

OPEN SKIES

Department of Surgery Newsletter

Vol.8 No.2
November 2021

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Manual



Dr. Trustin Domes, John Provan Award Recipient



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN



Saskatchewan
Health Authority



**"The fourth wave
of the COVID-19
pandemic hit
Saskatchewan hard."**

The fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit Saskatchewan hard. We are just coming out of the second major slowdown of surgical services and starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Our Department is fully engaged in resuming surgical services and dealing with COVID-19 backlog. I am very proud of the resilience of the department members to maintain exemplary care and keep research, education and quality improvement productivity during these challenging times.

This issue of Open Skies features biographical sketches of six new faculty members that have been recruited in the past ten months. They are fellowship-trained specialists that will be joining the 245 faculty members of our department. In the past seven years, we have more than doubled the number of surgeons in the Department of Surgery to cover all surgical specialties.

We want to congratulate Dr. Trustin Domes who has received the 2021 John Provan Outstanding Surgical Educator award. This biannual award is sponsored by the Canadian Association of Surgical Chairs. We are very proud of Dr. Dome's accomplishments and his tireless work on behalf of undergraduate surgical education in our department and the College of Medicine.

We welcome Dr. Gary Groot, our new Interim Director of Quality Improvement and Safety. Dr. Groot will continue to advance surgical quality improvement across Saskatchewan.

Congratulations to Dr. Niroshan Sothilingam for the publication of the second edition of the University of Saskatchewan Trauma Manual. Numerous members of the Department of Surgery and College of Medicine have contributed to its contents.

As the rate of vaccinations continues to rise in Saskatchewan, we are hopeful that the worse of the fourth wave of the pandemic is over. However, we will remain vigilant as the Delta variant and others will continue to challenge our population and health care institutions. As we approach the end of 2021, I am thankful to all the members of the department and our surgical teams for all their hard work and commitment demonstrated since the start of the pandemic 20 months ago. It is my sincere wish that all the members of the department remain healthy and that we face 2022 with renewed energy, hope and optimism.

Sincerely,

Ivar Mendez, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS

F.H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery

Saskatchewan Provincial Head 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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OUTSTANDING SURGICAL EDUCATOR

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Dr. Trustin Domes receiving John Provan Trophy



Dr. Trustin Domes with Medical Students at Urology Half-Day

Dr. Trustin Domes, 2021 John Provan Outstanding Surgical Educator Award Recipient

"If we do not get surgeons back into the undergraduate educational process, we may at worst forfeit our right to be part of a university and at best will deny students the opportunity to be exposed to the excellence in teaching and problem solving that many surgeons now demonstrate." - John Provan, Canadian Surgery Journal (March 1985)

Dr. Trustin Domes is the first University of Saskatchewan recipient of the John Provan Award for Outstanding Surgical Educator. This award is the highest achievement in Canada given to recognize outstanding contribution to undergraduate surgical education. The award is sponsored by the Canadian Association of Surgical Chairs and was first presented in 1993. The award is an Indigenous sculpture, which is presented to, and will remain in the custody of the award winner for a period of two years.

Dr. Domes is a dedicated clinician Urologist who is also dedicated to his students and improving medical education. He has been the Undergraduate Coordinator for teaching in the Department of Surgery for the past 5 years. He has transformed undergraduate teaching in surgery to a very well-oiled machine. There are 230 faculty in surgery that provide 1,863 hours/year of pre-clerkship teaching in the Department of Surgery for the College of Medicine. In addition, our surgeons provide 14,758 hours/year of clerkship teaching in all the specialties of surgery. Dr. Domes has been instrumental in coordinating these massive teaching contributions for the Department of Surgery to the undergraduate medical students at our Institution. He also has had significant contributions in the design of the new curriculum for surgery that was successfully implemented a few years ago, including introducing innovative education using best practices. In Surgery in particular this innovation can be seen in the Clerkship Orientation Video and team-based learning he introduced into the Undergraduate Curriculum to improve the student educational experience. Dr. Domes has been consistently ranked by undergraduate as well as residents, as a superb teacher. He produced a series of surgical webinars that have been viewed thousands of times by the students in their clerkship years. He is relentless in terms of motivating our surgeon colleagues to participate in undergraduate teaching and to bring 100% of the surgical faculty to teach. He has developed an innovative smartphone application to evaluate clerkship students rotating through surgery on the entrustable professional activities (EPAs) which is now being incorporated across the College of Medicine. Under Dr. Domes leadership, the Department of Surgery has instituted a yearly teaching awards banquet that recognizes contributions to teaching by faculty as well as residents.

Dr. Domes is a role model for the surgeon-educator and has inspired countless medical students to choose surgery as a career. He is also an inspiration to our faculty members to become committed educators and a very deserving recipient of the award.



Dr. Lenny Pillay, Division of Otolaryngology (Regina)



Otoendoscope Equipment

One of our main tertiary sites in Saskatchewan is located in Regina. There is currently a team of six ENT specialists providing all types of general Otolaryngology/ENT services. They offer ENT care to both Pediatric and Adult ENT patients.

OTOLOGY

Three Regina surgeons have specialist interest in Otology within their practices. Otology cases encompass tympanoplasty (Tympanic Membrane reconstruction); mastoidectomy (removing diseased bone behind the ear) and ossicular and hearing restoration and reconstruction. Traditional otology cases involve the use of a large microscope. Traditional ear surgery also involves incisions behind the ear resulting in morbidities like a scar; depression cavity behind the ear and loss of sensation over the pinna.

ENDOSCOPIC EAR SURGERY

This involves the use of small endoscopes (2-3mm diameter), micro instruments through the ear canal and the use of a monitor externally. No external incisions behind the ear are usually required. This avoids the morbidities mentioned above with traditional post auricular incision. Initially pioneered in Italy, and brought to Canada by the late Dr. Poirier (Toronto) and currently promoted by Dr. Lea (Vancouver BC). Dr. Poirier was the Chairman of the IWGEES (International Working Group on Endoscopic Ear Surgery). One of our Regina surgeons, Dr. Lenny Pillay was fortunate to learn these otoendoscopic procedures at courses pioneered by these experts. Dr. Pillay has performed the initial two cases of Otoendoscopic middle ear surgery in Regina, SK. This article serves to historically document these first two historic oto-endoscopic ear cases in SK. Case 1 KM: Tympanoplasty: this was a graft to a perforated tympanic membrane and remains successful seven years later. The tympanic membrane has since closed over and patient hearing has improved. Patient was motivated and is now studying Speech and Language and Audiology Pathology. Case 2 RB: Removal of cholesteatoma from middle ear and mastoid and reconstruction of the tympanic membrane and ossicles. Hearing improved post surgery. Returned to work within 2 weeks of OR. Also remains well 7 years later. May require second look surgery.

With the evolution in surgery and endoscopic work, it is hoped that we will have more resources available for this new innovative technique to provide rehabilitative ear surgery to our patients here in Saskatchewan, Canada.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

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(left to right) Drs. Gavin Beck, Michael Moser & Yigang Luo

SASKATCHEWAN ORGAN TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

The last 18 months have been challenging for everyone in Saskatchewan. The strain on our system has taken its toll on the Saskatchewan Transplant Program much like everywhere else. Thankfully we are a resilient team of physicians, nurses, coordinators, social workers, and administrative staff that continue to work for the betterment of our transplant patients.

Over the last 18 months we have had nurses redeployed both in Saskatoon and Regina to help with critical care coverage. This is happening again this fall due to an additional (and largest) wave.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we greatly reduced new transplant activity until we knew it was safe to proceed and then cautiously re-expanded our program. Our patients are being vaccinated and based on the current literature looking to have a third booster vaccine.

Despite the pandemic, we have had our best years of organ donation attributed to the creation of a separate Organ Donor Organization and donation physician leads in Critical Care. We are now above the national average for organ donation rates. We have expanded our abilities for donation after circulatory death (DCD). In our growth, our Regina team, supported by our wonderful and collegial group of General surgeons at Regina General Hospital, is now capable of doing DCD donation. We continue to work with Canadian Blood Services and the excellent program they offer for Kidney Paired Donation (KPD), facilitating living kidney transplant between donors and recipients that wouldn't otherwise be a match. This certainly comes with logistical challenges, and expedited by the pandemic, we have now moved to nationally procuring kidneys from living donors locally and shipping the kidneys rather than a donor traveling to a recipient site. This is much more donor-centric and allows them to stay close to home and close to all their social supports. Thankfully we have tremendous support from our OR team to insure we get these kidneys transplanted into our recipients as timely as possible to honor the gift from living donors.

Our transplant team continues to flourish in academics, both in education and research. We routinely host Transplant Education days for CME and have an active research group between the surgical and medical team, including bench research and clinical research.

As our population expands and our donation rate grows, I look forward to seeing the growth in our transplant community and transplant program.

NEW FACULTY IN SURGERY



*Dr. James Ardell, Orthopedic Surgery
Regina, SK*



*Dr. Amanda Hall, Pediatric General Surgery
Saskatoon, SK*



*Dr. Paul Kulyk, Orthopedic Surgery
Saskatoon, SK*

Dr. James Ardell is a dual fellowship trained Orthopaedic Trauma and Adult Hip and Knee Reconstruction surgeon. He completed medical school and Orthopaedic residency at the University of Saskatchewan.

He received fellowship training in Orthopaedic Trauma at the Vancouver General Hospital, gaining substantial experience in the care of polytraumatized patients and the management of complex fractures.

He then received fellowship training in Adult Orthopaedic Reconstruction at The Ottawa Hospital focusing on primary and revision lower extremity arthroplasty, including extensive experience with outpatient arthroplasty (performed as day surgery) for both primary hip and knee replacements.

Outside of surgery, Dr. Ardell enjoys returning to the family farm to help with seeding and harvest operations. He is married to Dr. Allison Finningley who is a member of the Department of Anesthesiology and together they are proud to be back home on the prairies to raise their family and serve the people of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Amanda Hall graduated from medical school at the University of Saskatchewan and then stayed in Saskatoon to complete her general surgery residency. During residency, she obtained her PhD in Health Sciences; examining lipids and aluminum contamination as factors in parental nutrition associated liver disease in infants. She then moved to Montreal to pursue a two-year fellowship in pediatric general surgery at McGill University.

She is very happy to return home to practice pediatric surgery in Saskatoon at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. She enjoys all aspects of pediatric surgery, but particular interests include gastroschisis, short gut, and other neonatal intestinal malformations. Her time will be split between clinical duties at the hospital and basic science research in her lab. Branching off of her PhD work, she plans to develop an intestinal organoid model to study bowel adaptation in neonates.

She looks forward to working with the surgical community and the families of this province. In her free time, she enjoys cross-country skiing with her husband and improving her French.

Dr. Paul Kulyk completed his undergraduate engineering and medical school training at the University of Saskatchewan. His orthopaedic surgery residency was completed here as well, though he briefly interrupted that to complete a Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Bern in Switzerland. In 2020, he received his FRCSC and Clinical Investigator certification and went on to do an additional year of foot and ankle subspecialty training in Vancouver, BC.

His practice is mainly focused on adult foot and ankle reconstruction. He is interested in research related to the engineering aspects of orthopaedic surgery and musculoskeletal basic science.

Outside of work, he enjoys spending time outside hiking, camping and fishing with his family. He is happy to be back practicing near his hometown of Wadena, Saskatchewan.



*Dr. Matthew Mastel, Orthopedic Surgery
Saskatoon, SK*



*Dr. Devin Piccott, Otolaryngology
Regina, SK*



*Dr. Kristen Pugh, Orthopedic Surgery
Moose Jaw, SK*

Dr. Matthew Mastel is a Royal College certified Orthopedic Surgeon with the Division of Orthopedic Surgery in Saskatoon. He received his Bachelor of Science in Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Saskatchewan. He subsequently completed both his M.D. and Orthopedic Surgery residency at the University of Saskatchewan. Thereafter, a Hip and Knee Reconstruction Fellowship with a special focus on hip preservation surgery was achieved at the University of Calgary. His fellowship research focusing on the implication of decreased femoral anteversion on femoroacetabular impingement further promoted his interest in hip preservation.

His clinical areas of interest include primary and revision hip and knee arthroplasty, along with hip arthroscopy for the management of symptomatic hip impingement.

Dr. Mastel enjoys the outdoors, golf, fishing, and snow/water sports. He is excited to have returned to Saskatoon with his wife and two sons.

Dr. Devin Piccott completed his undergraduate degree at Acadia University. He went on to complete his medical training and residency in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 2021, he received a Master's in Medical Education (Curriculum Studies for Health Interprofessionals) from Acadia University.

His practice includes all aspects of modern Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. He has extensive training and a special interest in head and neck neoplasms (thyroid, parathyroid, glandular, mucosal), cutaneous lesions of the head and neck, upper airway, and voice-related concerns. He also enjoys treating pediatric patients and otologic related needs. His research interests include access to care, quality improvement and medical education.

After moving from the east coast of Canada, Dr Piccott, alongside his wife and daughter, are excited to call Regina home.

Dr. Kristen Pugh completed both medical school and Orthopaedic Surgery residency training at the University of Saskatchewan. She went on to do subspecialty fellowship training in Sports Medicine with the UniSports Orthopaedics group in Auckland, New Zealand. There she had the opportunity to provide orthopaedic care for athletes from "weekend warriors" to young recreational and competitive athletes to Olympic and professional athletes, including world renowned rugby team, the All Blacks. She is certified with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Her current interests are in sports medicine orthopaedics, shoulder/hip/knee joint salvage and reconstruction, and general orthopaedic trauma.

Dr. Pugh recently started an orthopaedic surgery practice in Moose Jaw on July 19, 2021. She has also joined the Moose Jaw Warriors WHL staff doing medical coverage for games and consulting on player orthopaedic-related injuries. Her and her husband, Dan, are thrilled to be back living near family, working in Saskatchewan and getting involved serving the community.

New Interim Director of Quality Improvement & Patient Safety

Gary Groot, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS has been appointed Interim Director of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety for the Department of Surgery. He also holds the appointments of physician co-lead with the Saskatchewan Health Authority's Clinical Excellence Portfolio, Director of Surgical Oncology Program for the Department of Surgery, Director of Research and Resident Research Coordinator for the Division of General Surgery and Program Director in the Clinician Investigator Program for the College of Medicine. He holds a cross-appointment as Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Community Health and Epidemiology. Dr. Groot completed his medical school and residency at the University of Saskatchewan. He is a recognized academic surgeon that has held many important leadership positions throughout the Department of Surgery. Dr. Groot is an outstanding teacher and highly recognized researcher whose main focus is surgical quality improvement.

We welcome Dr. Groot to this key leadership position in the Department of Surgery.



Niroshan Sothilingam, MD, FRCPC is the Medical Director of the Trauma Program in Saskatoon. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the University of Saskatchewan Trauma Manual.

As the Trauma Program evolves and expands, so has the Trauma Manual. In this 2nd edition, added chapters have been dedicated to Prehospital & Transport, Airway Management, Extremity Trauma and Updated Guidelines. Numerous members of the Department of Surgery and College of Medicine have contributed to the contents of the manual. The manual provides a comprehensive and practical approach to the resuscitation and acute management of trauma patients. We thank the many members of the healthcare institutions across the Province of Saskatchewan for their exemplary care provided to our trauma patients.

**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
TRAUMA MANUAL**2ND EDITION Saskatchewan
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