# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report from the Head........................................................................................................... 3  
GFT Executive ...................................................................................................................... 5  
Undergraduate Education ................................................................................................. 7  
Postgraduate Education .................................................................................................. 10  
Research............................................................................................................................ 15

**SECTION REPORTS**

Cardiac Surgery .................................................................................................................. 20  
General Surgery .................................................................................................................. 28  
Neurosurgery ....................................................................................................................... 36  
Orthopedic Surgery ............................................................................................................ 41  
Pediatric General Surgery ................................................................................................. 54  
Plastic Surgery ..................................................................................................................... 60  
Surgical Oncology ............................................................................................................... 67  
Thoracic Surgery .................................................................................................................. 72  
Urology ................................................................................................................................. 77  
Vascular Surgery .................................................................................................................. 81
Report from the Head

Dr. Jack McPherson

On behalf of the Department of Surgery, it is an honour for me to present to you, the 2011 Annual Report.

One of the largest departments in the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Medicine, the Department of Surgery is a growing, dynamic and innovative group of surgeons dedicated to clinical excellence, educational distinction and ground breaking research. The significant achievements of our members are highlighted throughout this report. Our members are engaged in all facets of the University’s mission with leadership roles in research and administration.

2011 saw the continued growth in the complement of surgeons with the addition of Dr. Jason Beiko to the Section of Neurosurgery, Dr’s Tom McGregor, Turki Al-Essawi and Brenda Hildebrand to the Section of Urology, and Dr’s Krista Hardy, Brent Zabolotony, Ali Khan, and Brent Anderson to the Section of General Surgery.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Richard Nason for his vision and leadership as Department Head for the past five years. Many of the noteworthy advances and accomplishments of the Department of Surgery and its members are attributed to Dr. Nason’s commitment to the clinical, academic and research mission of the Department and the Faculty. We saw a renaissance on research with the introduction of an annual research grant competition. The annual research day was also rejuvenated and is now a well established venue where our researchers can showcase their work. The residents have also contributed hugely to the success of the day by submitting their work for presentation. Dr. Nason also worked tirelessly to secure the funding for the Thorlakson Chair in Surgical Research. The efforts that Dr. Nason put into practice plans and contracts for individual members reflects on the concern he had for the future well-being of the Department.

As we look forward, we recognize the shifting paradigm of academic medicine. Many of our specialties are now entirely hospital based with all members on the full-time academic staff. We now, as an academic Department, carry the entire burden of providing specialty care for the Province of Manitoba in many areas. Our base has broadened and all formerly “community based” hospitals are now fulfilling important niches in the Department’s patient care mandate and educational matrices. The times are changing but our Department will continue to build and evolve on the excellent foundation of our past: provide exceptional care to our patients, excellence in teaching for our undergraduate and postgraduate students and lead in the exploration and development of surgery by actively engaging in research. These are the
cornerstones of our Faculty of Medicine mission and we must remain focused on our mission to secure a promising future for our patients and students.

Periods of transition are always challenging but I want to thank all the surgeons and support staff for their genuine support and encouragement during this time of change. We have many more challenges ahead but if we face them together and move forward as one by consensus, we can overcome them. This has been a very productive year from every perspective and I want to thank and congratulate everyone for their contribution.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jack McPherson
The reporting period for this report encompasses October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. I assumed the role of Chair of the GFT Executive as of July 1, 2011. Dr. Michael Goytan has served the Executive as Chair for the past four years. Dr. Goytan is now the past Chair and will continue on with the Executive in this role. Thank you Michael, for all your efforts as Chair of the GFT Executive and as a long standing member of the Executive Committee.

The clinical members of the GFT Executive are the Department Head, Dr. Richard Nason, five elected members, and the Heads of Surgery at St. Boniface Hospital, Dr. Randy Guzman, and Health Sciences Centre, Dr. Ed Buchel.

The five elected members are: Dr. Greg Harding, Dr. Jeremy Lipschitz, Dr. Leif Sigurdson, Dr. Sadeesh Srinathan, and Dr. Cliff Yaffe. Their two year term began on July 1, 2011. Dr. Harding is serving his second term on the Executive, having been re-elected in the last membership vote. He has been a member of the Department since 2007.

Dr. Lipschitz has been a member of the Department since 1992. He was previously the Chair of the Executive from 2001 to 2007. He is also a member of the UMG Executive; currently serving as the Secretary. He is also the Vice President of the Clinical Teachers Association of the University of Manitoba. Given this vast array of experience and exposure, he brings an overall Faculty experience to the Executive.

Dr. Leif Sigurdson joined our Department in 2008 and brings experience from the Halifax region and their effort to modernize and edit their group governance. He is also an MBA; providing the group with a well-needed medical business perspective.
Dr. Srinathan, appointed in the Department in 2009, is one of our newest members. He brings with him a background of exposure to multiple surgical departments in the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

Dr. Cliff Yaffe has been a member of the GFT Surgery group since 1998. He is Head of General Surgery for the Region and is a committed clinician and teacher. He has also recently accepted the position of Postgraduate Associate Dean.

The Executive also includes the Chief Operating Officer, Jack Sorenson, who has been with the group since 2009. Tamara Cipriano is the Executive Assistant for the GFT; having been a member of the Department since 2010.

The Executive has a healthy mix of new members of the Department and members with previous experience as to the functions of the Executive.

The GFT Executive is committed to representing the membership. Members should have no hesitation in approaching any member of the current Executive with their questions or concerns.

Before assuming my role, the past Executive members discussed with me the highlights and areas they felt were important in the functioning of the Executive over the past two years, July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. The current business of the Executive is focusing on a review of expenses. The review is intended to allow all members of the Executive to have knowledge of the expenses in detail. Once this review is completed, the Executive aims to assess the option of providing a predictable academic contribution. This is not without difficulty given the variations in financial support provided from the University. We currently have an academic fund, with Terms of Reference agreed to at the GFT Council and defined by the previous GFT Executive. A subcommittee of the Executive has been formed to review the governance of the group. The principles brought forward to date are transparency, accountability, and efficiency. This governance is expected to be in keeping with overall governance principles expected with the formation of the Joint Operating Division.

Currently the Department membership stands at 97 members involved in clinical activities in sites throughout the Winnipeg region. The governance will require modernization given the changes that have occurred within the University and region. Our relationship with the WRHA, the University, and the newly formed JOD will need to be defined in a manner respective of the needs of the patients, the undergraduate and postgraduate trainees, and the surgical members.

As the members are aware, we moved to a new billing system on March 1, 2011. The new software is Accuro Billing and Scheduling from Optimed Software Corporation. The billing office was relocated to the 3rd floor, 825 Sherbrook Street (SMD building) on April 1, 2011. Candace Ste. Marie is the supervisor of the Surgical Billing Office. The group is grateful for the continued support from the billing office.

The Executive looks forward to the activity of their current tenure.

Respectfully submitted,
George Assuras
Undergraduate Education

Dr. Larry Tan, Director

Committee Members
Dr. Larry Tan
Dr. Kris Milbrandt
Dr. Keith Warran
Dr. Virginia Fraser
Dr. Lawrence Gillman
Dr. Ashley Vergis
Dr. Ethel McIntosh
Dr. Neil Berrington
Dr. Jamie Dubberley
Vacant (Dr. Stephanie Olivier until July 2011)
Dr. Jeff Saranchuk
Dr. Greg Harding
Karen Holmes

Director & Thoracic Surgery
Incoming Director & Pediatric Surgery
Cardiac Surgery
General Surgery
General Surgery
General Surgery
Surgical Oncology
Neurosurgery
Orthopedic Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Urology
Vascular Surgery
Coordinator, Undergraduate Surgery
Programs

Administrative Changes
The Surgery Undergraduate Education Committee welcomed Dr. Vergis and Dr. Gillman as representatives for General Surgery. The Committee also thanked Dr. Olivier for her contributions to undergraduate education. Staffing in the Surgery Education Office (SEO), has continued to change over this academic year. Mary Brychka worked directly with Dr. Nason as Surgery Education Advisor focusing on special projects related to Surgical Education. Wendi Charette, Program Assistant, assumed several additional administrative responsibilities in the SEO. Donna Shepard resigned as Program Coordinator for Orthopedics due to a move out of province and this position has now been filled by Michelle Elands. Linda Mydynski, Coordinator for Plastic Surgery announced her retirement. Lesli Sutherland, Cardiac Surgery, was seconded to other responsibilities in Cardiac Surgery, and the Program Coordinator position was vacated. Jackie MacLean has been hired as Program Coordinator for Cardiac Surgery, Urology and Vascular Surgery and will have her office at St. Boniface General Hospital. Karen Holmes assumed the position of Undergraduate Coordinator. Administrative restructuring in the Surgery Education Office with dedicated Program Coordinators continues to evolve.
Accreditation
The Faculty of Medicine underwent an undergraduate accreditation review by CACMs and LCME in April 2011. The accreditors have given the medical school continued accreditation.

Two areas of non-compliance that directly involve the Department of Surgery highlight that we must use outcome measures to ensure the comparability of clinical experiences and assessment methods of the various learning sites (ED-8), and provide mid-rotation feedback to the students in a timely manner (ED-31). There were late or absent mid-rotation evaluations (MITERs) for one-third to one-half of students.

An area of compliance that will continue to be monitored involving the Department of Surgery is the preparation of residents and fellows for their roles as teachers of medical students (ED-24).

A report to CACMS and LCME from the Faculty of Medicine is required by August 2012, with an internal UGME deadline of June 2012 for completion of this report. The MITER completion rate will need to be improved by June 2012.

End-rotation Evaluations
While many FITERs for end-rotation evaluations were submitted after the 5-day end of rotation deadline, Surgery was able to submit all evaluations for the Class of 2012 before the final deadline for the Medical Student Progress Report (Dean’s Letter).

OPAL
Much of the work to transition the Department to an online curriculum (OPAL) has been completed. Karen Holmes and Wendi Charette from the Surgery Education Office deserve credit for this work.

Access Surgery
Access Surgery is an online educational platform developed by McGraw-Hill. Access Surgery contains a number of surgical textbooks, procedure manuals, anatomy atlases, practice exam questions, and videos that would be helpful in the education of medical students, junior and senior residents, and for CME for the attending surgeons. Access Surgery is also linked to Access Medicine, which also has a number of surgical resources. Renewal of the Access Surgery subscription depends on the usage of this resource. The link to Access Surgery can be found on the Department’s Surgery Education web page and the medical library web page.

SharePoint
Work continues on the SharePoint site. This site is used mostly in the Surgery Education Office and by the Program Coordinators.

Surgery Clerkship Objectives
The Surgery Clerkship objectives were completely revised to integrate CanMeds competencies for all clinical rotations. These objectives were recently approved for change and are posted on the Department’s Undergraduate Education page, along with orientation information for each rotation. Changes to orientation information can be made at any time by the Undergraduate Program Director or Undergraduate Coordinator for each Section.

Introduction To Clerkship
Feedback from the 2011 Introduction to Clerkship sessions was generally positive for Surgery.
Friday Teaching Day
The Friday Teaching Day sessions continue to be well-received by the students. There have been very few instances of teacher absenteeism. In some cases, senior residents were recruited to teach, and these sessions were well-received. Going forward, senior residents and fellows can be integrated into the teaching schedule, but this will require faculty monitoring and evaluation (ED-24).

Undergraduate Teaching Hours
We have collected assigned undergraduate teaching hours for Surgery, complete to last year. Please note that these hours are not necessarily the same as an individual surgeon’s annual teaching, which should continue to be tracked by each member. At present, OPAL does not work as a tracking method, either for the Department or for individual teachers.

Faculty Feedback
There has not yet been a clear online method established for faculty feedback. There have been meetings with the OPAL developers and the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medicine to determine if OPAL would serve as a comprehensive feedback method. The faculty feedback built into OPAL is extensive, but not adaptable for the Department’s purposes.

Clerkship Electives
Dr. John Lee was recently appointed in the Faculty of Medicine as the Electives Director, Undergraduate Medical Education for Clerkship Electives.

MCCQE Part I Results 2011
The University of Manitoba moved from 13th to 8th place in the MCCQE rankings for the 2011 sitting of the LMCC.

Major Priorities for 2011-2012
The areas of focus for 2011-2012 priorities are to decide whether to adapt OPAL to meet the Department’s goals for faculty feedback, or whether to establish a separate process and use a different online platform; improve MITER & FITER completion rates and improve oversight of the evaluative process; become more involved in the development and eventual delivery of the new undergraduate curriculum, especially for the pre-clerkship years.

My second three-year term as Director for Surgery Undergraduate Education finishes at the end of 2011. Dr. Kris Milbrandt is taking over this position as of January 1, 2012. I would like to thank the Department’s members for their support of undergraduate education.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Tan
Postgraduate Education

Dr. B.J. Hancock, Director

Committee Members
Dr. Chris Andrew                              General Surgery
Dr. Jack McPherson                             Orthopedic Surgery
Dr. Leif Sigurdson                              Plastic Surgery
Dr. Karen Psooy                                 Urology
Dr. Patrick McDonald                           Neurosurgery
Dr. John Lee                                    Cardiac Surgery
Dr. Adnan Shah                                 Oral Surgery
Dr. Larry Tan                                   Thoracic Surgery
Dr. Josh Koulack                               Vascular Surgery

There are nine Surgery Education Programs that are supported by the Surgery Education Office in the Department of Surgery at the University of Manitoba:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Program Director &amp; Program Coordinator</th>
<th>Number of Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Chris Andrew, Melissa Cowan</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Jack McPherson, Donna Shepard/Michelle Elands</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Leif Sigurdson, Linda Mydynski</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Psooy, Donna Coulis/Jackie MacLean</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>Dr. Patrick McDonald, Karla Patterson</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. John Lee, Lesli Sutherland/Jackie MacLean</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Adnan Shah, Heather Katrick</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoracic Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Larry Tan, Diane Best</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vascular Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Josh Koulack, Liz Demasson/Jackie MacLean</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During 2011 the Surgery Postgraduate Education Committee met five times. There were no meetings during the summer months. Other members of the Committee included Dr. Helmut Unruh (Research) and Dr. Richard Nason (Department Head). Dr. Larry Tan was Director of Undergraduate Medical Education and Dr. Cliff Yaffe was Director of the Surgical Foundations Program. Resident representatives for the past year were Dr. Randy Mascarenhas (Orthopedic Surgery) and Dr. Kenny Kumar (Cardiac Surgery) for PARIM residents. Dr. Sheyma Al-Romaihi (General Surgery/Pediatric General Surgery) was succeeded by Dr. Phil Dawe (General Surgery) for the Visa-trainee residents. Dr. Ramin Koldebarin (General Surgery) represented the Surgical Foundations Program. Dr. Les Garber, Otolaryngology Program Director, sat on the Committee as this program participates in the Surgical Foundations Program. Dr. Michael West stepped down as Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education, November 14, 2011, and Dr. Cliff Yaffe accepted the position. Donna Coulis has been hired to work with Dr. Yaffe as his Administrative Assistant in the Faculty PGME office. Dr. Ira Ripstein was Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education.

Highlights of 2011

1. GGH-8 Renovation for Surgery Resident On-Call, Resource and E-library Facilities
   The Health Sciences Centre 8th floor Surgery Resource and On-Call Room renovation was completed with a Grand Opening on May 18, 2011. A Digital Signage TV (Four Winds Interactive) was installed in the fall.

2. Surgical Foundations Program
   The Objectives of Surgical Foundations Training document, outlining the competencies that PGY1 and PGY2 level residents must acquire and demonstrate before entering their third year of training, is available on the Royal College website. Dr. Yaffe, Director of Surgical Foundations, together with Program Directors in each specialty, determine whether these competencies have been successfully achieved by each resident. Remediation is required for residents not successful in meeting the requirements of Surgical Foundations. The Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course (ACLS), the Advanced Trauma Life Support Course (ATLS®), the Ultrasound Course for Vascular Access (iccuelearning) and the Procedural Sedation Course have been designated as essential for completion of Surgical Foundations. As such, registration fees are reimbursed by the WRHA for all residents in surgical training programs who successfully complete these courses.

3. Undergraduate Medical Education Accreditation
   The formal accreditation for the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Medicine, Undergraduate Medical Education, took place in April 2011 and full accreditation was achieved. A number of weaknesses were identified and are being addressed by the Dean. As part of succession planning in Surgical Undergraduate Medical Education, Dr. Kris Milbrandt will transition into the position of Director, Surgical UGME over 2011-2012 succeeding Dr. Larry Tan. Dr. John Lee has assumed the position of Director, Clerkship Electives.

4. Fellowship Programs
   Dr. Alok Pathak, Fellowship Director, Department of Surgery, working with the Faculty of Medicine PGME and WRHA Joint Operating Division, has streamlined the Fellowship Registration applications and funding options within the Department of Surgery. There are currently nine approved Fellowship programs in the Department of Surgery, of which only Thoracic Surgery has approval through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. A Trauma Fellowship has been proposed but not approved by PGME as yet. Fellowships in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) and Colorectal Surgery are being assessed. Dean Postl has indicated support for funding Fellowships in different specialties, which is critical as Fellowships are not funded and rely on sponsorship funding or billing for support. Fellows
often receive a far lesser income than residents due to lack of funding. The specifics of this financial support are pending. In addition, offices and/or a Fellow’s resource room are lacking and Fellows do not have access to Resident Resource rooms or call rooms.

5. Physician Assistants Program (PAEP)
The Physician Assistant Program is well established. Surgical Oncology and Neurosurgery have employed Physician Assistants. Surgeons are involved in the surgical core lecture series as well as clinical rotations in Surgery (Pediatric General Surgery). Several specialty areas within Surgery are anxious to acquire funded positions for Physician Assistants to ease patient care work loads.

6. SharePoint and “Surgical Education Matters” Newsletter
The Department of Surgery Education SharePoint site can be accessed at [http://programsharepoint.manitoba-ehealth.ca/surgery](http://programsharepoint.manitoba-ehealth.ca/surgery). The site librarians are Wendi Charette and Karen Holmes who can be reached at 787-7581 and 787-3154, respectively, with questions or for members of the Department of Surgery to request access. The SharePoint site is a website providing central storage and collaboration space for documents, information and ideas. The Department of Surgery education newsletter “Surgical Education Matters” was proposed as a quarterly publication to update members of the Department of Surgery of issues important to Surgical Education. Regular publication has not been achieved to date but is anticipated.

7. Surgical Postgraduate Scholarship Fund
The Surgical Education Fund continues to provide $15,000 for tuition support for residents doing Masters in Surgery or PhD programs. Dr. Ramzi Helewia, General Surgery, was awarded $5,100 in recognition of his work in the Masters of Science (Surgery) Program. Dr. Helewa’s thesis is entitled “Does Geography Influence the Treatment and Outcomes of Colorectal Cancer in the Province of Manitoba”. His supervisor is Dr. Andrew McKay.

8. Surgical Education Fund
The Surgical Education Fund distribution remained at $2,000 per resident with a minimum of $6,000 per program. This year, programs were instructed to submit a budget proposal for the 2012-2013 academic year. To date, all budgets have been approved by Dr. Nason. A revision submitted by the Plastic Surgery program has not yet been processed.

9. Royal College Examination
There were 19 Surgery candidates who sat their 2011 Principles of Surgery (POS) Examination for Surgical Foundations. Twelve residents completed their surgical residency training programs and sat their Royal College Fellowship Examinations in 2011.

10. Surgical Skills Courses
The Surgery Education Programs Office scheduled 12 courses during the 2011 year. Surgical simulation continues to evolve. The Clinical Learning and Simulation Centre can accommodate simulated clinical skills such as colonoscopy and bronchoscopy. The Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®) course also uses this facility for the Surgical Skill Station. The Dean proposed a renovation of Theatre D into a clinical skills lab offering 3000 square feet of space for medical education. Shaun Beach, Operations Director, and Dr. Rob Brown, Medical Director, for the CLSF requested input from Surgical Program Directors regarding their anticipated needs for this facility.

Renovations have not commenced as yet. Dr. Jason Park represents Surgery on the CLSF Operations Committee. High fidelity simulation courses (laparoscopic, thoracoscopic) are carried out at the R.O. Burrell Laboratory at St. Boniface Research Centre. Significant upgrades in equipment are needed to maintain satisfactory standards for Surgical Education.
11. Educational Courses for Residents
Further restructuring of core educational activities has occurred over 2011. Practice Solutions, a subsidiary of the Canadian Medical Association, provided a full day seminar on January 27, 2011 for senior specialty residents entitled “Practice Management Seminar” as part of the Faculty of Medicine PGME Core Curriculum Sessions. The session covered issues of practice management relevant to the start of clinical practice (practice opportunities, physician remuneration, insurance and taxation) and is considered mandatory for all senior specialty residents. The Resident Teaching Development Program (TDP), formerly TIPS, is mandatory for all residents. It is a 3-Part Program and residents are required to attend all 3 sessions to obtain a Certificate of Completion.

12. CaRMS Allocations for 2012
The Department of Surgery was allocated 14 CaRMS positions by the Faculty Postgraduate Medical Education Office for the 2011 CaRMS Resident Match. Successful residents for these positions commenced training in July 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. OPAL for Postgraduate Medical Education Programs
The intention to bring OPAL to Postgraduate Medical Education continues but has not been realized to date.

14. Surgery Education Website
The Surgery Education site on the U of M Website continues to develop and is updated by Wendi Charette on a regular basis.

15. PARIM
The HSC PARIM office will be relocated to GF109 once renovations are complete.

16. Chief Resident Workshop
The second Chief Resident Workshop was held March 9, 2011. The next workshop is scheduled for January 10&11, 2012. Feedback from Senior Residents participating in the Workshop has been uniformly positive.

17. George W Leroux Memorial Award
The George W. Leroux Memorial Award was distributed to Programs in the Department of Surgery. Recipients of this award are residents who have shown promise in their specialty and demonstrate excellence in research. Recipients of this award in 2011 were:

Chris White  Cardiac Surgery
David Horne   Cardiac Surgery
Kenny Kumar   Cardiac Surgery
Lu Zhang      Cardiac Surgery
Markus Ziesmann General Surgery
Reagan Maniar General Surgery
Ramzi Helewa  General Surgery
James Denis   General Surgery
Jonathan Marsh Orthopedic Surgery
Randy Mascarenhas Orthopedic Surgery
Chris Kim     Orthopedic Surgery
Awards for residents in Plastic Surgery and Neurosurgery are pending.

18. The Future of Surgical PGME- 2012
Several changes in Program Directors are anticipated in 2012. The Program Directors will be:
Dr. Tod Clark for Orthopedics, Dr. Avinash Islur for Plastic Surgery,
Dr. Turki Al-Essawi for Urology, and Dr. Donna Sutherland for Otolaryngology.

Significant restructuring of Surgical PGME is anticipated in 2012. Dr. Jack McPherson will transition into the position of Director, Surgical PGME and Dr. Denis Hosking will be contracted as a Senior Academic Advisor for Surgical Postgraduate Medical Education.

Respectfully submitted,
B.J. Hancock
Research Advisory Committee (RAC) met several times and adopted an open membership on the advice of Dr. Nason. The activities of the Director and the RAC fall into two entities:

- Surgical Research
- Masters of Science in Surgery Program

This year the Committee continued to flourish with the renewal previously reported, and we were again charged with two major tasks. The first was to establish a mechanism and oversee the distribution of Research Grants to members from the clinical earnings of the Geographical Full-Time surgeons. A small sub-committee met early to establish a mechanism of grant review that would ensure a standard process was applied to this important task that was in keeping with existing processes of other granting agencies. A larger sub-committee then reviewed the applications and met to rank the applications and make recommendations. The final allocation rested with the Department Head. The second task was to arrange the Department-wide research day. Most sections have resident research days, and some have very active regional and national research forums that our residents participate in. These will also be highlighted in this report. The Director continues monitoring the activities of the residents in the M.Sc. Surgery Program by ensuring initial compliance with the Faculty of Graduate Studies requirements and requesting progress reports at the halfway point and upon completion.

Research Grant Awards: This year’s call for applications again called for the submission of a two-page application detailing the proposed project and a one-page budgetary outline. All 18
applications were received by the deadline. The list of successful applications, the title of the research project, and the amount awarded is as follows:

Dr. K. Hardy  
Title: The impact of a dedicated Acute Care Surgical Service on the delivery of care for patients with general surgical emergencies  
Award: $15,000

Dr. R. Keijzer  
Title: Exploring Prenatal Therapeutic Interventions Using Nanotechnology  
Award: $15,000

Dr. S. Srinathan  
Title: Noninferiority RCT Trial of Paravertebral Analgesia Compared to Epidural Analgesia For The Control of Post-thoracotomy Pain: A Proposal for a Pilot Study  
Award: $15,000

Dr. D. Freed  
Title: Optimal Resuscitation of Hearts From Donors After Circulatory Death For Transplantation  
Award: $15,000

Dr. T. Turgeon  
Title: The relationship between changes in joint load and relief of OA knee pain in the morbidly obese patient  
Award: $15,000

Dr. J. Krcek  
Title: Cytotoxic effects of noble metal-laden Right Handed Coiled Coil (RHCC) nanotubes in human glioblastoma (GB) stem-like cell populations  
Award: $15,000

Dr. L. Gillman  
Title: Standardized Assessment of Ultrasound Image Acquisition  
Award: $15,000

Dr. P. MacDonald  
Title: The Effects of Wait Times on Rotator Cuff Size: a Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial  
Award: $15,000

Dr. S. Logsetty  
Title: The Role of Laser Therapy in the Management of Burn Scars  
Award: $15,000

Dr. R. Arora  
Title: Determining clinically relevant biomarkers for the early detection of cardiac surgery associated acute kidney injury  
Award: $15,000

Dr. K. A. Pathak  
Title: Micro RNA profile in Follicular Neoplasm  
Award: $15,000
Dr. E. Bohm  
Title: Analysis of Synovial Fluid of Patients Undergoing Primary and Revision Total Joint Arthroplasty  
Award: $15,000

Congratulations to all the researchers who were successful in obtaining funding. We look forward to hearing of your progress at future meetings.

On Wednesday January 18, 2012, the Department held its annual Research Forum. This was an open forum in which residents and attending surgeons presented. Drs. Rakesh Arora and Jason Park served as Co-Chairs for the Program Committee. The Committee chose 28 abstracts from the 36 submissions; 19 were full presentations and 9 were brief presentations (short snappers). The keynote speaker was Visiting Professor Dr. Harry Henteleff from Dalhousie University. He spoke on “How to become an Academic Surgeon in 2012”.

The awards for the best research presentations were as follows:

First Place: Dr. Ramzi Helewa-- PGY4-General Surgery  
Title: Does Geography Influence the Treatment and Outcomes of Colorectal Cancer in the Province of Manitoba?

Second Place: Dr. Ramin Kholdebarin--PGY3-General Surgery  
Title: Role Of MicroRNA 200b in Pulmonary Hypoplasia Associated with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia

Third Place: Dr. Jasmir Nayak--PGY3-Urology  
Title: PSA Bounce following Prostate Brachytherapy for Clinically Localized Prostate Adenocarcinoma – A Single Institution Study with over 3 years follow-up

Brief Presentation: Dr. Sheyma Al-Romaihi—Fellow- Pediatric General Surgery  
Title: Evidence in Pediatric General Surgery: A 3-year review of the literature

Congratulations to the winners and all presenters for a very successful day.

Sectional Resident Research Days: Kudos to Program Directors and sectional Research Coordinators for holding very successful forums in which residents present their research. The following meetings took place in Winnipeg:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Presentations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Surgery</td>
<td>May 18/11</td>
<td>12 presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>September 21/11</td>
<td>13 poster presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>April 27/11</td>
<td>15 presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>November 3/10</td>
<td>8 presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>May 4/11</td>
<td>9 presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The specific details and program contents are available from the individual section offices. Congratulations to all of our residents and scientists in the Department.

Masters of Science in Surgery: The Masters in Science (Surgery) Program remains a viable part of the Department's educational component. Students are able to make use of a fund set up by
the Department to refund the cost of their tuition, so that the acquisition of further knowledge is not hampered by financial constraints.

The Masters in Science (Surgery) Program is seeing an increase in registration by residents in the Department of Surgery. This year there are three residents who have been successfully admitted to the Program. Residents currently enrolled in the Program are as follows:

**Dr. Hajjaj Al-Hajjaj: Head & Neck Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program**
He has completed his required course work and is completing his research in preparation for his thesis defense in 2011. Dr. Richard Nason is his advisor. Anticipated date of graduation is October 2011.

**Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jabab: Head & Neck Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program**
He began the program in January 2011 and is currently completing his course work. Dr. Alok Pathak is his advisor. Anticipated date of graduation is May 2012.

**Dr. Ramzi Helewa: General Surgery Residency Program**
He began the program in July 2010 and is currently completing his course work and research project. Dr. Andrew McKay is his advisor. Anticipated date of graduation has not been determined at this time.

**Dr. Kanwal Kumar: Cardiac Surgery Residency Program**
He has completed his required course work and is preparing his research for his thesis defense in 2011. Dr. Rakesh Arora is his advisor. Anticipated date of graduation is October 2011.

The Program experienced quite a few difficulties this year; specifically concerning the new online admissions system. This has caused confusion with the dual registration process needed for our residents and fellows (Faculty of Graduate Studies and Faculty of Medicine), along with applications for admissions from ineligible international candidates.

The Program has a new Faculty of Graduate Studies Program Assistant as the various specialties have been re-assigned within their Faculty. The Surgery Education Office is working with the new Assistant to problem-solve some issues that surfaced with course registration.

Two residents have been approved for the 2011-2012 academic year - Dr. Justin Rivard: General Surgery Residency Program and Dr. Ramin Kholdebarin: General Surgery Residency Program.

Future Initiatives and Directions: The Paul Thorlakson Foundation and members of the Thorlakson family have pledged a large amount of monies for a Thorlakson Chair in Surgical Research. The funds have been matched by the Department through clinical earnings from the Geographical Full-Time surgeons. The next year will see the search for an appropriate individual for this very prestigious Professorship. To complement this recruitment, the Department also would like to establish a Section of Surgical Research. We also hope that the Research Awards competition and Surgical Forum will become a regular feature for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Helmut Unruh
SECTION REPORTS
The WRHA Cardiac Sciences program delivers comprehensive, integrated cardiac patient care for Winnipeg, the province of Manitoba and surrounding regions, including northwestern Ontario and Nunavut. The Program serves a large and diverse population of individuals, many of whom have highly acute and complex patient care requirements. It is the province’s sole provider of the most advanced interventions in cardiology, cardiac surgery, cardiac anesthesia, cardiac intensive care, cardiac diagnostics and cardiac rehabilitation.

Through the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease (or heart-related health issues) cardiac patients benefit from improved quality of life and in many instances, life-saving medical and/or surgical interventions which reduce mortality rates. Cardiac research endeavors help patients by advancing knowledge and clinical applications in the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

Over the last seven years, the Program has made tremendous clinical and academic strides. The objective has been to improve heart health across the continuum of care, ranging from disease prevention, early detection, primary care, acute care and palliation. Cardiac clinical and academic mandates are interdependent, with the patient being at the centre of all pursuits. The Program is working to distinguish itself as an internationally recognized heart institute and is forging important partnerships locally, nationally and internationally.

Cardiac Surgery Highlights
In April 2011, the I.H. Asper Institute at St. Boniface Hospital was opened to enhance the delivery of cardiac surgery services, pre and post operatively for both inpatients and outpatients.
Construction began in Spring 2009 with $40.3 million invested by Manitoba Health and other partners/donors. It includes a new Intensive Care Cardiac Sciences Unit (5th floor), Cardiac Surgery Inpatient Unit (4th floor), outpatient clinic space (1st floor) and program offices (1st floor). In addition, an operating room corridor was specifically built to link the main hospital and the Asper Institute. Total new square footage (with OR link) is 46,910.

With the new space in place, all cardiac surgery outpatient clinics have been consolidated on the main floor of the I.H. Asper Institute. This included moving existing cardiac surgery clinics from 400 Taché Avenue.

In the fall 2010, the Section of Cardiac Surgery initiated a week long (seven day) cardiac surgical service in the Cardiac Surgical Inpatient Unit (CSIU). With this new model, a dedicated cardiac surgeon is now consistently available (in-house) during daytime hours to coordinate CSIU requirements. This was intended to help address issues with cardiac surgery patient flow and bed management; improve waitlist issues, patient safety and consistency/quality of patient care; deliver an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach in which communications are enhanced and protocols are implemented; and ensure cost-saving and efficiency are maximized.

The Intensive Care Cardiac Sciences (ICCS) Unit has distinguished itself with its 24/7 in-house attending physician model of care. Since the ICCS was established in 2007, there have been considerable improvements in patient outcomes. Three cardiac surgeon/intensivists – Dr. Rakesh Arora (ICCS Co-Medical Director), Dr. Rizwan Manji and Dr. Rohit Singal, have been instrumental in the success to date.

Cardiac Sciences Research Symposium was held on May 18, 2011 and was a huge success. Dr. John Cairns, Professor of Medicine and Past Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia served as a Guest Judge and Lecturer.

The Section of Cardiac Surgery was awarded the “2010 Outstanding Contribution To Research” award from the University of Manitoba Department of Surgery.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Menkis
Journal Articles


Conference Presentations / Abstracts Published


Li Y, Ngo M, Arora RC, Kirshenbaum L, Freed DH. Mevalonate depletion impairs survival of primary human mesenchymal stem cells through depletion of NF-κB. Presented at the Canadian Society of Transplantation. Mont-Tremblant Quebec, March 2011.


Manji RA, Grocott H, Menkis AH, Jacobsohn E. Which cardiac surgery ICU patients with a positive heparin induced thrombocytopenia ELISA assay are at increased risk for thrombosis? – Canadian Critical Care Forum. Toronto Ontario, November 2010.


Invited Addresses


Arora RC. Cuba-Canada International Heart Symposium. Holguin Cuba, January 2011.


Session Chairs/Discussion Groups

Arora RC. Event Co-Chair, Department of Surgery Research Day.

Arora RC. Reviewer, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry.

Arora RC. Session Chair, Poster Competition. Faculty of Medicine Resident Research Day.

Freed DH. Abstract Reviewer, Canadian Cardiovascular Congress. 2010-2011.

Freed DH. Manuscript Reviewer, Journal of Medical Case Reports. 2010.

Freed DH. Manuscript Reviewer, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry. 2011.


Freed DH. Mentor, IMPACT CIHR/HSF Strategic Training Program in Health Research. Integrated and Mentored Pulmonary and Cardiovascular Training. 2009-2015.

Freed DH. Presentation Judge, University of Manitoba, Department of Surgery Research Day. 2011.
Freed DH. Reviewer, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Research Fellowship Applicants. 2010-2011.


Manji RA. Abstract Reviewer, Canadian Cardiovascular Congress. 2011.


Manji RA. External Reviewer, Circulation.

Manji RA. Grant Reviewer, Canadian Critical Care Trials Group. 2011.

Manji RA. Judge, CIHR Student Science Fair. St. Boniface Research Centre. Winnipeg Manitoba, April 2011.


Pascoe E. Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms. Cardiology Day for Family Physicians, Department of Continuing Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine. St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg Manitoba. September 2011.

Workshops Organized

Arora RC. Topics in Perioperative Critical Care, Canadian Cardiovascular Congress. Montreal Quebec, October 2010.

Lee J. Chief Resident Workshop, University of Manitoba. Winnipeg Manitoba, March 2011.

Grants


Arora RC. Understanding mechanisms of altered intercellular communication in the diabetic heart. Department of Surgery, University of Manitoba ($20,000.00). February 2011.

Arora RC. Rudy Falk Clinician Scientist ($75,000.00/annum). 2008-2011.

Arora RC. Understanding mechanisms of altered intercellular communication in the diabetic heart. MHRC/MMS – F. W. DuVal Clinical Research Professorship ($50,000.00/3 years). July 2011.

Arora RC, Freed DH. Regenerative medicine and nanomedicine initiative. CIHR/Institute of Genetics(IG)/Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH) Emerging Teams Grant ($25,806.00/annum). 2008-2013.
Freed DH. Effect of spinal anesthesia on cardiovascular function in pig model of brain dead heart organ donors. MMSF ($25,000.00). March 2011.

Freed DH. The effect of hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase inhibition on mesenchymal stem cell phenotype and function. University of Manitoba, Department of Surgery ($20,000.00). March 2011.
General Surgery

Regional Lead/Section Head
Dr. Cliff Yaffe    Associate Professor

Faculty
Dr. Brent Anderson    Assistant Professor
Dr. Chris Andrew    Assistant Professor
Dr. George Assuras    Assistant Professor
Dr. John Bracken    Assistant Professor
Dr. Lawrence Gillman    Assistant Professor
Dr. Perry Gray    Associate Professor
Dr. Krista Hardy    Assistant Professor
Dr. Diamond Kassum    Associate Professor
Dr. Ali Khan    Assistant Professor
Dr. Jeremy Lipschitz    Associate Professor
Dr. Brendan McCarthy    Assistant Professor
Dr. M. Andrew McKay    Assistant Professor
Dr. Luis Oppenheimer    Professor
Dr. Roger Saadaj    Professor
Dr. Richard Silverman    Assistant Professor
Dr. Ashley Vergis    Assistant Professor
Dr. Ben Yip    Assistant Professor
Dr. Brent Zabalotny    Assistant Professor

Pediatric General Surgery
Dr. Betty Jean Hancock    Section Head, Associate Professor
Dr. Richard Keijzer    Assistant Professor
Dr. Suyin Lum Min    Assistant Professor
Dr. Kris Milbrandt    Assistant Professor
Dr. Nathan Wiseman    Associate Professor

Part-Time/Nil Appointment Faculty
Dr. Ahmed Abdoh    Associate Professor
Dr. Lloyd Bartlett    Assistant Professor
Dr. Sonny Dhalla    Lecturer
Dr. Virginia Fraser    Assistant Professor
Dr. Susan Ghazali    Assistant Professor
Dr. Marvin Goosen    Lecturer
Dr. David Hochman    Assistant Professor
Dr. Duncan Inglis    Lecturer
Despite the fact that 2011 has been a tumultuous year for our Section, General Surgery continues to play a vital role as the "solid foundation" for the Surgery Department with respect to clinical activity, innovation, education, research, and administration.

Achievements:

Bariatric Program
The Bariatric Program, under the direction of Dr. Chris Andrew, has begun performing sleeve gastric resections at the Victoria General Hospital. The early results are very encouraging. It is anticipated that the Bariatric Program will receive "official" approval from Manitoba Health shortly. In the meantime, the team will be increasing the surgical volumes in view of the overwhelming demand for a "home grown" Bariatric Program. Congratulations to our MIS/Bariatric surgical team members: Chris Andrew, Ashley Vergis, Krista Hardy and John Bracken.

Acute Care Surgery/Trauma Services
The Acute Care Surgery/Trauma Services continue to provide comprehensive emergency surgical management for the Winnipeg region and Manitoba and some locations outside of the Province. The overwhelming demand has created a bed resource problem, especially during peak times. The appointment of ACSS Hospitalists has been important in providing medical support for the ACSS teams, especially at the Grace General Hospital. There are plans to recruit Physician Assistants as well.

Seven Oaks Surgery Unit
The Section of General Surgery has established a clinical unit at the Seven Oaks General Hospital (SOGH). Drs. Brent Anderson, Ali Khan, and Lawrence Gillman have been appointed to the SOGH site and will be involved in clinical and educational activities in a newly-renovated facility. It is anticipated that SOGH will become a very popular and successful Community Surgery rotation site for residents and medical students.

Colorectal Cancer Management
A multi-disciplinary rectal cancer consensus conference was held on April 2, 2011. Consensus was reached on a number of issues, including diagnostic and treatment algorithms. There was agreement that a total mesorectal excision (TME) course should be organized for general surgeons in Manitoba who are interested in continuing to manage patients with rectal cancer. A comprehensive didactic and "hands-on" TME course is being planned for April 21, 2012.

CancerCare Manitoba announced the intention of establishing a "Colorectal Cancer Centre of Excellence" at the Health Sciences Centre. The specific details about the facility are pending, but the principle of the importance of timely and expert colorectal cancer management cannot be underestimated. Dr. David Hochman has established the transanal endoscopic microsurgery
(TEM) unit at the Victoria General Hospital (VGH) for the NOTES surgical management of rectal lesions. He is helping to create a national TEM network for clinical and research purposes.

GI Endoscopy
The much-anticipated "new" GI Emergency Endoscopy Service will officially begin at the Grace General Hospital (GGH) in October, 2011. A number of general surgeons will be participating on the endoscopy team. There is anticipation of a major expansion of non-emergency GI endoscopy resources at GGH as well. This should help alleviate some of the backlog of endoscopy cases. Many thanks to Dr. Ross Stimpson for his tireless efforts on the WRHA Endoscopy Committee.

SOGH Appointment
Dr. Brent Anderson, one of our General Surgeons, has been appointed as Surgery Program Site Manager at the SOGH effective July, 2011. Congratulations to Dr. Anderson, who has a reputation for being caring and fair-minded and very clinically-skilled.

Surgical Education
The General Surgery Training Program remains on "provisional approval" status by the RCPSC. The main concern has been in the realm of resident working hours. This issue is a national concern and will require several initiatives in order to maintain patient safety on surgical units where resident involvement may be limited by the working hours legislation by the RCPSC. These include the appointment of Physician Assistants and Hospitalists.
All three General Surgery Candidates (100%) were successful in passing the RCPSC final examinations in 2011. Congratulations to Mohammed Bawazeer (future career in Critical Care and Trauma), Kyle Grant (future career in Thoracic Surgery) and Justin Rivard (future career in Surgical Oncology).

Many thanks to all of the surgeons in the Section of General Surgery who have donated their time and efforts for the education of our residents and medical students. Our surgeons are truly the "unsung heroes" of surgical education. Congratulations to Dr. W. Meyers from Brandon, who was named "Educator of the Year" by the General Surgery Residents.

Dr. Wendi Charette, Surgical Foundations Coordinator, has been superb in her administrative, organizational, and facilitator role. Dr. Yaffe continues to be the Surgical Foundations Director and he sits on the RCPSC Surgical Foundations Advisory Committee.

Dr. Jason Park, Director of Surgical Skills, continues to play a major role in maintaining the Section and the Surgery Department on the leading edge of surgical skills development, assessment, and research. Dr. Park's contributions to this field are very much recognized and appreciated.

Research
Research efforts in General Surgery have resulted in steady gains with respect to the number of faculty and residents involved in research projects, as well as in the increased research grant awards received by our surgeons. It is anticipated that the research activity in our section will continue to blossom.

New Directions/Programs
Surgical Fellowships
Plans are underway or have been finalized for the establishment of the following Surgical Fellowship Programs at the University of Manitoba:
a) Breast Surgery Fellowship (Dr. E MacIntosh)
b) MIS/Bariatric Fellowship (Dr. A Vergis)
c) Colorectal Fellowship (Drs. B Yip and D Hochman)

There has been some discussion about the possibility of establishing an Acute Care Surgery Fellowship at the University of Manitoba, in addition to the above fellowships.

SOGH Surgical Teaching Unit
Drs. Brent Anderson, Ali Khan and Lawrence Gillman comprise the team of surgeons who will help to establish a site of clinical and educational excellence for patients and surgical trainees. This is a very exciting program which will link with the other General Surgery units within the Winnipeg region.

GGH General Surgery Unit
Dr. Brent Zabolotny has relocated his busy oncology practice to the GGH where he is the Director of the GGH ACSS. It is anticipated that this move will help to establish a vital link to other General Surgery sites within the Winnipeg region and will likely foster undergraduate and postgraduate surgical education at the GGH.

Respectfully submitted,
Cliff Yaffe
Journal Articles


Book Chapters/Review Articles/Monographs


Conference Presentations/Abstracts Published


Invited addresses


Workshops Organized

Torchia M. Facilitating Small Group Teaching – Faculty of Medicine

Torchia M. Teacher Improvement Program – Faculty of Medicine

Torchia M. Continuing Clinical Education – WRHA Team Training

Grants

Keijzer R. CFI Leader Opportunity Fund – Funding for Research Infrastructure. ($593,828.00) 2011

Keijzer R. Manitoba Institute of Child Health. ($4,952.00) 2010

Keijzer R. Manitoba Institute of Child Health. Operating Grant ($40,000.00) 2011

Keijzer R. Manitoba Institute of Child Health Establishment Grant. ($50,000) 2011

Keijzer R. Manitoba Medical Service Foundation. ($20,000.00) 2010

Keijzer R. Molly Towel Perinatal Research Foundation. ($19,000.00) 2011-12
Keijzer R. The Rudy Falk Clinician Scientist Award. Declined in lieu of another award. ($70,000.00/3 years) 2011

McKay A, Al-Subae H, Park J, Wirtzfeld D. Diagnosis of VTE post discharge for major abdominal and pelvic oncologic surgery: implications for a change in practice. University of Manitoba - Department of Surgery Research Grant ($11,000.00) 2011-2012

McKay A, Helewa R, Wirtzfeld D, Turner D. Does geography influence the treatment and outcomes of colorectal cancer in the province of Manitoba? Winnipeg Foundation ($12,500.00) 2010-2011

Park J and Vergis A. The effect of blocked versus random task practice schedules on the acquisition, retention, and transfer of surgical skills. Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) - Medical Education Research Grant ($25,000.00) 2010-2011

Park J, Vergis A, Unger B. Optimizing practice schedules for learning basic skills on a computer-based laparoscopic simulator. Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) - Ethicon Research Grant ($25,000.00) 2011-2013

Torchia M. Real and virtual 3D anatomical models in education and research (co-applicant). Dean's Strategic Fund ($350,000.00)

Vergis A, Hardy K, Steigherwald S, Park, J. Do fundamentals of laparoscopic surgery (FLS) and LapSim evaluation metrics predict intra-operative performance? University of Manitoba – Department of Surgery Research Grant ($20,000.00) 2011-2012
After 10 years of service to the Section of Neurosurgery, Dr. Michael West stepped down as Section Head. Dr. West’s legacy includes: the expansion of the Neurosurgery Program, the introduction of the first Gamma Knife Suite in Canada, the establishment of the Stereotactic Radiosurgery Program, the expansion of a comprehensive Endovascular Program, and expanded fronts in the fields of medical education and particularly inpatient care as the throughput of neurosurgery increased pace. During this time the program has been supported by a very motivated educational team including Dr. Patrick McDonald as Program Director. Neurosurgery enjoys full accreditation with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and has graduated a number of excellent graduates during the 10 years that Dr. West spearheaded the program.

The clinical throughput in Neurosurgery continues to be at a significant level with over 5000 clinic visits and over 800 operative procedures performed to date during 2011.

The Stereotactic Radiosurgery Program, in particular, has become increasingly more operational as the KIAM Centre has come on line. The Gamma Knife completed 223 cases during 2011 and over 1700 cases have been treated to date. Dr. Derek Fewer, in conjunction with Radiotherapy, has begun performing stereotactic radiation for spinal pathology.

The meeting of the Canadian Association of Radiosurgeons was held in Winnipeg on September 14 and 15, 2011. It was organized and hosted by the Health Sciences Centre
Section of Neurosurgery, and CancerCare Manitoba. It proved to be a most fruitful scientific meeting. There were several papers presented by the Winnipeg group.

On the Research front, once again the Dean's Strategic Research Fund for 2010 has proved invaluable in establishing a research front in the KIAM building. Although the hardware is not yet on line, proposals for studies from Anesthesia and Neurosurgery are now being entertained.

Our Visiting Professor Program was exceptionally educational. We have been able to attract outstanding speakers by combining resources with Neurology, Neuroradiology, and Orthopedics, to invite some of the most outstanding specialists in their field.

- **February 2011**: Dr. Georg Noren, MD, Ph.D., Professor of Neurosurgery, Rhode Island Hospital, Gamma Knife Center presented at Neuroscience Rounds. “Gamma Knife Anterior Capsulotomy for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder”.

- **May 2011**: Dr. Edward Benzel, Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. Dr. Benzel spoke at the Surgical Grand Rounds/4th Annual Dwight Parkinson Day. Topic title, “Back Pain: From the Basics to Rocket Science and Back”. He also presented at the Neuroscience Rounds, “Cervical Spondylosis and Deformity”, and “Concussion”.

Recruitment of faculty Dr. Jason Beiko commenced as an Attending Surgeon in July 2011. Dr. Beiko is a graduate of the University of Ottawa who trained as a neurosurgeon here at the University of Manitoba. Following his completion of residency, he underwent a Fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in the United States where he developed skills in both spine surgery and neuro-oncology.

Dr. Beiko brings a significant contribution to the Section, particularly in relation to oncological conditions including pituitary tumors and skull-based lesions.

Neurosurgery is currently participating in the recruitment of Neuroscientists for the Kleysen Institute of Advanced Medicine with the hopes to further elaborate our research role at the KIAM Centre.

The Neurointerventional Service hopes to expand into the KIAM Building once the Angio Suite is complete at that Centre.

The Winnipeg Spine Program continues as a collaboration between Orthopedics and Neurosurgery under the leadership of Dr. Michael Goytan of the Section of Orthopedics. The program continues to provide comprehensive 24-hour service for diseases of the spine. Collaboration on surgical outcomes continues between the two Sections to establish further the role of minimal access to spine surgery and the treatment of degenerative conditions of the lumbar and cervical spine.

Attempts to reduce wait times in clinic are currently underway with a collaborative program with the Section of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the Department of Medicine. It is hoped that the appropriate triage of patients may be undertaken and appropriate interdisciplinary care instituted earlier for patients with degenerative conditions of the spine.

The Residency Program, under the direction of Dr. Patrick McDonald, has once again had a very successful year. The Program was joined by Dr. Behzad Sabit (R1) who is a graduate of McGill University in Montreal. Dr. Serge Rasskazoff has now completed his residency at the University of Manitoba and is presently undergoing further Fellowship training in Chicago. Dr. Colin Kazina continues as Chief Resident and is anticipated to start his examinations in 2012.
The Physician Assistant Program continues to provide an expansion of the physician role. We are currently recruiting Physician Assistants as Ms. Daman Sangha has unfortunately left our Section to live in Europe. Mr. Jon Stepaniuk has completed a Masters of Physician Assistant studies and has rejoined our Section as a Certified Physician Assistant. The opportunities for PA’s to further alleviate half staff schedule shortages, clinic wait times, and improve resident work hours is an ongoing priority of our Section.

The Intraoperative Neurophysiology Program continues to provide intraoperative monitoring for both complex cranial and spinal procedures. It is hoped to recruit a third technician to assist in this role as the utility of this program increases.

Following the end of Dr. Michael West’s second term as Chief of Neurosurgery in September of 2010, a Search Committee was established by Dr. Richard Nason. Dr. Neil Berrington was appointed the Neurosurgery Section Head effective October 3, 2011.

We recognize that the excellent level of care our patients receive is a collaborative effort involving individuals of many disciplines including administrators, nurses, physicians from all our specialties, residents, Physician Assistants, and the surgeons themselves. Special thanks to Krystyna Kruczek for her untiring professional administrative support again throughout this year and her contributions in completing our Annual Report.

We continue to be indebted to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Health Sciences Centre, and the Department of Surgery for their consistent support in the delivery of our responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil Berrington
Journal Articles


Conference Presentations/Abstracts


Invited Addresses

McDonald P. Ethics of placebo- Neurobiology of Placebo Course. 46th Annual Congress of the Canadian Neurological Sciences Foundation. Vancouver British Columbia, June 2011.


Workshops Organized

West M. Co-Chair – Canadian Association of Radiosurgery Conference. Winnipeg Manitoba, September 2011.

Grants

Krcek J. (PI) Chemoresistance in glioblastoma: role of high mobility group A – ½ proteins. Department of Surgery – University of Manitoba ($15,000.00)

Krcek J. (PI) Right handed coiled coil (RHCC) protein tetramers as microcarriers of cisplatin for the local therapy of brain tumor xenografts. Department of Surgery – University of Manitoba ($20,000.00)

McDonald P. (Local PI) Characterization of pediatric thalamic brain tumours in Canada. C17 Research Network ($17,000.00)

McDonald P. (Co-PI) Youth involvement in health care decisions: ethical, social and cultural perspectives. Canadian Institutes of Health Research ($95,853.00)

West M. (collaborator) Multi-objective optimization for improved stereotactic radiosurgery treatment planning. Health Sciences Centre ($268,323.00)

West M. (collaborator) Multi-objective optimization for improved stereotactic radiosurgery; (multi-CPU computer to support the research project). Health Sciences Centre Foundation ($35,000.00)

Orthopedic Surgery

Regional Lead/Section Head
Dr. Peter MacDonald   Professor

Faculty
Dr. Laurie Barron   Assistant Professor
Dr. Eric Bohm   Associate Professor
Dr. Colin Burnell   Assistant Professor
Dr. Tod Clark   Assistant Professor
Dr. Mario Dascal   Assistant Professor
Dr. James Dubberley   Assistant Professor
Dr. Michael Goytan   Assistant Professor
Dr. Christopher Graham   Assistant Professor
Dr. Allan Hammond   Assistant Professor
Dr. David Hedden   Assistant Professor
Dr. Michael Johnson   Assistant Professor
Dr. Jason Old   Assistant Professor
Dr. Brad Pilkey   Assistant Professor
Dr. Greg Stranges   Assistant Professor
Dr. Ted V. Tufescu   Assistant Professor
Dr. Thomas Turgeon   Assistant Professor

Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
Dr. G. Brian Black   Professor
Dr. Paul Jellicoe   Assistant Professor
Dr. Jack McPherson   Assistant Professor
Dr. Virginie Pollet   Assistant Professor
Dr. Susan Thompson   Assistant Professor

Part-Time/Nil Appointment Faculty
Dr. Jan-Mels Brandt   Assistant Professor
Dr. Dean Kriellaars   Associate Professor
Dr. Phillip De Muelenaere   Lecturer
Dr. Frank Duerksen   Associate Professor
Dr. David Huebert   Assistant Professor
Dr. Norman Klippenstein   Lecturer
Dr. Jeffrey Leiter   Assistant Professor
Dr. Ronald Monson   Associate Professor
Dr. William Rennie   Professor
The Section of Orthopedics was busy on multiple fronts in 2011. At the Health Sciences Centre we have Spine and Trauma Services, as well as Pediatrics. The Spine Service continues to be extremely busy with long wait lists for elective surgery. There is a case to be made for further Spine recruitment, which we are hoping to have for 2012. The Spine Research Program, with the assistance of Dr. Dean Kriellaars, is also growing. Due to the logistics of Spine patient consultation, exploration of a Spine Assessment Clinic out of Pan Am has been undertaken and will likely assist with the triaging of Spine patients.

The Trauma Service also had a very busy summer. The summer slowdowns impacted negatively on the Trauma Service from both a bed and access to OR perspective. The case is being made for fewer slowdowns in the summer as the back ups in the Trauma Service negatively impact any elective activity at the Health Sciences Centre and also impact Trauma Services for Orthopedics around the city. The Trauma Research Program continues to grow, under the direction of Dr. Ted Tufescu, and several ongoing projects are underway. Support for their research and research throughout the Section has continued with the Alexander Gibson Fund which awards about $175,000.00 a year to Orthopedic Research.

At Concordia Hospital, approximately 1,500 total joint arthroplasties continue to be done every year by the Concordia Joint Replacement Group. There is a strong academic part to this group under the direction of Martin Petrak. 2011 was a very successful year for the Research Program with the granting of multimillion dollar seed money from the Western Economic Diversification Fund. This helps with basic science and clinical research and the hiring of several biomechanical engineers to carry this out. On the clinical side, the Program is renowned throughout Canada for its efficiency and high quality work. Dr. David Hedden has been recruited by one of the supply companies to assist in the design of a new, total knee prosthesis. Dr. Eric Bohm’s work is nationally renowned in terms of wait lists and management of the ever increasing demand for joint arthroplasty across Canada. Dr. Tom Turgeon serves as President of the Concordia Foundation.

Dr. Colin Burnell, Adult Orthopedics, and Dr. Paul Jellicoe, Pediatric Orthopedics, were recently chosen as co-winners of the Resident Teaching Award for 2011. Congratulations to both of these surgeons.

At the Pan Am Clinic, the addition of Dr. Tod Clark in Orthopedics and Dr. Jennifer Giuffre in Plastics has been a huge addition to the care, treatment, teaching, and research of hand injuries and conditions. Both surgeons trained at the Mayo Clinic in a renowned Fellowship Program. In addition to their outpatient work at Pan Am, they perform inpatient work including the Brachial Plexus Program at Victoria Hospital.

The recruitment of Dr. Allan Hammond has improved not only trauma care, but also the care of multiligament knee injuries and complex foot and ankle injuries. Dr. Hammond is located at the Health Sciences Centre but does clinical and outpatient surgical work at Pan Am.

The Pan Am Clinic Foundation is largely dedicated to musculoskeletal research and education. The Foundation continues to become an ever increasing and well recognized center of research across Canada. This is under the capable direction of Dr. Jeff Leiter, who also serves as Resident Research Director. Resident Academic Day was held this fall with Dr. Robert Bourne as Visiting Professor from the University of Western Ontario. Another successful Arthroscopy Skills Day was held in 2011, with multiple visiting professors teaching surgical skills of the shoulder.

The future direction for Orthopedics in the city is a promising one. Consolidation of Orthopedics between Grace and Seven Oaks will offer a more coordinated community approach to
Orthopedics. This will also offer residents an opportunity to have community rotations at a traditionally nonteaching setting in the future.

Orthopedic care is expensive due to its reliance upon implants. With a year of cost containment, a delicate balancing act with government has to constantly occur with regard to the continued growth in demand for Orthopedic Services balanced against fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter B. MacDonald
Journal Articles


Book Chapters/Review Articles/Monographs


Conference Presentations/Abstracts Published


Dascal M. Diabetic foot, a team effort. XII Latin America Conference. Buenos Ares Argentina, June 2011.


Loucks L, Bohm E, Tan A. A determination of the minimum clinically important difference and the minimum value for clinical benefit for the Oxford 12 Knee Score following total knee replacement. 66th Canadian Orthopedic Association Annual Meeting. St. John’s Newfoundland, July 2011.


MacDonald PB. Bone defects in shoulder instability. Fowler Fellows’ Orthopedic Society Meeting. Santa Barbara California, March 2011.


MacDonald PB. Common surgical injuries in the athlete. University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine Continuing Professional Development. Winnipeg Manitoba, February 2011.


MacDonald PB. Ipsilateral vs contralateral hamstring graft in ACL reconstruction. Fowler Fellows’ Orthopedic Society Meeting. Santa Barbara California, March 2011.


MacDonald PB. Prospective randomized trial of ipsilateral vs contralateral hamstring graft in ACL reconstruction. Arthroscopy Association of North America Meeting. San Francisco California, April 2011.


MacDonald PB, Leiter J, Mohamed E, McRae S. Determining ACL hamstring graft diameter from anthropometric and MRI measurements. Arthroscopy Association of North America Meeting, San Francisco California, April 2011.


Invited Addresses


Bohm E. Joint replacement registries: What have we learned, DePuy Canadian National Training Meeting. Winnipeg Manitoba, January 2011.


Session Chairs/Discussion Groups


MacDonald PB. The Shoulder Arthroscopy Course. Winnipeg Manitoba, April 2011.


Workshops Organized


Grants

Brandt J (PI), Bohm E (CPI). The effects of hyaluronic acid on PE wear in total joint replacements. Alexander Gibson Grant – University of Manitoba ($24,000.00). March 2011-March 2012.

Burnell C. Comparison of intraoperative fracture risk using traditional and compaction broaching methods. Alexander Gibson Research Fund ($8,320.00). 2010

Burnell C. OMEGA Medical Grant Association, University of Manitoba Adult Hip and Knee Reconstruction Fellowship. Fellowship Director: Dr. Colin Burnell, Residency Program Director: Dr. Michael Johnson. 2010

Frank C (PI), Bohm E (CIP). Creating bone and joint health from the bedside to the bench and back again. Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) ($500,000.00). April 2008-April 2013.

Hammond A. Arthroscopic ankle arthrodesis a prospective study to assess potential for outpatient surgery. The Alexander Gibson Orthopedic Fund.

Jellicoe PA. Outcome of distal tibial physeal fractures. Gibson Fund ($2,000.00) 2011.

Jellicoe PA, Black B. Pattern of ATV injuries in Manitoba following change in legislation. Gibson Fund ($8,000.00) 2011.

Johnson M. Spine lab research equipment. Private donation research grant ($12,400.0). April 2011.


MacDonald PB. Arthroscopic bankart repair with and without arthroscopic infraspinatus remplissage in anterior shoulder instability with a Hill-Sachs Defect: A randomized controlled trial. Alexander Gibson Chair Fund ($25,000.00). March 2011 – March 2012

MacDonald PB. Develop self-audit forms for knee arthroscopy to measure motor skills. OMeGA Medical Grants Association for Residency Core Competency Innovation Grant ($13,800.00). 2010-2011 Academic Year

MacDonald PB. Exploring the biologics of rotator cuff injury and advancing repair. Alexander Gibson Chair Fund ($10,000.00). March 2011 – March 2012
MacDonald PB. Exploring the biologics of rotator cuff injury and advancing repair. The Canadian Orthopedic Foundation 2010 Canadian Orthopedic Research Legacy (CORL) Grant ($20,000.00). February 2011

MacDonald PB. Exploring the biologics of rotator cuff injury and advancing repair. University of Manitoba, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery ($20,000.00). January 2011

MacDonald PB. The effects of body weight supported activity on joint pain and physical function in individuals suffering from chronic symptomatic osteoarthritis (OA). Manitoba HyDr.o Research Development Program ($43,945.00). December 2010 – December 2011

MacDonald PB, Sheps D. A randomized study of non-operative management versus expedited surgery among WCB patients with small rotator cuff tears: Effect upon time to claim closure in two prairie centres. Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba ($126,500.00). November 2010.

Noseworthy T (PI), Bohm E (CPI). Total joint replacement strategic management for timely treatment. CIHI Emerging Team Grant-Canadian Institutes of Health Research, (CIHR) ($100,000.00). November 2008-November 2013.

Thompson S, Jellicoe PA. Pattern of referrals from remote medical facilities. Gibson Fund ($10,000.00) 2011.

**Pediatric General Surgery**

*Regional Lead/Section Head*  
Dr. B.J. Hancock  
Associate Professor

*Faculty*  
Dr. Nathan Wiseman  
Associate Professor
Dr. Richard Keijzer  
Associate Professor, Clinician Scientist
Dr. Suyin Lum Min  
Assistant Professor
Dr. Kris Milbrandt  
Assistant Professor

**OVERVIEW**

**Essential Services**  
Pediatric General Surgery provides surgical services for newborns, infants, children and adolescents, 0-16 years of age, in the Province of Manitoba, Nunavut, and Northwestern Ontario. Specialty coverage includes congenital anomalies, head and neck, thoracic, gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, surgical oncology, and trauma. Surgical services are provided at Children’s Hospital of Winnipeg, the only tertiary care pediatric facility in the province. Neonatal surgical services are also provided at St. Boniface General Hospital.

**Synergistic Services**  
Surgical staff on Pediatric General Surgery share Tracheostomy and Airway Endoscopy call coverage with Pediatric Otolaryngology. They also provide call coverage 1 night in 2 for Pediatric Urology and occasional call coverage for Pediatric Gynecology. Pediatric General Surgery staff also perform gastrointestinal endoscopy, and have provided considerable support to the Section of Pediatric Gastroenterology during their recruitment endeavors.

**Unique Contributions**  
Pediatric General Surgery staff participate in rescue ECMO for infants and children requiring emergent circulatory support and support/backup for Pediatric Interventional Cardiology. They also provide Surgical Services for the MPAD (Manitoba Pediatric and Adolescent Dialysis) Program (hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis). Dr. Hancock is one of four Intensivists who cover the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, the Pediatric Special Care Unit and the Procedural Sedation Program at Children’s Hospital. She also provides physician support for the Manitoba Home Nutrition Program. Dr. Hancock administers the Advanced Trauma Life Support Program (ATLS®) in Manitoba.
FACULTY

New Faculty - Succession Planning

Dr. Melanie Morris completed her Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at Ste. Justine Hospital in Montreal June 30, 2011. She is currently completing a second Fellowship in Advanced Minimally Invasive Pediatric Urologic Surgery at Ste. Justine Hospital. She has been recruited to the Section of Pediatric Surgery commencing September 2012. She will also work with the Section of Pediatric Urology and assist them in developing MIS expertise.

Pediatric Surgery requires broad experience with many surgical problems, both congenital and acquired, in newborns, infants, children, and adolescents. There are a large number of cases that fall within the low volume/high risk category. In order to guarantee that tertiary level pediatric surgical expertise is maintained within the Section, with limited exposure to lower volume index cases, it is critical that careful succession planning occurs. Equitable distribution of cases and team work with close collaboration among attending staff are essential for maintaining a high level of surgical expertise in the centre. Although surgeons are normally considered established after three years of service, limited case numbers of index cases mandate consideration that five years would be more appropriate for surgical expertise in cases falling within the low volume/high risk category in Pediatric Surgery. As four of the new recruits will be within the first five years of practice, succession planning is very important to the Section. Dr. Wiseman has accepted an appointment as Senior Mentor to the Section of Pediatric Surgery with the mandate that index cases be distributed to more junior faculty to further develop their expertise with low volume/high risk cases, while maintaining support from a more senior mentor.

Other Faculty Endeavors

Dr. Milbrandt began a Master of Education, University of Dundee in October 2011.

Dr. Milbrandt was appointed Director of Surgical Undergraduate Medical Education to succeed Dr. Larry Tan in 2012.

Dr. Keijzer is a Clinician Scientist doing 75% Research in MICH and 25% clinical /education /administration. He is a member of the Biology of Breathing Group, Manitoba Institute of Child Health and is actively involved in planning their Annual Research Day as well as the Department of Surgery Annual Research Day.

Dr. Lum Min continues to develop her expertise in Surgical Standards, participating in several related committees in this area.

PROMOTIONS/AWARDS

Dr. Hancock was appointed to the Board of Regents, American College of Surgeons in October 2011.

RESEARCH

Research Projects and Creative Works

Sheyma Al-Romaihi, Fellow Pediatric Surgery, has started a systematic review study on the available literature in pediatric general surgery. This is supervised by Dr. Richard Keijzer and Dr. Sadeesh Srinathan from Thoracic Surgery. It is anticipated that her research will be ready
for presentation at the Department of Surgery Annual Research Day, January 2012, and for the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons in September 2012. The Section of Pediatric Surgery participates in The Canadian Pediatric Surgical Network (CAPSNET). This national network collects data on certain neonatal anomalies. Collated data can be accessed for research publications and presentations.

Dr. Suyin Lum Min is leading our Section’s Pediatric Surgical Data Base which will be used for clinical research on patient outcomes and quality management.

Respectfully submitted,
BJ Hancock
PUBLICATIONS


R. van Loenhout, I. Tseu, E. Fox, Z. Huang, D. Tibboel, M. Post, R. Keijzer (2011) The pulmonary mesenchymal cell layer is defective in congenital diaphragmatic hernia. Accepted for publication in Am. J. Path.

R. Kholdebarin, B.M. Iwasiow, R. Keijzer (2011) Pulmonary development considerations in the surgical management of congenital diaphragmatic hernia. Accepted for publication in Early Hum. Dev.


Abstracts presented


Abdoh, A, Hancock, BJ, Saadia, R, Nason, R. A web-based trauma registry system: assessing the reliability of severity scoring. Trauma Association of Canada Annual Scientific Meeting, Banff Park Lodge, Banff AB, April 7-8, 2011 (poster).


PROMOTIONS/AWARDS

Dr. Hancock was appointed to the Board of Regents, American College of Surgeons, October 2011

PRESENTATIONS

Milbrandt, K. Cholelithiasis in Children- Retrospective Cohort Review. Annual Meeting, Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons, Ottawa, September, 2011

Hancock, BJ. Surgery Chief Resident Workshop Asper Institute, SBGH, Winnipeg, MB, March 9, 2011

Hancock BJ. New Resident Orientation: Introduction and Orientation, CanMEDS Introduction, Department of Surgery, June 27, 2011

Invited Presentations
Milbrandt, K. Chest Wall Deformities in Children. Pediatric Ground Rounds, October 2011


Hancock BJ. Pediatric Emergency Surgeries: Recognizing Red Flags During an Office Visit. Pediatrics- Bannatyne Campus Program, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, September 30, 2011

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Dr. Keijzer
2010: Manitoba Institute of Child Health, small grant ($4,952)
2010: Manitoba Medical Service Foundation ($20,000)
2011: Clinical earnings of the academic surgeons (GFT Group) ($20,000)
2011: Manitoba Institute of Child Health, operating grant ($40,000)
2011 and 2012: Molly Towel Perinatal Research Foundation ($19,000)
2011: Manitoba Institute of Child Health, establishment grant ($50,000)
2011: Declined the Rudy Falk clinician scientist award in lieu of another award (3 years of $70,000 annual salary support)
2011: CFI Leader Opportunity Fund – Funding for research infrastructure ($593,828)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

R. Keijzer:
Member of the MICH Research day organizing committee
Co-organizer Bowman symposium on The Developing Lung
Member of the Department of Surgery Research Committee
Representative for the Department of Surgery on the Associate Dean’s Research Committee
Associate Editor International Journal of Surgery and International Journal of Surgery Case Reports
Editorial Board Pediatric Surgery International
2011 was another busy year for the Department of Plastic Surgery. Throughout the year we had several visitors through the section, as well as three Microsurgical Fellows. We had a great group of residents return and some new ones join the team. Many of the doctors had the opportunity to travel to different facilities throughout the world as invited speakers, visiting professors, and examiners.

Our Microsurgical techniques in Plastic Surgery continue to be of great interest to many other teams around the world and that has been evident by the number of Observers that have come over the past few years. This year has been no exception with visitors including Dr. Rebecca Nelson from Burnaby Hospital in British Columbia, Dr. Geethan Chandran and his OR Nursing staff, Martine Zimmer and Janet Maier, from Regina, Saskatchewan, Dr. Toni Zhong along with his two Fellows, Dr. Michelle Locke and Dr. Natalie Ngan, from the University of Toronto, Dr. Randall Craft from Harvard, and Dr. Miles Banwell from Chelmsford in the United Kingdom.

In addition, we had Visiting Professors, Dr. Michael Neumeister from St John’s Hospital in Springfield Illinois, and Dr. Mirek Stranc, retired Plastic Surgeon from right here in Winnipeg. Dr. Neumeister gave his presentation “Innovation and Perseverance in Burn Reconstruction”, at
our annual Resident Research Day on May 4, 2011. Dr. Stranc presented “50 years of Change in Plastic Surgery”, at Grand rounds on September 21, 2011.

As our Microsurgical Fellowship program continues to grow we were able to accommodate three Fellows in 2011. Dr. Geethan Chandran from Dalhousie University and Dr. Effie Katerinaki from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom, joined us from January through June and in July we had the pleasure of having Dr. Agnieszka Hassa from London, Ontario.

Dr. Christian Petropolis received the George W. Leroux Memorial Award in 2011. Dr. Margie Wheelock and Dr. Ian MacArthur both passed the 2011 Principles of Surgery exam. Dr. Kim Bjorklund and Dr. Quinton Chivers both passed the RCPSC Fellowship exams and have gone on to complete their Fellowships. As a result of the 2011 CARMS interviews, Dr. Tianyi Liu and Dr. Arash Izadpanah have joined our team.

Our Surgeons had a busy year with speaking engagements, organizing meetings, serving as examiners, as well as having many other responsibilities. Dr. Leif Sigurdson continued on with his Secretary/Treasurer position on the Educational Foundation for the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery. He is also a member of the RCPSC Specialty Committee in Plastic Surgery. Dr. Tom Hayakawa participated as an examiner for the Royal College specialty exams again this year, and also sits as President, as well as helps to organize the GAM committee meetings at the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery meeting.

Dr. Ken Murray attended the annual Virgin Islands Workshop in Plastic Surgery and presented; 1)-Cubital Tunnel- Revisited, 2)-Free Flaps in Hand Trauma Reconstruction; 3)- Arthroscopic Shaver resection of Gynecomastia, and Ascension CMC Pyrohemisphere Implant Arthroplasty: An Alternative to LRTI for thumb CMC Joint Osteoarthritis. These last two were presented jointly with Dr. Avi Islur. Dr. Murray was also a guest speaker at the University of Alberta Division of Plastic Surgery 6th Annual Resident Research Day in Edmonton on April 8, 2011. He presented, “Things I Wasn’t Taught and Never Thought I’d Do”.

Dr. Jennifer Giuffre attended the American Society of Orthopedic Surgery Annual Meeting in San Diego, California in February 2011 where she did a presentation entitled “Partial Tibial Nerve Transfer to the Tibialis Anterior Motor Branch for the Treatment of Peroneal Nerve Injury”. This presentation was also made at the American Society of Peripheral Nerve Annual Meeting in Cancun, Mexico in January of 2011.

Dr. Sarvesh Logsetty was invited to speak at the American Burn Association Annual Meeting in March 2011 where he presented the poster, “Necrotizing Fasciitis: Our Six Year Regional Experience”. At the Canadian Special Interest Group Annual Meeting in Chicago he made two presentations, “Burns and Child Abuse: Are Factors Related to Burn Injury Predictors of Child and Family Services Intervention?”, and “Successful use of Heated Closed Circuit Intravascular Fluid Circulation Catheter to Maintain Patient Core Body Temperature During Extensive Burn Surgery”. At the International Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Conference in Vancouver, Dr. Logsetty presented the Development and Implementation of E-Learning Software Designed for Plastic Surgery Residency Programs.

Dr. Edward Buchel continued as Section Head, and also continued as Membership Chair of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery and the Editorial Board of the Microsurgery Journal and reviewer with the Canadian Journal of Surgery. He served as external reviewer for the RCPSC in Toronto in March 2011. Dr. Buchel was invited as a guest speaker at MD Anderson in February 2011, as well as invited to speak at the 11th Annual Breast Symposium in Toronto, Ontario, in April, and invited by Dr. Luca Devalle to Milan, Italy in March to do a presentation on
flap reconstruction, in the O.R, alongside Dr. Devalle, and was a Visiting Professor at McMaster’s Annual Resident Research Day, September 14, 2011.

In 2011 Plastic Surgery, in conjunction with Health Sciences Centre executive, and the Emergency Department, continued developing the urgent care clinic for decanting plastic surgery patients from the ER. As a result, over the course of 2011 approximately 2000 patients are now being treated through this clinic.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Buchel
Journal Articles


Conference Presentations/Abstracts Published


Invited Addresses

Buchel E. Invited Lecturer/Live Surgery Demonstration. Autologous perforator flap breast reconstruction, Head and neck reconstruction and perforator flaps, complex abdominal wall reconstruction, ascending helical rim free flap nasal reconstruction. Milan Italy, October 2011.


Session Chairs/Discussion Groups

Workshops Organized
Buchel E. Faculty – TRAM/DIEP/SIEA Flaps and IMA/IMV Vessel Exposure. Techniques in flap dissection with cadaver workshop. UT Southwestern Medical Centre. Dallas Texas, July 2011.

Grants
Hayakawa TEJ. A new non-invasive oxygen saturation imaging device. Predicting flap necrosis utilizing a reverse McFarlane skin flap model. GFT Research Grant ($20,000.00).
Islur A. Local anesthetic in improving range of motion in physical rehabilitation of isolated digital hand fractures. GFT Research Grant ($9,900.00).
Islur A. Morphological analysis of the carpal tunnel following endoscopic and open carpal tunnel release. Health Sciences Centre Foundation Grant ($34,300.00).
Logsetty S, Medved M, Sareen J. Mental illness and traumative injury: An investigation of risk and resilience among survivors of trauma. Manitoba Medical Service Foundation Grant ($20,000.00).
Sigurdson L. A randomized controlled trial of DIEP and SIEA flaps in breast reconstruction. Keeping Abreast Charitable Foundation ($10,000.00).
Sigurdson L. Cost analysis and determination of waiting times for post-mastectomy breast reconstruction. Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery Outcomes Research Fund ($8,855.00).
Sigurdson L. The impact of breast reconstruction on breast cancer survival: A population based cohort study. Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF) ($45,345.00).
During this last year, Surgical Oncology has focused its efforts in several areas including: expansion as an academic department with enhanced recruitment; establishment of a Provincial Surgical Oncology Network (SON); continued implementation of Surgical Synoptic Reporting; and collaborative efforts between Surgical Oncology and Colorectal Surgery to establish approved clinical and research efforts in the area of colorectal cancer.

Recruitment
The division is seeking to recruit two academic Surgical Oncologists; one with an interest in Complex GI/Peritoneal procedures and a second with an emphasis on Breast/Melanoma/Sarcoma surgery. We have had several candidates participate in the Visiting Professor Program. Although we have not been successful in our recruitment efforts to date, we continue to emphasize this as a major part of our initiative in building an academic division of Surgical Oncology that will enhance provincial efforts.

Provincial Surgical Oncology Network (SON)
At a provincial level, the division is interested in the implementation of a Provincial General Surgical Oncology Network (SON). This would include a provincial electronic communication network and an attempt to establish knowledge translation initiatives through various educational symposia, consensus conferences, and frank discussions of resource utilization patterns across the province. Part of this initiative involves division members participating in sponsored activities across the province in order to establish professional relationships with health care providers in their own environment. This includes family physicians, surgeons and other allied health care providers. During the past year, Dr. Park has traveled to Selkirk and Dr. Wirtzfeld has traveled to Brandon. Dr. Macintosh has participated in several conferences linked by telehealth services. The Surgical Oncology Network will work to provide an approach to standardized care for all cancer patients requiring surgery in the province.
Surgical Oncology continues to be invested in the development of a National Surgical Synoptic Reporting Initiative. Dr. MacIntosh has recruited the largest number of breast cancer patients, on a national basis, within the surgical synoptic reporting mechanism and we hope to move forward in using this in a collaborative fashion to look at outcomes. In January 2012, she will be attending a national symposium in collaboration with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to discuss template standardization. Dr. Nason and Dr. Pathak continue in the area of Head & Neck Surgery with synoptic reporting templates expanded to include thyroid surgery. This follows a National Consensus Conference to be held in Winnipeg in 2012. The Colorectal group has been discussing ways in which the end product, the operative report, can be made more user friendly. General Surgical Oncology hopes to introduce the Melanoma Surgical Synoptic Reporting Templates.

Colorectal Cancer Initiatives
In April of 2011, the first biennial Colorectal Cancer Gala was held in collaboration with the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. This was an effort between Colorectal surgeons and Surgical Oncologists concerned primarily with the treatment of colorectal cancer in moving forward with initiatives to raise awareness and funds to be put toward improvements in clinical approaches to colorectal cancer and research initiatives. The first “Bottoms Up” event was successful in raising over $70,000 toward colorectal cancer associated efforts through CancerCare Manitoba. One of the first endeavors that these funds will be used for is to establish appropriate resources to expand the tumor bank to include colorectal cancer specimens. Through the GI Disease Site Group, CancerCare Manitoba, we also participated in a Provincial Rectal Cancer Symposia in April 2011. This was aimed at developing provincial consensus guidelines with regard to the staging, diagnosis and treatment for rectal adenocarcinoma. Invited lecturers included Dr. Terry Phang, Colorectal Surgeon from Vancouver, and Dr. Pamela Leco, Radiation Oncologist from British Columbia. This initiative was attended by nearly 85% of all general surgeons performing rectal cancer surgery within the province. We were able to develop a consensus statement with regard to the use of diagnostic procedures and treatment approaches. The results of the Consensus Conference will be developed into a guideline paper which will be distributed, through the Surgical Oncology Network, for wide comment, endorsement, and acceptance.

It was decided that rectal cancer surgery within the Province should not be centralized, but should be brought up to a certain basic level and that provincial initiatives should be undertaken with this goal in mind. On April 21, 2012, a Total Mesorectal Excision (TME) course, including didactic sessions and cadaveric total mesorectal dissection exercises, with pathologic assessment, will be held. This course will be predicated on the one held in British Columbia and will include Visiting Professor, Dr. Don Buie, Colorectal surgeon from Calgary. This will be a joint provincial effort between surgery (Dr. Cliff Yaffe, Chair), Pathology (Dr. Robert Wightman) and Radiology (Dr. Iain Kirkpatrick).

Respectfully submitted,
Debrah Wirtzfeld
Journal Articles


Book Chapters/Review Articles/Monographs


Conference Presentations/Abstracts Published


Invited Addresses


Session Chairs/Discussion Groups

Wirtzfeld DA. Chair. Manitoba Rectal Cancer Consensus Conference. Winnipeg Manitoba, April 2011.


Workshops Organized

Park J, Wirtzfeld DA. CancerCare Manitoba Foundation Inaugural ‘Bottoms Up’ Gala. Winnipeg MB, April 2011.


Wirtzfeld DA. Manitoba Rectal Cancer Consensus Conference, CancerCare Manitoba Gastrointestinal Disease Site Group Activity. Winnipeg MB, April 2011.

Grants

Nason RW. Synoptic reporting tools project. Canadian Partnership Against Cancer ($400,000.00) 2011-13.


Park J, Vergis A. Effects of blocked versus random task practice schedules on the acquisition, retention, and transfer of surgical skills. Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) Medical Education Research ($25,000.00) 2010-13.


Pathak KA. A trend in the serial levels of CD3z chain in radically treated head & neck cancer patients can predict their disease status. Manitoba Medical Service Foundation ($20,000.00) 2011.

Pathak KA. Molecular basis for age related behavior of the thyroid cancer. Department of Surgery Research ($20,000.00) 2011-12.

Pathak KA. Prognostic potential of markers for invasiveness in human thyroid. Department of Surgery Research ($30,000.00) 2010-11.

Vergis A, Hardy K, Steigerwald S, Park J. Do fundamentals of laparoscopic surgery (FLS) and LapSim evaluation metrics predict intra-operative performance? University of Manitoba – Department of Surgery Research ($20,000.00) 2011-2014.

Wirtzfeld DA, Katz A. Sexual function in women undergoing treatment for rectal adenocarcinoma: an innovative quality of life initiative. Cancer Care Manitoba Foundation Research ($15,000.00) 2010-12.
The Section’s activities are broadly based in three responsibilities.

First, we are the tertiary referral source and the largest secondary care providers for patients with thoracic surgical diseases in the province. This includes the additional responsibility of care of patients from Nunavut. We also have a fairly large referral base covering Northwestern Ontario. Included within these clinical responsibilities is the Manitoba Lung Transplant Program. The Lung Transplant Program remains an integral part of the Section. Dr. Darren Freed has assumed a leadership role in the program, and care of donor patients is now provided by on-call physicians. We are pleased that Dr. Nancy Porhownik joined our program in July 2011, to bolster and rejuvenate the respirology aspects of the program. Since our last report, the donor situation has continued to show improvement. We look forward to new initiatives to increase our donor numbers. Transplant Manitoba continues to function as its own independent entity with its mandate restricted to donor issues. The Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has recently assumed the task of launching a Canadian Transplant Registry (NOW). They are hopeful to implement a registry of all non-renal programs by January 2012. The Section also has major responsibilities with Cancer Care Manitoba in the area of programs dealing with lung and esophageal carcinoma.

Our second responsibility includes teaching. We currently have one Fellow in the program and we also provide elective rotations for general surgery residents, respirology residents, and medical students.

Our third responsibility is research and furthering the scientific basis of our specialty. Dr. Srinathan leads the Section in research initiatives and has committed a significant portion of his time to epidemiologic studies involving post-operative care. He has obtained significant start-up funds and participates as a co-investigator in international multicentre studies studying, notably, cardiac complications following surgery. We continue to encourage our Fellow to become involved in a clinical research project. Several fruitful collaborations have also been undertaken.
in the past year with members of other departments, notably, Dr. A. Halayko from the Department of Medicine.

All thoracic surgery is concentrated at the HSC site. The activity level of the remaining three surgeons is significant with busier clinics, longer wait lists, and increased bed occupancy. Our success over the next several years will depend on our ability to address serious manpower and resource issues. There is an urgent need for a fourth academic surgeon to expand our expertise in minimally invasive skills in the gastrointestinal domain. We are pleased to work in collaboration with Dr. Renelle Myers, an Interventional Pulmonologist, who joined the Section of Respiratory Medicine in July 2011.

The members of the Section continue to be active in affairs external to the Section. Dr. Tan, in addition to serving as Postgraduate Director for Thoracic Surgery, also serves as Undergraduate Director of Medical Education for the Department. Dr. Unruh serves the Department as Associate Chair Academic with additional responsibilities for Research and Promotions. He was also the Faculty Academic Lead for the recent UGME Accreditation and serves as a Councilor for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. Dr. Srinathan serves on the GFT Executive and the Curriculum Renewal Task Force.

**Visiting Professors:**

Our Section was pleased to host Dr. Jean Deslauriers, Professor of Surgery, Thoracic Surgery Division, Laval University on February 22 & 23, 2011

**Promotions/Awards/Appointments:**

Dr. Helmut Unruh -
Faculty Lead, Accreditation, U of M
Award of Recognition – Administration, Department of Surgery, U of M

Dr. Sadeesh Srinathan -
2011 Rudy Falk Clinician Scientist Award (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014)

Respectfully submitted,
Helmut Unruh
Journal Articles


Book Chapters


Conference Presentations/Abstracts Published


Invited Addresses


Grants

Srinathan SK. Department of Surgery GFT Funds, University of Manitoba ($20,000.00). January 2011 (1 year)

Srinathan SK. Health Sciences Foundation ($16,231.88). September 2011 (1 year)
Srinathan SK. Physicians' Services Incorporated ($85,000.00). January 2011 (1 year)

Unruh HW. Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, CF Transplant Centre Incentive Grant ($7,118.00). April 2010-March 2011

Unruh HW. Cystic Fibrosis Canada, CF Transplant Centre Incentive Grant ($5,787.00) April 2011-March 2012
2011 was the year of new recruits in the Section of Urology. The Section was faced with the unusual situation of having a sufficient number of faculty members, but with a limited amount of hospital resources. Potential solutions continue to present, and include:

1) The Section has its first Physician Assistant, supervised by Dr. MacMahon. This position will allow residents, in the presence of an expanded number of faculty members, to focus their attention on key learning opportunities, while ensuring that patient safety is secure.

2) Further expansion of outpatient endoscopy at SBGH, with potential for expanded use of conscious sedation.

3) Development of a satellite academic urology centre within one of the community hospitals. As shortages of hospital beds and operating time continue to be resource issues at the academic hospitals, less complex cases could be decanted to this less tertiary site.

4) Expansion of the GA-1-HSC outpatient urology facility continues as a plan for the future.

Dr. Tom McGregor joined the Section in the spring of 2011, upon completion of fellowship training of MIS and Renal Transplant in London Ontario. He joins the surgical transplant team, consisting of a number of vascular surgeons, and brings to Winnipeg the procedure of Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy.
Dr. Brenda Hildebrand joined the Section in the summer of 2011, upon completion of fellowship training in Incontinence and Infertility. She will likely pioneer the expansion of academic urology into a community hospital setting.

Dr. Nafisa Dharamsi is currently the President of the Medical Staff at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children, and serves as the physician representative on the Board of Directors.

Dr. Karen Psooy is the Secretary-Elect of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA), beginning a 5-year term as Secretary in June 2012. She is also the Canadian Representative on the Board of the Northeastern Section American Urological Association.

Dr. Darrel Drachenberg continues his term as Chair of the Socioeconomic Committee of the CUA, an important role as critical questions emerge regarding the number of urology residency positions needed to address, but not overwhelm, the future manpower needs in Canada.

The Section welcomed Visiting Professor, Dr. Neil Fleschner, University of Toronto, to speak on Prostate Cancer, and enjoyed another successful Resident Research Day in the fall. Recipients of the George W. Leroux Memorial Award went to Drs. Jason Archambault (1st Prize), Jay Nayak (2nd Prize) and Deepak Pruthi (3rd Prize).

As a result of the 2011 CaRMS match, Dr. Deepak Pruthi (University of Manitoba) and Dr. Clare Gardiner (IMG) entered the residency training program on July 1, 2011. Drs. Garry Sandhu and Sri Sivalingam completed their residency training on June 30, 2011. Both passed their RCPSC exams. Dr. Sandhu has gone on to do an oncology fellowship in St. Louis, MO, while Dr. Sivalingam is doing an MIS fellowship in Madison WI. Both hope to return to Canada thereafter if jobs are available. Dr. Karen Psooy will be stepping down as Program Director at the end of 2011. The Section will welcome Dr. Turki Al-Essawi to the position in January 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Psooy
Journal Articles


Invited addresses


Drachenberg D. PSA/BPH/Prostate cancer. National Primary Care Update. September 2011.

Session Chairs/Discussion Groups

Drachenberg D. Session Chair, Western Regional Prostate Cancer Prevention Advisory Board. October 2010.


Drachenberg D. National Prostate Cancer Advisory Committee. September 2011.

Grants.

Drachenberg D, Saranchuk J. Prostate Cancer Translational Research Project ($83,858.00)
Vascular Surgery

Regional Lead/Section Head
Dr. Randy Guzman   Professor

Faculty
Dr. April Boyd    Associate Professor
Dr. Gregory Harding   Assistant Professor
Dr. Joshua Koulack   Assistant Professor

Part-Time Faculty
Dr. Allan Downs   Professor Emeritus
Dr. Francisco Violago   Assistant Professor

The Section of Vascular Surgery remains very active clinically at both the Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface Hospital. Nearly 1700 operations have been performed over the last year (923 HSC, 726 SBGH and remainder at Seven Oaks). Advances in endovascular technology continue to evolve with improvements in the treatment of complicated aneurysm cases (short, conical, angled aortic necks) and endovascular aortic aneurysm repair (EVAR) cases. Technological advances in arterial access for endovascular procedures are also being considered with percutaneous approaches to EVAR. Collaboration with interventional radiology and Cardiac Surgery continues. Notably, some time in the radiology suite (HSC) will now be allocated to Vascular Surgery to support endovascular initiatives and procedures done by Dr. Harding. Resources and a dedicated budget supporting endovascular technology are crucial for the future care of vascular patients. This is also vital for the maintenance and improvement of surgical endovascular skills. A proposal for a provincial vascular database is also being developed for the Section.

The Eighth Annual Winnipeg Vascular & Endovascular CME Symposium was held on April 8 & 9, 2011 at the Fairmont Winnipeg hotel. This is a national meeting with speakers being invited from across Canada. A Fellows’ Day was held on April 7th with presentations from 14 Fellows from across the country. There were also 35 vascular surgeons from across the country that attended the symposium and our total number of attendees reached 162. Advances in the treatment of patients with aneurysms, carotid and lower extremity arterial disease, as well as hemoaccess and trauma care were included in the program. All the presentations were well received by those who participated. Plans are in progress for the 2012 meeting which will begin on Thursday, April 19 with Fellows’ Day, followed by the formal Symposium on Friday, April 20 & Saturday, April 21.

The transition of Vascular Surgery from a subspecialty to primary specialty status begins in 2012 and is being coordinated through the efforts of Dr. Koulack. This is a major shift for the
specialty and we thank Dr. Koulack for his dedication and direction in this endeavour. We also anticipate the start of a Vascular resident in the 2 year program steam starting in July 2012.

We thank Dr. Harding for his time and efforts in coordinating the Vascular Undergraduate teaching courses.

We also thank Dr. Boyd, who is our lead for Research in the Section of Vascular Surgery. Research activity in Vascular Surgery remains productive as outlined in the Section’s Research Summary.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Guzman
Journal Articles


Conference Presentations/Abstracts Published


Grants


Guzman R. (CI). Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative. The effects of dietary flaxseed on improving symptoms of cardiovascular disease in patients with peripheral arterial disease ($90,000). 2008-2011


Guzman R. (CI). Egg Producers of Canada. The impact of egg consumption on indices of vascular health in patients with peripheral arterial disease ($100,000). 2009-2011

Guzman R. (CI). Canola/Flax Agri-Science Cluster & Canola Council of Canada. Effects of canola oil on blood vessel function in peripheral arterial disease (PAD) ($300,000). 2010-2013

Guzman R. (CI). Pulse Canadian Agri-Science Cluster. The effects of pulse varieties on blood vessel function in individuals with peripheral artery disease (PAD) ($350,000). 2010-2013