

OPEN SKIES

Department of Surgery Newsletter

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Dr. William Dust, 2018 recipient of the Silver Shovel Award



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



“Technological advances have opened the door for a paradigm shift in healthcare”

The current model of centralized health care where the patient has to go to a hospital or a clinic to receive urgent or elective medical care is inefficient and costly. Patients have to wait many hours in emergency rooms, hospitals run at overcapacity and delays in diagnosis and treatment result in poor outcomes or even death. Underserviced rural and remote communities and the most vulnerable populations in these communities such as children and the elderly are the most affected by this centralized model.

Technological advances in telecommunications, robotics, medical sensors and artificial intelligence (AI) have opened the door for a paradigm shift in health care, from a centralized model to the delivery of medical care where the patient is (point of care). In this decentralized system, patients requiring urgent or elective medical care could be seen, diagnosed and treated in their own communities or homes and patients requiring hospitalization could be triaged without delay.

The future of medical care is not in building more or bigger hospitals but in harnessing the power of technology to reach patients wherever they are to preserve life, ensure wellness and expedite diagnosis and treatment.

The Remote Presence Medicine Program at the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority is pioneering the application of remote presence robotic technology to provide medical care to remote and rural communities. The program has already deployed remote presence systems to 12 communities in northern Saskatchewan. The initial focus has been on the care of the most vulnerable populations such as acutely ill children, pregnant women and the elderly. The program is supported by the Government of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Royal University Hospital Foundation. The Department of Surgery has been an integral part of this program from its inception and will continue to bring innovative technology and surgical services to remote Saskatchewan communities.

Sincerely,

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

OPEN SKIES newsletter is a publication of the Department of Surgery at the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.

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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NEW FACULTY IN SURGERY

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Dr. Luke Hnenny, Neurosurgery



Dr. Abbas Khani-Hanjani, Cardiac Surgery



Dr. Nico Moolman, Otolaryngology

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. He then completed fellowship training in complex spine surgery at UPMC in Pittsburgh in 2017 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.

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

Dr. Abbas Khani-Hanjani immigrated to Vancouver, Canada in 1978, and finished his undergraduate and PhD degree in Experimental Medicine and Immunology at the University of British Columbia. He attended medical school at the University of Calgary and trained in the Cardiac Surgery residency program at the University of Alberta. He spent a year in Edmonton doing a fellowship in heart and lung transplantation and then pursued a two-year fellowship in Mechanical Circulatory Support and Aortic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Ohio. Since, he has worked as a staff member in Foothills Hospital, Royal Columbian Hospital and the London Health Sciences Centre. Dr. Khani-Hanjani has been exposed and involved in many complex cases and implementing many different approaches and programs for variety of patient care.

Dr. Khani-Hanjani's clinical research interests are in improving patient care by studying outcome result and quality control data; in area of basic sciences he is interested in studying the genetic basis of heart disease in populations in order to identify the modifiable risk factors for new therapeutic targets and interventions.

Dr. Moolman is joining the Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck surgery at the University of Saskatchewan.

Originally from South Africa, Dr. Moolman has lived in Saskatchewan with his family since 2004. After living in North Battleford he went on to complete his undergrad and MD degree at the University of Saskatchewan. From there he completed a residency in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck surgery at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Since moving back to Saskatchewan he has joined the Wall Street ENT practice in Saskatoon focusing on general Otolaryngology with interest in Sinonasal and Facial plastic surgery.

He moves back to Saskatoon bringing his wife Dr. Kate Moolman who works in the department of Pediatrics. Together they look forward to calling Saskatoon home.



Dr. Ivar Mendez & Saskatchewan's (4) New RP Vita's

The timely delivery of specialized and primary medical care to rural and remote communities in Saskatchewan is a challenge. Vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women and the elderly particularly in Indigenous communities are the most affected. Technological advances in telecommunications, robotics and point of care diagnostic devices may help to narrow the gap of inequity in healthcare access to underserved populations.

The Department of Surgery has been instrumental in establishing a remote presence medicine program using innovative robotic technology. To date, 12 remote presence robots have been deployed to northern Saskatchewan communities to provide both primary and specialized medical care.

We have demonstrated that with this technology about 70 % of acutely ill children can be treated in their own communities while in similar communities without this technology 100 % of acutely ill children are transported to Saskatoon. We have also shown that this technology prevents delays in diagnosis and treatment and results in substantial savings to the health care system¹.

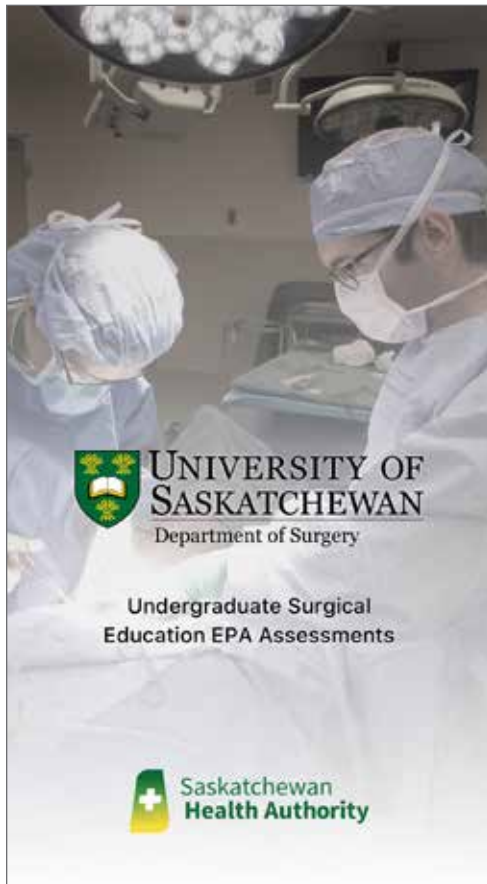
With the generous support of the Leslie and Irene Dubé Foundation, the first remote robotic ultrasonography systems have been installed in two northern Saskatchewan communities. The focus has been on prenatal ultrasonography for pregnant Indigenous women. We have published studies that show that robotic ultrasonography is comparable to standard sonography and has a high degree of patient's satisfaction².

¹ Telemedicine and e-Health. 2018; 24; 11.

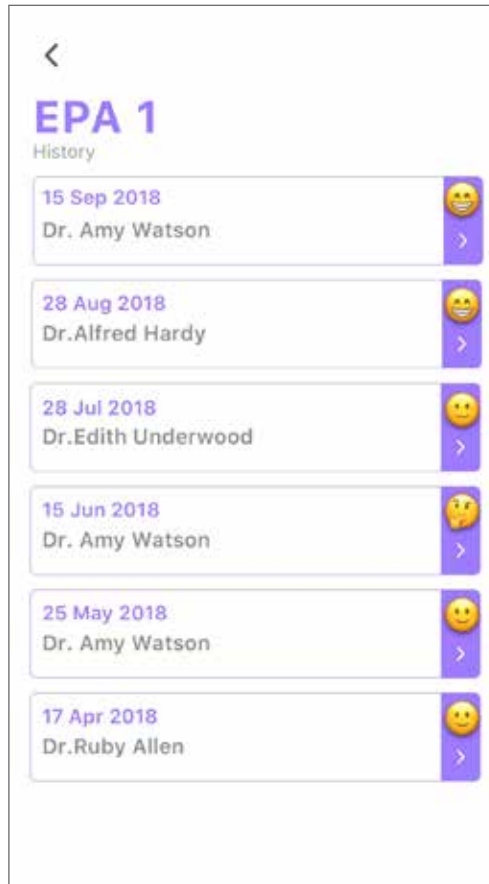
² J Ultrasound Med 2018; 37:2603-2612.

ADVANCEMENTS IN EPA ASSESSMENT

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Launch Page of App



Resident Details Page



Assessment Page

Competency-based platforms are transforming the medical education landscape in Canada. Compared to traditional models, competency-based medical education has a stronger focus on multiple observations of definable tasks in the workplace to determine if the learner can be trusted to carry out professional activities safely and independently. Through this process, continuous timely and useful feedback to learners helps them to improve their performance and professional competence over time.

With the launch of the Royal College's Competence by Design framework, medical schools in Canada have been tasked to develop a similar assessment system utilizing milestones and Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). At the University of Saskatchewan, the Department of Surgery has taken the lead and began piloting four EPAs in the Surgery Clerkship province-wide beginning in August 2018.

To greatly facilitate the timely recording of observation of the undergraduate learners EPAs, a mobile Undergraduate Surgical Education Application (USE App) has been developed. The USE App will be available for download for both learners and faculty members/residents on iTunes and Google Play. The App was designed to be user-friendly and easy to quickly complete an observation of a learner within two minutes, by having simple option selections with a tap and voice to text capabilities. Assessments can be initiated and recorded either by the faculty/resident using their own device or alternatively the learner may provide their device for the faculty/resident to input the information with security safeguards built in. The learners will be able to view their individual assessments on the App in order to track their performance and improvement over time.

The USE App is an important and necessary tool to successfully deliver this new and innovative assessment method for our undergraduate learners.

2018 AWARDS BANQUET



Dr. Yvonne Ying, Keynote Speaker



(left to right) Mary Freeman (CLRC), Leona Boyer (Lifetime Achievement), Dr. Trustin Domes

On September 20, 2018, the Department of Surgery hosted our third annual Teaching Awards Banquet at the Top of the Inn at the Sheraton Cavalier in Saskatoon. The evening was filled with great food and company as we celebrated the surgical teaching accomplishments of all members of the Department over the last year.

During the evening, we recognized the Department's most outstanding teachers by presenting awards to six deserving individuals. The award recipients were selected by an awards committee based on multiple criteria, including teaching contributions, evaluations and nominations from learners.

The Gold Scalpel Awards, recognizing individuals with the most significant contribution to the different phases of the surgical education curriculum, were awarded to Dr. Richard Bigsby (pre-clerkship), Dr. Raymond Deobald (clerkship) and to Dr. Gordon Kaban (postgraduate).

The Bronze Shovel Award, recognizing the surgery resident with the most outstanding contribution to surgical education, was awarded to Dr. Sarah Miller.

The Silver Shovel Award, recognizing the surgery faculty member with the most outstanding contribution to surgical education, was awarded to Dr. William Dust.

Leona Boyer was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding contributions to surgical skills training over the years. Leona's dedication to teaching is truly outstanding and she has already been greatly missed by her learners and the College of Medicine community now that she has retired.

The evening concluded with an address from our keynote speaker, Dr. Yvonne Ying, who is a pediatric plastic surgeon from the University



Dr. Richard Bigsby (Golden Scapel, Preclerkship) & Dr. Kent Stobart



Dr. Ray Deobold (Golden Scapel, Clerkship) & Dr. Kent Stobart



Dr. Sarah Miller (Bronze Shovel Recipient) & Dr. Gavin Beck



Silver Shovel Award, faculty with outstanding contribution to education

of Ottawa. Dr. Ying is a preeminent surgeon educator, a very active global surgeon and is a strong physician advocate for patients at home and abroad. Her thought-provoking presentation, "Global Surgery: Outreach and Advocacy", focused on global surgery issues that are experienced by patients here in Canada, including the barriers that immigrants face when trying to access care and services. Dr. Ying highlighted ways we as surgeons can advocate for our patients in these situations and break down barriers that affect access to care. We would like to thank Dr. Ying for her time and effort in helping to make our Teaching Awards Banquet a memorable evening.

Thank-you to everyone who attended the Department of Surgery Teaching Awards Banquet this year and congratulations to all of the award winners!

PEDIATRIC ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY TEAM



Drs. Lauren Allen, Anne Dzus, Alexandra Mortimer and Katie Rooks

WE ARE VERY PLEASED
TO ANNOUNCE THE
ARRIVALS OF
**DR. J. ALEXANDRA
MORTIMER AND
DR. KATIE ROOKS**

With a full complement of fellowship trained pediatric orthopedic surgeons, we will continue to provide orthopedic care to children from around the province. Amongst the four of us, we have special interests in Foot and Ankle, Neuromuscular, Hip, Upper Extremity and Spine disorders.

Our goal is to continue to further build our capacity and efficiency with the addition of mid-level providers, to extend our services to more multidisciplinary clinics, to increase our committee work, our research output and our contributions to Quality Improvement.

We are excited participants of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Team.

New Appointments in Surgery Director, General Surgery Residency Program

Dr. Gavin Reece Beck comes from Halifax, Nova Scotia where he completed his undergraduate degree with B.Sc. at Saint Mary's University with honours in chemistry and major in biology. In 2007, he obtained his medical degree from Dalhousie University and then continued on to successfully complete his General Surgery training at the University of Saskatchewan. In 2012-2014, he complete hepato-pancreatico-biliary and liver/kidney transplant fellowship training at the University of Western Ontario. He returned back to Saskatchewan as Assistant Professor with the University of Saskatchewan, Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery in August of 2014. Since his return, Dr. Beck has been an active member of the Residency Program Committee, has served as the General Surgery Resident Research Coordinator (2015-17) and on the Department of Surgery Research Committee (2016-present); Co-director (Surgical Lead) of the Saskatchewan Transplant Program, 2017-2018 General Surgery Assistant Program Director and more recently appointed July 1, 2018 as the new General Surgery Residency Training Program Director. Many thank to the outgoing General Surgery Program Director Dr. Paul Hayes for his countless years of services to our training program and seeing our program through recent RCPSC full accreditation.



Dr. Gavin Beck, Director, General Surgery Residency Program