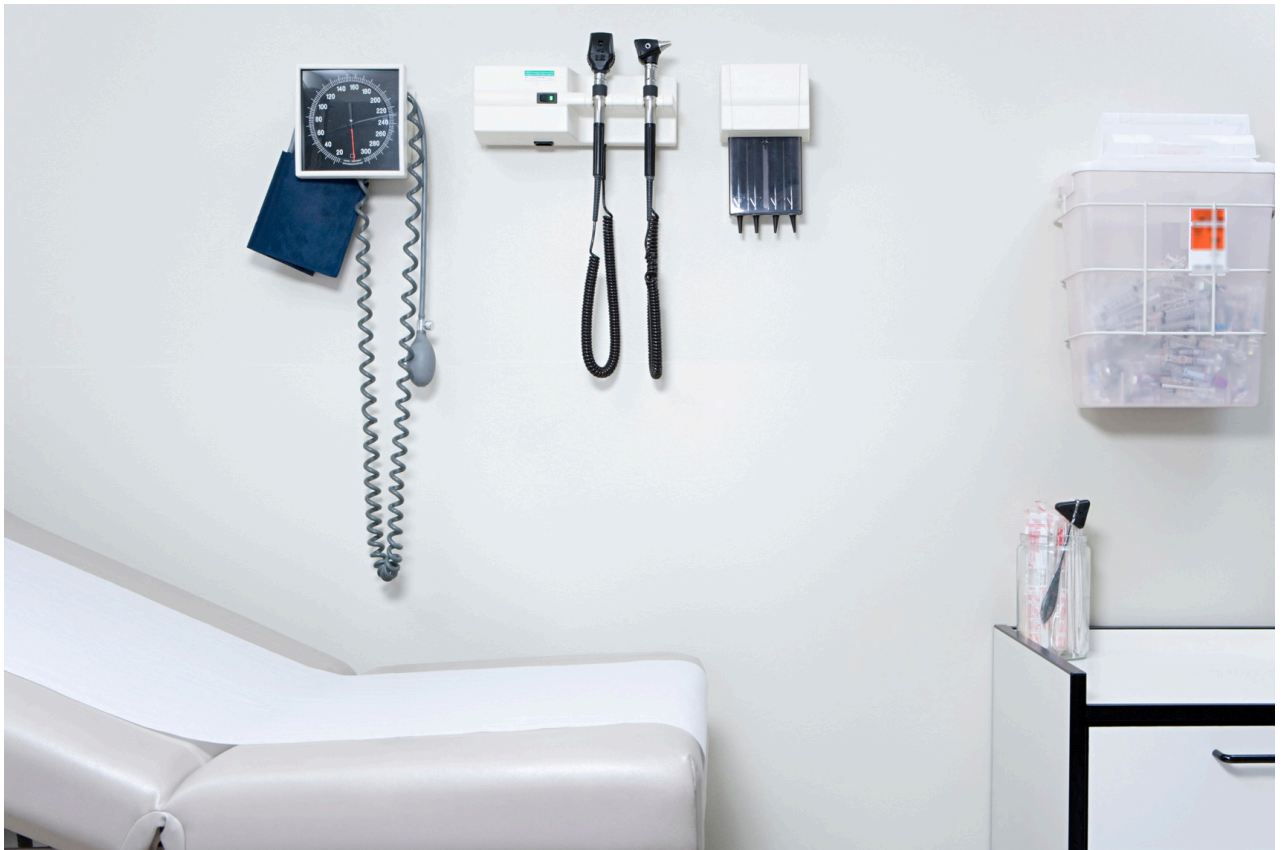
The Tricuspid Clip Program has emerged and complements our existing, extensive list of structural clinics.

We have expanded our mechanical circulatory support (MCS) to include Impella heart pumps in the Cath Lab and CCU.

The introduction of pulsed field ablation for atrial fibrillation (AFib) ablation has greatly enhance the ability of our electrophysiologists to manage AFib in a more effective and timely manner.

We have renovated our existing Cath Labs and now have two state-of-the-art Cath Labs and an upgraded, state-of-the-art electrophysiology lab.

Our clinics and services continue to provide important and valuable care to patients across the province.



Dermatology



Division Head
Dr. Kirsten Walker



FACULTY AND RANK

Assistant Professor

Dr. Kyle Cullingham
Dr. Kerry Gardner
Dr. Tosin Odeshi (Aug. 2024)
Dr. Irina Oroz
Dr. Kirsten Walker



The Saskatoon Division of Dermatology consists of five clinicians in Saskatoon. Members of the division mentor students and residents in private practice clinics. Several division members are involved in clinical trials.



Education

Dr. Walker continues to lead the undergraduate medicine dermatology module. Division members accept medical students, internal, and family medicine residents for clinical electives. They also deliver lectures for resident half days, the College of Medicine's Continuing Medical Education (CME) lecture series and Department of Medicine Grand Rounds.

The first year of the entirely Saskatchewan-based dermatology residency program was a success, and on July 1, 2025, two new PGY1s joined the program.



Research

All five Saskatoon dermatologists are clinician investigators in phase two and three clinical trials in the therapeutic areas of: hidradenitis suppurativa, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, chronic spontaneous urticaria, and prurigo nodularis.



Patient Care

Saskatoon has five dermatologists currently seeing patients in two private clinics. Dr. Walker and Dr. Odeshi also see patients in all of the Saskatoon hospitals.



Endocrinology & Metabolism



Division Head

**Dr. Gudrun
Caspar-Bell**

FACULTY AND RANK

Associate Professor

Dr. Gudrun Caspar-Bell

Assistant Professor

Dr. Reza Behdani

Dr. Gideon Dala (until July 2024)

Dr. Devon Houdek

Dr. Nassrein Hussein

The Saskatoon Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism consists of clinicians based out of the Royal University Hospital, serving Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan, including Prince Albert.



Education

Clinicians are actively involved in training and mentoring residents as well as teaching undergraduate medical students, to ensure the necessary endocrinology knowledge and skills are successfully conveyed to future physicians.



Research

Dr. Gudrun Caspar-Bell and Dr. Mina Niazi (Gastroenterology and Hepatology) were the recipients of the RUHF 2024 Women Leading Philanthropy \$100,000 Grant for their project *Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Osteoporosis in Women with Chronic Liver Disease*.

Dr. Caspar-Bell continues to be involved in endocrinology and interdisciplinary research.



Patient Care

Division members Drs. Caspar-Bell and Devon Houdek are active in joint multidisciplinary clinics with thyroid surgeons and pituitary surgeons, a model which has been shown to deliver superior patient care.

Dr. Houdek also participates in multidisciplinary diabetes clinics through the LiveWell program. Dr. Reza Behdani was instrumental in starting a similar multidisciplinary diabetes clinic at the Prince Albert site.

Dr. Caspar-Bell is involved with the pre- and post-cardiovascular assessment clinic with the Division of Cardiac Surgery. Dr. Caspar-Bell is responsible for a joint clinic for liver disease with Dr. Mina Niazi (Gastroenterology and Hepatology). Dr. Caspar-Bell also works in the thyroid clinic, which provides higher-quality patient care through its time and cost saving ultrasound procedures.

Division members also provide continuous endocrinology call coverage for Saskatoon and surrounding communities and, at times, cover the entire province.

Gastroenterology & Hepatology



Division Head
Dr. Anil Bedi

The Saskatoon Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology continues to provide comprehensive clinical services across all Saskatoon hospitals, as well as outreach care to the communities of Kindersley, Humboldt, and Rosetown. This year, the Division successfully expanded services in Rosetown and is requiring further growth in endoscopy capacity within Saskatoon to support future recruitment initiatives. Efforts are underway to develop a centralized triage system to more effectively manage referrals, reduce patient wait times, and ensure patients are directed to the most appropriate specialist. In parallel, the Division is designing educational templates to support family physicians and referring specialists in optimizing referral quality. Work has also begun on the establishment of a Royal College–accredited gastroenterology fellowship program, which will enhance post-graduate training and strengthen the academic mission of the Division.



Education

The Division remains deeply committed to medical education at all levels of training. Members of the Division continue to deliver lectures and clinical skills teaching to first-year medical students and provide supervision for both medical students and residents during gastroenterology rotations. Faculty members also contribute to teaching in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) Program.

FACULTY AND RANK

Professor

Dr. Lawrence Worobetz

Clinical Professor

Dr. Thomas Sylwestrowicz

Associate Professor

Dr. Sharyle Fowler

Assistant Professor

Dr. Jennifer Bailey

Dr. Anil Bedi

Dr. Tom Guzowski

Dr. Edward Ha

Dr. Samson Haimanot

Dr. Prateek Kundapur

Dr. Edwin Larkai

Dr. Mina Niazi

Dr. Peter Porostocky

Dr. Sharyle Fowler currently serves as a committee member for two Master's students and one PhD student. She has delivered multiple presentations to gastroenterology specialists on navigating the evolving landscape of available biologic therapies for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In addition, Dr. Fowler contributed as a faculty member to the development of the educational program "S1Plicity – Transforming UC Care," focused on advancing biologic treatment strategies for ulcerative colitis.

Dr. Jennifer Bailey is completing her second year in the Clinician Educator Program, focusing on curriculum design and assessment, and she continues to serve as a member of the Clerkship Competency Committee.

Dr. Tom Guzowski serves as an International Bowel Ultrasound (IBUS) Trainer and has successfully established Saskatoon as a training site for IBUS Module 2.

Dr. Eddy Ha continues to serve as Director of the Foundations GI Module for first-year medical students, ensuring the delivery of high-quality foundational education in gastroenterology.

Dr. Mina Niazi plays an integral role in the MultiSystem Complex Course (MED 246), contributing to lecture delivery, program development, case revision, and exam design. Dr. Niazi is also involved in rural hepatology care, providing educational sessions on early case identification and treatment to referring physicians in Prince Albert and offering mentorship to physicians involved in hepatology management.

Dr. Prateek Kundapur contributes internationally as a lecturer in the Preceptorship Program at the Kanachur Institute of Medical Sciences, supporting global medical education.



Dr. Niazi has contributed to research on pre-habilitation for patients awaiting liver transplants to reduce physical frailty and improve health outcomes. Dr. Niazi has also collaborated on development of a 12-week wellness program for liver disease patients.

Dr. Guzowski, Dr. Fowler, and three residents in the Department completed a prospective observational study on the impact of intestinal ultrasound on clinical decision-making in Crohn's Disease management.

Dr. Guzowski also supervised resident Dr. Chui's research project "Uncommon and Ulcerative: A Rare Presentation of Esophagitis," which was present in April 2025 for the Resident Research Day.



Division members continue to provide exemplary clinical care and leadership in hospital and community settings. Dr. Fowler, Dr. Ha, and Dr. Samson Haimanot serve on the Endoscopy Operations Committee, overseeing city-wide delivery of endoscopy services.

Dr. Niazi remains a key contributor to national and provincial hepatology initiatives. As part of the Canadian Hepatitis C Research and Training Network (CanHepC), Dr. Niazi led the "National Indigenous Roadmap to Eliminate Hepatitis C" project, and contributed to the development of the Cirrhosis Order Set for the SHA. She also serves on the Expert Advisory

Committee on Blood Borne Communicable Diseases and the Physician Health and Wellbeing Program. In addition, Dr. Niazi oversees Hepatitis B care for immigrant populations at West Winds Primary Health Centre.

Dr. Peter Porostocky continues to serve as Director of the Capsule Endoscopy Program, providing inpatient and outpatient services that aid in the diagnosis of small bowel pathology, including IBD and gastrointestinal bleeding.

Dr. Fowler continues as Director of the multidisciplinary IBD Clinical and Research Unit, which includes two Nurse Practitioners, one Nurse Clinician, and a Nurse Navigator serving rural patients provincially.

Dr. Guzowski has increased the volume of intestinal ultrasonography clinics for IBD patients, expanding services to RUH and extending small bowel ultrasound capabilities to pediatric patients. He also serves as Board Member and Treasurer for the Canadian Bowel Ultrasound Association (CANBUS) and continues to provide inpatient care on the Clinical Teaching Unit.

Dr. Kundapur oversees the Esophageal Motility Program, including esophageal manometry and 24-hour pH monitoring, as well as the Rectal Manometry Program. Through restructuring initiatives, wait times for motility studies have been successfully reduced to 3 months from the time of requisition receipt.

Dr. Haimanot continues to expand endoscopic therapeutic services, with future plans to develop endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided cholecystostomy and gastrojejunostomy capabilities.

Dr. Jennifer Bailey is leading the development of an internal centralized triage system, having completed the gastroenterology and hepatology documentation components. She is now creating algorithms to determine appropriate referral pathways for primary care physicians. Dr. Bailey has also drafted a joint agreement of understanding among Thoracic Surgery, Gastroenterology, and Emergency Medicine to streamline the management of foreign body ingestions and reduce emergency department delays. Additionally, she has developed a Bleed Program to optimize endoscopy utilization for high-risk variceal patients, to reduce re-presentations to the emergency department from recurrent variceal bleeding.

General Internal Medicine (GIM)



Division Head
**Dr. Anne
PausJenssen**

The Division of General Internal Medicine is busy with clinical care, education, administration and research. We have a 2-year training program that prepares our graduates for the many diverse careers available within GIM. We welcomed 3 new staff members to our division this year – Drs. Tiffanie Tse, Jason Denis, and Troy Appleton. We also said goodbye and thank you to Drs. Mike Zadowski and Jessie Baptiste who moved out of province; Dr. Baptiste had been the Internal Medicine Program Director and was active in teaching and administration. Dr. Victoria Tian received fellowship support to gain additional training in pain medicine, and we look forward to her return in 2026.

Many of our members were recognized for their excellence in clinical care, teaching, and administration this year:

- Dr. Sharon Card was awarded the 2024 ACP Prairie Provinces Chapter Distinguished Teacher/Mentor Award, presented at the Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Meeting in November 2024.
- Dr. Linden Kolbenson won 2 teaching awards from the IM training program – The Bedside Teacher of the Year and The Clinical Teacher of the Year.
- Dr. Ben Leis won a teaching award from the GIM training program fellows.
- Dr. Michael Prystajec won 2 awards – the Distinguished Lecturer Award, from the IM program and the Teacher of the Year Award from the GIM training program.
- Dr. Nabeel Samad was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for his excellent care and contributions in military health.



Education

Our staff are actively involved in teaching undergraduates, residents, and GIM fellows. The division has a 2-year, subspecialty residency training program which helps to prepare residents for a diverse range of careers within GIM. Our staff take on a variety of roles to ensure this work endures.

Dr. Jon Dean agreed to step into the role of Program Director of the Internal Medicine (IM) training program and co-lead the program, taking on increasing amounts of responsibility prior to his official start date of July 1, 2025. Dr. Dean had been the IM program's curriculum lead, and remains an active teacher both on the ward, in lecture halls, and in the simulation lab. Dr. Dean is working towards his Master's in Medical Education.

Dr. Jill Newstead-Angel continues to provide steady leadership as the GIM subspecialty training program director. She is well-respected and a role model to both faculty and trainees. The GIM fellowship program is thriving, and with Dr. Linden Kolbenson's help, a new point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) curriculum has been added. Dr. Tiffanie Tse has joined Dr. Sharon Card on the curriculum committee, and this group has been active in helping to plan out the 2-year academic curriculum. 4 new GIM fellows matched to the program in 2024-25 academic year.

Many of our staff support work in both IM and GIM training programs as competency committee members or chairs, or as academic advisors. In addition, our staff teach at the undergraduate medical student level and give lectures, teach clinical skills, are examiners, and preceptors for the students. Dr. Rabia Shahid also serves as the year 3 & 4 IM rotation Director for Saskatoon for UGME.

Dr. Matthew Skeldon has been named to the Canadian Royal College Exam Board for GIM. This national recognition of his excellence in clinical care, teaching and education, is well earned.

FACULTY AND RANK

Emeritus Professor

Dr. Thomas Wilson

Clinical Professor

Dr. Kempe Gowda

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Sabayasachi Bose

Associate Professor

Dr. Sharon Card

Dr. Michael Prystajecy

Dr. Rabia Shahid

Dr. Heather Ward

Assistant Professor

Dr. Fahd Al-Dhalaan

Dr. Troy Appleton (Oct. 2024)

Dr. Ian Arseneau, Critical Care

Dr. Jessie Baptiste (until June 2025)

Dr. Ravigubal Basi

Dr. Allison Budd

Dr. Jonathan Dean

Dr. Nathan Degenhart

Dr. Jason Denis (Oct. 2024)

Dr. Joseph Dimitry

Dr. Mark Fenske

Dr. Devin Frobb

Dr. Colin Gebhardt, Critical Care

Dr. Sanyukta Ghoorah

Dr. Rodmehr Hafezi

Dr. Norman Joanis, Critical Care

Dr. Jeremy Katulka, Critical Care

Dr. Alexandra King

Dr. Linden Kolbenson

Dr. Rekha Kundapur

Dr. Cheyenne Lawton

Dr. Benjamin Leis

Dr. Arthur Ling

Dr. Upal Madampage

Dr. Lori Mamchur

Dr. Jill Newstead-Angel

Dr. Amanda Oro

Dr. Anne PausJenssen

Dr. Zohreh Sabbagh

Dr. Nabeel Samad

Dr. Griselda (Natali) Serrano

Dr. Praveena Sivapalan

Dr. Matthew Skeldon

Dr. Kristoffer Stewart

Dr. Brandon Suen

Dr. Eileen Szabo

Dr. Victoria Tian

Dr. Tiffanie Tse (Nov. 2024)

Dr. Charanpreeti Ubhi

Dr. Mandeep Ubhi

Dr. Chukwunonso Ufodu

Dr. Sabira Valiani, Critical Care

Dr. Alastair Wall, Critical Care

Dr. Andrew Yang

Dr. Michael Zawadowski (until June 2025)

Dr. Arvinda Ghoorah was awarded fellowship from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, United Kingdom in June 2025. Her mastery of Internal Medicine, and provision of highest standard of clinical care make her richly deserving of this honour.

Dr. Card continues in her role as CBL Longitudinal Coordinator for UGME, is the chair of the GIM competency committee, and a member of the IM competency committee. She also is an AFC Clinician Educator Curriculum Unit Member and is a member of the Royal College GIM Specialty Committee Member. Moreover, Dr. Card has been an invited Member of the RCPSC Accreditation Teams to do this important work across Canada.

Dr. Kolbenson remains actively involved in POCUS education at all levels of learning. In UGME he completed his first year as the Pre-Clerkship POCUS lead, helping to deliver a high-quality POCUS curriculum to first- and second-year medical students at USask. He also reprised his role as the clerkship POCUS lead and completed another successful ultrasound elective for clerkship medical students.

In his first year as the DoM POCUS lead, Dr. Kolbenson continues to encourage POCUS education. As the staff lead for the Core IM program POCUS committee, Dr. Kolbenson facilitated six 'after hours' training sessions for IM residents to practice their POCUS skills. Plans for a new POCUS station at the PGY1 transition camp and POCUS guided peripheral IV workshop for the residents were also formulated for the upcoming academic year. The annual POCUS selective was again offered, to great success, with the addition of staff learners to aid in POCUS faculty development. In conjunction with Dr. Paul Olszynski, a faculty scan night was held early in the academic year with many members of the department in attendance.

Several members delivered educational talks at medical grand rounds and local conferences. Dr. Michael Prystajecy, Dr. Praveena Sivapalan, and Dr. S. Bose presented at the Cardiology CME days. Dr. Bose also gave two medical grand rounds this year on Lipids. Dr. Prystajecy also spoke at medical grand rounds, and at a combined GIM, Orthopedics, and Anaesthesia rounds on peri-operative care.



Research

The GIM division is busy with research, and several members have publications this year, received grants, and gave presentations on their work. Additional research information can be found on pages 17-21.

Dr. Shahid continues to focus her research on diabetes, glycemic control, and impact on women with breast cancer. She has new grants helping her to further this work, has presented at international

meetings, and had 2 publications in this. Dr. Shahid is also the Deputy Editor in Chief for the Canadian Journal of General Internal Medicine since January 2025 and is also a Grant reviewer for Spring CIHR Project Grants in 2025.

Dr. Ben Leis has 2 publications and 2 published abstracts on his critical work on improving care to patients with addictions and endocarditis. He has been awarded 2 grants to further his research. His work is internationally recognized and he remains a role model for many interested in quality improvement.

Dr. Kolbenson continues to be active in POCUS research with 3 publications in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Dr. Prystajecy had 2 publications, both with a QI and peri-operative focus. He was successfully obtained 2 grants to further his QI work from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

Dr. Sabira Valiani has a focus on Intensive Care, family, communication, and end-of-life care. She is well known for her work, and has 4 publications this year in this area, and 1 invited conference poster. She has been an invited speaker at the Canadian Critical Care Society meeting and shared a grant with Dr. Leis supervising a summer student to further work on a MENDO clinical pathway.

Dr. Card was an invited speaker at a national conference and an international conference regarding her foundational work that positioned GIM's breakthrough to be recognized as a subspecialty 15 years ago, the impact this had on education, and possible implications for the future workforce. Additionally, Dr. Card published work on competency by design, and tensions with its implementation.

Dr. Heather Ward contributed to 3 publications this year, focusing on aging, care models, and family impacts.



Patient Care

GIM members work in and out of Saskatoon's hospitals to help further the health of those living in the city and surrounding area. GIM provides care to most admitted medical patients in the 3 hospitals; there are 8 admitting teams at RUH, 1 at SCH, and 8 at SPH. The patient volumes at the sites are increasing and we have often 170-200

patients at the RUH and SPH sites under our care. The SPH Emergency Department also has a GIM staff member providing consultations daily. In addition, GIM has additional staff providing consultation to other departments, such as Surgery, Obstetrics, and Psychiatry at the RUH and SPH sites. In total, our division has 19 staff members working in the Saskatoon hospitals every day of the year.

The GIM division is also busy with outpatient care and delivers care to adults with upcoming surgeries, and adults living with diabetes, including women who are pregnant. Again, patient volumes are increasing in all clinics. The pre-op clinic runs daily and is currently located in SCH. The adult diabetes clinics run 4 days a week and our staff do most of these clinics. The diabetes in pregnancy clinics are full day clinics run twice weekly. In addition, our staff do general outpatient work; some with a focus on Bariatric Medicine, and others, who have additional expertise, on Obstetrical Medicine. Dr. Nabeel Samad is a Major in the Canadian Armed Forces, and in addition to GIM, prioritizes military health.



Administration

Dr. Rob Basi has taken on an important role for the Department and is now the area lead for Saskatoon. He works with other department leaders and with SHA to help improve clinical care.

Dr. Prystajecy continues as the lead for Department of Medicine Quality Improvement Initiative. He is also the lead for the division's pre-operative work and sits on several committees for this important work.

Dr. Chuk Ufodu remains on as lead for the House-officer program, which provides critical support to this division. His leadership, and ability to serve as a bridge between the two clinical groups is well regarded by all.

Dr. Nathan Degenhart excels in his on going and important role of division scheduler, which is a massive undertaking. His computer program that he wrote, and maintains, is recognized for its excellence; he has been approached by several other physician groups in Saskatchewan who wish to replicate it. Dr. Degenhart, his work, and tireless efforts to help our division members with scheduling issues, is irreplaceable.



Dr. Alexandra King (Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness, GIM)

Dr. Alexandra King, a member and citizen of Nipissing First Nation (Ontario), is the Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness and co-leads the Pewaseskwan Indigenous Wellness Research Group at the USask. She is an internal medicine specialist with a focus on HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV/HCV co-infections.

Dr. King's research is guided by *etuaptmumk* (Two-eyed Seeing) and Ethical Space. Through Pewaseskwan, she is successfully creating an Indigenous health and wellness research space and challenging colonial ways of doing research by demonstrating that following Indigenous approaches based on respect, reciprocity, and relationality, can lead to meaningful and impactful research.

Pewaseskwan, under Dr. King's leadership, is running an array of projects, such as Mitewekan, an Indigenous-led platform which comprises of Wise Ones (Elders, Knowledge Holders, healers and more), First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people with lived and living experience, and Indigenous health leaders from across Canada. Mitewekan helps guides the Cardiovascular Network of Canada, the Canadian Heart Function Alliance and the Brain-Heart Interconnectome on Indigenous engagement in and leadership of heart and heart-brain care and research. Mitewekan also supports the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and StrokeCog.

Mitewekan is innovating ground-breaking research through the 7-Directions Summit. This process, involving Indigenous people from coast-to-coast-to-coast, will help to articulate a research roadmap for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in heart and heart-brain health. Dr. King is also working with the Medicine by Design team at the University of Toronto, pioneering and transforming regenerative medicine and healing with Indigenous peoples better serve the population.

Dr. King is a co-Investigator on RareKids-CAN Pediatric Rare Disease Clinical Trials and Treatment Network, with a total funding from CIHR of \$20M over five years and on Canadian Consortium of Clinical Trial Training (CANTRAIN) platform, where she co-leads the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Working Group. Additionally, Dr. King and Professor Malcolm King are co-PIs for Empowering Next-generation Researchers in Perinatal and Child Health (ENRICH), with a total funding from CIHR of \$2.4M over six years.

Dr. King is also working with a clinical trials training platform funded by CIHR: Increasing capacity for Maternal and Paediatric Clinical Trials (IMPACT). It serves clinicians and researchers in any discipline who work with children and pregnant people, and want to learn more about designing, operating and communicating about clinical trials. She and the Pewaseskwan team provides guidance on including Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing into IMPACT's work as well as reviewing fellowship applications for Indigenous training awards. In a research project with PASSERELLE, Pewaseskwan is conducting an environmental scan to see what Indigenous resources are available within patient-oriented research with a broader focus on Indigenous wellness.

In September 2024, Dr. King was announced as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. She works with registered nurse Carlli Chohaniuk at Wicihowin (roughly translates into English as "taking care of each other"), a clinic focused on care for those living with HIV, viral hepatitis and other liver diseases at the Royal University Hospital's outpatient department. Dr. King has shared Pewaseskwan's work at conferences and gatherings across Canada and in Aotearoa (New Zealand) during the past year, along with contributing to several publications.

Geriatric Medicine



Division Head
Dr. Megan Surkan



FACULTY AND RANK

Associate Professor

Dr. Jenny Basran

Assistant Professor

Dr. Krista Lagimodiere

Dr. Elizabeth Rhynold

Dr. Christina (Tia) Shaw (Sept. 2024)

Dr. Megan Surkan

Graduate students: 1 PhD, 1 MSc



The division's geriatricians specialize in comprehensive geriatric assessments of complex older adults and provide consultative services in acute care and outpatient settings. The division was pleased to welcome back Dr. Tia Shaw to the group in 2024. Dr. Shaw has a special interest in continence in older adults.

The division is looking forward to the return of Dr. Nikki Hodgins in 2026.



Education

The geriatricians are actively involved in education at the PGME, UGME, and department levels, and further support education through important community partners.

The division welcomed guest lecturer Dr. Samir Sinha in April 2025 who spoke about the Acute Care for Elders strategy as an evidence-informed care model proven to deliver better patient and system outcomes.

Dr. Shaw and Dr. Megan Surkan collaborated with the Quality of Care Committee, GIM, Orthopedics, and Radiology presenting at Grand Rounds "Missed Hip Fractures in the Oldest Old."

Dr. Surkan and Dr. Elizabeth Rhynold presented during the Division of Continuing Medical Education's Older Adult Learning series in February 2025 on the topics of falls and polypharmacy.

The geriatricians have increased the number of UGME lectures to support the multisystem complex care curriculum.

The geriatricians continue to teach resident academic half days at the PGME level. Dr. Shaw is an academic advisor for the internal medicine program and provides teaching on approaches to geriatric syndromes while working on the Clinical Teaching Unit (CTU). Dr. Shaw has collaborated to create a new interprofessional, educational small group session on older adults. Dr. Surkan is working jointly with Dr. Jon Dean (GIM) in developing a Complexity Module for Core IM residents.

This year, Dr. Rhynold presented a public awareness presentation on dementia to the province on behalf of the Alzheimer Society and presented at the virtual RxFiles Conference.

The division has enjoyed contributing to lunch and learn sessions with the Division of Palliative Care. The division is pleased to be supporting the start-up of a Geriatric Interest Group (GIG) to support medical students interested in pursuing geriatrics.





Research

Dr. Shaw sits on the Royal College Speciality Committee for Geriatric Medicine as well as the Quality of Care Committee. Dr. Shaw is a member of a multidisciplinary committee working on a delirium order set.

Dr. Krista Lagimodiere is a member of the research committee for a PhD candidate in the College of Medicine Department of Community Health and Epidemiology regarding dementia research (2024-present).

Dr. Lagimodiere serves on the Board of Directors for the Alzheimer Society and is on the membership committee of the Canadian Geriatrics Society. Dr. Lagimodiere is a Co-PI in a study "Dementia Screening and Diagnosis for older persons in custody at the Regional Psychiatric Center" (PI: Kent-Wilkinson, A).

Dr. Surkan is a co-investigator in Dr. Peter Hedlin's trial "Co-developing, implementing, and evaluating a multidisciplinary delirium prevention pathway to reduce postoperative delirium in older adults with cognitive decline: a pilot study." The post-op delirium pathway committee has moved to the implementation stage of the project and plans to include 100 patients in the pilot project to initiate dedicated screening protocols to preemptively identify those at greatest risk followed by interventions to reduce delirium risk perioperatively. The project will be presented at the annual Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry (CGAP) meeting: Canadian Coalition for Senior's Mental Health (CCSMH) in October 2025.

Drs. Surkan and Lagimodiere continue to support a USask research team lead by Dr. Ron Geyer (PI), a SHRF-funded Phase Two multicentre, blinded, randomized placebo-controlled study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of NeuroEPO in subjects with mild to moderate stage Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Surkan co-supervised Master's student Andy Luu, whose project "Drug therapy in older adults referred for comprehensive geriatric assessment" was presented at the Strengthening Health Research in Pharmacy (SHARP) Pharmacy Practice Research Symposium in Niagara, ON in June 2025 and at the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists 51st Annual Banff Seminar in March 2025.



Patient Care

The division's geriatricians currently operate four main streams of clinical care. The geriatricians run a busy inpatient consult service at RUH. Outpatient work includes providing Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) in a variety of outpatient settings, including their outpatient geriatrician clinics and via consultative work to those living with frailty who attend the Day Hospital program at GEM (Geriatric Evaluation and Management).

The division is pleased to now offer reduced wait times for clinic patients and consultation services via Telehealth from the centralized triage pathway for those living outside of Saskatoon. There is also increased access to home visits.

Dr. Shaw has initiated a joint geriatrician-urogynecology pilot clinic with Dr. Annette Epp, providing care to older adult patients with bladder issues.

The division is looking forward to further expansion of clinical services in the inpatient setting and perioperative care.



Infectious Diseases



Division Head

Dr. Satchan Takaya

The division's clinicians specialize in adult infectious diseases and provide consultation services at Saskatoon's three hospitals. Members are actively involved in the Saskatchewan Infectious Diseases Care Network (SIDCN), the College of Medicine STBBI Treatment Education Program for Saskatchewan (STEPS), and HIV Leveraging Immediate Non-urgent Knowledge (LINK) hotline, providing HIV, Hepatitis C, and STBBI education and support for Saskatoon and the province's northern communities. Members also provide leadership to Infection Prevention and Control teams, and lead the important work of antimicrobial stewardship.

Dr. Cara Spence joined the division this year. Our team now consists of seven clinical faculty and one research PhD.



Education

The division continues to support undergraduate and post-graduate medical education in Infectious Diseases through lectures, preceptorship, and supervision of research projects.

Many of our members participate as educators for the College of Medicine's Continuing Medical Education STEPS program. By educating other care providers throughout the province, we hope to move towards a solution for the HIV, HCV, and syphilis epidemics affecting many communities throughout our province.



FACULTY AND RANK

Associate Professor

Dr. Stephen Sanche

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Satchan Takaya

Assistant Professor

Dr. Amina (Sarah) Henni

Dr. Jack Janvier

Dr. Cara Spence (July 2024)

Dr. Alice Wong

Dr. Beverly Wudel



Research

Dr. Cara Spence and Dr. Bev Wudel are leading a project on HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis in patients negative for HIV but at risk and interested in Opioid agonist therapy. Dr. Stephen Sanche, Dr. Spence, and Dr. Wudel continue to work on Hepatitis C research as part of the Clinical Trials Network. Dr. Spence is the early researcher lead for the Canadian Trials Network for the prairies, with focus on research in HIV and other STBBI.



Patient Care

Our division continues to provide infectious disease consultations for all three hospitals in Saskatoon.

Our members work with the Positive Living Program (HIV Care) and the Sanctum Care Group to provide care to patients who have been historically minoritized in the Saskatoon area.

Dr. Aminda (Sarah) Henni leads the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, essential to antimicrobial preservation in our clinical practice.

Nephrology



Division Head
Dr. Davina Tai

The Saskatoon Division of Nephrology provides consultative and longitudinal clinical care for the entire spectrum of kidney disease (from screening to end-stage disease to transplantation) in both acute care and outpatient settings.

We are committed to delivering and overseeing outstanding medical education at all levels.

Our members are active leaders in the nephrology community provincially, nationally, and internationally.



Education

Our division is committed to delivering and overseeing outstanding medical education at all levels. Quality education and mentorship is a priority for us, and all division members actively teach in formal and informal settings.

- Formal undergraduate nephrology education ("Foundations Kidney and Urinary Tract") is co-directed and organized locally by Dr. Chance Dumaine.
- Dr. David Reid is the program director for our thriving nephrology subspecialty training program.
- Dr. Yasaman Torabi is pursuing graduate studies in medical education through McMaster University.
- Dr. Rahul Mainra is Director of Faculty and Clinical Placements for the new MPAS (Master of Physician Assistant Studies) at USask.



FACULTY AND RANK

Professor

Dr. Ahmed Shoker
Dr. Rahul Mainra

Clinical Professor

Dr. James Barton
Dr. Joanne Kappel

Assistant Professor

Dr. Ayesha Ahmed
Dr. Chance Dumaine
Dr. Amanda Halpin
Dr. Abubaker Hassan
Dr. Matthew Patterson (July 2024)
Dr. David Reid
Dr. Sachin Shah
Dr. Rod Stryker
Dr. Davina Tai
Dr. Yasaman Torabi



- Dr. James Barton completed his Master of Health Professions Education (MHPE) at Queen's University. He is Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education for the College of Medicine at USask. He is also a faculty member of the Harvard Macy Institute (Leading Innovations in Health Care and Education), and has been an expert panelist and faculty facilitator with their institute.
- In January 2025, Dr. Sachin Shah was named the Chief Examiner for Nephrology with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



Research

Our division is actively involved in ongoing quality improvement for our various kidney care programs to optimize clinical processes and patient care. We are a clinical division, yet continue to publish research and present at national and international conferences.

Dr. Ahmed Shoker and Dr. Rahul Mainra have each published several papers in the last year. Dr. Rod Stryker completed supervision of a successful PhD candidate; he presented "Lessons Learned from our

Clinical Improvement Team" - about our local PD catheter strategy - at the International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care in the Netherlands. Beyond nephrology, Dr. Barton has published and presented research on CME and professional development.

Patient Care

Our physician leaders work alongside administrators to guide kidney care program improvement and expansion. At the bedside, we work with other physicians and in multidisciplinary teams to enhance patient care. Provincially, the Northern and Southern Kidney Health Programs are aligning clinical policies and procedures. Dr. Barton is the SHA Provincial Lead.

Our nephrologists care for thousands of patients in our general nephrology clinics. The bulk of our clinical work is outpatient care. In these general nephrology clinics, we diagnose and manage a broad range of renal disorders including glomerulonephritis, cystic kidney disease, interstitial kidney disease, nephrolithiasis, diabetic kidney disease, and hypertension.

The Kidney Check Saskatchewan program, led by Dr. Amanda Halpin, is just over one year old. This program provides northern Saskatchewan communities with education and awareness about kidney disease and its risk factors. As part of this program, a renal nurse screens patients for kidney disease and refers those at intermediate and high risk of advanced disease to nephrology.

Dr. Halpin is also the medical lead for the northern Kidney Health Clinic (KHC) which serves over 800 patients with high-risk chronic kidney disease (CKD). This clinic aims to educate and support CKD patients, slow renal decline, manage complications, and prepare patients for end-stage kidney disease.

We provide dialysis care to over 600 ESKD patients in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan. Saskatoon has two hemodialysis (HD) units while satellite HD units are located in Lloydminster, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Tisdale, Meadow Lake, and Flin Flon, MB, with a new dialysis unit in La Ronge currently under construction.

Dr. Davina Tai is the medical lead for Hemodialysis and Vascular Access. Recently, new HD machines have arrived in Saskatchewan and are being integrated into our HD units. Our nephrology-led vascular access clinics continue to provide specialized, patient-focused care.

Dr. Shah is the medical lead for Home Based Dialysis therapies (home HD and peritoneal dialysis). Patients on home-based dialysis therapies are seen regularly in outpatient clinics and as often as needed for comprehensive renal care.

Since July 2024, our nephrologists Dr. Matthew Patterson and Dr. Torabi have joined interventional radiologists and general surgeon, Dr. Ogiack, in placing PD catheters. This has been a tremendous boost for our division, and for our local CKD and ESKD population. Dr. Patterson and Dr. Torabi have initiated a multidisciplinary pre-PD catheter insertion clinic which has further improved patient care and system efficiency.

Dr. Ayesha Ahmed has taken on the role of local lead for continuous renal replacement therapy, and will be working on provincial standardization. Dr. Ahmed is also the adult nephrology lead for our multidisciplinary Pediatric Transition KHCs. With pediatric nephrologists and allied health, Dr. Ahmed looks after mature pediatric patients (15+) with ESKD and any form of CKD who will need care from adult nephrologists.

The Saskatchewan Transplant Program is led by Dr. Abubaker Hassan. With Dr. Ahmed Shoker and Dr. Mainra, they follow over 770 Saskatchewan patients both pre- and post-renal transplantation. The transplant nephrologists are also involved in the pre-transplant workup of over 140 kidney transplant assessment patients. In the last year, 28 kidney transplants were performed. They also travel monthly to Regina for 3-day clinics, and attend weekly virtual clinics.

With the support of the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation's Kidney Care Campaign, planning has begun on the eagerly anticipated Transition Care Unit. It will provide education and support to patients who initiate dialysis. With transition units, ESKD care is coordinated for new dialysis patients, allowing promotion of home dialysis modalities and optimal dialysis access.

Neurology



Division Head
Dr. Gary Hunter

The 2024–2025 year marked another period of growth and excellence for the Division of Neurology at the University of Saskatchewan. The division continues to advance high-quality inpatient and outpatient neurological care, academic productivity, and provincial leadership in neuroscience. There are currently 23 neurologists practicing in Saskatoon, representing a mix of community-based and hospital-based academic positions.



Education

Acute stroke simulations continue to be a highlight for neurology and off-service residents.

Undergraduate neurology sessions continue to be very well received. Several undergraduate students were involved in research with faculty.

Dr. Andrew Kirk continues to supervise medical students and residents, and delivers frequent public education sessions and scientific lectures.

Our residency program is fully accredited and hosts ten neurology residents within our division.



FACULTY AND RANK

Emeritus Professor

Dr. Ali Rajput

Professor

Dr. Andrew Kirk

Dr. Michael Levin

Dr. Alex Rajput

Clinical Professor

Dr. Chris Voll

Associate Professor

Dr. Gary Hunter

Dr. Kerri Schellenberg

Assistant Professor

Dr. Stephanie Ballendine (Nov. 2024)

Dr. Haley Block

Dr. Alexandra Carter

Dr. Regan (Sean) Cooley

Dr. Omar DeRita

Dr. Wendi Fitzpatrick

Dr. Cassandra Fleury

Dr. Brett Graham

Dr. Shayla Kennedy

Dr. Paul Masiowski

Dr. Eric Noyes

Dr. Ilia Poliakov

Dr. Rochelle Savard

Dr. Sheila Savedia-Cayabyab

Dr. Ryan Verity (Sept. 2024)

Dr. Sanchea Wasyliv



Research

The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Program, led by Dr. Michael Levin and Dr. Ilia Poliakov, remains a major provincial and national contributor to both research and clinical care. Dr. Levin was reappointed as the Saskatchewan MS Research Chair, has presented at several international conferences, and continues his role as Editor of the Neurology Section of the Merck Manual. The program has supervised multiple undergraduate and graduate trainees, and this year celebrated the graduation of its third MS fellow, who has since established a neurology practice in Regina.

Dr. Ilia Poliakov contributed to the Canadian MS Treatment Optimization Recommendations, reinforcing the division's leadership in MS policy and care innovation across the country.

Under the leadership of Dr. Kerri Schellenberg, the Neuromuscular Program continues to excel in clinical innovation and research productivity. She leads novel research using electrical impedance tomography to evaluate lung function in ALS patients and has been principal investigator or co-investigator on six successful grants totaling over \$3M, including a CIHR-funded study on Canadian neuromuscular disease and ongoing work in spinal bulbar muscular atrophy.

Drs. Alex and Ali Rajput continue their remarkable international collaborations, presenting at major conferences and publishing extensively on novel clinicopathologic findings in Parkinson's disease and related movement disorders, many derived from unique autopsy-based studies within Saskatchewan.

The stroke team remains highly active in clinical research and trials in both acute stroke and secondary prevention, regularly presenting at national and international meetings.

Patient Care

Optimizing patient care remains the central mission of the division, and several important initiatives were launched or expanded this year. These include the full implementation of the Seizure Investigation Unit to improve access and efficiency in epilepsy diagnosis and management, the addition of a nurse practitioner and program coordinator to enhance continuity of care and streamline patient support, and preparation for the launch of a surgical epilepsy program under the leadership of Dr. Amit Persad, who recently completed advanced surgical epilepsy training in Ontario.

EEG and neurophysiology services continue to be supported by a small but dedicated team of 2.5 electroencephalographers, ensuring 24/7 coverage for EEG interpretation and patient management, including

ICU and telemetry studies.

The Stroke Prevention Clinic remains a cornerstone of outpatient cerebrovascular care, offering rapid access for patients with high-risk TIA and stroke through well-established referral pathways.

The acute stroke pathway continues to operate at full capacity, and has expanded tele-stroke consultation to provide province-wide access for acute stroke management. The stroke team also conducts annual visits to primary stroke centres across Saskatchewan to support quality improvement and alignment with national stroke care standards.

Dr. Gary Hunter has collaborated closely with Regina colleagues to improve remote neurocritical care for ICU patients, and to support acute stroke operations and protocols.

The Cognitive Neurology Program, led by Dr. Kirk, continues to demonstrate leadership in dementia care and research. The program is preparing for the upcoming implementation of novel biologic therapies for Alzheimer's disease, working collaboratively with the geriatrics division to ensure equitable access and readiness for these landmark treatments. Dr. Kirk also continues to lead innovation in virtual dementia care through the Rural and Remote Memory Clinic, one of Saskatchewan's first fully virtual specialist programs.

The Movement Disorders Program remains internationally recognized for excellence in patient care, education, and research. Dr. Eric Noyes has advanced Parkinson's disease care through implementation of injectable therapeutic options and has collaborated on multiple publications examining Parkinson's disease and related disorders using data from the Saskatchewan Brain Bank.

Looking forward, the division aims to integrate emerging biologic and device-based therapies into clinical practice, expand telehealth and virtual specialty programs, and strengthen research infrastructure through partnerships within the College of Medicine, the SHA, and national research networks.

Occupational and Environmental Medicine



Division Head
Dr. Shelley Kirychuk

The Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine is housed within the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health (CCRAH), a USask research centre in the E-Wing of the Health Sciences building. Our division has a cohort of medical doctors and PhDs that focus on occupational and environmental medicine in clinical and research areas. Our work and the work of CCRAH supports safe and healthy living for farmers, ranchers, and others in rural settings. We are in communities listening to the needs and gaps, developing partnerships and offering programs, resources, and services in rural communities, informed by research evidence. Clinical areas include dementia, sleep, respiratory, and occupational medicine. Research to action foci include agricultural producer health & safety, rural population health (sleep, mental, respiratory, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, infectious disease, children's health, Indigenous health), Rural and Agricultural Exposures and Health (injuries, chemical, physical, biological, ergonomic, psychological), Rural and Remote Access to Care, and Rural and Remote Dementia Diagnosis and Care.



Education

Faculty contribute to undergraduate medical education program, department resident training programs, and Public Health resident training program.



FACULTY AND RANK

With primary appointment in the Department of Medicine.

Distinguished Research Chair

Dr. James Dosman

Emeritus Professor

Dr. Roland Dyck

Dr. Debra Morgan (conferred 2025)

Professor

Dr. Shelley Kirychuk

Dr. Niels Koehncke

Dr. Josh Lawson

Assistant Professor

Dr. George Katselis

Dr. Julie Kosteniuk

Dr. Angelica Lang

Professional Research Associate

Dr. Chandima Karunanayake

Dr. Merle Massie

Graduate Students

1 Post-Doc, 10 MSc, 7 PhD



Research

The research activities of the division faculty are supported by CCRAH infrastructure. This infrastructure also supports research activities of faculty from other College of Medicine departments, other colleges at USask, and other academic institutions.

This year, division members obtained 19 new research grants with a value of \$2.3M, alongside grants still in progress. Members published 23 peer-reviewed papers, presented at 38 conferences around the world, and were featured in interviews, podcasts, and news articles.

Division members and CCRAH are dedicated to engaging community members in the research process and is in community presenting and attending industry events. One such example is attendance at Ag in Motion. The Shoulder Health and Ergonomics Research group, led by Dr. Angelica Lang, attended Ag in Motion, with support from Morris Equipment, and recruited and tested 17 participants for their farm shoulder study looking at the impact of upper body injuries while doing farm tasks like using a drill, shoveling, and carrying a heavy seed bag while climbing up an air seeding cart. The Agricultural Health and Safety Network, led by Dr. Shelley Kirychuk, was also in attendance at Ag in Motion to provide agricultural health and safety resources to attendees, and was supported by SunSmart Saskatchewan, to help highlight the importance of sun safety when outdoors, and conducted facial UV damage screenings.



An Ag in Motion show attendee shovels dirt, participating in a research study. Photo credit: Katie Thompson

Patient Care

The Rural Dementia Action Research (RaDAR) team, led by Dr. Debra Morgan, continued to provide a team-based Complex Memory Clinic for atypical dementias in the CCRAH clinic area. Referrals can be made to the clinic by a primary care provider.

Dr. Julie Kosteniuk supports rural Primary Memory Care Clinics, in rural Saskatchewan. The team now supports 11 primary care dementia teams across the southwest of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Niels Koehncke holds occupational medicine clinics in the RUH outpatient department, as well as leads CCRAH's CanWorkSafe occupational services program that provides occupational screening programming for industries and rural municipal workers. Dr. Koehncke is also the clinical oversight for CCRAH's One2One health screening program for Saskatchewan farmers, provided by the Agricultural Health and Safety Network.

Dr. James Dosman supports the sleep laboratory as well as holding regular sleep and respiratory clinics.



Dr. Niels Koehncke and Dr. Shelley Kirychuk talk about Occupational Hygiene equipment in the CanWorkSafe lab at the CCRAH open house. Photo Credit: Debra Marshall Photography

On June 3, 2025, the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health (CCRAH) welcomed guests to an Open House event, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the state-of-the-art infrastructure that powers innovative research in rural and agricultural health and safety. Guests had the opportunity to interact and connect with researchers and learn how CCRAH is helping USask lead advancements in rural and agricultural health. Members of USask, community members, industry and government attended the event the Honourable Lori Carr, Saskatchewan's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health.



Respirology and Sleep Medicine



Division Head

Dr. Erika Penz

The Division of Respirology promotes lung health through excellence in the provision of clinical care, teaching and professional learning, research, and leadership activities. The division's two primary office locations are within the Royal University Hospital and the Avenue P Medical Clinic. Of the division's 22 members, there are 18 active clinicians and 4 scientists.

Dr. Erika Penz is currently serving as President of the Canadian Thoracic Society. Dr. Brian Graham was honored with the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of contributions to respiratory health. Dr. Rob Skomro was appointed to the Program Committee of the World Sleep Society Congress. Dr. Donald Cockcroft received the 2024 College of Medicine Research Career Achievement Award at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. John Gordon was recognized as a Pre-Eminent Expert Reviewer (PEER) at USask in 2024-25.

The Division of Respirology recognized Dr. Darcy Marciniuk for 35 years of service to the division, Dr. Donald Cockcroft for 48 years of service to the division, and Leanne Wilkinson for 25 years of service to the division.



FACULTY AND RANK

Emeritus Professor

Dr. Brian Graham

Dr. Donna Goodridge (conferred 2025)

Professor

Dr. Donald Cockcroft

Dr. John Gjevre

Dr. John Gordon

Dr. Vernon Hoepfner

Dr. Darcy Marciniuk

Dr. Robert Skomro

Associate Professor

Dr. Mark Fenton

Dr. Karen Laframboise

Dr. Veronica Marcoux

Dr. Erika Penz

Assistant Professor

Dr. Colin Ellis

Dr. Nathan Janzen

Dr. Stacey Lok

Dr. Jeffrey Marciniuk

Dr. Richard Nataraj

Dr. Jordan Olfert

Dr. Greg Peters

Dr. Brianne Philipenko

Dr. Moaaz Rashad (January 2025)

Dr. Julian Tam

Dr. Chung-Chun (Anderson) Tyan

Dr. Christina Watt (July 2024)

Research Scientist

Dr. Beth Davis





Education

The Respiriology Fellowship Program currently includes three residents. Our senior resident, Dr. Riad Al Sabbagh, was recognized with The Medical Class of 1939 Resident Teacher Award in Medicine, a testament to his outstanding commitment to education and mentorship. Dr. Samantha Kennedy and Dr. Hammad Shaikh successfully completed their Respiriology training in June 2025. Dr. Kennedy has since accepted a position in Prince George, while Dr. Shaikh has begun a Sleep Medicine Fellowship at the University of Calgary. In collaboration with the Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Cardiology, we launched a combined Clinical Quality Improvement Curriculum in the fall of 2024 to strengthen interdisciplinary learning and advance trainee engagement in quality-focused clinical practice.

The Division of Respiriology continues to play an active and integral role in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Dr. Brianne Philipenko serves as Co-Director of the Respiratory Module alongside Dr. Brittany Albrecht. Faculty involvement remains strong, with many members contributing to both didactic lectures and small group teaching sessions that consistently receive excellent student evaluations. All students successfully completed the module over the past year, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the division's commitment to high-quality, engaging respiratory education. Ongoing curricular development includes the creation of a new chest radiology module aimed at enhancing student understanding of this challenging subject matter, more robust microbiology-related content, as well as updating many lectures to reflect current guidelines.



Research

Collectively, 13 members of our division have published 56 unique research articles in the past year. We continue to participate in a number of investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored clinical trials, with support from local, provincial and national funding agencies.



Patient Care

We are a division of 21 faculty, consisting of two academic and 19 clinical members in 2025. We perform academic teaching, research, leadership and clinical services within the province. Presently, we operate general respiratory and subspecialty outpatient respiratory clinics, PFT interpretations, Sleep study interpretations and respiratory specific procedures. We also provide 104 weeks of Respiratory inpatient consultation services to 3 Saskatoon hospitals and 24/7 provincial respirology coverage. The Division provides specialized multidisciplinary care to patients through a range of clinics focused on Pulmonary Hypertension, Lung Transplantation, Interstitial lung disease, Pleural disease, Neuromuscular disease, Severe Asthma, Advanced COPD, Post Exacerbation Airways Clinic, Cystic Fibrosis, Bronchiectasis, and Sleep Medicine.



Rheumatology



Division Head

**Dr. Regina
Taylor-Gjevre**

The division's rheumatologists provide consultation services for adult inpatients and outpatients as well as telephone advice for physicians within Saskatoon and elsewhere in Saskatchewan.



Education

Our post-graduate rheumatology subspecialty residency program, under the leadership of the Program Director, Dr. Keltie Anderson, is fully accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

There are two R5 residents in program at present. Members in the division continue to support undergraduate and post-graduate learners in preclinical and clinical learning experiences.

From a continuing medical education perspective, the division holds weekly virtual rheumatology grand rounds which are accessible provincially. Additionally, under the leadership of Dr. Sarah Oberholtzer, an annual provincial ARMS (Annual Rheumatology Meeting of Saskatchewan) forum is held.



Research

Division members are involved in both clinical trial and other research activities.



FACULTY AND RANK

Professor

Dr. Bindu Nair
Dr. Regina Taylor-Gjevre

Clinical Professor

Dr. Wojciech Olszynski

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Patrice Pollock
Dr. Margaret Truchan

Associate Professor

Dr. Sarah Oberholtzer (promoted 2025)

Assistant Professor

Dr. Keltie Anderson
Dr. Regan Arendse
Dr. Sohail Awan (August 2024)
Dr. Matt Chan
Dr. Ambreen Khan
Dr. Anton Moshynskyy (July 2024)
Dr. Latha Naik
Dr. Jodie Reis
Dr. Vanessa Rininsland
Dr. Michael Schinold (June 2025)
Dr. Shreyasi Sharma (July 2024)
Dr. Tara Swami (February 2025)



Patient Care

Dr. Keltie Anderson and Dr. Vanessa Rininsland continue to support combined rheumatology and respirology clinics for patients with complex multisystemic rheumatic disease.

Dr. Rininsland and Dr. Oberholtzer continue to provide outreach care to rheumatology patients through a Northern Medical clinic in La Ronge.

We now have two faculty members with expertise in musculoskeletal ultrasound, Dr. Matt Chan and Dr. Tara Swami.

Dr. Shreyasi Sharma has a clinical area of focus in the intersection between rheumatologic disease and ocular manifestations.

REGINA DIVISION REPORTS

Cardiology



Division Head

Dr. Andrea Lavoie

Cardiologists in the division are actively involved in teaching, research, and clinical practice. The team is a group of private-practice cardiologists dedicated to providing a full and expanding host of hospital care services at Regina General and Pasqua Hospitals. Members are dedicated to improving patient outcomes and experience through clinical trials, clinical care delivery, teaching, and innovation.



Education

Faculty members contribute to under- and post-graduate training through lectures at Grand Rounds. In conjunction with Saskatoon, we are actively improving our educational capacities through partnerships with the College of Medicine and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.



Research

Research is conducted in Regina as the Prairie Vascular Research Group, which includes Dr. Payam Dehghani, Dr. Andrea Lavoie, and Dr. Omar Sultan. The team had another productive year with several publications, many of which centred on quality of care and safety initiatives, as well as many focusing on transfusion medicine, cardiac and coronary function testing, and pharmacological effects in cardiac care.

Regina is currently serving as an accelerating clinical trials consortium (ACT) portfolio site, which allows the



FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Professor

Dr. Ayman Aboguddah
Dr. Hassan Gargoum
Dr. Rodney Zimmerman

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Payam Dehghani
Dr. Wladyslaw Wojcik

Assistant Professor

Dr. Jeffrey Booker
Dr. Min-Shien Chen
Dr. Scott Donald
Dr. Andrea Lavoie
Dr. Brandon Macknak
Dr. Omar Sultan
Dr. Colin Yeung
Dr. Yang Zhan
Dr. Wenwan Zhou



research team to participate in a network of cardiac research and connect with a number of available trials. As well, this designation allows for an expansion of investigator-initiated trials.



Patient Care

Faculty are involved in leadership on the national level, including Dr. Colin Yeung, president of the Canadian Association of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation.

The provincial STEMI program continues to grow through collaboration with our Saskatoon colleagues.

Our wide array of clinics and services continue to expand. The enhancement of the division's work within these clinics, such as our heart function clinics and recent amyloid clinic, allows our members to better address patient needs and improve accessibility.

Regina is continuing to serve as one of a limited few sites in the country to offer microvascular functional testing to identify a different cause of angina with more measurement and precision.

Dermatology



Division Head
Dr. Karen Holfeld

Dermatologists in the division are actively involved in teaching, research, and clinical practice. The division consists of five private practice dermatologists who are dedicated to providing excellent dermatologic care to patients as well as high-quality training in the recently developed Dermatology Residency program. On June 30, 2025, Dr. Roberta McKay retired after 38 year dermatology practice. Dr. Miriam Abbas continues to be involved at the national leadership level as a member of the board of directors for the Eczema Society of Canada and chair of their Research Grant Committee.



Education

The Dermatology Residency program is now in its second year and is based in Regina with Dr. Brittany Waller as the program director. We have three residents in the program: Dr. McKenzie Van Eaton (PGY2), Dr. Moyin Onasanya (PGY1) and Dr. Lauren Fraess (PGY1). All dermatologists in the division are involved in teaching residents in the program.

The department provides continuing medical education (CME) and educational presentations to family physicians and other physicians in the province. Dermatologic education and training is also provided to family practice residents, internal medicine residents and other post-graduate medical education (PGME) residents as well as undergraduate medical education (UGME) students who rotate through the dermatologists' offices.

FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Karen Holfeld

Assistant Professor

Dr. Mariam Abbas

Dr. Rachel Asiniwasis

Dr. Roberta McKay (retired, June 2025)

Dr. Brittany Waller



Research

Research is going strong. Dr. Rachel Asiniwasis continues to do Phase 3 clinical trials in atopic dermatitis, with Dr. Waller serving as a sub-investigator in the trials.

As well, Dr. Asiniwasis continues to be involved in research with her main interests in Indigenous health and dermatology as well as atopic dermatitis. She has published several articles in the past year in these areas. Dr. Waller has also been involved in this research.

Dr. Abbas and Dr. Karen Holfeld have published case reports in dermatology over the past year.



Patient Care

Dermatology continues to have a long waiting time for new consultations and we are working to reduce this through active recruitment of new dermatologists.

Dr. Asiniwasis continues her outreach dermatology in remote indigenous communities through both telehealth and in-person visits. A subspecialty contact dermatitis clinic has been developed at the Pasqua Hospital.

Endocrinology



Division Head
Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald

The Regina Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism consists of three endocrinologists who all have community-based practices. Two of these physicians, Dr. Kevin Hamming, and Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald, are actively involved in the training and mentoring of residents, as well as teaching undergraduate students to ensure the necessary endocrinology knowledge and skills are successfully conveyed to these future physicians.



Education

Dr. FitzGerald and Dr. Hamming remain actively involved in the medical clerk and Internal Medicine residency training programs to provide further endocrinology teaching to learners in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Both physicians continue to welcome rotating learners to join them in their respective Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Diabetes in Pregnancy Clinics, to provide both formal and informal endocrinology teaching to these learners in these settings.



Research

Division members continue to contribute to research initiatives.



FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. El-fellani Mohammed

Assistant Professor

Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald

Dr. Kevin Hamming



Patient Care

All division members continue to provide high quality and timely endocrinology care for patients living in southern Saskatchewan who require further assessment and management of endocrinology-related disorders, to help improve patient access and reduce lengthy waiting lists resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both Dr. Hamming and Dr. FitzGerald continue to provide further guidance and leadership regarding several patient-care related initiatives. These include the creation and regular updating of many frequently used Preprinted Order Sets in the acute care setting for patients admitted to hospital with both Type 1 Diabetes, Type 2 Diabetes, Diabetes in Pregnancy, and Gestational Diabetes, to help provide standardized care and also improve the quality of care for these patient populations who are admitted to the inpatient setting.



Gastroenterology



Division Head
Dr. George Chami

The Division of Gastroenterology in Regina includes clinicians with the Gastrointestinal (GI) Unit located in the Pasqua Hospital and the Endoscopy Unit located in the Regina General Hospital. Both units provide extensive endoscopic services as well as a variety of diagnostic procedures and treatment.

The division continues to provide Regina and surrounding areas with state-of-the-art gastroenterology services. With a wide variety of general endoscopy services and advanced therapeutic endoscopy, along with recent equipment upgrades, we continue to deliver cutting-edge medical care.



Education

Year over year, our division is taking on more residents and medical students and expanding our educational footprint.

This year, there was increased teaching output, including GI systems clinical exposures, student and resident rotations, and GI nurse motility training.



Research

Our members are actively involved in research initiatives.

Dr. Chris Rueda-Clausen is participating in a multicentre study on *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) treatment.



FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Professor

Dr. James McHattie (Retired May 2025)

Assistant Professor

Dr. Massud Ali

Dr. Sanchiet Bhasin

Dr. George Chami

Dr. Michael O'Byrne

Dr. Chris Rueda-Clausen

Dr. Landon Tam

Dr. Erik Vantomme



Patient Care

Endoscopic advancements included endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) guided gallbladder drainage and endoscopic suturing.

We are at the forefront of endoscopic therapy with EUS-guided gallbladder drainage for non-surgical patients, trialing endoscopic suturing devices, and performing an increasing number of EUS-guided liver biopsies.

The division has also incorporated new technologies and techniques in endoscopy, for better quality of care of gastroenterology patients. We have introduced the use of endoscopic suturing and endoscopic gastroenterostomy. The division provides Transoral Outlet Reduction (TORe) procedures for endoscopic management of patients with weight gain post-bariatric surgery. The use of Z poem and G poem, endoscopic treatment of Zenker's Diverticulum and delayed gastric emptying respectively, has also been incorporated into our services.

General Internal Medicine



Division Head
Dr. Linas Kumeliauskas

Division members deliver clinical services and comprehensive coverage across Regina’s key care sites, including the Regina General Hospital, Pasqua Hospital, the Perioperative Assessment Clinic (PAC), and the Geriatric Clinic at Wascana Centre. All physicians also maintain independent outpatient practices.

With the ongoing dedication and professionalism of its members, the Division of General Internal Medicine continues to advance initiatives in patient safety, system efficiency, and quality improvement.

The division is continuing to focus on enhancing service delivery, strengthening clinical operations, and identifying system-level opportunities to support improved patient flow and an enhanced patient experience. This work will involve ongoing collaboration with patients, interdisciplinary partners, and health-system stakeholders.

The division is also pleased to welcome Physician Assistant Mr. Ashley Millham to our team; an invaluable addition who has brought support to both clinical operations and patient care.

Education

This is the first year we are running a Year 3 and 4 IM clerkship, that runs for four weeks in each year. With the exception of a few starting glitches, everything has now been smoothed out. We have about 85 per cent NBME pass rate and 100 per cent CS pass rate for year 3. The rotation reviews have been great, and the 2 outpatient weeks in year 4 have also been running smoothly.



FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Jarol Boan
Dr. Patrick Duffy
Dr. Habib Rehman

Assistant Professor

Dr. Moyosore Abimboye
Dr. Babatunde Adewunmi
Dr. Anmol Cheema
Dr. Robin Colwell
Dr. Lucas Diebel
Dr. Arwa Gargoum
Dr. Scott Goerzen (Nov. 2024)
Dr. Kelsey Golubovic
Dr. Adam Ijaz
Dr. Linas Kumeliauskas
Dr. Christopher Lewis
Dr. Gabrielle Levin (July 2024)
Dr. Anita Lwanga
Dr. Steven Lwanga
Dr. Ghulam Moinuddin
Dr. Anwar Mufta
Dr. Abiodun (Azeez) Olajide
Dr. Tom Perron
Dr. Marc Reeson
Dr. Rosemary Serwadda
Dr. Zunaira Shahab
Dr. Justin Simms
Dr. Calvin Tsui
Dr. Krystyna Wang



Research

Our members continue to be involved in research initiatives.



Patient Care

The division established an additional teaching General Internal Medicine service—the Silver Team—which has meaningfully improved patient flow and created new, high-quality teaching opportunities for medical students.

Infectious Diseases



Division Head
Dr. Stuart Skinner

The Regina Division of Infectious Diseases continues to provide excellence in clinical care, research, and education in Saskatchewan. The division is comprised of five infectious disease clinicians, with Dr. Christopher Lewis joining the team in late 2024.

Research interests are focused on HIV, Hepatitis C and syphilis focused on at-risk populations and community based care. In addition to education and research, members provide on-call services for Regina and Southern Saskatchewan along with outpatient clinics throughout the province.

Education

Section members provide lectures and training for medical students and residents in Regina. Further, members excel in providing education, training and support for other health care professional both academically and in community.

Research

Our division continues to be highly successful in research, including numerous invited presentations, publications, clinical trials, and competitive grants. Despite very busy clinical service, our division provides a strong commitment to research success.



FACULTY AND RANK

Associate Professor

Dr. Stephen Lee
Dr. Alexander Wong

Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Kumudhini Karunakaran

Assistant Professor

Dr. Stuart Skinner
Dr. Christopher Lewis (Nov. 2024)



Section members hold numerous competitive grants and are involved in many team-based programs and projects. These areas are generally focused on HIV and STBBI related initiatives and care in a variety of settings in Regina and Saskatchewan. Particularly, Dr. Wong, Dr. Lee and Dr. Skinner contributions are known at provincial, national and international levels.

Patient Care

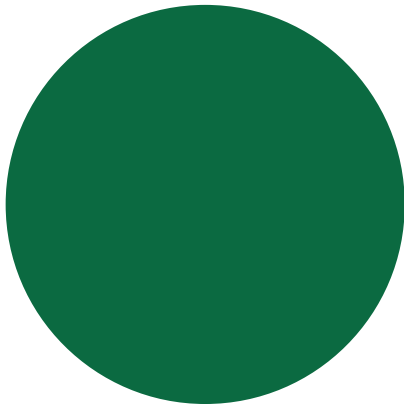
faculty are continuing to provide comprehensive and interdisciplinary clinical care, particularly for those with HIV and/or HCV.

Development and leadership is ongoing in healthcare administration, innovation, and delivery models for vulnerable populations.

Our division continues to address the needs of infectious disease patients in Southern Saskatchewan, with particular care and focus dedicated to underserved and historically minoritized communities across the province. Section members provide care in a number of community-based settings and First Nation communities in Southern Saskatchewan



Nephrology



Acting Division Head
Dr. Joy Dobson

Like our Northern counterparts, the Regina Division of Nephrology provides high-quality patient care, teaching, and research in kidney health issues, to benefit the citizens of Southern Saskatchewan. Our goal remains to enhance detection and delivery of care for persons living with chronic kidney disease to prevent the progression to dialysis. When that is not possible, efforts are focused on making the delivery of dialysis a support that can be easily obtained close to home.



Education

Members continue to be involved in educational initiatives directed at teaching not only resident doctors, but other care providers and patients alike.



Research

Our members are continually contributing to ongoing research efforts.

Dr. Bhanu Prasad has published a number of works this year, ranging from a focus on dialysis initiatives and kidney injury, with research conducted through trials and case studies.



FACULTY AND RANK

Professor

Dr. Bhanu Prasad

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Mohammed Abdulhadi

Dr. Siva Karunakaran

Associate Professor

Dr. Bonnie Richardson

Assistant Professor

Dr. Lookman Abdul

Dr. Amanda Elwood

Dr. Ingi El Sayed

Dr. Arwa Gargoum

Dr. Olumide Ogundare

Dr. Dorothy Thomas



Patient Care

Regina nephrologists work in a variety of settings, including outpatient offices, the multidisciplinary Kidney Health Centre clinics, hemodialysis units, and hospital acute care wards.

We are on the journey toward continuous improvements to both care outcomes and experiences for kidney patients, ensuring success for the entire team. We are focused on the alignment of our strategic priorities and procedures across the province.



Neurology



Division Head
Dr. Melad Shawush

FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Professor

Dr. Felix Veloso

Assistant Professor

Dr. Priya Figurado

Dr. Seyed Hosseini

Dr. Mohammed Ijaz

Dr. Vinesh Pillay

Dr. Ziaur Rehman

Dr. Syed Rizvi

Dr. Izn Shahab (June 2025)

Dr. Melaad Shawush

Dr. Asif Sheriff

Dr. Sara Zangeneh

The Division of Neurology strives for excellence in high-quality inpatient and outpatient neurological care, as well as making significant contributions in the realm of academia. Our division is dedicated to serving the population of Southern Saskatchewan.



Education

The division provides monthly neurology Grand Round presentations. As well, faculty are actively involved in teaching medical students, residents, other healthcare providers, and the public.



Research

Dr. Asif Sheriff contributed to a publication examining effects of simultaneous acute stroke code activation in patients undergoing reperfusion therapies in the emergency department.



Patient Care

Our faculty continue to provide patient care through the Regina Stroke Clinic, Yorkton Telehealth Stroke Clinic, and is in the process of establishing an MS clinic in Southern Saskatchewan. The division also operates the electromyography (EMG) and electroencephalogram (ECG) lab.

Respirology



Division Head
Dr. Kelsey Tallon

The division's respirologists provide an on-call inpatient consultation service for Respirology. The division also oversees the delivery of complete diagnostic services in pulmonary function and cardiopulmonary exercise testing, testing in sleep medicine, a pleural disease clinic for management of non-malignant and malignant pleural disease, and advanced diagnostic bronchoscopy with therapeutic interventions. The division will be welcoming new members in mid-2026 to join the division, one in general respirology and one with training in sleep medicine.



Education

Division members actively contribute to under and post-graduate medical education through clinical rotations in Respirology as well as teaching of medical students and residents. Our members accept the assignment of undergraduate medical clerks and post-graduate residents.

FACULTY AND RANK

Assistant Professor

Dr. Zenon Belak
Dr. Keren-Happuch Ho
Dr. Abdalla Muftah
Dr. Prakash Patel
Dr. Guruswamy Sridhar
Dr. Kelsey Tallon
Dr. Ingrid Wirth



Research

Division members continue to contribute to research initiatives.



Patient Care

Division members are continually working towards clinical expansion and quality improvements. Recent improvements include the introduction of emergency, on-call bronchoscopy service and capabilities and the addition of radial EBUS to the bronchoscopy suite. We strive to oversee and deliver the highest quality of care.

Rheumatology



Division Head
Dr. Ardyth Milne



FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Professor
Dr. Robert McDougall

Assistant Professor
Dr. Nicole Fahlamn
Dr. Cairistin McDougall
Dr. Ardyth Milne
Dr. Zachary Wolfmueller



The division's rheumatologists provide services and education, focusing on high-quality medical care and scholarship.



Education

The Regina Division of Rheumatology provides teaching in a clinical setting for learners of all levels. Our faculty members participate in lecture-style teaching sessions at the under- and post-graduate levels. Members are actively participating in teaching Internal Medicine Residents.

Dr. Zachary Wolfmueller serves as an academic advisor to the internal medicine residents.

Dr. Nicole Fahlman is the Co-Chair for the Royal College Rheumatology Exam Board. Dr. Fahlman also recently joined the Academic Support Team for UGME as a Faculty Consultant.



Research

Division members continue to contribute to research initiatives.



Patient Care

Dr. Ardyth Milne is the Clinical Co-Lead for the Immunoglobulin (IG) Stewardship Program of Saskatchewan. Dr. Milne participated in the internal medicine payment schedule modernization working group to provide insights from a rheumatology perspective on clinical care. Dr. Milne has participated in a nationwide autoinflammatory case rounds group to be able to provide insights on autoinflammatory disease to her colleagues.

Dr. Milne joined the Physician Enhancement Program in 2025.



Saskatchewan Health Authority

Areas

NW Area - North Battleford

Area Lead

VACANT

FACULTY AND RANK

Assistant Professor

Dr. Sejlo Koshedo (GIM, North Battleford)

NE Area - Prince Albert

Area Lead

Dr. Adel Ben Saleh

FACULTY AND RANK

Assistant Professor

Dr. Adel Ben Saleh (GIM, Prince Albert)

Dr. Radu Ilie-Haynes (GIM, Prince Albert)

Dr. Joma Kondi (GIM, Prince Albert)

Dr. Kiefer Lypka (GLM, Prince Albert)

SW Area - Moose Jaw, Swift Current

Area Lead

Dr. Majid Niaz

FACULTY AND RANK

Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Wadea Tarhuni (Cardiology, Moose Jaw)

Assistant Professor

Dr. Alexandra Akinfiresoye (GIM, Swift Current)

Dr. Olabode Aleshinloye (GIM, Swift Current)

Dr. Muhammad Aslam (GIM, Moose Jaw)

Dr. Michelle Lung (GIM, Swift Current)

Dr. Falah Majid (GIM, Moose Jaw)

Dr. Majid Niaz (GIM, Moose Jaw)

Dr. Fauzi Ramadan (GIM, Moose Jaw)

Dr. Omar Rodwan (GIM, Moose Jaw

Dr. Jeffrey Wilkinson (Cardiology, Moose Jaw)

SE Area - Yorkton

Area Lead

Dr. Saliu Oloko

FACULTY AND RANK

Assistant Professor

Dr. Razak Kehinde (GIM, Yorkton)

Dr. Livinius Okafor (GIM, Yorkton)

Dr. Saliu Oloko (GIM, Yorkton)

Department of Medicine



miyo-maskihkiy

Dale Cheechoo

2003

Artist Dale Cheechoo created this crest in 2003 for the College of Medicine. *miyo-maskihkiy* is Plains Cree for 'Good Medicine'. Today, the crest is displayed on the white coats worn by medical students at the University of Saskatchewan.



Address

3544 Royal University Hospital
103 Hospital Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X8
Canada



Telephone

Phone: +1 (306) 844-1132
Fax: +1 (306) 844-1525



Website

[medicine.usask.ca/
department/clinical
/medicine.php](http://medicine.usask.ca/departments/clinical/medicine.php)

