

Faculty of Health Sciences | School of Medicine

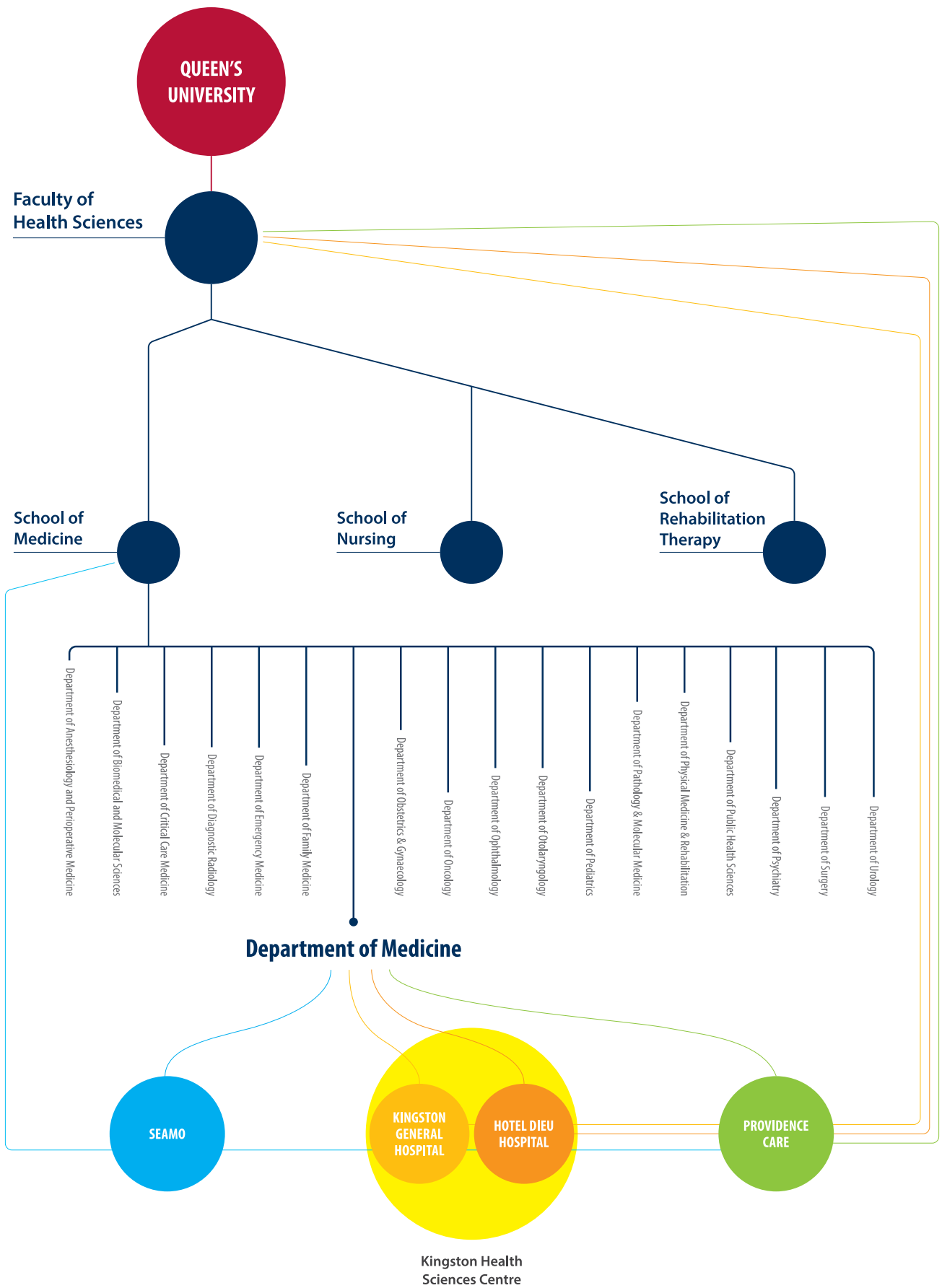


Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF

# Medicine 2021



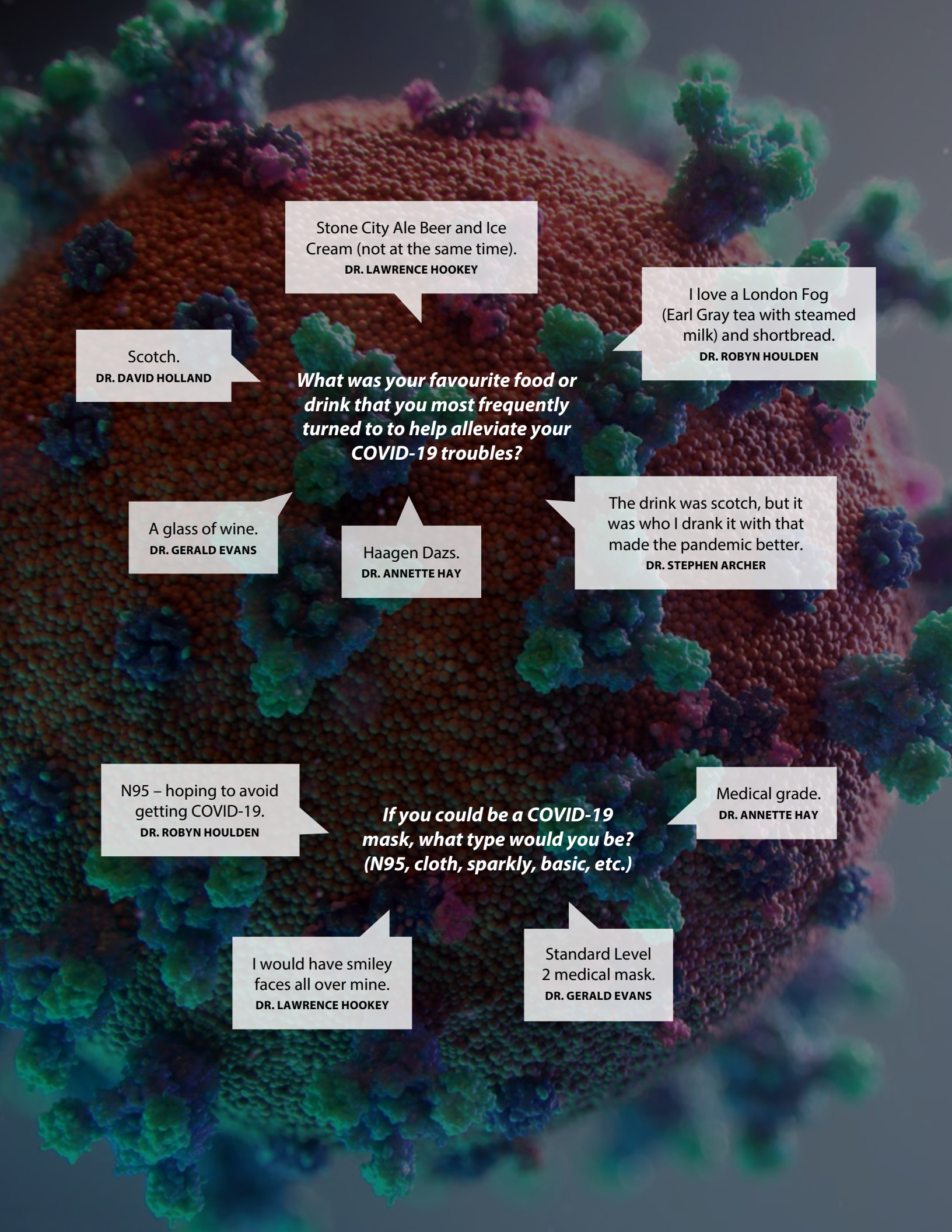


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	Cardiology
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	Endocrinology and Metabolism
	Gastroenterology
	General Internal Medicine
	Geriatric Medicine
	Hematology
	Infectious Diseases
	Nephrology
	Neurology
	Palliative Medicine
	Respirology and Sleep Medicine
	Rheumatology





Stone City Ale Beer and Ice Cream (not at the same time).

DR. LAWRENCE HOOKEY

I love a London Fog (Earl Gray tea with steamed milk) and shortbread.

DR. ROBYN HOULDEN

Scotch.

DR. DAVID HOLLAND

***What was your favourite food or drink that you most frequently turned to to help alleviate your COVID-19 troubles?***

A glass of wine.

DR. GERALD EVANS

Haagen Dazs.

DR. ANNETTE HAY

The drink was scotch, but it was who I drank it with that made the pandemic better.

DR. STEPHEN ARCHER

N95 – hoping to avoid getting COVID-19.

DR. ROBYN HOULDEN

***If you could be a COVID-19 mask, what type would you be? (N95, cloth, sparkly, basic, etc.)***

Medical grade.

DR. ANNETTE HAY

I would have smiley faces all over mine.

DR. LAWRENCE HOOKEY

Standard Level 2 medical mask.

DR. GERALD EVANS



The 100 (with my teenage daughter).

DR. ANNETTE HAY

Agatha Christie's Poirot and Midsomer Murders.

DR. GERALD EVANS

***What is a series you binge-watched during COVID-19 to temporarily escape the COVID-19 reality?***

All of the Korean melodramas on Netflix. Can even speak a little Korean now. Annyeong Hayseyo (Hello!).

DR. ROBYN HOULDEN

Tiger King!

DR. LAWRENCE HOOKEY

Summer 2023.

DR. GERALD EVANS

***If you had to put money on it, when do you think this pandemic will really end? (We mean fully back to pre- COVID-19 life).***

Never. It's a new world. I suspect we will be wearing masks in our workplace forever.

DR. ROBYN HOULDEN

Hmm – I suspect we'll never to go back the old normal. I predict 2024 for a new normal.

DR. ANNETTE HAY

Tougher one. I don't think we are ever going back, or it will take at least 5-10 years for the residue to truly be gone.

DR. LAWRENCE HOOKEY

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## Message From The Department Head



In an effort to reframe the sense of fatigue, loss, and exhaustion that Department of Medicine (DOM) members felt in 2021, I am reminded that the pandemic had launched us on a Hero's Journey. Our heroic journey is one that is bringing us back to a healthy and "normal" world. Your story is one worth writing down because you will celebrate it in the future with justified pride. The work you are doing and the sacrifices you are making have value and positively shape our collective future! Your hard work and your coping with the many detours in your life plan in 2021 will be a source of pride to you in the future.

In 2021, our enemy on the journey was no longer ignorance or fear of COVID-19; rather it was the fatigue, disappointment and burn out caused by a road that was much longer and more tortuous than we had anticipated. We were now 2 years into a pandemic which has prevented many of life's pleasures, gathering with friends and family, travel, a human touch and much more. That said, 2021 was a year where we "kept on moving forward", improvising, flexing our COVID-19 wards up and down to handle the pandemic, growing our virtual healthcare capacity, all the while striving to provide health care for the 99% of people who did not have COVID-19.

We were now proficient in video visits for health care and ZOOM and Teams meetings; but most of us missed the in person, "real" world, circa 2019. Childcare became a monumental challenge in 2021. Schools closed suddenly and frequently, leaving parents scrambling to care for their children. This was especially difficult for the many parents in our Department. The DOM changed its policies to be as flexible as possible to help support our faculty and staff.

2021 also challenged the sense of Canadians being a unified people and brought out the worst in some people. We were saddened to see fellow Canadians refusing to be vaccinated, despite the vaccines being free, safe and effective. Many of these same people fought reasonable public health

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We not only acknowledged excellence in clinical care, research and education, we tipped our hats to COVID-19 leadership and I awarded our Distinguished Service award to the DOM administrative team, who, like the physicians worked tirelessly.

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measures. Some were also hostile and threatening to the doctors and nurses who were trying to care for them. In 2021 we recognized that common sense was not in fact common.

On a positive note the DOM pushed every boundary in 2021 to work in person whenever possible for the benefit of our patients and trainees (medical students, residents and TMED graduate students). We were busy doing research at the bench, attending Medical Grand Rounds and M&M rounds in hybrid ZOOM/in person meetings, and seeing patients both online and face to face. We were reminded of the limits of virtual care, not the least of which being a high percentage of elderly patients who could not navigate on-line visits, leaving us with telephone visits or in person visits as our options. We continued to focus on educating our amazing trainees, who were on the front lines providing health care as they honed their medical skills. We spent time and financial resources to thank the nurses and administrative folk we worked with. We enjoyed celebrations like our virtual holiday and awards party, family fun days, and held many celebrations. We not only acknowledged excellence in clinical care, research and education, we tipped our hats to COVID-19 leadership and I awarded our Distinguished Service award to the DOM administrative team, who, like the physicians worked tirelessly. They looked after finances, promotion, hiring, human resources, public relations and more displaying calm professionalism and an admirable work ethic.

In 2021 we proudly stood against racism, which had become more overt during the pandemic. We advanced EDI in our Department through actions, and as a result have a more diverse DOM than

ever before. We leaned into Black Lives Matter and MeToo and acknowledged our need to be part of the healing related to Canada's historic mistreatment of Indigenous people. We created a Reducing Barriers bursary to support BiPOC medical students. While at times issues of race, sex, gender, indigeneity challenge us and make us uncomfortable, I am proud of the growth in our awareness and the resulting actions to achieve social justice that members of the DOM displayed.

Despite COVID-19 we continued to grow the Department to meet our health care, educational and research mission, adding 18 new faculty members and a new residency training program in Infectious Diseases. Members of the DOM (staff, trainees, administrators and faculty) emerged from 2021 knowing they had survived what can only be described as a [Hero's Journey](#). We remain unified, proud, and unbroken by the pandemic. However, I acknowledge, the pandemic has been harder on some than others, a particularly hard struggle for those without family and those with young children or aging parents (or both). I have had the privilege of sharing in many of your life stories-some of which moved me to tears and yet filled me with admiration for your dedication and spirit. While we are not all in the same boat, we in the DOM are all paddling in the same direction and each of us serves as a lifesaver for our fellow administrative colleagues, trainees or faculty members. The DOM remains #Awesome and despite, or perhaps because of the pandemic challenges, our diverse, excellent faculty only shines brighter.

**Dr. Stephen Archer**  
*Department Head*

# The Department of Medicine welcomed 18 new faculty in 2021



**Dr. Aws Almufleh**  
*Cardiology*



**Dr. Ian Britton**  
*Cardiology*



**Dr. David Rodrigues**  
*Gastroenterology*





**Dr. Taleen Haddad**  
*Geriatric Medicine*



**Dr. Kate Trebuss**  
*Geriatric Medicine*



**Dr. Heather Johnson**  
*General Internal Medicine*



**Dr. Audrey Tran**  
*General Internal Medicine*



**Dr. Bethany Monteith**  
*Hematology*



**Dr. Tony Bai**  
*Infectious Diseases*

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## Recruitment



**Dr. Bogdan Momciu**  
*Nephrology*



**Dr. Michelle Olah**  
*Nephrology*



**Dr. Nicholas Cothros**  
*Neurology*



**Dr. Anemon Philip**  
*Neurology*



**Dr. Julianne Bagg**  
*Palliative Medicine*



**Dr. Jean Mathews**  
*Palliative Medicine*



**Dr. Adrienne Selbie**  
*Palliative Medicine*



**Dr. Anna Voeuk**  
*Palliative Medicine*



**Dr. Emma Tang**  
*Rheumatology*

The DOM has a growth agenda and has doubled in size over the past decade. We account for 1/3 of all faculty in QHS and operate 40-50% of the beds at KHSC, with important roles in running the medical school, postgraduate medical education, while providing extensive outpatient care and running Geriatric and Palliative care services at Providence Care. The recruiting of talented physicians serves our growing patient needs and allows us to run training programs that create the next generation of physicians. New physicians are required to deal with the changing social mores of the Canadian

medical community, with more of our faculty being young moms and dads and physician wellness being a priority. In this spirit, I am delighted that we have secured permission to recruit 7 new hospitalists who will run resident independent services at KHSC and HDH and anticipate 17 new positions in our 3-year HR plan (which will run from 2023-2026). In the meantime, let's celebrate the fact that in 2021 we recruited 18 new physicians in 10 Divisions who are already advancing clinical care, education, quality improvement and research in Southeastern Ontario.





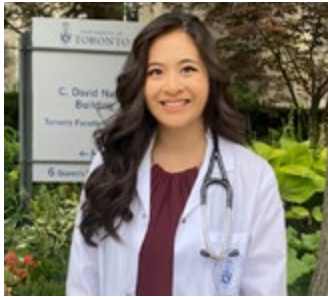
# Education

SECTION I

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## Translational Medicine Graduate Program



Thalia Hua, MSc'21, MD'25 (Candidate)  
University of Toronto

### Graduate Profile Thalia Hua

As I progress through my medical training, I continue to have a growing appreciation for the importance of translational research. The TMED program at Queen's provides students the opportunity to explore their interests through projects that bridge many pillars of the translational research approach. While my MSc research focused on clinical decision-making tools, I also enjoyed learning about the exciting projects my fellow peers were involved in – from topics targeting basic science questions to determining health policy improvements. The observerships and clinical experience offered by the program allowed me to familiarize myself to the clinical environment, providing me with greater confidence when speaking with patients in my medical school training. I am fortunate to have been able to learn from a diverse set of scientific experts and am grateful for the many skills that I gained during my time in the TMED program.

**TMED Student Society:** This is an elected group of student leaders governed by a constitution that serves the interests and requests of the Translational Medicine Graduate students. The Society also acts as a medium of communication between the students and the TMED faculty members, governing bodies of Queen's University, and other recognized student societies.

### A selection of the TMED Student Society Events held in 2021

February 8 *Valentine's Day Care Package*

March 15 - April 1 *Kingston Youth Shelter*  
*The TMED Student Society collected \$300 in gift cards and 40+ bags filled with a variety of clothing, shoes, school supplies, hygiene supplies, non-perishable foods, and other items.*

September 27 *TMED Dodgeball Intramural Team's First Game*



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Number of MSc Students

22

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Number of PhD Students

10

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Number of Awards

12

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Graduates  
(Master of Science Graduates)

6

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Number of Publications

44

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Number of Core Internal  
Medicine Residents

67

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2021-2022 Chief Medical Residents

**Dr. Eman Badawod**

**Dr. Fiona Milne**

**Dr. Nicole Relke**

**Dr. Sherwin Wong**

## Core Internal Medicine



### A Message from the Core Internal Medicine Program Director

The Core Internal Medicine Program is stronger than ever despite a year filled with change and challenges. From unprecedented resident scheduling crises caused by COVID-19 to the strain that limited in-person events had on residency training, our program and residents persevered. It was the dedication of the administrative team coupled with the adaptability and resilience of our residents that enabled us to weather the storm. Our residents cared for an ever-increasing number of patients across all medical specialties at KHSC and since the beginning of the pandemic the QIM residents have been at the forefront of providing care for patients admitted with COVID-19. Amid the pandemic, QIM residents navigated their own subspecialty match, Royal College certification exam, and helped to select an outstanding new group of PGY-1 residents who will join us in July.

After six years in the position, Dr. David Taylor stepped down as program director. Dr. Taylor's innovative thinking, medical education expertise and visionary leadership solidly placed our program among the top IM programs in Canada. Thank you, Dr. Taylor! Dr. Bikram Sidhu took on the role of Associate Program Director and is leading our competency committee while advancing our program of assessment. Dr. Marie Leung took on the role of Faculty Wellness Lead and Dr. Sara Awad continues to innovate and lead the academic curriculum. This year we said goodbye to Claudia Trost who was an invaluable member of the administrative team for over 9 years. We welcomed Emily Barnes to the position of Program Administrator and could not be happier to have Emily join. Finally, Genevieve Bureau, QIM Program Manager, demonstrated superhuman abilities in keeping the program together and operational through all these changes.

In a year filled with change and challenges, the QIM residents and administrative team demonstrated extraordinary strength, integrity, and resilience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Gauthier'.

**Dr. Stephen Gauthier**  
Program Director





*Core Internal Medicine, Class of 2021*

### **Neurology Residency Program**

Congratulations to Dr. Lysa Boissé Lomax and the Neurology Residency Training Program who successfully matched all their positions in the 2021 CaRMS R1 match. They welcomed 2 CMG's (Canadian Medical Graduates) and 2 visa sponsored trainees.

### **DOM Subspecialty Highlights 2021**

In 2021 all of the Department of Medicine Subspecialty programs successfully matched, filling all of their residency positions.

**Cardiology** – 3 residents

**Endocrinology and Metabolism** – 1 resident

**Gastroenterology** – 2 residents

**General Internal Medicine** – 4 residents

**Hematology** – 2 residents

**Nephrology** – 1 resident and 1 visa sponsored trainee

**Palliative Medicine** – 1 resident

**Respirology** – 3 residents and 1 visa sponsored trainee

**Rheumatology** – 2 residents

In addition, the Division of Infectious Diseases received approval as a Newly Accredited Residency Training Program from the Royal College Residency Accreditation Committee. Dr. Evan Wilson has been appointed as the Program Director, with Dori Silver as the Program Assistant. Best wishes to the Division of Infectious Diseases as they will participate in the 2023 CaRMS medicine subspecialty match for the first time.

### **Noteworthy Achievements**

The EP, Echo, and Endocrinology fellowship/residency programs all had very successful external reviews with the Royal College.

The Cardiology, Nephrology, and Respirology residency programs all had successful internal reviews and were among the first at Queen's to go through the new process using CanAMS.

Several programs within the DOM have started or continue to work on a process of program evaluation through the Office of Professional Development and Educational Scholarship (OPDES) as a commitment to ongoing quality improvement and in hopes of offering the best possible experience for their trainees.

Dr. Mirna Attalla (PGY5 Respirology and Sleep Medicine) won the Beatrice & Harold Cohen Prize in Medical Ethics. This prize is awarded to one Queen's resident in their final year who exhibits ethically appropriate attitudes and behaviours of the highest standards during his/her residency program.

Dr. Bohyung Min (PGY5 Respirology and Sleep Medicine) was awarded the Robert Davidson Fellowship to complete her ILD fellowship in Calgary. The combination of clinical and research activities will provide candidates with the opportunity for academic career development that will enable them to become key national and international members of the ILD community.



# Research

SECTION II

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## TIME

### Research Funding

TIME is prioritizing Research Excellence in its decision making over the next 5-years. Since its conception, TIME has offered incubator grants to ensure that our members have access to seed money to generate pilot data that will facilitate future significant bids. Through our Speed Dating sessions, TIME has also ensured that members have the opportunity to cross-cut between disciplines to achieve genuinely novel funding bids. Lastly, TIME has participated in the FHS CIHR review process to ensure that applications from the Faculty to CIHR have the best chance of success; this is starting to bear fruit.



TIME communicates with members through our webpage, via email and through our Twitter account [@QueensuTIME](#).

### Future Considerations

The mission of TIME is to capture the breadth of translational research at Queen's, foster both research and teaching excellence, and ensure that translational scientists have access to state-of-the-art infrastructure, seed grants and grant support. Our [Strategic Plan](#) has given this mission clear objectives and articulated those milestones we can use to ensure that we meet our expectations as a Tier 1 institute at Queen's University. While the 2021 TIME Annual report demonstrates that we are meeting the high standards we've set ourselves, we are mindful of future challenges. The TIME team and the executive committee that directs it are committed to advancing the mission and are already discussing ways in which TIME can better serve our faculty, students, and patients.

Sustainability is a key piece in this onward direction; we are mindful that TIME will need to grow beyond its current financial model if we are to continue the training of translational researchers, continue to offer incubator funding, and evergreen existing infrastructure.

Our leadership is already well engaged in this task and has secured extramural and philanthropic funding that will bring new opportunities for our members.

We are excited about the future of TIME and are ready to work hard to meet the goals laid out in our strategic plan. We think that TIME is a flagship Institute at Queen's University and can demonstrate our leadership at both the faculty and university levels. We are proud to represent basic scientists, clinician-scientists and students across the University.



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### Number of Members

# 250+

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### External Research Funding

# \$16M+

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### Internal Research Funding

# \$220K

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### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

# 793





#### Number of Supervisors

# 13

#### Number of Research Groups

# 55

#### Number of Departments

# 18

#### Number of Faculties

# 3

#### Number of Trainees

# 120

## QCPU

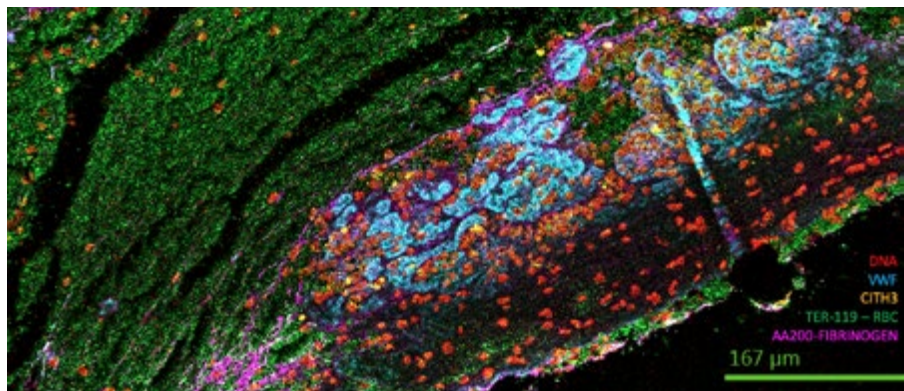
The Queen's CardioPulmonary Unit (QCPU) is an \$8 million dollar, 8000 square foot research facility that is focused on a Bench-to-Bedside philosophy with emphasis on heart, lung, blood and vascular diseases. QCPU was funded by a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant and opened in 2017 with Dr. Stephen Archer as the founding scientific director. QCPU is a full service, basic science research facility which provides the research community with expertise, education and state-of-the-art infrastructure. Our facility is complemented by an onsite Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) satellite clinic, which can be utilized to host research for clinical trials. The QCPU clinic also currently provides echocardiogram services, as well as paediatric cardiology clinics to Kingston and surrounding areas.

Built on existing institutional investments by Queen's University, QCPU enhances existing links between clinical and basic investigators at Queen's and fosters new collaborations between researchers in other faculties and at other universities. QCPU is funded by the Department of Medicine, the Queen's Faculty of Health Sciences (QHS) and through cost recovery for services provided. QCPU's mission includes growing the extramurally funded research enterprise for the Department of Medicine and QHS at Queen's University.

Housed within the Bioscience Complex, located in the heart of Queen's campus, QCPU is within close proximity to the School of Medicine Building, KHSC and other key departments within QHS. QCPU embodies research excellence and will ensure that Queen's University is recognized internationally as a center for translational research.

### Clinical Satellite Unit

QCPU opened its clinic doors in 2019 as an official KHSC Satellite and typically the clinic performs eight echocardiograms (ECHO) per day. However, due to the pandemic the clinic has been operating at a reduced capacity for a portion of the year due to public safety concerns and staff shortages. While this cancellation was necessary as our understanding of COVID-19 expanded and as wait times for ECHO significantly increased in the Kingston and surrounding area, our clinic was able to safely return to operation in July. The clinic is home to one full time receptionist and four



Hyperion mass cytometer



*Queen's CardioPulmonary Unit group*

sonographers; and all clinical images are linked and stored on the Xclera server at KHSC. Since mid-summer of 2019, the QCPU clinic became the site for central booking for all local ECHOs. In 2021 we saw clinical services expand into using contrast agents for ECHO, which again has had a positive impact on patient waitlists. We are currently hosting one paediatric cardiology clinic which is already looking to expand in 2022. Additionally, we are looking forward to establishing another paediatric pulmonary clinic and have several exciting research projects to begin in the clinic in 2022. QCPU has a unique partnership with KHSC which allows 25% of the imaging capacity for use in clinical research studies. This partnership provides KHSC with a state-of-the-art imaging facility, and our researchers with access to the services of expert sonographers and ongoing maintenance of the equipment.

### **Translational Research Unit**

This portion of QCPU is staffed by 6 scientists and is comprised of 5 different laboratories including:

- Physiology and experimental therapeutics
- Molecular and cellular imaging
- Cell culture and cytometry

- Genomics, transcriptomics and molecular medicine
- Mass cytometry, histology and proteomics

The centre offers faculty across the university access to state-of-the-art equipment, much of which exists only within QCPU. Notably, our model is innovative in that services are provided for faculty by QCPU's scientists on a cost-recovery basis. Examples of key equipment include:

- MILabs Tri-modality micro-CT/SPECT/PET nuclear imaging platform
- Illumina NextSeq550 Sequencing for next-generation sequencing services
- Sony SH800 flow cytometer and sorter
- Leica SP8 confocal and super-resolution microscope upgraded with 2-photon laser
- Fluidigm Helios/Hyperion mass cytometer
- XCelligence cell culturing system
- Histology services and electron microscopy
- \*NEW\* Luminox MagPix multianalyte analyzer





# Department Initiatives & Events

SECTION III

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## Medical Grand Rounds

Medical Grand Rounds (MGR) is a longstanding tradition in medical education and a key teaching and learning venue for all Departments of Medicine. It is a knowledge translation forum for continuous professional development, faculty development and the presentation of exciting clinical and scientific research. Medical Grand Rounds is jointly chaired by Dr. Mala Joneja and Dr. Stephen Archer.

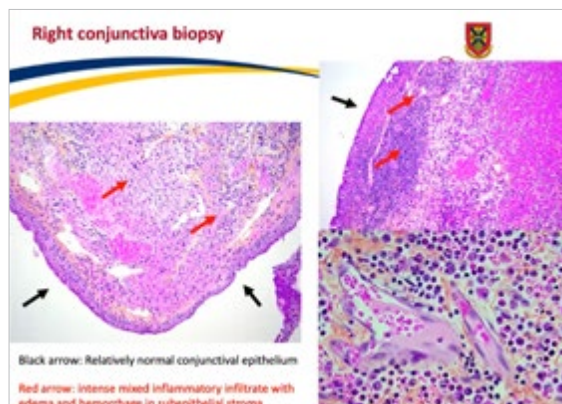
### Highlights

Several great presentations with a wide range of topics including, but not limited to:

<b>Dr. Danielle Kain</b>	<i>Poison &amp; Panacea: opiates, lung cancer, and death</i>
<b>Dr. Anne Ellis</b>	<i>Patient Advocacy Revisited: The Great, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Patient Support Programs</i>
<b>Dr. Santiago Perez</b>	<i>The UpTICK of a "Rare" Disease</i>
<b>Dr. Laura Milne</b>	<i>I Can "C" Clearly Now: An Overlooked Old Disease with a Simple Cure</i>
<b>Dr. Lysa Boissé Lomax</b>	<i>Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP): Back to the Future</i>
<b>Dr. Stephen Vanner</b>	<i>Forgotten patients, personal reflections and a look into the future</i>
<b>Dr. Yuka Asai</b>	<i>Getting a leg up on ulcers</i>
<b>Dr. Marie Leung</b>	<i>The New Abnormal: How Pandemics Affect Professional Identity Formation in Medical Trainees</i>

### Case of the Year

The 2021 Case of the Year was presented by the Division Chair of General Internal Medicine, Dr. Chris Smith. The presentation was entitled "Headache and Diplopia."



Number of weeks of Medical Grand Rounds

38

Number of hours of professional development gained

38

Total number of attendees in 38 weeks

2,118

Average weekly attendance

56



### 2020-2021 Distinguished lectures

- *Dr. Peter W. Munt Lecture:* Dr. Paul O'Byrne (McMaster University)  
Topic: Allergen-Induced Asthma
- *Dr. Bruce L. Cronk Lecture:* Dr. Neil Fam (St. Michael's Hospital)  
Topic: Transcatheter Mitral and Tricuspid Valve Intervention
- *Dr. John O. Parker Lecture:* Dr. Martha Gulati (Dalhousie University)  
Topic: Women and Cardiovascular Disease: Is there really a sex difference?
- *Dr. Henry B. Dinsdale Lecture:* Dr. P. James Dyck (Mayo Clinic)  
Topic: hATTR Amyloidosis Polyneuropathy: From Diagnosis to Targeted Treatments
- *Greenblatt Lecture:* Dr. Michaeline Mcguinty (University of Ottawa). Topic: Treatments for COVID-19: What actually works?

### Medical Morbidity and Mortality Rounds (M&M)

In addition to Medical Grand Rounds, the Department of Medicine hosts weekly Medical Morbidity and Mortality Rounds, ably chaired by Dr. David Lee (Hematology). DOM Faculty present on their actual cases that share on their experiences with adverse outcomes or near misses. These educational rounds contain lessons to be learned and an opportunity for change to improve quality of care. Presenters are also asked to submit opportunities for improvement to the Medicine Quality Improvement Patient Safety Care Committee (MQIPSC). MQIPSC keeps track of case themes and opportunities for improvement and uses them to target improvement initiatives.

## Mentorship

*"A mentor by definition according to Merriam-Webster is 'a trusted counselor or guide'. In academic medicine, mentoring is a key aspect*

*of personal and career development for the achievement of goals and aspirations. Mentors often share knowledge and life experience, and can help with networking and connections to resources."*

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our mentorship program was unable to enjoy any events or initiatives for our mentors and mentees. However, the Department of Medicine mentorship program continues to run strong as we have over 60 junior faculty paired with our senior faculty members who are graciously providing mentorship in both personal and professional domains.

### DOM EDIIA Initiative Reducing Barriers Bursary 2021

The Department of Medicine established and launched its new *Reducing Barriers Bursary* at Queen's University, after receiving the overwhelming support of 92 votes with 89% in favour of endowing \$250,000 from physicians in the Department of Medicine to support this important contribution to advancing EDI. This bursary is awarded to an incoming student entering their first year of a degree program in the School of Medicine.

The Reducing Barriers Bursary is awarded based on demonstrated financial need to help a student reduce the financial barriers that may hinder their ability to pursue an education in medicine.

Preference is given to incoming students who self-identify as Black Canadian or Visible Minority/Racialized students. The Department of Medicine hopes that the Reducing Barriers Bursary supports the movement to bring about equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in medicine. The Bursary was created in alignment with the [Faculty of Health Sciences' several new EDI initiatives](#).

This year's inaugural recipient was, Ms. Hibo Rijal, BSc McMaster University, Queens MD 2025.

Hibo expressed her gratitude to everyone for the bursary. She said her experience so far at Queen's has been amazing. She noted that her parents immigrated from Somalia, and she was raised as a first generation Canadian. She was the first one in her family to go to University and the first one to even consider going to medical school. She said this bursary made a huge impact not only financially, but it also made her feel comfortable and supported. She sees this bursary as very beneficial for others in the future.

## Quality (MQIPSC)

In 2021, the MQIPSC, co-chaired by Drs. Geneviève Digby and Joe Abunassar, continued to advance the QIPS agenda, tackling challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and building momentum to achieve larger scale organizational changes. The DOM can be proud of its contributions towards advancing quality of care at KHSC.

### Advancing the Quality Improvement Plan

The goal for the DOM Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) for 2021-2022 was to increase alignment between the Medicine Program and Departmental priorities regarding Quality and Safety and to select key initiatives on which substantial progress could be made. This year, we focused our efforts on the following priorities:

#### 1) Early Identification of Palliative Care Needs

- This project team made progress towards their goals of implementing a standardized, comprehensive, and holistic assessment process for patients identified by the mHOMR

tool, which includes ESAS (Edmonton Symptom Assessment System) completion; clinicians having serious illness conversations with patients; and ensuring timely access to home and community care services upon discharge for patients.

#### 2) Transitions from Hospital to Home

- The teams working on these projects continued to optimize transitions of care through ongoing post-discharge nursing phone calls, sending medication prescriptions to pharmacies prior to patient discharge, and exploring opportunities to optimize access to home care services.

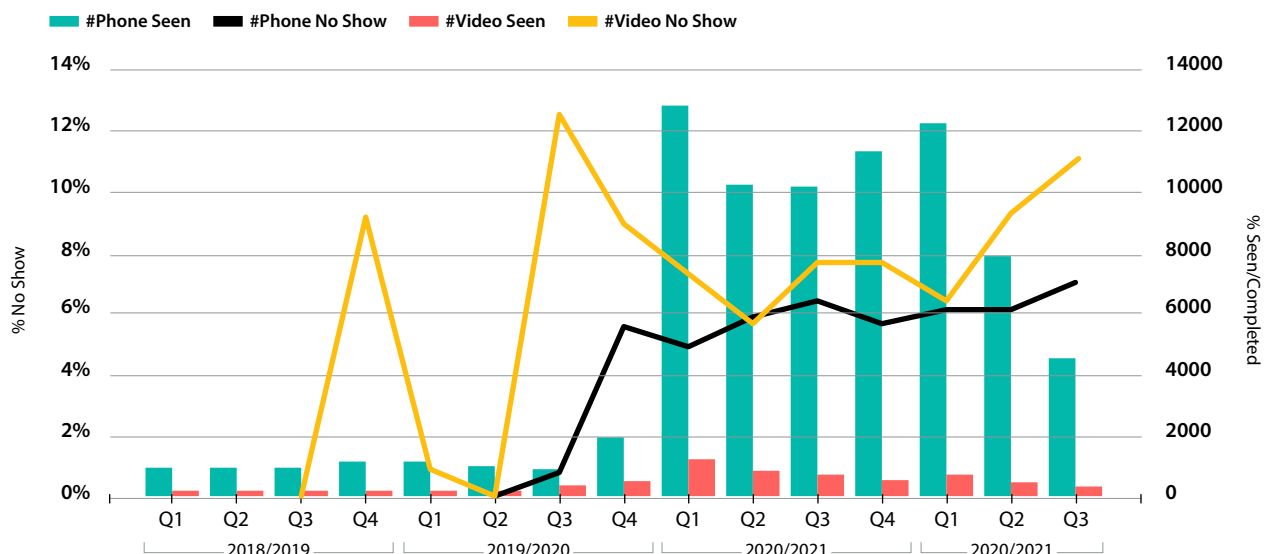
#### 3) Optimizing the Use of Virtual Care to Improve Access to Medicine Specialists

- The COVID-19 pandemic led to an exponential increase in the uptake of virtual care across the DOM. In 2019, the DOM had completed about 450 virtual visits. In 2020, the DOM performed 39,226 virtual visits (4,962 video; 34,264 phone). In 2021, 37,552 virtual visits were completed (1,709 video; 35,843 phone). The Virtual Care Working Group, with significant representation from the DOM, continued its evaluation of strategies to ensure optimal efficiency with the use of virtual care.

#### 4) Optimizing Resource Utilization

- A new Utilization Committee was created at KHSC to help drive utilization improvement efforts. This committee is co-chaired by DOM physician Dr. Johanna Murphy and Dr. Sengupta from the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, with several engaged DOM members

### # COMPLETED PHONE/VIDEO VISITS vs. % NO SHOW







(top) Nurses from Cardiology clinic and Dr. Archer displaying their Honour Your Caregiver certificate.

(above) Achieve the 5 “quick wins” to apply for Choosing Wisely Canada Hospital Designation.

as participants. The Utilization efforts that link to our QIP include:

- Reduce unnecessary albumin transfusions led by, Dr. Jeannie Callum.
- Achieve the 5 “quick wins” to apply for Choosing Wisely Canada Hospital Designation (reduce daily blood draws, folate, CKMB, PTT/INR decoupling, and routine x-rays in ICU including D4-ICU).

## 5) Pressure Ulcer Reduction

- The Medicine Program continues a multi-modal strategy to optimize this quality indicator.

## Advancing QIPS Research and Education

In 2021, the new Health Sciences Research Ethics Board approval process for QI projects was launched. This is a new, streamlined, and simplified process for QI projects to receive REB approval or exemption letters where appropriate, with the goal of simplifying the process for REB approval for QI work.

The Patient Safety Rounds Working Group, a subset of the MQIPSC, continues to strive to deliver high quality education around QIPS concepts to the residents, with significant engagement and participation of DOM physicians and the Internal Medicine training program.

## Philanthropy

- \$50,000 donation split between the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism and the Division of General Internal Medicine from Mr. William Fraser.

## UHKF Honour Your Caregiver Recognition

The University Hospitals Kingston Foundation (UHKF) recognizes staff and physicians through their Honour Your Caregiver (HYC) program. This program allows donors to show their appreciation for the staff at KHSC and Providence Care while providing much needed funding for equipment, education, research, facilities and more. We congratulate all recipients of the HYC program, with a very special shout out to the following DOM family:

- Dr. Adrian Baranchuk (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Sanoj Chacko (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Peggy DeJong (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Andres Enriquez (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Samir Hazra (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Zardasht Jaff (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Catherine McLellan (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Damian Redfearn (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Anthony Sanfilippo (Division of Cardiology)
- Dr. Robert Bechara (Division of Gastroenterology)
- Dr. Lawrence Hookey (Division of Gastroenterology)
- Dr. Stephen Vanner (Division of Gastroenterology)
- Dr. Troy Climans (Division of Hematology)

- Dr. Jill Dudebout (Division of Hematology)
- Dr. David Lee (Division of Hematology)
- Dr. Janet Lui (Division of Hematology)
- Dr. Bryce Durafour (Division of Neurology)
- Dr. Paul Heffernan (Division of Respiriology)
- Dr. Alberto Neder (Division of Respiriology)
- Cardiac Care Unit – Davies 3
- Division of Respiriology
- KHSC Connell 3 Staff
- KHSC Acute Stroke Unit
- KHSC Connell 9 Staff
- KHSC Connell 10 Staff

- KHSC Nephrology and Renal Program
- KHSC Palliative Care Program
- Kingston Lung Diagnostic & Assessment Program
- Staff of the Cardiac Rehab Centre
- The Cardiac Program KHSC
- The Kidney Dialysis Teams
- The Staff and Office Staff of the Cardiovascular Labs
- The Staff of the Cardiac Sciences Unit
- The Staff of the Cardiac Device Clinic
- The Staff of the Cardiology Clinic
- The Staff of the Hematology Program
- The Staff of the Neurology Department

## Giving Back

We work to build a culture of collegiality and collaboration in the DOM by celebrating our members' accomplishments and successes, sharing what we love to do outside of work, and giving back to the community.

- Donated to the United Way KFL&A Winter Clothing Drive.
- Over \$7000 raised for Red Cross to India.
- \$2655 donated to the Partners in Mission Foodbank from Baskets for Bucks.
- 850 \$10 Tim Hortons gift cards were given out for administrative professional's day and for nurses week to all DOM admin staff, nurses and allied health for their dedication and flexibility shown during COVID-19.
- 21 \$25 Tim Hortons gift cards were given to our DOM faculty who presented at the 2021 Annual CME DOM Day Online Series: Sorting the Horses from the Zebras and Keep Calm and Call the DOM.
- 550 COVID-19 rapid antigen tests were purchased and distributed to DOM faculty and staff.

## Events

### Women in Medicine

Celebrating 5 years since inception, the Department of Medicine, Women in Medicine (WIM) Committee continue to work collaboratively to support our female physicians throughout their career in medicine. Here is a glance of what was accomplished in 2021.



*Rapid antigen tests for DOM faculty and staff*



*Annual Spring Event:* The WIM group went virtual again with their annual event. Over 40 women listened to keynote speaker, Dr. Jane Philpott, Dean Faculty of Queen's Health Sciences in April. A great discussion was had, while participants enjoyed a tasty treat of wine and a personal charcuterie box.

*Journal Club:* The Women in Medicine Journal Club continued in 2021 with two presentations. One from Dr. Geneviève Digby that discussed 'Addressing Workforce Diversity: A Quality Improvement Framework' and the other from Dr. Raveen Pal who talked about 'Women Physicians and Promotion in Academic Medicine.'

*Additional events:* Two other events took place virtually and were open to all faculty & residents in Queen's Health Sciences. A virtual Happy Hour and a financial planning webinar.

Thank you to Dr. Anne Ellis who continues to Chair the Women in Medicine Committee.

### **DOM Family Fun Day**

The Department of Medicine celebrated our Annual Family Fun Day with a trip to the movies! 130 members of the DOM and their families enjoyed a fun-filled morning at Cineplex Odeon watching a choice of, *How to Train Your Dragon 3* or *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, while enjoying popcorn.

### **Professional Development**

Our in-house professional development leadership program, Enhancing Leadership Effectiveness Series wrapped up after a 5-part series led by Mary Yates in January of 2021. Our survey results showed 100% of attendees said they would recommend this leadership training series to their colleagues, and they would be interested in attending future professional development sessions.

In February the Department of Medicine kicked off our pandemic version for our Annual CME DOM Day, a 5-week online series themed, *Sorting the Horses from the Zebras – Assessing Common Medical Symptoms; When to Worry!* This series featured a presentation from a faculty member from each of our 14 divisions. We also included a *Keep Calm and Call the DOM* section showcasing the innovative treatment options available right here in Kingston from our own DOM colleagues.

Our plenary guest speaker was Dr. Phil Wells, from the University of Ottawa, who presented on his own Wells Criteria, a risk stratification score and clinical decision rule to estimate the probability for acute pulmonary embolism (PE) in patients in which history and examination suggests acute PE is a diagnostic possibility.



(top) Tim Hortons gift cards given during Nurses Week  
(middle) The Department of Medicine, Women in Medicine annual spring event  
(above) Family Fun Day at the movies



## Awards & Recognition

### Annual DOM Awards and Holiday Celebration

The Department of Medicine continued our annual event virtually for 2021 and presented our pandemic-friendly version of the Annual Awards Ceremony and Holiday Celebration with over 100 faculty members and their families online. The DOM arranged for the delivery of a pizza and a cookie decorating kit to each faculty members' house.

We celebrated, reflected and presented our annual awards (see below) to some very deserving people while enjoying those tasty treats and testing our holiday knowledge with a game of trivia. To finish things off, the young children who were in attendance, showed everyone their dance moves to Mariah Carey's song, "All I Want for Christmas is You."



Whether we gather in person or in the virtual world, this is a night that should not be missed!



#### Department of Medicine Distinguished Service Award

The Department of Medicine Administrative Team!



*"She has an illustrious research career. She is a clinician-scientist with research and clinical focus in asthma and cystic fibrosis."*

#### Department of Medicine Research Achievement Award

Dr. Diane Loughheed



*"He has been a highly valued mentor, with thoughtful and thorough advice on a multitude of issues relating to clinical practice, research project initiation and office management."*

#### Department of Medicine David Ginsburg Mentorship Award

Dr. Denis O'Donnell



*"Exemplary care, unparalleled compassion and dedication. Innovative approach to patients and to systems issues."*

#### Department of Medicine Young Clinician Award

Dr. Danielle Kain



*"He is known to be a skilled, caring, and highly professional physician colleague."*

**Department of Medicine  
Mid-Career Physician  
Award**

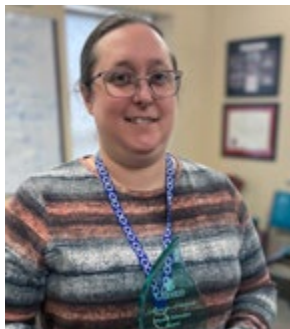
**Dr. Paul Malik**



*"She possesses incredible clinical and technical skills, and the insight, judgement, and wisdom to put them to effective use."*

**Bill Depew & Ron Wigle  
Master Clinician Award**

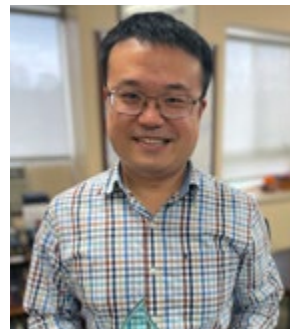
**Dr. Cathy McLellan**



*"Her impact is readily palpable in postgraduate medical education. She also mentors numerous undergraduate students and provided many lectures within and outside the Department of Medicine."*

**Department of Medicine  
Master Educator Award**

**Dr. Peggy DeJong**



*"He is one of the most enthusiastic clinicians when it comes to resident education. He puts forth so much effort in preparing cases and organizing teaching sessions."*

**Department of Medicine  
Master Educator Award**

**Dr. Zijing Wu**



*"Her tireless work helping people with allergies navigate from fear to knowledge and accept their COVID-19 vaccines!"*

**Department of Medicine  
COVID-19 Outstanding  
Service Award**

**Dr. Anne Ellis**



*"We would not be in the health position we are in as an academic medical centre without Tony at the helm!"*

**Department of Medicine  
Master Educator Award**

**Dr. Tony Sanfilippo**

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We would also like to recognize all the nominees for the Annual DOM Awards.

- Dr. Sara Awad
- Dr. Lysa Boissé Lomax
- Dr. Sophie Crinion
- Dr. Geneviève Digby
- Dr. Andres Enriquez
- Dr. Gerald Evans
- Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick
- Dr. Jennifer Flemming
- Dr. Chris Frank
- Dr. Jocelyn Garland
- Dr. Michelle Gibson
- Dr. Sudeep Gill
- Dr. Samir Hazra
- Dr. Zardasht Jaff
- Dr. Shirin Jalini
- Dr. Paula James
- Dr. Albert Jin
- Dr. Mala Joneja
- Dr. Josh Lakoff
- Dr. Christina Liak
- Dr. Laura Marcotte
- Dr. Kristen Marosi
- Dr. David Maslove
- Dr. Laura Milne
- Dr. Steven Montague
- Dr. Onofre Moran-Mendoza
- Dr. Lisa Nguyen
- Dr. Juan Pablo de Torres
- Dr. Chris Parker
- Dr. Santiago Perez
- Dr. Natasha Satkunam
- Dr. Chris Smith
- Dr. Stephen Vanner
- Dr. Gavin Winston

## Years of Service

Congratulations to the faculty below for their continued dedication and service to the Department of Medicine through Queen's and Kingston Health Science Centre.

• Dr. Joseph Abunassar	5 years of service
• Dr. Ramana Appireddy	5 years of service
• Dr. Peggy DeJong	5 years of service
• Dr. Geneviève Digby	5 years of service
• Dr. Jocelyn Garland	5 years of service
• Dr. Stuart Reid	5 years of service
• Dr. Sidd Srivastava	5 years of service
• Dr. Amar Thakrar	5 years of service
• Dr. Laura Marcotte	10 years of service
• Dr. Khaled Shamseddin	10 years of service
• Dr. David Taylor	10 years of service
• Dr. Adrian Baranchuk	15 years of service
• Dr. Chris Parker	15 years of service
• Dr. Damian Redfearn	15 years of service
• Dr. Rachel Holden	20 years of service
• Dr. Paul Malik	20 years of service
• Dr. Tanveer Towheed	25 years of service
• Dr. Stephen Vanner	30 years of service
• Dr. Hoshier Abdollah	40 years of service

## Promotions

Promotion in the DOM is a prestigious achievement representing a lot of hard work! Conferring a university rank is a means of acknowledging notable contributions to the Department of Medicine, to Queen's University and to their specialties. Promotion is not granted as a reward for long term service, but rather to recognize those who have shown sustained excellence in specific aspects of the Department of Medicine's academic mission.

Promotion is worthy of a bit more than just a mention... to complement the "bragging rights" of the following promotions, the DOM provided each of the promotion recipients from 2012-2021 with a gift card to a local restaurant to celebrate. Congratulations to the promotion recipients listed below:

- Dr. Geneviève Digby - Associate Professor
- Dr. Paul Malik - Associate Professor
- Dr. Laura Marcotte - Associate Professor

- Dr. Cathy McLellan - Associate Professor
- Dr. Chris Smith - Professor
- Dr. Christine White - Professor

## Our Culture of Communication

- Dr. Archer shares his thoughts on a variety of topics in his blogs. Follow along as he discusses innovative clinical care, social issues, and so much more!
- Dr. Archer's Blog on News Innovation and Discovery (6,000+ views on various blogs in 2021).

### Check out some of his most popular posts in 2021:

- [When COVID-19 Attacked Our Family](#) (1,360 views)
- [Canada's Vaccine A+](#) (1,182 views)
- [Myth Busters-Five Myths About the Hidden Curriculum Debunked](#) (1,056 views)
- [Why do writers of academic letters of reference put 20% of medical students in the top 5% of the class?: Thoughts on the weakness of letters of reference](#) (1,612 views)

Want to get these blogs delivered right to your inbox? Subscribe [here](#).

## eNews

The DOM produces and sends out a monthly eNews highlighting many of the exciting and amazing achievements of our faculty and staff. This newsletter is a wealth of information recognizing award winners, welcoming new faculty (and family members), incredible research, faculty in the news, publications, upcoming events and much more. Even in a pandemic, in 2021 our eNews continued to grow showcasing all the incredible achievements of the faculty and staff in the Department of Medicine.

Subscribe [here](#).



## Twitter

Keep connected with us [@QueensuDOM](#). We use this platform to promote the awesome work members of the DOM are doing. Whether it's a new publication, a news article, an interesting lecture – we've got it covered!





# Division Reports

## SECTION IV

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Please note that the number/value of research grants listed in each Divisional report, may not represent the actual amount received in the 2021 calendar year. The KHSC and Queen's report that is provided is based on a fiscal year May to April.

## Allergy and Immunology



**Division Chair**  
DR. ANNE ELLIS

Dr. Anne Ellis is a Professor in the Department of Medicine with a cross-appointment to the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences at Queen's University. Her position is one of a Clinician Scientist with her research program currently focusing on the systemic mechanisms of allergic rhinitis and potential treatments using the principles of translational medicine. Dr. Ellis, is the well-deserving recipient of numerous mentorship, teaching, and research awards which speaks strongly to her achievements and high calibre in these areas.

### Faculty Members & Rank

Professor [Dr. Anne Ellis](#)

Associate Professor [Dr. Rozita Borici-Mazi](#)

### Awards

- We are proud of our hard-working students! Despite many challenges, everyone had a very successful 2021 and several exciting scholarships were received by students supervised by Dr. Anne Ellis. Sophia Linton, PhD Candidate, received the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (QEII-GSST). Rashi Ramchandani, BHSc student, received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Undergraduate Research Student Award (USRA). Alyssa Burrows, MSc student, received a Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Summer Studentship for Undergraduate Trainees. Alyssa and Rashi also received second place in the "Presentations" category for their oral presentation at the Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare.
- Jenny Thiele, Lab Manager, received the AllerGen Michelle Harkness Mentorship Award.

### COVID-19 Updates

- Ongoing postponement of large-scale onsite clinical trials has been a real challenge for our Division. As restrictions lift in other countries and in the private sector, it is a challenge to maintain our world-renowned reputation as a leader and innovator in allergy research. We recognize that public safety, and the health of our team and study participants are the top priorities and have pivoted to other research techniques.

### Mission Statement

***To provide high quality care to patients suffering from allergic conditions and immunodeficiency in the Southeastern Ontario region while enhancing our global reputation for excellence in research into the allergic condition***

### Number of Publications

**23**

### Number/Value of Grants

**\$625K<sup>+</sup>**



*Dr. Anne Ellis  
working in the lab*

## Maintaining good mental health has been a challenge for many throughout the pandemic. Our division has not been immune to these difficulties.

- Managing supply chain issues, including replacing a broken -80C freezer used for storing research samples (commonly used worldwide during the vaccine distribution process), and accessing supplies needed for ongoing research projects including COVID-19 tests and PPE.
- Due to limited clinic time it was a challenge to maintain scheduled clinic visits for treatments key to patient quality of life (e.g., venom allergy immunotherapy).
- There was a large burden placed on all allergists (including

those in our division) during the pandemic to either provide exemptions from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or more commonly vaccinate these patients in a high risk clinic.

- Maintaining good mental health has been a challenge for many throughout the pandemic. Our division has not been immune to these difficulties. Ongoing support from management and supervisors has been key to staying healthy. Supportive action items have included discussing relevant topics at divisional meetings, encouraging time off and schedule adjustments whenever possible, and using virtual and/or distanced team building activities whenever possible and safe.
- The focus on mental health within our research team has also helped us expand our research focus. We have ongoing studies looking at mental health and anxiety during COVID-19 and spent the last part of 2021 exploring exciting new research projects focusing on the relationship between allergies and mental health, and coinciding factors such as the pandemic and its far-reaching impacts on all aspects of life.
- Partial down-time of the large research room (EEU) and smaller House Dust Mite (HDM) EEU allowed planned upgrades to be organized, built, and tested. Function of the changes, insuring, and measuring of the improvements, was allowed to occur without being inhibited by active EEU research studies.



## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- Ongoing support of asthma and allergy patients. Dr. Anne Ellis and the clinic team worked hard to fit in all high-risk clinic appointments and ensure that all patients had access to medication and treatments despite limited clinic time and supply chain issues.
- Dr. Anne Ellis and Dr. Rozita Borici-Mazi conducted several high-risk COVID-19 vaccine clinics to support their patients and the community.

### Educational Highlights

- Dr. Anne Ellis hosted a special webinar series for patients who suffer with Allergic Rhinitis.
- Dr. Anne Ellis was interviewed in spring 2021 by several news outlets, focusing on the topic of springtime allergies.

### Research Highlights

- Dr. Anne Ellis, along with co-investigators Drs. Stephen Vanner and Prameet Sheth, received \$220K in federal funding to study COVID-19 transmission and immunity among students and staff working in healthcare. The research goal is to test for COVID-19 and monitor the seroprevalence of FHS students returning to Queen's campus, on arrival and throughout their studies.
- Although many large-scale research projects and clinical trials are currently postponed, the team has been able to conduct several smaller studies as part of multi-site clinical trials. Self-funded and industry-supported online survey studies and Nasal Allergen Challenge (NAC) studies have also allowed the team to continue to safely conduct research.
- Newly conceptualized designs and processes, pertaining to cat dander aerosolization device requirements and techniques, were brought into play, created (built), and tested. This success forms the basis for research being driven by Lubnaa Hossenbaccus, who completed her MSc in August 2021 and is a current PhD candidate with the division. This addition contributes to the overall offering of aero allergens that have been successfully technically qualified for research in the KHSC-located Environmental Exposure Unit (EEU). It also allows clinical qualification and research publications to follow before declaring the new cat dander allergen (Fel d 1) testing capability "open for business" to pharma clients for the continued research into Fel d 1 induced allergies.

### Publication Highlights

- Dr. Anne Ellis continues her work educating practitioners and allergy sufferers about COVID-19 vaccination and best practices

during the pandemic. In 2021, she gave several presentations to pharmaceutical groups, medical professionals, and learners, and published several papers with colleagues including: Greenhawt M, Abrams EM, Shaker M, et.al. The Risk of Allergic Reaction to SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines and Recommended Evaluation and Management: A Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis, GRADE Assessment, and International Consensus Approach. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2021 Oct;9(10):3546-3567. doi: 10.1016/j.jaip.2021.06.006. Epub 2021 Jun 18.

- Hossenbaccus L, Linton S, Ramchandani R, Gallant M, **Ellis AK**. Insights into Allergic Risk Factors from Birth Cohort Studies. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2021 Sep;127(3):312-317. doi: 10.1016/j.anai.2021.04.025. Epub 2021 May 7.
- Linton S, Burrows AG, Hossenbaccus L, **Ellis AK**. Future of Allergic Rhinitis Management. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2021 Aug;127(2):183-190. doi: 10.1016/j.anai.2021.04.029.
- Vander Leek TK, Chan ES, Connors L, Derfalvi B, **Ellis AK**, Upton JEM, Abrams EM. COVID-19 vaccine testing & administration guidance for allergists/immunologists from the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI). *Allergy Asthma Clin Immunol.* 2021 Mar 15;17(1):29. doi: 10.1186/s13223-021-00529-2.
- **Ellis AK**, Murrieta-Aguttes M, Furey S, Picard P, Carlsten C. Effect of fexofenadine hydrochloride on allergic rhinitis aggravated by air pollutants. *ERJ Open Res.* 2021 Apr 6;7(2):00806-2020. doi: 10.1183/23120541.00806-2020. eCollection 2021 Apr.
- Hossenbaccus L, Linton S, Thiele J, Steacy L, Walker T, Malone C, **Ellis AK**. Clinical validation of controlled exposure to house dust mite in the environmental exposure unit (EEU). *Allergy Asthma Clin Immunol.* 2021 Mar 26;17(1):34. doi: 10.1186/s13223-021-00536-3.
- Lee EY, Hsieh J, **Borici-Mazi R**, Caballero T, Kanani A, Lacuesta G, McCusker C, Wasserman S, Betschel S. Quality of life in patients with hereditary angioedema in Canada. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2021 Apr;126(4):394-400.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.anai.2021.01.002. Epub 2021 Jan 13.

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. Anne Ellis' Twitter account (@DrAnneEllis) was noted in a "[Practice Pearl](#)" in *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. She is the only individual physician on this list who does not have paid support for their social media activities!
- Dr. Anne Ellis was appointed as the Program Director of the Clinician Investigator Program (CIP).
- Dr. Anne Ellis was appointed as Acting Co-Director of the TMED Program, August 2021 to December 2021.

## Cardiology

### Mission Statement

**To improve the heart health of residents in Southeastern Ontario and beyond, through a focus on timely delivery of quality care, innovation, discovery, teaching, and learning**

### Number of Publications

**138**

### Number of Learners

**3 PGY4**

**3 PGY5**

**4 PGY6**

### Number/Value of Grants

**\$1.8M+**



### Division Chair

DR. CATHY MCLELLAN

Dr. Cathy McLellan is an interventional Cardiologist. She is a respected leader and mentor, not only in the division, but with her colleagues outside of cardiology and women in medicine, as she is 1 of 8 female chairs in the Department of Medicine.

### Faculty Members & Rank

Associate Professor [Dr. Cathy McLellan](#)

Professor	Dr. Hoshier Abdollah	Dr. Stephen Archer
	Dr. Adrian Baranchuk	Dr. Damian Redfearn
	Dr. Tony Sanfilippo	Dr. Chris Simpson

Associate Professor	Dr. Amer Johri	Dr. Paul Malik
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Assistant Professor	Dr. Joseph Abunassar	Dr. Wael Abuzeid
	Dr. Gerald Adams	Dr. Aws Almufleh
	Dr. Ian Britton	Dr. Sanoj Chacko
	Dr. Peggy DeJong	Dr. Andres Enriquez
	Dr. Simon Hansom	Dr. Samir Hazra
	Dr. Zardasht Jaff	Dr. Henry Kafka
	Dr. Stephen LaHaye	Dr. Michael O'Reilly
	Dr. Raveen Pal	Dr. Amar Thakrar

### Awards

Dr. Stephen Archer	2021 Healthcare Management Forum Article of the Year Award by the Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL) for his article "Providing care for the 99.9% during the COVID-19 pandemic: How ethics, equity, epidemiology, and cost per QALY inform healthcare policy."
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Dr. Chris Simpson	Named on the Medical Post's 2021 Power List
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Dr. Peggy DeJong	CFMS Culture Changer Champion Queen's Department of Medicine Educator Award
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Dr. Tony Sanfilippo	Dr. Tony Sanfilippo's life long service to medicine, students and colleagues was recognized with the Queen's University Distinguished Service Award.
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<b>Dr. Tony Sanfilippo</b>	<i>Department of Medicine COVID-19 Outstanding Service Award</i>
<b>Dr. Zardasht Jaff</b>	<i>Queen's University Postgraduate Medical Education Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service and Dedication</i>
<b>Dr. Paul Malik</b>	<i>Queen's Department of Medicine Mid-Career Physician Award</i>
<b>Dr. Cathy McLellan</b>	<i>Dr. Ron Wigle &amp; Dr. William Depew Master Clinician Award Department of Medicine</i>
<b>Dr. Damian Redfearn</b>	<i>MITACS award for 165K for 'Optimization of Computer Assisted Arrhythmia Intervention'</i>

**The Electrophysiology Lab led by Dr. Redfearn was awarded two patents by the US patent office:**

- *Methods for Identifying Wave Break During Atrial Fibrillation 20190069792*
- *Long QT Syndrome Diagnosis and Classification 20200196898*

### COVID-19 Updates

- Challenges with wait lists, requiring additional back up schedules and hospital inefficiencies related to lack of space and HR.
- Scheduling to provide back-up coverage for multiple deliverables with high likelihood of attendings needing to be absent for a potential COVID-19 related reason.
- Challenges with the length of stay with higher complexity of patients in hospital, with less ability to transfer non-acute patients to other settings.
- A hospital atmosphere of high stress related to daily chronic nursing shortages.
- Trying to deliver education programs with all of the above.
- Some patients are appropriate for virtual care which reduces burden on patients to travel.
- Further expansion of e-consults to help primary care streamline referrals.
- New opportunities coming with KHSC support to attempt major reorganization of clinic process for primary care.
- New opportunities with Ontario Health to expand outpatient Heart Failure program.
- Ongoing work and expansion to respond to demands for percutaneous structural heart disease (TAVI, MitraClip, PFO closure).

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

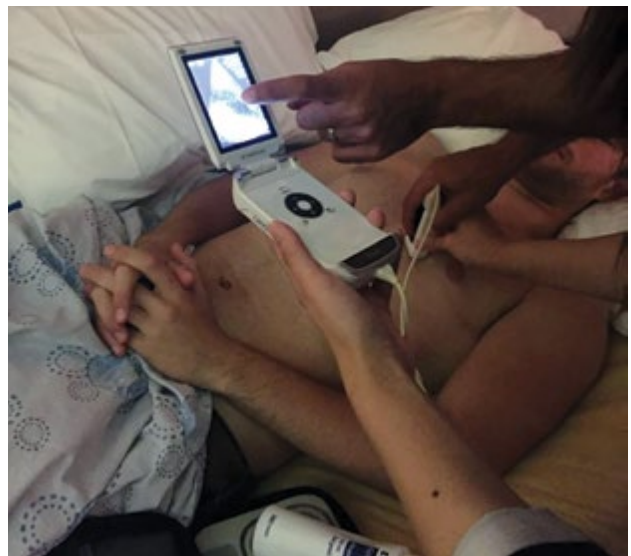
### Clinical Highlights

- Dr. Samir Hazra passed full internal review of Adult Cardiology Training Program, Adult Echocardiography Training Program and the Adult Cardiac Electrophysiology Training Program.
- New sex-specific hs troponin value for KHSC introduced in collaboration with Emergency Department and Laboratory services.
- Establishing the Associate PD position and graduating the first full CBME training cohort in Canada.
- Drs. Abunassar and Abuzeid have also been able to expand the structural heart program completing a second year of funded volumes of Mitraclip procedures and completing over 40 PFO closure procedures for patients in Southeast Ontario.

### Educational Highlights

- Cardiology Grand Rounds established and broadcast regionally (Section 1 Royal College accredited).
- Imaging Rounds has partnered with Canadian Society of Echo to broadcast nationally attended journal club events.
- Competency-based POCUS Curriculum for remote learners launched, approved by Queen's CPD office (8 hours of Section 3 Mainpro+ credits) accredited by College of Family Physicians and RCPSC.

*The use of a Hand held Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) machine*





- Robust online educational curriculum including academic half-day, ECG rounds, echo rounds, clinical case rounds; Imaging rounds and journal club – all of which proceeded un-interrupted despite the ongoing pandemic.
- Successful CaRMS medicine subspecialty match result with three incoming Canadian trained trainees for 2022-2023 academic year.
- Dr. Mohammed Rashid has been awarded the Dr. Sanjay Sharma Clinical Resident Award, the Michael and Betty Dicketts Scholarship and was nominated for the PARO Resident Teaching Award.

### Research Highlights

- CINQ Lab awarded: 1) CIHR Project Grant (\$918K) to lead a multi-centre international trial 2) CIHR Grant Priority Announcement CMA Foundation (\$150K) to lead a national POCUS program and 3) Canadian Society of Echo Grant (\$50K) for Accelerated Remote Consultation Tele-POCUS In Cardio-pulmonary Assessment (ARCTICA).
- Laura Mantella (MEd/PhD), Christie Boswell-Patterson (MSc), Reem Alzafiri (MSc), all successfully defended thesis on Divisional projects.
- Kiera Liblik (MSc/MD in progress) awarded 2022 CAME Rising Star Certificate of Excellence & Ontario Women's Health Scholarship nomination.
- [Dr. Stephen Archer is a co-investigator on a project led by Dr. Michael Rauh, that was awarded a Project Grant valued at \\$891K. The project is entitled Dysregulation of TET2 and DNMT3A promotes pulmonary arterial hypertension \(PAH\) through inflammation: A new mechanism of PAH.](#)
- Dr. Andres Enriquez-2021 DOM Research Awards CIHR Pillars: Catheter Ablation of Intramural Septal Ventricular Substrate Using Intracoronary Guidewires.
- Dr. Wael Abuzeid and Dr. Joseph Abunassar have been successful in growing the Queen's Interventional Cardiology Research group. They have presented at the American College of Cardiology conference every year since 2018 and have had a total of 10 conference presentations since 2018. They have also produced 10 peer-reviewed publications in 2021. They are currently recruiting for 5 multi-centre clinical trials and their group is consistently ranked within the 3 top enrolling sites amongst 35 Canadian centres for the AEGIS2 multi-centre trial.

### Publication Highlights

- **Johri AM**, Mantella, LE, Jamthikar, AD, Saba L, Laird JR, Suri JS. (2021) Role of artificial intelligence in cardiovascular risk prediction and outcomes: comparison of machine-learning and conventional statistical approaches for the analysis of

carotid ultrasound features and intra-plaque neovascularization. *Int J Cardiovasc Imaging*. 37(11):3145-3156.

- Boswell-Paterson CA, Héту MF, Kearney A, Pang SC, Tse MY, Herr JE, Spence M, Zhou J, **Johri AM**. (2021) Vascularized Carotid Atherosclerotic Plaque Models for the Validation of Novel Methods of Quantifying Intraplaque Neovascularization. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr*. 34(11):1184-1194.
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**Book highlight:** The NET-Heart Book. Neglected Tropical Diseases and other Infectious Diseases affecting the Heart. Saldarriaga C, **Baranchuk A** (Eds). ELSEVIER, New York, USA, 2021.

### Administrative Highlights

- Congratulations to Dr. Chris Simpson who made the Medical Post's 2021 Power List.
- Congratulations to Dr. Adrian Baranchuk who was appointed as President Elect for the Inter American Society of Cardiology (SIAC), for a 4-year term (2021-2023 as President Elect and 2023 – 2025 as President).
- Congratulations to Dr. Stephen Archer who is recognized as an Expertscape World Expert in Pulmonary Hypertension.
- [Dr. Stephen Archer and the staff at the Cardiology Clinic were recognized for their exceptional patient care through UHKF's Honour Your Caregiver Program.](#)
- Dr. Zardasht Jaff and staff were recognized with a UHKF's Honour Your Caregiver Program.
- Dr. Peggy DeJong and cardiac team in the cath lab received an Honour Your Caregiver donation.
- Dr. Tony Sanfilippo was recognized with a UHKF's Honour Your Caregiver donation.
- Dr. Tony Sanfilippo is clinical advisor to Accreditation Canada Echocardiography Quality Improvement Initiative and Chair of the EQI Advisory Panel.

## Dermatology



**Division Chair**  
DR. SONJA MOLIN

Dr. Sonja Molin is an academic dermatologist with all her heart, committed to high-quality patient care, innovative treatments, research and passionate teaching. The main focus of her clinical expertise and research are inflammatory skin diseases, mainly hand eczema and psoriasis, contact allergy and occupational dermatology.

### Faculty Members & Rank:

Associate Professor *Dr. Sonja Molin*

Professor *Dr. Thomas Herzinger*

Associate Professor *Dr. Yuka Asai*

Assistant Professor *Dr. Erin Dahlke*

### COVID-19 Updates

- Keep up with high demand during periods of lock-down or ramp down.
- Increased access to the specialty by maximizing a combination of virtual and in-person care.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- The Mohs clinic at the HDH site has relocated to Johnson 2. Mohs surgery is used to remove non-melanoma skin cancers from sensitive areas (e.g., head, face, neck) and is performed by Dr. Erin Dahlke of the Division of Dermatology. The new clinic offers larger waiting rooms as well as barrier-free access.
- **FUN FACT:** The Mohs microsurgery clinic at HDH is one of only four hospital-based Mohs units in Ontario. The clinic is on target to see nearly 800 visits this year.

### Educational Highlights

- Dr. Thomas Herzinger successfully accomplished his second time of entirely teaching online. For the first time, skin colour was equally represented throughout all lectures.

### Mission Statement

***To provide specialist-level medical and surgical care for individuals with skin disease***

***To educate undergraduate and postgraduate learners and health professionals on the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of skin disease***

***To educate the public and promote awareness of the causes, prevention and impact of skin disease***

***To advocate for patients***

***To advance knowledge of skin disease through research***

### Number of Publications

**10**

### Number/Value of Grants

**\$1.2M+**



## The Division of Dermatology has been accepted as a study site for two more Phase 3 clinical trials.

- Dr. Sonja Molin was invited to speak at an international virtual lecture at the Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology. Her talk was titled "Hand eczema: is there anything new?"
- Dr. Thomas Herzinger presented at M&M Rounds on "Autoimmune Bullous Disease", Oct 6, 2021.

### Research Highlights

- The Division of Dermatology has been accepted as a study site for two more Phase 3 clinical trials.

- All division members have been actively publishing and starting new research projects and collaborations despite the pandemic limitations.

### Publication Highlights

- Asai Y, Nguyen P, Hanna TP. (2021) Frequency of skin cancer biopsy during the COVID-19 pandemic: a population-based study. PLOS ONE 0:0. Published.

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. Thomas Herzinger co-authored the 4th edition of the "Braun-Falco's Dermatology", an international 2-volume textbook of dermatology, allergy and sexually transmitted disorders. This edition has been thoroughly rewritten and reedited and offers a comprehensive state-of-the-art review of the entire field for clinicians in hospital and private practice.
- Dr. Sonja Molin is the local principal investigator in the international, multicentre clinical trial for innovative topical treatment for hand eczema and the International and coordinating investigator for the international, multicentre clinical trial for innovative topical treatment for hand eczema.



## Endocrinology and Metabolism



**Division Chair**  
DR. ROBYN HOULDEN

Dr. Robyn Houlden is a consultant in adult endocrinology at the Kingston General and Hotel Dieu Hospitals, and Medical Advisor for the Diabetes Education and Management Centre at the Hotel Dieu Hospital. She has served as a diabetes advisor for the Canadian Optimal Medication Prescribing and Utilization Service of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health, and the Ontario Ministry of Health. She is a member of the eConsult/eReferral Clinical Advisory Group for the Ontario Ministry of Health, and a provincial provider for eConsults in Endocrinology. She has been an investigator in a number of clinical trials of new therapies for diabetes, and has a research interest in innovative models of diabetes health care delivery. Dr. Houlden has played a steering role in Diabetes Canada guidelines for many years and chaired the 2018 edition. She has been recognized with 21 teaching awards including the Queen's Department of Medicine Master Educator Award and the Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism Educator Award. She was awarded the Charles H. Best Award by Diabetes Canada for her advocacy work in diabetes.

### Faculty Members & Rank

**Professor** *Dr. Robyn Houlden*

**Assistant Professors** *Dr. Sara Awad* *Dr. Katherine Kovacs*  
*Dr. Joshua Lakoff* *Dr. Bikrampal Sidhu*

The Division of Endocrinology wishes to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Hotel Dieu Hospital Diabetes Education and Management Centre and KHSC Diabetes Consult Service toward the service, education and research activities of the division.

### Awards

**Dr. Robyn Houlden** *Queen's University, Years of Service, 30 Years*  
*Department of Medicine Master Educator Award*

**Dr. Bikram Sidhu** *Greenblatt Lectureship Award for Best Medical Grand Rounds 2019-2020*

### Mission Statement

**To provide the best possible care for patients with endocrine disease in Southeastern Ontario**

**To teach undergraduate students and postgraduate trainees at Queen's University, and regional healthcare providers about optimal management of endocrine disease**

**To educate patients and the public about endocrine disease and advocate for the best endocrine care**

**To conduct research in clinical care and education related to endocrine disease**

### Number of Publications

19

### Number of Learners

1 PGY4

1 PGY5

The Division of Endocrinology is pleased to report there is no backlog of patients waiting to be seen. They also anticipate continuing to provide virtual care to groups of patients post-pandemic to reduce barriers faced by many patients with keeping only in-person visits.

### COVID-19 Updates

- The Division of Endocrinology continued to provide care to all patients with Endocrine disease throughout the pandemic.
- Many patients were seen using phone or video appointments. Patients with type 1 diabetes were contacted ahead of clinic appointments by a diabetes educator who reminded patients to have blood work drawn, obtained an up to date medication list, asked about the status of screening for diabetes complications, and prompted the patient on how to upload insulin pump and continuous glucose monitoring data for review with the endocrinologist during their virtual appointment. Patients expressed high satisfaction with this model of care.
- Patients with diabetes and pregnancy, thyroid nodules and cancer, and other endocrine disease that required physical examination continued to be seen in person.
- The Division of Endocrinology is pleased to report there is no backlog of patients waiting to be seen. They also anticipate continuing to provide virtual care to groups of patients post-pandemic to reduce barriers faced by many patients with keeping only in-person visits.

### DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

#### Clinical Highlights

- Dr. Bikram Sidhu has developed a program to provide diabetes care to people in the Weeneebayko Area that includes virtual visits and regular visits by Dr. Sidhu to Moose Factory. This program reduces the burden on individuals with diabetes and the healthcare system for the need to travel to Kingston for assessment, while promoting optimal diabetes care.
- The Division celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Discovery of Insulin with a special Grand Rounds presentation by Dr. Robyn Houlden in December.

#### Educational Highlights

- Dr. Sara Awad successfully defended her MHPE Master's thesis on Self-Regulated learning through Personal Learning Plans in the context of CBME.
- In February 2020, the Endocrinology Training Program was granted the status of an Accredited New Resident Program by the RCPSC. The program now has 1 PGY4 and 1 PGY5, and will welcome another PGY4 this fall. There was a substantial number of applicants to the program and a number of residents interested in the program are completing electives at Queen's University.

#### Research Highlights

- Dr. Sara Awad received a CTAQ grant with Dr. Ryan Alkins of Neurosurgery for a population based study of radiotherapy in non-functioning pituitary adenomas.
- Dr. Robyn Houlden published a recommended Canadian Standards for Perioperative/Periprocedure Glycemic Management.
- Dr. Sarah Moore, NP aligned with the Division of Endocrinology, successfully defended her PhD thesis on the association between glucocorticoid utilization and new-onset diabetes and new-onset hyperglycemia during hematological cancer treatment. Dr. Robyn Houlden was pleased to serve on her Supervisory Committee.

#### Publication Highlights

- Yeung C, Kartolo A, Holstead R, Moffat GT, Hanna L, Hopman W, **Lakoff J**, Baetz T, Safety and Clinical Outcomes of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Patients With Cancer and Preexisting Autoimmune Diseases. *Journal of immunotherapy* 2021; 44(9):362-370.
- Malcolm J, Halperin I, Moore S, **Houlden RL**, Canadian Standards for Perioperative/Periprocedure Glycemic Management Expert

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Consensus Panel., Variability of Clinical Practice Management of Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes During Surgery Across Canada. *Canadian Journal of Diabetes*; 2021;45(6):519-523.

- Clark A, Mohammed AS, Raut A, Moore S, **Houlden R, Awad S**, Prevalence and Clinical Characteristics of Adults Presenting with Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter-2 Inhibitor-Associated Diabetic Ketoacidosis at a Canadian Academic Tertiary Care Hospital., 4-2021, *Canadian journal of diabetes*, Vol. 45(3):214-219.
- Shirley Shuster, Caitlyn Vlasschaert, **Sara Awad**, Thyroid Hormone-Based Nutraceuticals: A Rare Cause of Thyrotoxicosis and Thyrotoxic Periodic Paralysis., 6-2021, *Canadian Journal of General Internal Medicine*, Vol. 16(2):49-54.

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. Josh Lakoff was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- Dr. Bikram Sidhu was appointed as the Associate Program Director for Assessment for Core Internal Medicine Residency program, reflecting increasing administrative roles in PGME and UGME.
- Dr. Robyn Houlden assisted with CADTH reviews on flash CGM and hybrid closed loop pumps, and worked with the Ontario Ministry of Health to develop criteria for coverage of real time continuous glucose monitoring.

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## Feature Patient Story **Bill Fraser**

Bill is a healthy, active 73-year-old man. However, in February 2021, he became profoundly weak and began experiencing a constant severe headache. His symptoms became so severe he presented to the Emergency Department. A CT scan was performed and revealed a previously undiagnosed pituitary tumour that he had bled into, a condition called pituitary apoplexy.

The pituitary is a small, bean-shaped gland situated at the base of the brain. Despite its small size, the gland influences nearly every part of the body. It is known as the “master” gland because it tells other glands to release hormones that help the body regulate vital body function and general well-being, and help the body deal with stress.

Bill's pituitary was not producing hormones normally because of damage from the bleeding. Pituitary apoplexy is a potentially lethal emergency. It is important that patients be started on hormones quickly. Neurosurgery is sometimes needed to drain the blood in the gland. If the bleed becomes too large, it can press on optic nerves that run above the pituitary gland and control vision.

Bill was admitted to the General Internal Medicine Clinical Teaching Unit at KGH. General Internists coordinate care for adult inpatients like Bill with complex multi-system diseases and undifferentiated medical conditions. Bill's medical team included Queen's Internal Medicine residents as well as Dr. Robyn Houlden, a specialist in the field of Endocrinology (hormone disorders).

Bill was started on two missing hormones from his thyroid and adrenal glands that help maintain energy and blood pressure. Bill's symptoms and headache resolved over a few days, and he was discharged home feeling much improved. Bill will be receiving ongoing care from Dr. Robyn Houlden to monitor his hormone therapy and ensure that the tumour in his pituitary gland does not grow.



**Bill was started on two missing hormones from his thyroid and adrenal glands that help maintain energy and blood pressure.**

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## Gastroenterology

### Mission Statement

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**To create a culture of excellence in the integrated care and study of patients with digestive diseases**

### Number of Publications

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**43**

### Number of Learners

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**2 PGY4**

**3 PGY5**

### Number/Value of Grants

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**\$1.3M+**



**Division Chair**  
DR. LAWRENCE HOOKEY

Dr. Lawrence Hookey is a Gastroenterologist and the Medical Director of the Endoscopy Units at Kingston Health Sciences Centre. His practice includes general GI with a focus on therapeutic endoscopy and pancreatic and biliary disease. His research program includes investigating, optimizing bowel preparation for colonoscopy, quality assurance in endoscopy, and education for colonoscopy.

### Faculty Members & Rank

Professor	<u>Dr. Lawrence Hookey</u>	
Professor	<i>Dr. Michael Blennerhasset (Retired 2021)</i>	
	<i>Dr. Alan Lomax</i>	<i>Dr. Jacob Louw</i>
	<i>Dr. Stephen Vanner</i>	
Associate Professor	<i>Dr. Michael Beyak</i>	<i>Dr. Jennifer Flemming</i>
	<i>Dr. Mark Ropeleski</i>	
Assistant Professor	<i>Dr. Robert Bechara</i>	<i>Dr. Melissa Kelley</i>
	<i>Dr. Catherine Lowe</i>	<i>Dr. David Reed</i>
	<i>Dr. David Rodrigues</i>	

### Awards

**Dr. Jennifer Flemming** *Aesculapian Society Lectureship Award and 2021 CASL Research Excellence Award for her article "Outcomes of Pregnant Women With Cirrhosis and Their Infants in a Population-Based Study."*

### COVID-19 Updates

- Waitlist growth due to pandemic effect on procedure capacity has had a huge impact on our current care and planning care for future patients.
- Staff morale: we have always prided ourselves on our team approach to patient care, with several academic and social events outside of the hospital each year. These of course did not happen during the pandemic, and our team has continued to work hard to provide the best care possible, but we sorely miss getting together.
- Balance (work/life): the clinical demands during the pandemic seem heavier than usual, and perhaps more so because they are different, especially the extensive waitlist management and re-triaging required.

- Clinical Care Pathways project: a huge success to get a number of these collaborative projects developed and ready to launch.
- Team approach to our challenges.
- Strategy for recruitment to allow improved gastroenterology care and healthier GI teams.
- The pandemic has helped people realize that we need back-ups built into our system, so that if one person needs to step back, patient care, research, and training can carry on.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- Dr. Robert Bechara's third space endoscopy program continues to grow, and we will be accepting our first trainee into the program in 2022.
- The collaboration between GI and family medicine that produced several Clinical Pathways will hopefully help patients receive the appropriate GI care they need with their family doctor, with referral to GI when they need us the most.

### Educational Highlights

- The Division and Residency Training Program has benefited from the strong leadership of Dr. Mark Ropeleski during these very challenging times. Our trainees remained intimately involved in patient care and continued to benefit from excellent training through every means available.

### Research Highlights

- Congratulations to Dr. Alan Lomax for his recent successes in the 2021 NSERC Research Grant Competition! Dr. Lomax was awarded \$180k for his project entitled "Analysis of the vagal afferent innervation of the mouse colon."

### Publication Highlights

- Lemke M, Banwell A, Rubinger N, Wiepjes M, **Ropeleski M, Vanner S, Hookey L**. Colonoscopy Trainers Experience Greater Stress During Insertion than Withdrawal: Implications for Endoscopic Curricula. *J Can Assoc Gastroenterol*. 2019 Nov 23;4(1):15-20.

- **Flemming JA**, Djerboua M, Groome PA, Booth CM, Terrault NA. NAFLD and Alcohol-related Liver Disease Will Be Responsible for Almost All New Diagnoses of Cirrhosis by 2040. *Hepatology*. 2021.
- Wang P, Silver S, Djerboua M, Thanabalasingam S, Zarnke S, **Flemming JA**. Kidney Recovery in Patients with Cirrhosis and Acute Kidney Injury Receiving Renal Replacement Therapy: A Population-based Study. *AJKD*. 2021.
- Motomura D, **Bechara R**. Single operator experience of endoscopic submucosal dissection for Barrett's neoplasia in a North American academic center. *DEN open*. 2021 Dec 14;2(1):e81. doi: 10.1002/deo2.81.
- Hew S, Motomura D, **Bechara R**. Changes in weight following peroral endoscopic myotomy: results from a North American center. *Endosc Int Open*. 2021 Sep 16;9(10):E1491-E1496. doi: 10.1055/a-1520-0016.
- **Rodrigues, D. M.**, Motomura, D. I., Tripp, D. A., and **Beyak, M. J.** (2021) Are psychological interventions effective in treating functional dyspepsia? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 36: 2047– 2057.
- Effect of high-fat diet on mechanosensitive transient receptor potential channel activation in vagal afferent neurons. Sung Jin Park, Yang Yu, and **Michael J. Beyak** *Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology* October 2020.
- Alotaibi A, Almaghrabi M, Ahmed O, **Rodrigues D**, Iansavichene A, Puka K, Gandhi R, Sey M, Patel K, Brahmania M. Incidence of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis among asymptomatic cirrhosis patients undergoing outpatient paracentesis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2021 Dec 1;33(15 Suppl 1):e851-e857.

### Administrative Highlights

- We sadly bid farewell to Brenda Delonghi, who had been with the division over 30 years, first as a clinical secretary then as Division Administrative Assistant. Her leadership and devotion to the division can never be overstated. She is enjoying an incredibly well deserved retirement.
- We welcomed Michelle Wolfreys as our Training Program coordinator, and have seen the benefits of her addition to our team already!

## General Internal Medicine

### Mission Statement

**To provide excellence  
in patient care, research  
and teaching of internal  
medicine**

### Number of Publications

**31**

### Number of Learners

**4 PGY4**

**5 PGY5**

### Number/Value of Grants

**\$250K+**



**Division Chair**  
DR. CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Dr. Christopher Smith is a Professor of Medicine at Queen's University and Head of the Division of General Internal Medicine (GIM) since 2013. He was appointed as Deputy Head of the Department of Medicine in 2020.

His clinical work is on the inpatient units at Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) and the GIM consult service and GIM ambulatory clinics including the perioperative clinic. His interests are in medical education, and he has held several administrative and educational positions at the University.

### Faculty Members & Rank

Professor	<u>Dr. Christopher Smith</u>	
Associate Professor	Dr. Laura Marcotte Dr. David Taylor	Dr. David Maslove
Assistant Professor	Dr. Stephen Gauthier Dr. Marie Leung Dr. Laura Milne Dr. Johanna Murphy Dr. Siddhartha Srivastava Dr. Rasika Wijeratne Dr. Audrey Tran	Dr. Phil Laird Dr. Kristen Marosi Dr. Steven Montague Dr. Lisa Nguyen Dr. Don Thiwanka Wijeratne Dr. Zijing Wu

### Awards

Dr. Siddhartha Srivastava	2021 DOM Research Awards: Quality Improvement & Patient Safety
Dr. Don Thiwanka Wijeratne	2021 DOM Research Awards: CIHR Pillars
Dr. Stephen Gauthier	2021 Department of Medicine Clinical Teaching Award
Dr. Steven Montague	Queen's Department of Medicine Clinical Teaching Awards for outstanding contribution to the learning experience on inpatient units
Dr. David Taylor	Faculty Teaching Award – Core Internal Medicine Program

## Dr. Zijing Wu

*Division of GIM Excellence in Teaching and Mentorship Award*  
*DOM Clinical Teaching Award (Inpatient Units)*  
*DOM Clinical Teaching Award from senior residents*  
*DOM Exceptional Service Award*  
*DOM Master Educator Award*

## COVID-19 Updates

- Medicine units have remained busy throughout the pandemic.
- GIM continues to staff the majority of 6 CTU services and the GIM Consult Service.
- Faculty fatigue due to lack of breaks, on-going need for back-up coverage and reduced opportunities to socialize together.
- Development of dedicated COVID-19 medical unit and flexible staffing to accommodate COVID-19 surges.
- Close collaboration between Division of GIM/Nursing/Allied Health Teams on Medicine units.
- Involvement with embedded community clinics and GIM has been a pilot Division for OCEAN electronic triaging and Novari wait list management.
- Rapid acceptance of virtual clinic particularly for the Obstetric Medicine program.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- The obvious challenge for the Division has been the strain on the inpatient services caused by the pandemic. The Division has supported the hospital and our region through the various waves of the pandemic and the C3 COVID-19 unit has been flexible in accommodating varying numbers of COVID-19 patients and served well as a screening and isolation unit.
- The clinical footprint of Obstetric Medicine continues to grow rapidly. The number of new consults each year is now >200 (a 94% increase from 2020) and >1000 patient visits in 2021. Over 50 telemedicine clinics were completed to accommodate this surge in referrals as virtual visits work well for this population. Drs. Lisa Nguyen and Zijing Wu participate regularly in Educational Conferences with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

### Educational Highlights

- Two division members (Dr. Marie Leung and Dr. Audrey Tran), are both enrolled in Medical Education Masters' degrees at University of Maastricht.
- Dr. Laura Marcotte has taken on a new leadership role as co-chair for PGME internal review process for all the PG training programs at Queen's University.

- Division members responsible for much of the core clinical teaching, for both core IM residents and GIM Fellows, and are highly regarded as excellent clinical teachers and role models by the trainees – as seen by the number of educational and teaching awards received by the Division.

## Publication Highlights

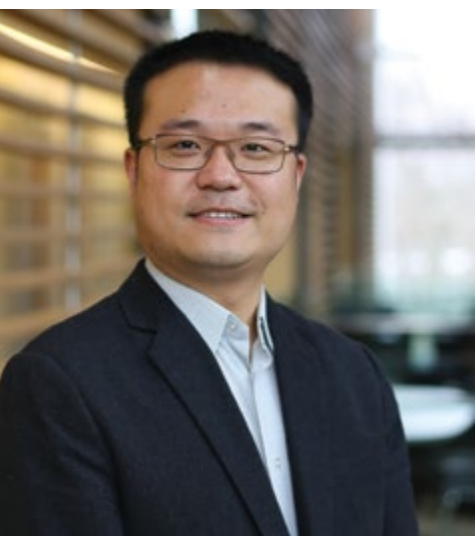
- **Maslove DM**, Sibley S, Boyd JG, Goligher EC, Munshi L, Bogoch II, Rochwerf B, Complications of Critical COVID-19: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Considerations for the Mechanically Ventilated Patient., 10-2021 (e-pub), Chest - First Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- Jawa NA, **Holden RM**, Silver SA, Scott SH, Day AG, Norman PA, Kwan BYM, **Maslove DM**, Muscedere J, Boyd JG, Identifying neurocognitive outcomes and cerebral oxygenation in critically ill adults on acute kidney replacement therapy in the intensive care unit: the INCOGNITO-AKI study protocol., 8-2021, BMJ open, Vol. 11(8):e049250 - Contributing Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- **Maslove DM**, Baillie JK, Two Key Takeaways From a Year of Pandemic Research., 8-2021, Critical care medicine, Vol. 49(8):1223-1226 - First Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- Cheng MP, Cau A, Lee TC, Brodie D, Slutsky A, Marshall J, Murthy S, Lee T, Singer J, Demir KK, Boyd J, Ohm H, **Maslove D**, Goffi A, Bogoch II, Sweet DD, Walley KR, Russell JA, Angiotensin Receptor Blocker Coronavirus Study (ARBs) CORONA I., Acute Cardiac Injury in Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Other Viral Infections-A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis., 9-2021, Critical Care Medicine, Vol. 49(9):1558-1566 - Contributing Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- Rodrigues DM, Kundra A, **Hookey L**, **Montague S**, Does Point-of-Care Ultrasound Change the Needle Insertion Location During Routine Bedside Paracentesis?, 8-2021, Journal of general internal medicine, Vol. 1 - Senior (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- Sharpe I, Bowman M, Kim A, **Srivastava S**, Jalink M, **Wijeratne DT**, Strategies to Prevent Readmissions to Hospital for COPD: A Systematic Review., 8-2021, COPD, Vol. 18(4):456-468 - Contributing Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- Saad M, Chan S, **Nguyen L**, **Srivastava S**, **Appireddy R**, Patient perceptions of the benefits and barriers of virtual postnatal care: a qualitative study., 8-2021, BMC pregnancy and childbirth, Vol. 21(1):543 - Contributing Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- **Wijeratne DT**, Bowman M, Sharpe I, **Srivastava S**, Jalink M, Gyawali B, Text Messaging in Cancer-Supportive Care: A Systematic Review., 7-2021, Cancers, Vol. 13(14): - Contributing Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- Ten Cate O, **Taylor DR**, The recommended description of an entrustable professional activity: AMEE Guide No. 140., 10-2021, Medical teacher, Vol. 43, 1106-1114 - Co-Senior Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).



- **Wijeratne DT**, Gunasekera S, Booth CM, Promod H, Jalink M, Jayarajah U, Seneviratne S, Demographic, tumour, and treatment characteristics of female patients with breast cancer in Sri Lanka; results from a hospital-based cancer registry., 11-2021, BMC cancer, Vol. 21(1):1175 - First Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).
- **Wijeratne**, Don Thiwanka, Karen Okrainec, Tara Gomes, Diana Martins, Muhammad M. Mamdani, Paula A. Rochon, **Gerald A. Evans**, and **Sudeep S. Gill**, Language proficiency and warfarin-related adverse events in older immigrants and Canadian residents: a population-based cohort study., 12-2021 (epub), Drugs & Therapy Perspectives (2021): 1-9 - First Author (Peer-Reviewed Article).

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. Stephen Gauthier received a generous \$50,000 donation from a grateful patient to IM and Endocrine educational programs.
- After leading the core program through the first stages of the pandemic Dr. David Taylor stepped down as Program Director for the Core IM program after 6 years of service (2015-2021). He transitioned into a new role in the Dean's Office promoting the collaboration between Queen's and Weeneebayko programs.
- Dr. Stephen Gauthier has embraced his role as the new Program Director for the Core IM program.
- New faculty member joined, Dr. Audrey Tran.



(top) Dr. Lisa Nguyen  
(above) Dr. Zijong Wu

### Faculty Profile Dr. Lisa Nguyen and Dr. Zijong Wu

**What were the biggest challenges?** As the obstetric medicine service has become more established over the years, the patient volumes have increased. Currently we are in need of finding more clinical space to accommodate seeing all of our patients within an appropriate time frame. With the support of Dr. Christopher Smith and Dr. Stephen Archer, we are actively working on finding available clinic space to enable us to see our patients.

The other challenge that we have encountered is providing appropriate care and follow up to our indigenous population, particularly from the Weeneebayko area. Often times, once they are discharged back home, it has been difficult to engage them in follow up virtually or over the phone.

**What are you most proud of?** Being able to provide care to this population of patients and appropriate follow up. We are also both proud of the opportunity to working alongside our Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine colleagues here. We have been very fortunate to establish a strong and collaborative partnership with the Department of Ob/GYN and have even become regular presenters at their Wednesday morning MFM (Maternal Fetal Medicine) rounds.

Over the past 3 years, we've been excited with the growth of the clinic both in volumes and diversity of referrals we have been getting. This has been a great learning experience for the GIM fellows who rotate through with us. We're proud to be able to provide obstetric medicine training and add to the already robust curriculum of the GIM fellowship program.

**Is there future goals you are striving for?** Given the steady growth and demand of our clinic we are actively looking to recruit another person with Obstetric Medicine expertise to complement our team and perhaps a focus in bariatric pregnancy (an emerging need we are seeing).

As alluded to above, expanding our clinical services to provide more robust clinical care to the rest of southeastern Ontario, which would include expanding our clinical footprint.

Working on establishing a relationship with the Weeneebayko health region to better serve our indigenous population.

In the more distant future, (5-7 years) we hope to be in the position to further contribute to the education of future trainees with an interest in Obstetric Medicine through creating a clinical fellowship in Obstetric Medicine here at Queen's University.

## Geriatric Medicine



**Division Chair**  
DR. JOHN PUXTY

Dr. John Puxty is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He is Director of the Centre for Studies in Aging and Health at Providence Care. He is the Clinical Lead for the Southeast Specialized Geriatric Services, Integrated Memory Disorder Clinics at Providence Care Hospital and Chair of the Ontario Interdisciplinary Council for Aging and Health.

He has special interests in Frailty, Cognitive Disorders, Age Friendly Communities, distance-education and the use of information technology both as an aid to learning and strategies for effective Knowledge and Information transfer.

### Faculty Members & Rank

**Associate Professor** *Dr. John Puxty*

**Professor** *Dr. Chris Frank*

**Associate Professor** *Dr. Sudeep Gill*

**Assistant Professor** *Dr. Michelle Gibson* *Dr. Taleen Haddad*  
*Dr. Leah Nemiroff* *Dr. Kate Trebuss*  
*Dr. Erica Weir*

### Awards

**Dr. Michelle Gibson** *Aesculapian Society Lectureship Award – 2021 Term 2B*

### COVID-19 Updates

- Necessity to reduce ambulatory in-person visits to urgent/emergent cases.
- Closure of the Seniors Day Rehabilitation Program.
- Increased outpatient patient management needs due to pandemic-associated declines in frail older adult function and cognition, along with social isolation and ongoing complex management of pandemic sequelae for these patients.
- Increased pressures on our inpatient unit.
- Limited access to non-physician in-person assessments of referrals for geriatric consultation.

### Mission Statement

***To promote excellence in clinical service, education, research and innovation intended to improve health care outcomes for frail seniors throughout Southeastern Ontario***

### Number of Publications

**23**

### Number/Value of Grants

**\$160K+**

- Development of robust virtual assessment and care strategies for a challenging population.
- Immediate increase in inpatient bed capacity on our unit to offload acute care with excellent collaboration across sites.
- Flexible consult service that adapted criteria and processes depending on acute care needs and patient care focus.
- Dedication to optimizing our vulnerable patient population uptake in COVID-19 vaccinations including some division members volunteering at PCH vaccine clinics. Successful avoidance of any COVID-19 outbreaks on inpatient geriatric service.
- Reintroduction of Seniors Day Rehabilitation Program.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- The Division of Geriatric Medicine has been fortunate in the last year in being able to recruit two new additions to the Division.
- Dr. Taleen Haddad completed Core Internal Medicine training and subspecialty training in Geriatric Medicine in 2020. She started working in Kingston doing her own locum in July 2020. After a brief absence for her and her husband to have their daughter Selena she started as a GFT in the division in July 2021. In the short time she has been with us she has energetically and enthusiastically taken on a full clinical role. As well as her emerging research, her interests include perioperative medicine, frailty and polypharmacy. In her free time she enjoys travelling, spending time with friends and family, true-crime TV shows and cocktails.
- A graduate of Queen's School of Medicine (2018), Dr. Kate Trebuss completed her Care of the Elderly fellowship and Family Medicine residency training at the University of Ottawa in June 2021. Days later, she launched headfirst into full-time practice with the Division. In the short time she has been with us she has made major contributions to our Quality Improvements efforts. Her scholarly interests are broad but include narrative medicine, consent and capacity, medical ethics, and neurocognitive and movement disorders in the elderly. She loves reading, listening to podcasts, and cooking.

### Educational Highlights

- The Division continues to have members actively involved in teaching geriatrics in undergraduate curriculum. Dr. Leah Nemiroff took over as the Course Director for the Geriatrics/Oncology/Palliative care course. Dr. Michelle Gibson is the Assistant Dean, Curriculum, Undergraduate Medical Education.
- We actively teach in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine and Geriatric Psychiatry Programs.

- We support a broad reach for post-graduate clinical education, including teaching a wide variety of residents on our inpatient unit and consult service, including Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, Neurology, Radiation Oncology, Physiatry, Emergency Medicine and our own Care of the Elderly fellows.
- Dr. Chris Frank was recently featured in a podcast by Canadian Family Physician CFP Podcast: Dementia care in acute care settings. [CFP Podcast: Dementia care in acute care settings \(libsyn.com\)](https://libsyn.com)

### Research Highlights

- Dr. John Puxty was successful in receiving funding to develop a strategy to scale the award-winning intergenerational program, GrandPals, that pairs students in grades 5-8 with older adults for shared learning, storytelling, and friendship. The project will develop plans to implement, evaluate, scale and sustain the program across Canada.

### Publication Highlights

- **Nemiroff, L.** (2022). We can do better: Addressing ageism against older adults in healthcare. *Healthcare Management Forum*, 35(2): 118-122.
- **Haddad T.**, Primary author of Development and Evaluation of an Evidence-Based Theory-Grounded Online Clinical Frailty Scale Tutorial published in *Age and Aging*.
- Screening tools for virtual assessment of cognition. **Chris Frank**, Philip St John and Frank Molnar. *Canadian Family Physician* July 2020, 66 (7) 502-503.
- Report on Enabling Seniors to Age in Community Post COVID 19 by **Dr. J. Puxty**, Dr. M. Rosenberg, and Dr. B. Crow, Queen's University for Employment and Social Development Canada on behalf of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Forum of Ministers Responsible for Seniors. (submitted December 2021).
- Fage BA, Chan CC, **Gill SS**, Noel-Storr AH, Herrmann N, Smailagic N, Nikolaou V, Seitz DP. Mini-Cog for the detection of dementia within a community setting. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2021 Jul 14;7(7):CD010860. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD010860.pub3. PMID: 34259337.

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. John Puxty provided leadership to the creation of Integrated Specialized Geriatrics Service (SGS) of East Ontario Initiative. This is a joint planning initiative for SGS across the entire East Ontario Region.

## Hematology



**Division Chair**  
DR. ANNETTE HAY

Dr. Annette Hay is a Hematologist within the Department of Medicine, Queen's University, cross-appointed to the Departments of Oncology and Pediatrics, and a Senior Investigator with the Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG).

Dr. Annette Hay's clinical practice is primarily in hematological malignancies. Her research is focussed on clinical trials.

### Faculty Members & Rank

Associate Professor *Dr. Annette Hay*

Professor *Dr. Paula James*

Associate Professor *Dr. David Lee*

Assistant Professor *Dr. Troy Climans*  
*Dr. Janet Lui*  
*Dr. Bethany Monteith*  
*Dr. Guillaume Richard-Carpentier*  
*Dr. Natasha Satkunam*

### Awards

Dr. Troy Climans *Aesculapian Society Lectureship Award for Term 2A*

Dr. Natasha Satkunam *Aesculapian Society Lectureship Award for Term 2A*

Dr. Paula James *Aesculapian Society Medical School Lectureship Award*

### COVID-19 Updates

- Dealing with the day-to-day uncertainty of COVID-19 including, day care and school closures alongside constant workload demands was challenging for staff.
- An increase of administrative work occurred which consisted of coordinating phone and virtual visits and ensuring required blood work was performed in the community prior to these visits.
- Additional support was required for the patients we serve to help cope – many of whom are highly immune suppressed. This included both emotionally heightened anxiety and loneliness, and the potentially severe physical effects of COVID-19 infection in those who acquired it.

### Mission Statement

**To ensure excellence in the care of patients with blood disorders**

**To provide the highest standards of undergraduate and postgraduate Hematology education**

**To advance knowledge in diseases of the blood to the benefit of patients and society**

### Number of Publications

31

### Number of Learners

2 PGY4

3 PGY5

### Number/Value of Grants

\$221K+





(top) Dr. Bethany Monteith and family  
(above) New to the hematology team, Kat Kenney

- On top of the day to day, the cancer program was also responsible for COVID-19 vaccination of thousands of individuals with blood cancers, or previous cancer treatment such as bone marrow transplantation. This was a huge undertaking that took many hours and members to be involved.
- The severe staffing shortages and transitions meant additional support was required for our multi-disciplinary colleagues – nurses, secretaries and others.
- The Division of Hematology has successfully developed robust processes blending virtual and in-person care, to provide patient care as safely as possible during the pandemic, balancing a variety of risks.
- The team – which has always been strong – has continually stepped up to help and provide coverage for each other during the highs and lows everyone has experienced during the pandemic.
- Hematologists have been active in COVID-19 research, including but not limited to the role of anticoagulation [James, BMJ 2021], effects of convalescent plasma [Callum, Nature Medicine 2021] understanding the experience of program directors and residents in virtual interviews [Lui, Canadian Medical Education Journal 2021], natural history of COVID-19 in patients with cancer [Hay, Clinicaltrials.gov NCT04961541].
- We welcomed two new babies in 2021! Jackson, born to Dr. Bethany Monteith and Reya born to Dr. Janet Lui.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite the pandemic, Hematology has flourished during 2021. We welcomed new colleagues, launched new initiatives, and have much to celebrate.
- Dr. Bethany Monteith joined the Department of Medicine and Division of Hematology in 2021. She is a maritime native and graduated from medical school at the University of Ottawa before completing internal medicine and hematology training at Queen's University. Dr. Monteith enjoys caring for patients with multiple myeloma and sees the opportunity for a disease site specific clinic to focus expertise and bring new clinical trials to Queen's University and new therapies to the patients in our region. In her spare time, she enjoys time outdoors at the cottage with her growing family.
- Kat Kenney is a nurse practitioner, new to the hematology team, currently practicing and developing her role in the HDH Thrombosis Clinic. She was born and raised in Kingston and has 5 years of experience working in northern Ontario. In 2021 she completed her Master of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner degree at Queen's University and joined the Division of Hematology. She

is passionate about personal development, education, family and the outdoors. She is excited to bring creativity and passion to her role in the Thrombosis clinic. This important new position was funded by the Department of Medicine.

- Dr. Kerstin de Wit is an emergency medicine physician and thrombosis physician, originally from the UK. She moved to Canada to train in Thrombosis medicine in 2010, where she met her husband. She worked as staff emergency and thrombosis physician at McMaster University between 2014 and 2020. She moved to Kingston in fall 2020 where her time is split between thrombosis medicine, emergency medicine and research. In the Emergency Department, she is conducting research to determine the need for CT head scanning in older patients who fall and in anticoagulated patients who sustain a head injury. In thrombosis medicine she is conducting research on thrombolysis for intermediate-risk pulmonary embolism, diagnosis of DVT and diagnosis of PE. Her vision is two-fold: 1) to make the Emergency Department more oriented to care for older adults and 2) to develop the full thrombosis service here in Queen's University. She is driven by patient-centred care.
- Dr. Jeannie Callum joined the Division of Hematology in January of 2021 with expertise in Benign Hematology and Transfusion Medicine. She is funded through Canadian Blood Services and CIHR to complete two definitive hemostatic resuscitation randomized trials in traumatic hemorrhage (FiiRST-2) and cardiac surgery (FARES-2). She also brings experience in improving clinical practice through large scale quality improvement projects.
- Collaboration is at the core of Hematology at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and Queen's University. Clinical care benefits from wide multidisciplinary input. Research is conducted with many provincial, national and international partners.
- The Division of Hematology has embraced electronic consults (eConsults). Thanks to the expertise of general Hematologists Drs. David Lee and Janet Lui, and with the support of Dr. Anne Smith (recently retired), 272 Hematology eConsults were completed in the last 12 months. Benefits of eConsults include 1) rapid access to specialist, 2) averting need for formal hematology referral in 62% of cases where one had originally been contemplated and 3) even if referral is still needed, preliminary investigations ordered via eConsult streamline the formal consult process.

### Clinical Highlights

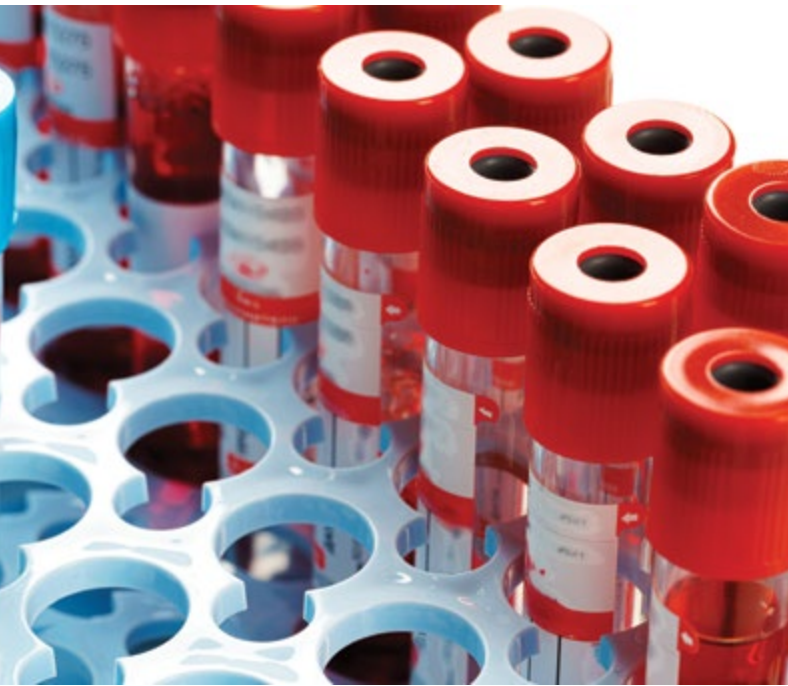
- In 2021, three (yes three!) new clinical programs were launched and existing programs strengthened.
- A new multidisciplinary **Thrombosis Program** launched in September 2021 led by Drs. Kerstin de Wit and Natasha Satkunam and supported by many members of the Division.



(top) Emergency physician and thrombosis physician, Dr. Kerstin de Wit



(above) New to the Division of Hematology, Dr. Jeannie Callum



Hematology was delighted to launch the first Primary Care Patient Management Pathway in our region at a CME accredited event in June 2021.

The initial focus has been to address the wait list backlog – a task well underway. The goal is further expansion to meet patient needs promptly, while expanding collaborative research and education programs.

- In March 2021, under the leadership and vision of Dr. Natasha Satkunam, a new **Inherited Red Blood Cell Disorders Program** opened. With increasing immigration including refugees, students, and inmates, the prevalence of sickle cell disease and hemoglobinopathies is rising. This often underserved population has unique needs with social and language challenges potentially compounding complex medical care. The clinic runs once a month at the Hotel Dieu Hospital. Planning for expansion is underway in collaboration Dr. Laura Wheaton (Pediatric Hematologist) to provide enhanced care for entire families.
- The passion and hard work from Dr. Guillaume Richard-Carpentier, Michelle Foulkes, Renee Harzell and others, enabled the launch of Hematology's third new program in 2021 – the **Acute Leukemia Program**. The program consists of three phases. Firstly, individuals with acute leukemia undergo induction chemotherapy on the Kidd 9 ward. They then progress to out-patient consolidation chemotherapy in the Malignant Hematology Day Unit. The final phase of follow up in is the Cancer Centre, Burr Wing. Among the many contributors to this program is the pharmacy team. They have developed detailed chemotherapy prescribing order sets with built in prophylactic medication, actively work with the wider health care team to procure medication, and oversee

safe prescribing throughout a patient's course.

- **The Autologous Stem cell Transplant Program** at KHSC serves a large catchment area, ranging from Smith Falls to Ajax, and performs an average of 50-60 transplants per year. The program encompasses a multidisciplinary team which includes not just clinical staff (Drs. Jill Dudebout and Troy Climans) but also data analysis and quality management teams. This has evolved in order to meet the requirements of the international cellular therapy accreditation body, FACT, with the target of achieving full accreditation by the end of 2022. The mammoth formal application for FACT accreditation was submitted in 2021 after years of preparation. The stem cell transplant program continues to expand the utilization of its outpatient, virtual day program, which was initiated in 2020 and fully implemented in 2021. This has already made a significant difference on inpatient bed utilization by the stem cell transplant program. We look towards expanding available cellular therapies at KHSC.
- Hematology was delighted to launch the first **Primary Care Patient Management Pathway** in our region at a CME accredited event in June 2021. Drs. Bethany Monteith and Annette Hay led development of the pathway focussed on **Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS)**, supported by a large team including primary care physicians, specialists, patients and the operational visionary core including Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhauer and Madelaine Meehan. Primary Care



Physicians are supported in managing low risk MGUS in the community. Higher risk cases are referred for more timely Hematology specialist assessment. The goal is that patients receive the care they need in an appropriate timeframe.

### Educational Highlights

- Medical student education necessitated pivoting to virtual for many interactions. Dr. Paula James directed the highly acclaimed Blood and Coagulation course for first year medical students for over a decade. Dr. Natasha Satkunam began onboarding in 2021 with a view to taking over leadership fully in 2022.
- The postgraduate Hematology training program continues to flourish with Dr. Janet Lui at the helm as Program Director. We were the earliest adopter of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Competency by Design Curriculum, launching new Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) a year ahead of other hematology programs. A new transfusion medicine curriculum was established in spring 2021 with Dr. Jeannie Callum's leadership. A new Queen's led, province wide hematopathology academic half day curriculum commenced in fall 2021, thanks to Drs. David Good, Michael Rauh, Graeme Quest and others. A new Queen's led pediatric hematology workshop was established in spring 2021 with the expertise of Dr. Laura Wheaton. Drs. Ivan Landego, Jennifer Leung and Janique Dyba successfully completed hematology training and passed their subspecialty exams in 2021.
- The Translational Medicine Graduate Program, directed by Dr. Paula James is also thriving, currently with 31 students (10 PhD, 21 MSc).

### Research Highlights

- Dr. Paula James was highly productive during her mini-sabbatical in the latter half of 2021. Among her publications in 2021 were new international von Willebrand disease (VWD) guidelines [James, Blood Advances 2021]. These were the result of several years of work led by Dr. James and supported by an international team.
- Dr. Annette Hay, as co-Principal Investigator of a national team, received a Canada Foundation for Innovation grant of over five million dollars. The project entitled ExCELLirate Canada will advance cellular therapy for patients with cancer spanning discovery, biomanufacturing, multi-centre clinical trial testing and informing policy. Partners include McMaster University (co-PI Jonathan Bramson), Universities of Montreal, Ottawa and Calgary, and Canadian Blood Services.

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. Annette Hay was appointed to the role of Division Chair, Hematology. The Department would like to recognize Dr. David Lee for his many years of service, leadership and hard work.

Dr. Hay's anticipated tenure as the incoming Division Chair of Hematology will continue to build on Dr. Lee's accomplishments on behalf of the Division.

- Dr. Troy Climans and Dr. Jill Dudebout both received a Certificate of Recognition through the University Hospital Kingston Foundation through the Honour Your Caregiver Program.
- The Division of Hematology is reliant on the excellent administrative support provided by our small yet mighty team. Janet Lee, Amanda Carquez and Michelle Svajina managed the 2,000 referrals received in 2021 developing new triaging systems, data capture and analysis processes, and making new appointments for the Hotel Dieu Hospital. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you.





## Infectious Diseases

### Number of Publications

13

### Number/Value of Grants

\$357K+



**Division Chair**  
DR. GERALD EVANS

Dr. Gerald Evans is the Chair of the Division of Infectious Diseases and a Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Biomedical & Molecular Sciences, and Pathology & Molecular Medicine at Queen's University and an attending physician in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine at Kingston General Hospital and the Hotel Dieu Hospital.

He is a member of the Ontario Anti-infective Review Panel and Chair of the Guidelines Committee of AMMI Canada. He also serves as Chair of the Working Group on Drugs for Rare Diseases for the MOHLTC. He is a recently appointed adjunct Scientist with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and a co-investigator with the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN).

His research interests include clinical guideline development, antimicrobial pharmacology, and health technology assessment for optimal drug utilization.

### Faculty Members & Rank:

Professor *Dr. Gerald Evans*

Assistant Professor *Dr. Anthony Bai* *Dr. Jorge Martinez-Cajas*  
*Dr. Santiago Perez* *Dr. Evan Wilson*

### Awards

Dr. Gerald Evans *Providence Care "Leading with Excellence" Award*

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- Dr. Santiago Perez along with nurses plus other Infectious Disease physicians have established an Acute COVID-19 clinic where IV monoclonals and other antiviral therapies are given to patients with acute COVID-19 in a timely manner. This was in coordination with the Pharmacy. They administered IV monoclonals as long as they were available.

### Educational Highlights

- The approval of a postgraduate training program in Infectious Diseases with the appointment of Dr. Evan Wilson as inaugural Program Director.



A successful collaboration between the Division of Infectious Diseases, other DOM divisions, and the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences has secured two PSI grants and one Provincial innovation grant.

- The ongoing expansion of the Antibiotic Stewardship Program at KHSC and leadership regionally at partner hospitals led by Dr. Evan Wilson.
- Dr. Bradley Stoner was an invited speaker for the following conferences:
  - “Syphilis: Forgotten but Not Gone” for Queen’s DOM Medical Grand Rounds on May 13.
  - “Global Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections” for the 18th Cali Conference on Advances in HIV Prevention in Colombia, held virtually via Zoom on Oct. 22-23.

#### **Research Highlights**

- The rapid application of therapies for COVID-19 led by Dr. Santiago Perez-Patrigeon.
- An emerging international research program in STI & HIV prevention with increasing application locally, regionally and internationally led by Dr. Jorge Martinez-Cajas in collaboration with Dr. Bradley Stoner, an ID divisional member and Department Head of Public Health Sciences at Queen’s University.
- Dr. Anthony Bai as a clinician-scientist developing a research program centred around the management of infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus*.
- A successful collaboration between the Division of Infectious Diseases, other DOM divisions, and the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences has secured two PSI grants and one Provincial innovation grant with two studies, one addressing the epidemiology of COVID-19 in LTCs and acute care hospitals in SEO (SCORE study) and the other studying immune response to COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines in immunocompromised patients (CONQUER study).

#### **Administrative Highlights**

- COVID-19 Pandemic response leadership to KHSC, PCH, the region, & province led by Dr. Gerald Evans.
- Expansion of the division with the arrival of Dr. Anthony Bai.

# Nephrology

## Mission Statement

**Excellent clinical care throughout the Kidney Disease continuum**

**Comprehensive training in adult nephrology to undergraduate, postgraduate, established physicians, allied health care professionals and education in preventative strategies to family practitioners and the general public**

**New scientific information to the medical community in general and the nephrology community specifically**

**Leadership in clinical care delivery, research and education in underserved areas recognized to be at high risk for chronic kidney disease**

## Number of Publications

42

## Number/Value of Grants

\$419K<sup>+</sup>

## Number of Learners

2 PGY4

2 PGY5



### Division Chair

DR. DAVID HOLLAND

Dr. David Holland is Chair of the Division of Nephrology and a tenured Associate Professor of Medicine at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and Queen's University.

His research interests include outcome-based studies in chronic kidney disease and kidney transplantation. Dr. David Holland has been extensively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and has been the recipient of numerous Aesculapian Society Teaching Awards, the Department of Medicine Master Educator Award, the Faculty of Health Sciences Education Award, and the Department of Medicine Distinguished Service Award.

### Faculty Members & Rank

Associate Professor [Dr. David Holland](#)

Professor [Dr. Rachel Holden](#) [Dr. Christine White](#)  
[Dr. Karen Yeates](#)

Associate Professor [Dr. Jocelyn Garland](#) [Dr. Eduard Illiescu](#)  
[Dr. M. Khaled Shamseddin](#)

Assistant Professor [Dr. Claire Kennedy](#) [Dr. Sarah Moran](#)  
[Dr. Samuel Silver](#) [Dr. Hasitha Welihinda](#)

### Awards

Dr. Karen Yeates 2021 DOM Research Awards: CIHR Pillars

Dr. David Holland *W.F. Connell Award, which recognizes a faculty member who, in the opinion of the final year medical students, has made the most outstanding contribution to their undergraduate medical education*

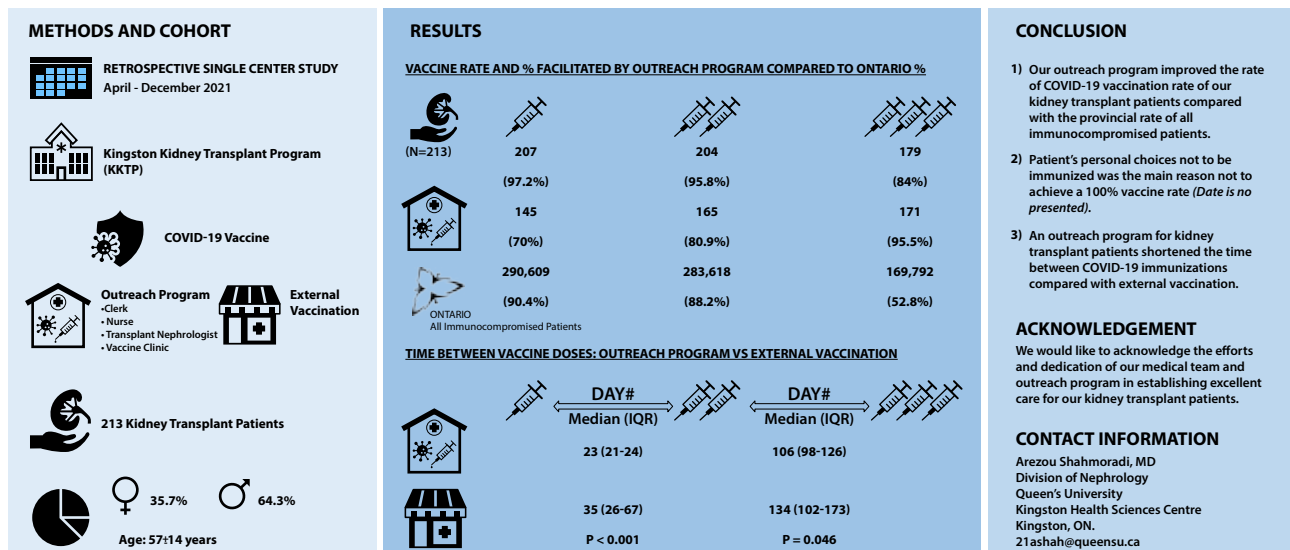
Dr. Jocelyn Garland *Medical Staff Association Outstanding Clinician of the year Kingston Health Sciences Centre*

Dr. Rachel Holden *Department of Medicine Research Achievement Award*

### COVID-19 Updates

• As a result of the pandemic, nephrology successfully pivoted to a 'hybrid' model for delivery of patient care using 'virtual on-line' clinics. Although

## IMPROVING THE TIMELINESS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PATIENTS USING A DEDICATED OUTREACH PROGRAM



Research abstract poster by Dr. Khaled Shamseddin and his research team submitted to 2022 CSN.

this required significant clinical and administrative effort, it was regarded as successful by both patients and health care providers.

- Mindful that patients with end-stage renal disease are at a significantly increased risk of morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19, patients were prioritized for vaccination with the assistance of administrative and clinical supports.
- Despite the pandemic and the increased risks associated with immunosuppressive medications, KHSC continued to safely perform kidney transplants throughout the pandemic.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- Dr. Khaled Shamseddin and the transplant team introduced a program that promoted COVID-19 vaccination among transplant recipients.
- COVID-19 Outreach Vaccination Program:
  - This innovation in 2021 has resulted in a significant increase of the rate of our kidney transplant patients with 3 doses compared with other Ontarian centres.
  - We have submitted an abstract and poster (see image above) to 2022 CSN. Although the submission was done in 2022, the actual program occurred in 2021.

### Research Highlights

- Dr. Khaled M. Shamseddin is a Co-investigator on a CIHR Project Grant entitled Calcineurin Inhibitor in Neurologically deceased donors to decrease kidney delayed graft function trial

(CINERGY) - Vanguard valued at \$447K.

- He is also on the Innovation Fund Provincial Oversight Committee (\$98,166):
  - A Multicentric Collaboration to Evaluate Quantitative Assays for SARS-CoV-2 and Determine Humoral and Cellular Immunity (CONQUER).
  - Dr. Yanping Gong (Principal applicant).
- Dr. Samuel Silver Co-Principal Investigator. "Filling Knowledge Gaps for the Success of Ontario Renal Plan 3." Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Grant. \$1,143,676 CAD."

### Publication Highlights

- Making the Correct Diagnosis in Thrombotic Microangiopathy: A Narrative Review – **Dr. Jocelyn Garland**.
- We Won't Get Fooled Again: Finding the Who to Follow After Acute Kidney Injury – **Dr. Samuel Silver**.
- Nephrologist Follow-Up versus Usual Care after an Acute Kidney Injury Hospitalization (FUSION): A Randomized Controlled Trial – **Dr. Samuel Silver**.

### Administrative Highlights

- Nephrology provides renal care to the region of southeastern Ontario using a hub and spoke' model that currently includes a total of 7 'satellite' sites. In addition, a new multi-disciplinary clinic for management of chronic renal failure was launched in Brockville to ensure that patients continue to receive care as close to home as possible.



## Neurology

### Number of Publications

46

### Number of Learners

4 PGY1

4 PGY2

2 PGY3

2 PGY4

2 PGY5

### Number/Value of Grants

\$378K<sup>+</sup>



#### Division Chair

DR. MICHEL MELANSON

Dr. Michel Melanson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine with a cross-appointment in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He is currently the Director of the Kingston General and Hotel Dieu Hospital EMG laboratories where he and 2 of his colleagues evaluate patients with Neuromuscular Disorders. In addition, he is Co-Director of the Adult Neuromuscular Clinic at Providence Care Hospital.

His research focus is in neuromuscular diseases and has collaborations with basic science researchers at the Queen's Centre for Neuroscience Studies. He studies clinical aspects of disorders such as ALS, Multiple Sclerosis and the Muscular Dystrophies. Additionally, he is the lead investigator in several clinical trials in ALS and Inflammatory Neuropathies. One of his current active research projects includes elucidation of the mechanisms leading to disruption in nuclear membrane protein interactions and secondary mitochondrial dysfunction which result from an LMNA mutation in a cell culture model. He also is developing an E-referral system for Neurology with the help of Ontario health.

#### Faculty Members & Rank

Associate Professor *Dr. Michel Melanson*

Professor *Dr. Garima Shukla*

Associate Professor *Dr. Ramana Appireddy* *Dr. J. Gordon Boyd*  
*Dr. Albert Jin* *Dr. Lysa Boissé Lomax*  
*Dr. Gavin Winston*

Assistant Professor *Dr. Moogeh Baharnoori* *Dr. Nicholas Cothros*  
*Dr. Bryce Durafour* *Dr. Shirin Jalini*  
*Dr. Giovanna Pari* *Dr. Anemon Philip*  
*Dr. Stuart Reid* *Dr. Stephen Ryan*  
*Dr. Ana Wing*

#### Grants

- Dr. Gavin Winston was awarded a PSI Foundation Grant for his project entitled "Neuroimaging biomarkers of cognitive dysfunction in people with epilepsy" in the amount of \$249,500.00 over 3 years.

## Awards

**Dr. Moogeh Baharnoori** 2021 DOM Research Awards: CIHR Pillars

**Dr. Ramana Appireddy** MSA Clinical Innovator Award

**Dr. Lysa Boissé Lomax** SEAMO MEDP Spring 2021 (Harvard Macy Program for Leading Innovations in Healthcare and Education)

## COVID-19 Updates

- Successfully maintaining the Movement Disorders Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Program.
- Navigating the post-COVID-19 surges in acute stroke protocols.
- Advocating to keep the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) and Epilepsy Surgery active during COVID-19.
- Leadership in the domain of telemedicine .
- Expansion of Neurology Telemedicine Clinics and residency training in the management of telemedicine.
- Growth of the neurology residency training program, including the addition of Visa trainees, Stroke Fellowship and EEG Fellowship.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- Roll-out of the Vagal Nerve Stimulator (VNS) Program for refractory epilepsy.

### Educational Highlights

- First Stroke Fellow accepted to the Stroke Clinical Fellowship Program (PD: Dr. Shirin Jalini).

### Research Highlights

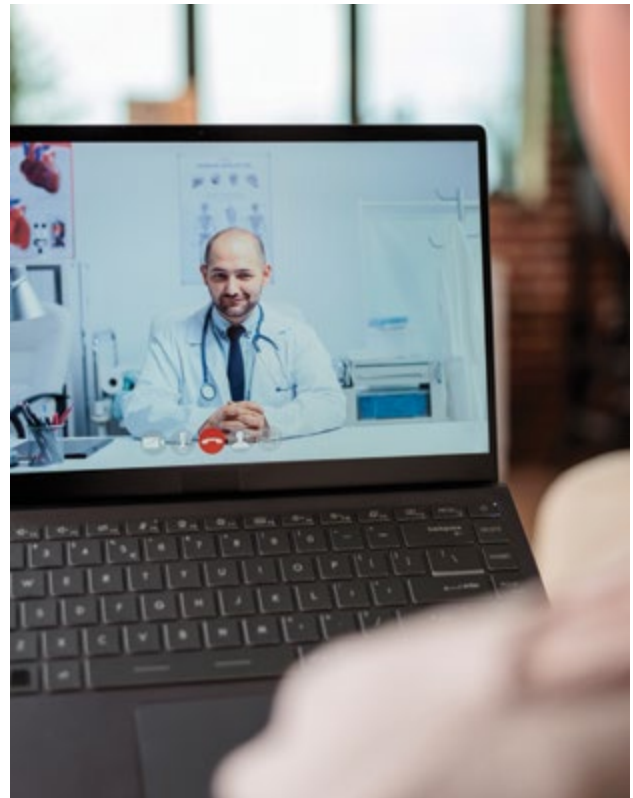
- Dr. Gavin Winston was awarded a PSI Foundation Award.
- Dr. Ramana Appireddy was awarded CIHR Funding for his work on Telemedicine and health care accessibility.

### Publication Highlights

- **Boissé Lomax L**, Verhalen B, Minassian BA. [EPM2A in-frame deletion slows neurological decline in Lafora Disease. Seizure. 2021.](#)
- Kanber B, Vos SB, de Tisi J, Wood TC, Barker GJ, Rodionov R, Chowdhury FA, Thom M, Alexander DC, Duncan JS, **Winston GP**. Detection of covert lesions in focal epilepsy using computational analysis of multimodal magnetic resonance imaging data. *Epilepsia*. 2021.
- Aghaeeval M, Bendahan N, Shivji Z, McInnis C, Jamzad A,

**Lomax Boissé LB, Shukla G, Mousavi P, Winston GP**. Prediction of patient survival following postanoxic coma using EEG data and clinical features. *Annu Int Conf IEEE Eng Med Biol Soc*. 2021.

- **Baharnoori M**, Wilson R, Saxena S, Gonzalez CT, Sotiropoulos MG, Keyhanian K, Healy BC, Chitnis T. [Altered adipokine levels are associated with dimethyl fumarate treatment in multiple sclerosis patients. Mult Scler Relat Disord. 2021.](#)
- Salmon K, Anoja N, Breiner A, Chum M, Dionne A, Dupré N, Fiander A, Fok D, Ghavanini A, Gosselin S, Izenberg A, Johnston W, Kalra S, Matte G, **Melanson M**, O'Connell C, Ritsma B, Schellenberg K, Shoesmith C, Tremblay S, Williams H, Genge A. Genetic testing for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in Canada – an assessment of current practices. *Amyotroph Lateral Scler Frontotemporal Degener*. 2021.
- [Children with Tic Disorders Show Greater Variability in an Arm-Position-Matching Proprioceptive Task. Cothros N, Medina A, Martino D, Dukelow SP, Hawe RL, Kirton A, Ganos C, Nosratmirshekarlou E, Pringsheim T. Mov Disord. 2021.](#)
- Liu RR, **Melanson M**, Bendahan N, Briggs DE, Taylor SW, **Boissé Lomax L**. Fatal Familial Insomnia with Early Dysautonomia and Diabetes. *Can J Neurol Sci*. 2021 Sep;48(5):737-739. doi: 10.1017/cjn.2020.261. Epub 2020 Dec 4. PMID: 33272347.





(top) Dr. Ramana Appireddy  
(middle) Dr. Shirin Jalini  
(above) Dr. Albert Jin

- Bourque PR, Masson-Roy J, Warman-Chardon J, Massie R, **Melanson M**, Brooks J, Breiner A. Temporal evolution of nerve conduction study abnormalities in anti-myelin-associated glycoprotein neuropathy. *Muscle Nerve*. 2021 Mar;63(3):401-404. doi: 10.1002/mus.27134. Epub 2020 Dec 22. PMID: 33290607.
- Cheung K, Rathbone A, **Melanson M**, Trier J, Ritsma BR, Allen MD. Pathophysiology and management of critical illness polyneuropathy and myopathy. *J Appl Physiol* (1985). 2021 May 1;130(5):1479-1489. doi: 10.1152/jappphysiol.00019.2021. Epub 2021 Mar 18. PMID: 33734888; PMCID: PMC8143786.

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. Lysa Boissé Lomax was elected as an OMA District 7 delegate.
- Dr. Garima Shukla was appointed as a Section Editor of the highly reputable international journal *Sleep Medicine*.
- The Epilepsy team received a generous legacy donation in the amount of \$50,000 from a generous patient family.
- Multiple Sclerosis clinic received a generous donation \$16,307 ("Bentley's 2021 Halloween Fundraiser") from one of our clinic patients. With this donation, MS clinic is updating the equipment used by our physiotherapists and occupational therapist in the multidisciplinary MS clinic. In addition, three iPads were purchased for systematic assessment of cognitive testing (as standard of care practice) for MS patients in Kingston MS clinic.

### Faculty Profile – Stroke Unit

Dr. Ramana Appireddy, Dr. Shirin Jalini,  
and Dr. Albert Jin

#### What challenges did you experience (COVID-19 or otherwise) and how did you deal with them?

One of the challenges experienced during the COVID-19 period was the reduced family presence at the bedside in the stroke unit hampering our ability to provide timely updates on the results, status of the patient and care planning. We addressed this by ensuring that the members of the care team provide regular updates by phone.

#### What is something you are proud of?

I am very proud of all the nurses, therapists, speech pathologists, case managers that work on the stroke unit. Each one of them does their best to ensure patients in the stroke unit get the care they need despite all the professional and personal challenges faced by them during COVID-19.

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## Feature Patient Story Elizabeth

For Elizabeth and her husband, going for a daily walk was something they wanted to start doing again after being cooped up from COVID-19 for most of 2020. In March 2021, they stepped outside in the cool Canadian air. To Elizabeth's surprise she only made it 150 ft before becoming out of breath. In the moment she didn't realize what was going on but looking back she remarks, this was one of the first indications that something was going on with her body and her health. As time progressed Elizabeth continued to have trouble. The next surprise was difficulty walking up a flight of stairs. She had arthritic knees and thought maybe it was just a coincidence. Then in September 2021 she began experiencing falls, many falls. When mild chest pains struck at the end of September, Elizabeth was admitted to Belleville General Hospital (BGH). It was concluded that it wasn't her heart, but after explaining all the falls, the team at BGH had an MRI scheduled for Elizabeth's brain. In total Elizabeth remained in hospital for 12 days. The next month, she met with Dr. Michel Melanson, who gave her a diagnosis right away. Elizabeth was experiencing some type of autoimmune disease. Through biopsy's, medication and the help of her caring husband and health care resources such as physiotherapy, a walker, bars on bed etc., Elizabeth has made tremendous recovery as she says "leaps and bounds" from where she was. Over a year later from her first episode, she is able to be back behind the wheel of her car without her husband having to lift her legs into it. She says she owes her success to Dr. Melanson who was so compassionate, knowledgeable and had a great bedside manner. She would also like to recognize, the Internal Medicine team of Doctors and Internists at Belleville General Hospital. With special mention to Dr. Mujaddid Masood.

*We interviewed Elizabeth and asked these questions:*

**What stood out in this experience that made it a positive one for you?**

Dr. Melanson's reinforcement that I would recover. In addition, the resources, and services that I was provided with, I was very impressed, and they helped me gain my control back.

**What would you tell others going through this situation?**

Ask to have blood work done! Pay attention to your body and the changes that are happening. Don't draw it back to your age or weight. Don't be afraid to go to the doctor and ask questions!

**What are three words to describe Dr. Melanson and team?**

Compassionate, knowledgeable and kind.



To Elizabeth's surprise she only made it 150 ft before becoming out of breath. In the moment she didn't realize what was going on but looking back she remarks, this was one of the first indications that something was going on with her body and her health.

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# Palliative Medicine

## Mission Statement

**The development and provision of high quality, accessible palliative care through a regional model of integrated specialist and primary palliative care**

**Building capacity for primary palliative care through advocacy, mentorship, and education for undergraduate and postgraduate medical trainees, practicing physicians, and interdisciplinary team members**

**Providing clinical excellence in specialist palliative care to patients and families with complex palliative care needs**

**Training palliative medicine specialist physicians through the Royal College Subspecialty in Palliative Medicine and the CFPC Enhanced Skills program in Palliative Care**

**Participating in research to improve the quality of care and therapies for patients and families with palliative care needs**



### Division Chair

DR. LEONIE HERX

Dr. Leonie Herx is a Palliative Medicine specialist and Medical/Clinical Director of Palliative Care at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and Providence Care Hospital. Leonie is Chair of the new Frontenac Lennox Addington Ontario Health Team (FLA OHT) Palliative Care Partnership that is responsible for the development of an integrated regional program for palliative care.

Her areas of interest are medical education, program development, and capacity building for palliative care across the health care system. Leonie co-founded the new RCPSC Subspecialty in Palliative Medicine and is now the Chair of the RC Specialty Committee in Palliative Medicine.

## Number of Learners

**4 PGY3**

## Number of Publications

**20**

## Faculty Members & Rank

Associate Professor [Dr. Leonie Herx](#)

Associate Professor [Dr. Aynharan Sinnarajah](#)

Assistant Professor	<u><a href="#">Dr. Julianne Bagg</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Dr. Craig Goldie</a></u>
	<u><a href="#">Dr. Majid Iqbal</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Dr. Danielle Kain</a></u>
	<u><a href="#">Dr. Jean Mathews</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Dr. Adrienne Selbie</a></u>
	<u><a href="#">Dr. Anna Voeuk</a></u>	

## Awards

Dr. Leonie Herx	<i>Dr. Paul Adams Award for generosity, initiative, and professionalism in the practice of medicine Canadian Physicians for Life. Inaugural Award</i>
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Dr. Danielle Kain	<i>Queen's University DOM Young Clinician Award Medicine Clinical Teaching Award (Clinics/Consults)</i>
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## COVID-19 Updates

- Seeing increased numbers of patients with new diagnoses of advanced metastatic cancer.
- Less able to anticipate and plan for symptom crises and functional decline of patients with changing phases of illness due to inability to see patients in person and limited information via virtual assessments. Many patients did not want homecare staff in their homes and did not want to come to clinic/hospital for fear of COVID-19.

- Change in how we work with families and a patient's community of supporting for decision-making and care at the end of life due to travel restrictions and facility visitor restrictions. Patients experienced additional psychosocial stress when loved ones could not be with them when facing change in illness trajectory or end of life.
- Co-led the development and adaption of standardized symptom management tools for use in COVID-19 across care settings, in partnership with the Regional Palliative Care Network. Including, advance care planning and serious illness conversation tools, symptom management guide for end-of-life care in COVID-19, and a modified Symptom Response Kit to address medication shortages and reduce waste.
- Developed Palliative Sedation Guidelines for use in COVID-19 with additional options for management in the event of medication shortages.
- Provided most outpatient follow-up visits via video or telephone for community and clinic settings, including the use of an E-prescription tool and utilizing the new provincial electronic certificate of death.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- Integrated new palliative medicine consultation services within the Lung Diagnostic Assessment Program (LDAP) and the Interstitial Lung Disease clinics, led by Dr. Danielle Kain.
- Expanded Palliative Outreach Clinic supports to Quinte Health Centre from monthly to a biweekly basis as part of the CCSEO 'Care Closer to Home' initiative, supported by Drs. Julianne Bagg, Craig Goldie, Leonie Herx and Majid Iqbal.
- Expanded the Remote Care Monitoring (RCM) pilot program led by Drs. Iqbal and Mathews for improving palliative care for patients in the community. The RCM program uses Aetonix platform technology to provide remote symptom management and triggered assessments for patients in the CCSEO palliative oncology clinic and the KHSC Palliative Care Outreach Team for patients who are home-bound. Pilot results show decreased emergency room visits and unplanned acute care admissions for patients enrolled in the RCM program.
- New palliative care clinical and educational program development initiative for prisoners in the Kingston area federal penitentiaries and the rural far north through the Weenebayko Area Health Authority Partnership, led by Dr. Anna Voek.
- Dr. Leonie Herx chaired the FLA OHT Palliative Care Partnership Working Group, one of four priority groups for the new FLA OHT.

The Partnership endorsed a new integrated model of palliative care based on national standards that provides continuous 24/7 access to a regional specialized palliative care team (RSPCT) via a single point of contact, preventing unnecessary ED visits and acute care admissions, and supporting individuals to remain in their homes and communities.

- A business proposal was submitted to Ontario Health for funding the proposed RSPCT team. The Partnership also created and endorsed an overall Quality Improvement Plan (Driver Diagram) for palliative care in FLA and established several project groups to advance the priority change ideas for the model within existing resources, including:
  - Developing indigenous-focused palliative care strategies.
  - Improving access to primary palliative care.
  - Addressing palliative care gaps for underserved populations including vulnerably housed/homeless, prisoners, and rural/remote communities.
  - Establishing standardized system measures to evaluate outcomes of the quality improvement initiatives, including reinstating the Caregiver VOICES survey in our region.
- Developing a shared digital palliative care plan accessible by all care providers in the region to communicate the plan of care, needs and wishes of patients with identified palliative care needs.

### Educational Highlights

- Trained over 100 residents and clerks who completed palliative care rotations across our program sites, including acute care, subacute care, ambulatory clinics and community palliative care, led by Dr. Craig Goldie, Residency Program Director.
- Provided weekly rotating resident seminars, monthly palliative medicine journal clubs and advanced practice rounds, and launched a new Division of Palliative Medicine M&M rounds.
- Hosted quarterly Regional Palliative Care Rounds for clinicians involved in providing palliative care across Southeast Ontario.
- Resumed our bi-annual in person 4-day course for Educating Family Physicians in Palliative Care.
- Launched a new 2-part online CPD course to engage and support primary palliative care capacity building in FLA entitled: "[Palliative Care in Frontenac, Lennox, and Addington: An Ontario Health Team Perspective - Online Series.](#)"
- Established a new partnership with McMaster University Division of Palliative Care and Pallium Canada to fund the Echo Journal Watch Program – a new educational initiative that regularly reviews current palliative care literature to bring forward important practice changing articles for discussion



with clinicians from across Canada via a bi-monthly webinar and podcast. Contributors include Drs. Julianne Bagg, Leonie Herx (Co-Lead), Jean Mathews, Adrienne Selbie, Aynharan Sinnarajah, and Anna Voeuk.

### Research Highlights

- Dr. Leonie Herx is a Co-Investigator on three CIHR grants.
  - Use of an automated prospective clinical surveillance tool to drive screening for unmet palliative needs among patients in the final year of life Valued at \$719K.
  - Palliative care at the end of life among patients with cancer before and during the COVID-19 pandemic Valued at \$423K.
  - Effects of dexmedetomidine in patients with agitated delirium in palliative care: an open-label phase 1/2 proof-of-concept, feasibility, and dose-finding clinical trial Valued at \$100K.

### Publication Highlights

- 2021 – Goldie, C.L.; Nguyen, P.; Robinson, A.G.; Goldie, C.E.; Kircher, C.E.; Hanna, T.P. Quality of End-of-Life Care for People with Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer in Ontario: A

Population-Based Study. *Current Oncology* (2021);28(x). Manuscript ID: currnocol-1292912. <https://doi.org/10.3390/currnocol28050286>.

- 2021 – Russell E, Hall A, McKaigney C, **Goldie, C**, Harle I, Sivilotti M. Code Status Documentation Availability and Accuracy Among Emergency Patients with End-stage Disease. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine* (2021);22(3):628-635. <https://dx.doi.org/10.5811/westjem.2020.12.46801>.
- 2021 – Galica, J., Liu, Z., **Kain, D.**, Merchant, S., Booth, C. M., Koven, R., Brundage, M., & Haase, K. R. Coping during COVID-19: A mixed methods study of older cancer survivors. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, January 6, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-020-05929-5>.
- 2021 – Kobo O, Moledina SM, Slawnych M, **Sinnarajah A**, Simon J, Van Spall HGC, Sun LY, Zoccai GB, Roguin A, Mohamed MO, Mamas MA. Predictors, Treatments, and Outcomes of Do-Not-Resuscitate Status in Acute Myocardial Infarction Patients (from a Nationwide Inpatient Cohort Study). *Am J Cardiol*. 2021 Nov 15;159:8-18. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2021.07.054. PMID: 34656317.
- 2021 – Tan A, Spice R, **Sinnarajah A\***. Family physicians supporting patients with palliative care needs within the

The Division formed a new partnership with the Division of Palliative Care at McMaster University and Pallium Canada to establish the Echo Journal Watch Program – a new educational initiative that regularly reviews current palliative care literature to bring forward important practice changing articles for discussion with clinicians from across Canada.

patient medical home in the community: an appreciative inquiry study. *BMJ Open* 2021;11:e048667. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-048667.

- 2021 – Robinson MC, Qureshi M, **Sinnarajah A**, Chary S, de Groot JM, Feldstain A. Missing in Action: Reports of Interdisciplinary Integration in Canadian Palliative Care. *Curr Oncol*. 2021; 28(4): 2699-2707; <https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol28040235>.
- 2021 – Qureshi M, Robinson MC, **Sinnarajah A**, Chary S, de Groot JM, Feldstain A. Reflecting on Palliative Care Integration in Canada: A Qualitative Report. *Current Oncology*. 2021; 28(4):2753-2762. <https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol28040240>.
- 2021 – Mracek J, Earp M, **Sinnarajah A\***. Palliative home care and emergency department visits in the last 30 and 90 days of life: a retrospective cohort study of patients with cancer. *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* Published Online First: 29 June 2021. doi: 10.1136/bmjspcare-2021-002889.
- 2021 – Sinclair S, Hack TF, MacInnis CC, Jaggi P, Boss H, McClement S, **Sinnarajah A**, Thompson G, COMPASS Research Team. Development and validation of a patient-reported measure of compassion in healthcare: the Sinclair Compassion Questionnaire (SCQ). *BMJ Open*. 2021; 11:e045988. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-045988. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/11/6/e045988>.
- 2021 – Harasym PM, Afzaal M, Brisbin S, Aynharan **Sinnarajah A**, Venturato L, Quail P, Kaasalainen S, Straus S, Sussman T, Virk N, Holroyd-Leduc JM. Multi-disciplinary supportive end of life care in long-term care: an integrative approach to improving end of life. *BMC Geriatrics* 2021; 21(1):1-10. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12877-021-02271-1>.
- 2021 – Dunn S, Earp M, Biondo P, Cheung WY, Kerba M, Tang P, **Sinnarajah A**, Watanabe S, Simon J. Exploring Oncology

Clinicians' Challenges to Providing Palliative Cancer Care – a Theoretical Domains Framework, Pan-Cancer System Survey. *Curr Onc* 2021; 28(2):1483-1494. <https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol28020140>.

- 2021 – Earp M, Cai P, Fong A, Blacklaws K, Pham TM, Shack L, **Sinnarajah A\***. Hospital-based acute care in the last 30 days of life among patients with chronic disease that received early, late or no specialist palliative care: a retrospective cohort study of eight chronic disease groups. *BMJ Open* 2021;11:e044196. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/11/3/e044196>.
- **Dr. Leonie Herx** published a new palliative medicine textbook & authored several chapters in the book. **Dr. Anna Voeuk**, Dr. Hasitha Welihinda and **Dr. Danielle Kain** also contributed chapters.
- 2021 – Kenny N, Kotalik J, **Herx L**, Coelho R, Leiva R. A Catholic Perspective: Triage Principles and Moral Distress in Pandemic Scarcity. *Linacre Quarterly* 2021 May; 88(2):214-223.
- Zimmerman C, Pope A, Hannon B, Krzyzanowska M, Rodin G, Li M, Howell D, Knox J, Leighl N, Sridhar S, Oza A, Prince R, Lheureux S, Hansen A, Rydall A, Chow B, **Herx L**, Booth C, Dudgeon D, Dhani N, Liu G, Bedard P, **Mathews J**, Swami N, Le L. Phase II trial of Symptom screening with Targeted Early Palliative care (STEP) for Patients with Advanced Cancer. *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network* 2021, Sep 7:1-10.

### Administrative Highlights

- Dr. Aynharan Sinnarajah was appointed as the Dr. Gillian Gilchrist Chair in Palliative Care Research. The chair is a joint appointment between the Department of Medicine at Queen's University and Lakeridge Health.
- Congratulations to Dr. Leonie Herx who successfully completed her Schulich Mini-MBA Physician Business Leadership Program!



# Respirology and Sleep Medicine

## Mission Statement

**To provide excellence in the care of respiratory patients in our community. To continuously improve the treatment and prevention of respiratory illnesses by conducting and supporting high quality clinical research, and by educating students and caregivers in state-of-the-art clinical practice of respiratory medicine.**

## Number of Publications

68

## Number of Learners

3 PGY4

3 PGY5

3 PGY6

## Number/Value of Grants

\$463K<sup>+</sup>



**Acting Division Chair**  
DR. SUSAN MOFFATT

Dr. Moffatt has enjoyed a rewarding career in Respirology, Critical Care Medicine and Medical Education. She is grateful for many opportunities to share with learners and colleagues her fascination with medicine and her respect for patients' experiences. She has had the privilege to work with colleagues from multiple disciplines to develop innovative educational programs. She has been honoured to receive several peer- and student-nominated awards from the Department of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine for her work as a clinician, education and mentor. Her current focus is enjoying, supporting and expanding the Division of Respirology and Sleep Medicine.

## Faculty Members & Rank

Associate Professor *Dr. Susan Moffatt*

Professor *Dr. Juan Pablo de Torres* *Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick*  
*Dr. Diane Lougheed* *Dr. Alberto Neder*  
*Dr. Denis O'Donnell*

Associate Professor *Dr. Christine D'Arsigny* *Dr. Geneviève Digby*  
*Dr. Onofre Moran Mendoza*  
*Dr. Christopher Parker*

Assistant Professor *Dr. Sophie Crinion* *Dr. Helen Driver*  
*Dr. Paul Heffernan* *Dr. Christina Liak*

## Awards

Dr. Denis O'Donnell *2021 DOM Mentorship Award*

Dr. Diane Lougheed *2021 DOM Research Achievement Award*

Dr. Susan Moffatt *W.F. Connell Award for Clinical Teaching*

Dr. Christine D'Arsigny *ICU Teaching Award (KHSC CCM Training Program)*  
Dr. Juan Pablo de Torres *Became a Fellow of the European Respiratory Society*

Dr. Parker, et al *Won the Lung Cancer Innovation Challenge Dr. Digby, held by Merck Canada to fund the LDAP satellite clinic*

<b>Dr. Digby</b>	<i>Promoted to Associate Professor</i>
<b>Dr. Loughheed</b>	<i>Appointed to Vice Dean (Clinical) and Medical Director of SEAMO in December 2021</i>

### COVID-19 Updates

- The activities of the Pulmonary Function Lab were reduced due to necessary safety protocols and staff re-deployment. Through careful triaging of requests, focused ordering, and dedicated staff effort, the lab was able to provide essential services throughout the pandemic.
- Lack of access delayed patient-based research projects. Investigators used detailed analysis of their clinical databases to generate significant research output.
- The Sleep Lab capacity was reduced due to safety protocols. The Respiratory Sleep technologists re-directed their skills to assist in-patients needed nocturnal ventilation.
- Many of our fragile respiratory patients were reluctant to attend in-person appointments. We continued to provide in-person procedures and clinics, and greatly expanded our virtual clinics to meet the clinical demand.
- Three members of our Division were seconded to CCM during the peak of the COVID-19 waves, and three others provided back-up supervision for the Clinical Teaching Units.
- Restrictions on in-person education significantly altered of process of undergraduate and postgraduate education. Divisional faculty developed high-quality, innovative learning experiences using virtual platforms, many of which will continue to be employed.
- Despite personal and professional challenges, the clinicians, administrative staff and residents maintained our patient focus and supportive spirit.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinical Highlights

- The Lung Diagnostic Assessment Program (LDAP), led by Dr. Geneviève Digby, is successfully reducing the time for patients suspected of having lung cancer to receive diagnosis and treatment. Although during COVID-19, the time from patients being suspected of lung cancer to being referred to the LDAP increased, the times from referral to diagnosis and treatment were not lengthened.
- Dr. Geneviève Digby and Dr. Chris Parker received funding in 2021 to develop a satellite Lung Diagnostic Assessment Centre at Lennox and Addington Hospital in Napanee to expand the timely assessment of patients with possible lung cancer. The clinic is scheduled to open in early 2022 and involves novel collaboration with community respirologist in providing care

and the Indigenous community in the clinic's design and operations.

- The Sleep Program managed multiple patient concerns due to the international recall of a device used to treat sleep apnea.
- The annual number of endobronchial ultrasound procedures (EBUS) increased to 285 this year from 80 when first introduced.
- We appreciate the contributions of two community Respirologists to enable us to fulfil our clinical and academic responsibilities during a staffing short-fall.
- A Sleep Educator was hired to improve efficiency in Sleep Clinics.

### Educational Highlights

- Dr. Christina Liak became the Program Director of the postgraduate Respirology Residency Training Program in July 2021. The Program received 30 applications for our 3 positions and filled those with excellent candidates for 2022.
- The Program successfully hosted the provincial Respirology Residency Conference using a virtual format.
- There is a PGY6 resident in each of the Sleep Medicine and Quality Improvement one -year Fellowships, and one in a 6-month Cystic Fibrosis Fellowship.
- Our faculty expressed its dedication to excellence in medical education and delivered over 100 creative virtual sessions for our undergraduate and postgraduate learners.

### Publication Highlights

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, 7 members of the Division published a total of 68 articles in peer-reviewed journals in this year, spanning the range of Respiratory medicine. Representative publications of note include:

- **Drs. Denis O'Donnell, Alberto Neder and Juan Pablo de Torres** combined their expertise in clinical physiology and detailed data-base analysis to publish 23 papers in high impact journals. Their work includes exploring and explaining the pathophysiology of breathlessness, advancing the interpretation of pulmonary function tests and studying the early detection and evolution of emphysema, particularly in women. Clinical and Prognostic Impact of Low Diffusing Capacity for Carbon Monoxide Values in Patients With Global Initiative for Obstructive Lung Disease I COPD. *Chest*. 2021 Sep;160(3):872-878. doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2021.04.033. Epub 2021 Apr 24. PMID: 33901498.
- **Drs. Geneviève Digby, Chris Parker** and colleagues published the success of the LDAP clinic in expediting the care of patients in the LDAP clinic. Expediting Specialist Referral for Patients with Suspected Lung Cancer through Standardization of Radiologist Reporting. *Canadian Journal of Respiratory, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine*. 2021. Published online Aug 24, DOI:10.1080/24745332.2021.1955039

- **Dr. Diane Lougheed's** research focuses on improving asthma care on a national level. Pan-Canadian standards for severe asthma in electronic medical records. *Canadian Journal of Respiratory, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine* 2021; 5(6): 391-399. DOI: 10.1080/24745332.2021.1947758.
- **Dr. Onofre Moran-Mendoza** and colleagues published the first report of a possible connection between common bedding products and interstitial lung disease. Mold in Foam Pillows and Mattresses: a Novel Cause of Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis. *CHEST* 2021; 160(3):e259-e263.
- **Dr. Sophie Crinion** published her original research on the correlation between nocturnal blood pressure and sleep apnea. Non-dipping nocturnal blood pressure correlates with sleep apnea severity in normotensive subjects and may respond to therapy. *ERJ Open Res.* 2021 Aug 16;7(3):00338-2021. doi: 10.1183/23120541.00338-2021. eCollection 2021 July.

### Administrative Highlights

- We congratulate Dr. Diane Lougheed on her promotion,

December 1, 2021, to the role of Vice Dean (Clinical) and Medical Director of SEAMO. We are grateful for her leadership as our Division Chair for the past 5 years. Fortunately, she will continue to contribute to the Division's academic and clinical endeavours, particularly in the care of patients with severe asthma and cystic fibrosis.

- Dr. Sue Moffatt accepted the role of Interim Division Chair while a search is conducted for the next Chair.
- After being a member of the Division for 8 years, in July 2021, Dr. Paul Heffernan is focusing his career on Critical Care Medicine.
- Dr. Geneviève Digby became the first faculty member to be promoted to Associate Professor in the Quality Improvement stream.
- Dr. Mike Fitzpatrick continued to provide exceptional service to KHSC as the Chief of Staff during the pandemic. Remarkably, he continues to contribute to Respirology particularly in Sleep Medicine and the Neuromuscular clinic.

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## Faculty Profile Dr. Denis O'Donnell

Dr. Denis O'Donnell joined the Division of Respirology in 1988. In the following 33 years, he has made enormous contributions to our Division, particularly to the care and understanding of patients with COPD. He worked tirelessly to develop a research program that has led to the publication of over 400 peer-reviewed articles, 51 book chapters and 14 books, which have changed how clinicians understand dyspnea. His expertise has earned him international respect reflected in his role developing influential guidelines and receipt of personal honours from national societies including the Canadian Thoracic Society, American Thoracic Society and European Respiratory Society. He developed the Respiratory Rehabilitation Program and continues to provide devoted, expert care to patients with advanced disease. He has mentored colleagues and researchers from multiple disciplines and educated countless students and residents. He served as Director of the Respirology Residency Training Program from 1992-2000, and Division Chair from 2001-2007. He has been involved with numerous local, provincial, national and international committees. Through his research, presentations and example, Dr. O'Donnell has brought international recognition to Queen's. He will be retiring as an Emeritus Professor in May 2022 and is looking forward to having well-deserved time in his native Ireland. The Division of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine would like to take this opportunity to express our lasting appreciation to Dr. O'Donnell for his many contributions and our very best wishes to him and his family.



Dr. Denis O'Donnell

## Rheumatology



**Division Chair**  
DR. MALA JONEJA

Dr. Mala Joneja is an Associate Professor and the Division Chair for the Division of Rheumatology. She is currently an Education Leader-in-Residence at Queen's University with a focus on anti-racist pedagogy in higher education. She also spends time as the EDIIA Lead and as a member of the Executive Committee for the Translational Institute of Medicine-TIME since 2018.

### Faculty Members & Rank

Associate Professor *Dr. Mala Joneja*

Professor Emeritus *Dr. Tassos Anastassiades*

Professor *Dr. Tanveer Towheed*

Assistant Professor *Dr. Marie Clements-Baker Dr. Tabitha Kung  
Dr. Emma Tang*

### COVID-19 Updates

- The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a quick pivot to virtual care and telemedicine which we were able to accommodate.
- All educational activities were changed to virtual delivery.
- Rheumatology patients had many questions and concerns related to COVID-19 vaccines and were able to keep our patients informed.
- The division of Rheumatology has maintained virtual visits and telemedicine for patients that need this in order to provide more patient-centred care.
- Educational events in Rheumatology that can be attended virtually have proliferated over the last 2 years and attendance has been excellent.

### DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

#### Clinical Highlights

- Collaborative clinics: In the 2021-2022 academic year, we were very happy to continue our collaboration with Nephrology and Respiriology.
- Locum Rheumatologist: We welcomed Dr. Emma Tang, Locum Rheumatologist, who helped us with patient care for many months. Her thoughtful and friendly approach was appreciated by both physicians and patients.

### Mission Statement

#### To Provide:

**Care that is excellent and compassionate for patients with rheumatic diseases in our region**

**Education, at all levels of medical education including undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education**

**Research that is cutting edge and translational in areas including:**

- **Conditions of bone and cartilage**
- **The epidemiology of osteoporosis**

### Number of Publications

68

### Number of Learners

2 PGY4

2 PGY5



## Rheumatology continues to be a popular subspecialty choice and the Rheumatology subspecialty training program continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Marie Clements-Baker.

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### Educational Highlights

- **Thriving training program:** Rheumatology continues to be a popular subspecialty choice and the Rheumatology subspecialty training program continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Marie Clements-Baker. We hope to increase our capacity for trainees. We are pleased that several of our graduates have decided to practice in the local area. We are extremely happy

to have contributed to a training pipeline that will serve Southeast Ontario.

- **Contributions to EDI:** Dr. Mala Joneja continued contributions to work being done to enhance equity, diversity and inclusion. She co-created a forum for the Dean's Action Table on EDI which was a well-attended successful event.

### Research Highlights

- We are grateful for Dr. Tanveer Towheed's contribution to studying the infection risk in osteoporosis treatment and the Rheumatologic complications of checkpoint inhibitor medications.

### Administrative Highlights

- The division continued to make stellar contributions to Medical Grand Rounds and Medical Mortality and Morbidity Rounds.
- Our front-line staff demonstrated amazing resilience during the pandemic in responding to patient requests and giving patients reassurance during this stressful time. Our sincere thanks to Holly Shea, Kerri Rochon, Sandra Dudley and Katie Murrell.

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In 2021 we were faced with multiple COVID-19 waves, repeated school closings, travel restrictions, constantly changing public health and vaccine policies and a pandemic that just would not go away. Through it all we showed dedication to patient care, education and research. Through it all we remained a cohesive Department of friends and colleagues that celebrated each other's achievements and discoveries and were there with a kind word or deed when a colleague was struggling. That is not to say we didn't have moments of sadness, frustration and even despair (I know I had a few)! However, we are now entering the 3rd period in our match against COVID-19 and while this pandemic is not going to concede easily, we are winning! To complete the victory we will need the same skills that every successful hockey

team has used to emerge victorious. As we head in to 2022 we will need to keep our heads and spirits up, this pandemic feeds on despair. We need to remember that we are part of something larger, a team which is heroically and cohesively fighting the pandemic while delivering excellent health care to the 99% of people who don't have COVID-19. Finally, I find it helps to envision ourselves on a Heroes Journey that will culminate in a return to a world without masks, a world with more travel and stable opening of schools and business-a return to a simpler more normal life. In my eyes you are each Heroes. A heartfelt thank you for helping us put the puck in the net in 2021 and here's to victory over COVID-19 in 2022... no overtime please!

**DR. STEPHEN ARCHER**







DEPARTMENT OF  
MEDICINE

**Etherington Hall**

94 Stuart Street

Kingston, ON, Canada, K7L 3N6

613-533-2967 | [medicine@queensu.ca](mailto:medicine@queensu.ca)