

# OPEN SKIES

Department of Surgery Newsletter

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UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN



Regina Qu'Appelle  
HEALTH REGION



Teaching is one of the fundamental pillars of academic medicine and our Department clocks over 4500 hours in undergraduate teaching each year.

*Our members spend countless hours of clinical teaching at outpatient clinics, at the bedside and in the operating room. The role of the surgeon as a teacher, mentor and a role model for medical students and residents is vital for the success of the Department and the College of Medicine. We are thankful to our teachers and to recognize their efforts we have established a number of new Departmental teaching awards. These awards were presented at the inaugural Teaching Awards Banquet organized by Dr. Trustin Domes that celebrated our members' accomplishments. The invited guest speaker was Dr. Jonathan White from the University of Alberta. It is our hope that the awards and the banquet become a long-lived tradition in the Department.*

*So far this year we have recruited 6 new faculty members, their profiles are included in this issue of OPEN SKIES. The unprecedented growth of the Department with 29 new faculty recruited in the past 3 years provides us with a strong platform to fulfill our academic mandate of teaching, research and clinical service to the people of Saskatchewan.*

*The second annual Surgical Humanities Day under the leadership of Dr. Francis Christian was a success with an enthusiastic participation in the art exhibition, a superb classical music concert by a quintet integrated in part by members of the Department. The Surgical Humanities Grand Rounds were entitled Healing Through Reconciliation and had the participation of recognized indigenous thought leaders that provided their insights on surgical and health care delivery to our indigenous population.*

*I want to thank again all our faculty, residents, clerical and support personnel for your contributions to teaching, research and clinical service.*

*Ivar Mendez, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS  
F.H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery*

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It is distributed to all surgical faculty, residents and collaborators of the Department of Surgery, as well as surgical teaching centres in Canada and abroad.

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## TEACHING AWARDS BANQUET

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*Dr. John Shaw, Silver Shovel Award Recipient,  
Award presented by Dr. Ivar Mendez*



*Dr. Aaron Daters, Bronze Shovel Award Recipient,  
Award presented by Dr. Paul Hayes*



*Dr. Peter Spafford, Gold Scalpel Award Recipient,  
Award presented by Dr. Kent Stobbart*

The inaugural Department of Surgery Teaching Awards Banquet, which took place on September 16, 2016 at the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon, gave us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate surgical teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels over the last year. We were fortunate to have the Dean, Vice Dean and Associate Dean in attendance as well as numerous surgery faculty members, residents, students and educational support personnel.

Accomplishing the educational mission of the Department, which included more than 4750 hours of teaching in undergraduate surgical education in Saskatoon last year alone, takes the commitment and hard work of many surgical teachers from around the province and the Teaching Awards Banquet is one way to ensure that this hard work does not go unnoticed. We want to build a culture that recognizes and is appreciative of the teaching efforts and accomplishments of our Department members.

During the evening, we recognized the Department's most outstanding teachers by presenting awards to five well-deserving individuals. The recipients were selected by a well-represented awards committee based on multiple criteria, including educational points earned, teaching evaluations and nominations from learners. The Gold Scalpel Awards, created to recognize individuals with the most significant contribution to the different phases of surgical education in the curriculum, were awarded to Dr. Grant Miller (preclerkship), Dr. Peter Spafford (clerkship) and to Dr. Cole Beavis (postgraduate). The Bronze Shovel Award, created to recognize the surgery resident with the most outstanding contribution to surgical education, was awarded to Dr. Aaron Daters. The Silver Shovel Award, created to recognize the surgery faculty member with the most outstanding contribution to surgical education, was awarded to Dr. John Shaw. Congratulations to all award winners! The evening concluded with an address from our keynote speaker, Dr. Jonathan White, who is the Tom Williams Endowed Chair in Surgical Education from the University of Alberta. Dr. White gave an inspirational presentation highlighting why being involved in surgical education is important for not only our learners but also for us as teachers and how we can use educational innovations and technologies to teach in unique and effective ways.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Department of Surgery Teaching Awards Banquet and we look forward to having the event for years to come.



*Dr. Dilip Gill, General Surgery*



*Dr. Peter Graham, General Surgery*



*Dr. Luke Hnenny, Neurosurgery*

Dr. Dilip Gill is originally from Windsor, Ontario. He completed his undergraduate degree in Biology from Wayne State University in Michigan before moving to Saskatoon to complete his medical degree at the University of Saskatchewan. He then completed his General Surgery residency in Saskatoon and his Colorectal fellowship at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

He has received extensive training in the area of Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery during his fellowship and will be bringing these skills to Saskatchewan to further advance the surgical management of rectal cancer. He has been involved in various medical leadership roles throughout his medical training at a local, provincial and national level. He has a strong interest in medical education and is looking forward to becoming involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education.

His wife, Jillian, is a Family Physician and will be restarting her medical practice in Saskatoon in the coming months after a brief leave of absence looking after their newborn daughter Emmalyn.

Dr. Graham grew up in Flin Flon, Manitoba and came to the University of Saskatchewan in 1994. He completed his BScN and worked in the ICU at Royal University Hospital for 7 years. He then completed his BSc Physiology and finally his MD. In 2014 he completed residency in General Surgery and obtained his FRCSC. Dr. Graham then moved with his family to Calgary to complete a 2 year Fellowship in General Surgical Oncology with a focus on Advanced GI Malignancy, Sarcoma, Melanoma, Breast, and Head and Neck Cancer. He looks forward to asserting himself as an integral member in the surgical management team for cancer patients in Saskatchewan.

Peter is happily married to his lovely wife Janice and the proud father of three beautiful daughters. In his free time he enjoys the outdoors, hiking, canoeing, fishing, and cooking for family and friends.

Dr. Luke Hnenny was born and raised in Saskatoon, SK. He received BSc and MD degrees, and went on to complete his residency in neurosurgery, at the University of Saskatchewan.

Following residency training, he was a fellow in cerebrovascular and skull base surgery at the Oregon Health and Science University, in Portland. He then practiced neurosurgery in Regina for two years, and is excited to transition back to his hometown of Saskatoon. Clinical interests include surgical management of acoustic neuromas and skull base meningiomas, as well as pituitary surgery. He is planning on gaining further fellowship training in complex spine surgery at UPMC in Pittsburgh in 2017.

Outside of neurosurgery, Luke is an amateur violinist, and enjoys spending time in the great outdoors.



*Dr. Elke Mau, Urology*



*Dr. Russ Murphy, Otolaryngology*



*Dr. Silvana Papagerakis, Basic Science*

Dr. Elke Mau grew up on a farm north of Swift Current, SK. She became intensively involved in music studies during high school, and decided to pursue further training in orchestral double bass playing, graduating with honours from the University of Toronto in 2002 with a Bachelor degree in Music Performance.

Next, she returned to her home province to complete medical school at the University of Saskatchewan in 2009. Following this, she completed Urology residency at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, MB. Deciding on Pediatric Urology as her sub specialty of choice, she completed her final year of training at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, ON, in 2016.

She is happy to be home again, and proud to play a role in providing care to the children of this province. Elke and her husband, Nathaniel, have two young boys, Matthan and Soren.

Dr. Russell Murphy is joining Division of Otolaryngology in the Department of Surgery at the University of Saskatchewan.

Having grown up in Saskatoon and finishing his BSc and MD at the University of Saskatchewan, he moved to Edmonton to complete his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in 2015. After working in the Parkland Health Region for a year, he is glad to be coming home to Saskatoon.

As a general otolaryngologist, he has interests in all areas, and finds working with head and neck cancer and endoscopic sinus cases particularly rewarding. He provides surgical services in Saskatoon, and also maintains a rural practice in the Kelsey Trail Health Region.

Dr. Silvana Papagerakis is an established clinician-scientist in the field of oral, head and neck cancer with over 20 years of research success in basic, translational and clinical research within research intensive academic health settings. She holds a medical degree, a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences, a M.S. in Oral Biology, Ph.D. in molecular biology, post-doctoral and postgraduate trainings obtained with honors.

Her expertise encompasses qualitative and quantitative patient oriented research, cancer epidemiology, prevention and control, clinical trials, outcomes prediction, anti-cancer drug reformulation and experimental models. She also has collaborative projects in circadian disruption, dentistry and autoimmune diseases with a special interest in the cross talk between oral and systemic health. She has over 160 publications, peer-reviewed manuscripts, conference proceedings, reviews and book chapters, and has two patents in preparation.

She is relocating from the University of Michigan where she maintains an adjunct faculty position in the Department of Otolaryngology. Dr. Papagerakis brings interdisciplinary research expertise, experience in inter-professional education, mentoring and a commitment to academic excellence.



*Image Compliments of Royal University Hospital Foundation*

On October 6, one of the most advanced angiography biplane suites in North America was officially opened at Royal University Hospital.

On the technical side, the angiography biplane suites combine imaging with surgical techniques to improve patient outcomes for conditions such as stroke, aneurysm, internal bleeding and cancer. On the human side, it saves lives. Because the technology is designed to be minimally invasive, it also provides benefits such as shortened hospital stays and improved post-procedure recovery times, lower risk, and decreased pain for patients. Royal University Hospital is the provincial centre for the treatment of complex brain blood vessel diseases. Patients began receiving treatments with the suite in July. The Angiography Biplane Suite is used heavily by the neurovascular surgeons Drs. Michael Kelly and Lissa Peeling.

The new suite is the second angiography biplane suite at Royal University Hospital. Its construction was made possible thanks to the Government of Saskatchewan, which provided \$2.2 million to the project, and Royal University Hospital Foundation and its donors, who contributed over \$1 million.

The older suite will soon undergo renovations to ensure its technology matches the new suite. For more information on the new suite or how to donate please go to [ruh.org](http://ruh.org).

## IN-SITU TRAUMA SIM PILOT

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*In-Situ Trauma Sim Pilot Participants, July 2016*

On Thursday July 7th, the Trauma Program Pilot continued its efforts to improve trauma care. We ran an in-situ simulation in the Emergency Department. Simulation is a powerful educational tool. When it is run in a simulation lab, a lot of learning can happen. Unfortunately a lab will always struggle to match the fidelity of the actual operating room, trauma bay, delivery suite, etc. It's also a struggle to get all of the multi-disciplinary players in the same place at the same time to have a teaching session.

The idea behind in-situ simulation is to run a simulated case in the actual work environment where it happens, with all the people who actually work there. This is exactly what we did. All of the many services that attend to a Level I trauma were given a heads up that there would be a mock case coming in that morning. We made sure the ED was not too overwhelmed with actual patients. Once this was confirmed, our Clinical Learning Resource Centre (CLRC) Simulation Technicians got our mannequin and monitors all set up. Then we ran our usual process for a Level I trauma...the overhead page 'Trauma Team to Emergency Department'

The result was incredible. We ran a case of a patient who suffered a gun-shot wound to the neck. The team worked incredibly well together to provide excellent care for this patient. After the care of the patient was completed, all members of the team had the opportunity to bring up their thoughts about the case, and any learning topics to discuss. We covered everyone's questions and concerns through group discussion and the wisdom of the crowd. The issues raised were a mix of system and process issues as well as some content knowledge deficits. Then all participants shared what one key learning point they planned to take away from the experience. 45 minutes later, everyone was back to their work.

Going forward this would be an incredibly valuable learning tool, but it requires expertise and resources. Facilitating simulation requires training, and we do not currently have a large complement of individuals skilled in simulation case development and post-simulation debriefing. Hopefully going forward we can address this barrier and implement in-situ trauma simulation on a regular and permanent basis. The result will be improved care for our trauma patients.



The department of Surgery celebrated its second Surgical Humanities Day on the 22nd of last month.

The bringing together of the arts and the sciences in an effort to enrich, engage and complete the making of the surgeon, resident and medical student, is a core mission of the Surgical Humanities Program in the Department of Surgery.

Surgical Humanities Day started with an Exhibition of Art, with the paintings and craftwork exhibited being the work of our own medical students, residents, surgeons, nurses and other health care staff. Since we believe in moving beyond education (learning) to engagement (doing) in the surgical humanities, the Exhibition of Art provided a platform upon which our artists could showcase their own works of art to a very appreciating general and professional audience.

Our Surgical Humanities Grand Rounds featured a panel consisting of Indigenous thought leaders and elders - a distinguished indigenous academic professor, an indigenous filmmaker and musician and an indigenous/Metis leader. The theme of the Grand Rounds was "Healing Through Reconciliation," in which, after a few opening remarks from our distinguished panel, the theme was thrown open to discussion. The portion of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's recommendations that dealt with health were debated in the light of historical and present experiences of our Indigenous populations as they interact with our health care systems. The discussions that followed were moving, insightful and powerful. Bringing together as it did the interlocking themes of history, anthropology and narrative in the context of pertinent, present indigenous healthcare experiences, we believe the Grand Rounds achieved its goal of engaging our medical audience in areas outside the purely scientific areas of our practice.

The evening was rounded off by a Classical Music Concert and an evening of fine music. The musicians in the ensemble (Quintet) were drawn from our own departments of surgery and dentistry and attendees to the concert were treated to superb renditions of Schubert in the hallowed vaults of St. Andrew's Chapel, right next to the medical school buildings.



*Surgical Humanities Art Exhibition*



*Surgical Humanities GRAND Rounds*



*Surgery Quintet, St Andrew's Cathedral*