



Official Newsletter of the University of Toronto's Division of Vascular Surgery

Special Interest Articles:

- U of T Vascular Surgery and the CSVS
- Alumni Profile Dr. Ravi Sidhu
- Faculty Profile Dr. Vern Campbell

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Chair's Column

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our Newsletter! I'm honored to take over the helm from Dr. Lindsay as Division Chair and I look forward to sharing news and information about U of T Vascular Surgery.

The U of T Division of Vascular Surgery is a vibrant group of surgeons, trainees and colleagues spread among three primary academic sites and two other affiliated training sites.

I'm very proud of our

faculty who continue to make important contributions to our specialty via leadership positions in the Royal College Specialty Committee, the CSVS, the Journal of Vascular Surgery and Rutherford's Textbook of Vascular Surgery, among others.

We have a busy winter and spring ahead of us with our Strategic Planning Retreat scheduled in February, an internal review of our

Royal College direct entry residency training program, and culminating in our Annual Research Day in June when Dr. Ron Dalman from Stanford will be the K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and please let me know if you have any suggestions.



Dr. Thomas Forbes

U of T Vascular Surgeons on CSVS Executive

Vascular surgeons from the University of Toronto's Division of Vascular Surgery are in a number of key leadership positions with our national specialty society, the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery. Thomas Forbes is the current CSVS President, while Graham Roche-Nagle and Giuseppe Papia are the Chairs of the Research and Education Committees respectively, and Jonathan Cardella is a member at large. Thomas Lindsay also sits

on the CSVS Executive as the Chair of the Royal College Specialty Committee for Vascular Surgery and Andrew Dueck has just completed his term on the executive.

Previous CSVS Presidents from U of T include Mike Ameli, Peter Kalman, Daryl Kucey, Wayne Johnston, Thomas Lindsay, John Provan and Doug Wooster.

This year's CSVS Annual Meeting will take place in September in Victoria, British Columbia. The

theme of this year's meeting is "Implementing innovation: incorporating advances into daily practice" and the Society's Guest Speaker will be Peter Lawrence from UCLA who is the current President of the Society for Vascular Surgery.

The deadline for abstract submission and applications for the Gore, Cook, Provan and National Student Research Awards is April 1st.

Sunnybrook News



Dr. Giuseppe Papia
Education Chair, CSVS

Sunnybrook vascular surgeons continue to build on their extensive experience with open thoracoabdominal aortic surgery to apply a successful multidisciplinary approach with cardiac surgery, cardiology and anesthesia colleagues to endovascular and open repair of complex thoracoabdominal aortic pathologies.

They continue to optimize the care of patients with

complex diabetic wounds. Andrew Dueck and Giuseppe Papia presented at the recent meeting of the Canadian Association of Wound Care and were appointed to the scientific advisory board. They are also developing a PAD database with the support of the Maggisano Chair.

Trisha Roy, vascular surgery resident, is enrolled in the U of T Department of Surgery's Surgeon Scientist Training

Program. Under the supervision of Andrew Dueck, Trisha is working to validate an MR protocol to differentiate histologic plaque components in peripheral arterial lesions.

Daryl Kucey is the Section Chair for Vascular Surgery at the Ontario Medical Association.

*Andrew Dueck
Division Head, SB*

Recent visitors to U of T:
Michael Moon
University of Alberta
Giovanni Torsello
University of Münster
Hal Dietz
Johns Hopkins



Dr. Thomas Lindsay, UHN Division Head, discussing PAD Update at 7th Annual Peter Munk Cardiovascular Symposium

St. Michael's Hospital News

St. Michael's welcomes Elisa Greco to the Division and thanks Vern Campbell for all his contributions over the years. Krishna Singh also joined the group as a fulltime scientist.

SMH vascular surgeons have been busy establishing outreach dialysis clinics at Toronto East General Hospital and specialized wound and diabetic foot clinics at St.

Mikes.

A peripheral arterial disease public awareness program was led by SMH surgeons, in collaboration with York University, and took place in various community centres and Toronto's City Hall. As well, these surgeons conceptualized and designed the PAD Portal in collaboration with the eHealth Program at McMaster University.

More information can be found at www.mypadmgt.com

St. Michaels became only the 2nd Canadian hospital to adopt the Society for Vascular Surgery's Vascular Quality Initiative, joining their colleagues at UHN.

*Mohammed Al-Omran
Division Head, SMH*

University Health Network News

Thomas Lindsay has completed his term as U of T Division Chair and continues as UHN Division Head. Additions include Thomas Forbes and John Byrne who will begin his clinical practice shortly. Barry Rubin continues as Medical Director of the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre and was instrumental in the recent

establishment of the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, made possible by a \$130 million gift from the Rogers family.

Thomas Lindsay, Graham Roche-Nagle and John Byrne presented at the recent Peter Munk Cardiovascular Symposium.

Successful Innovation

Funding projects include John Byrne's "Novel anti-diabetic drugs for treatment of AAA's" and Leonard Tse's "Validation of a preop risk assessment tool for postop delirium".

*Thomas Lindsay
Division Head, UHN*

Alumni Profile – Where are they now? – Dr. Ravi Sidhu

Dr. Ravi Sidhu completed his vascular surgery training at the University of Toronto as well as an Education Research Fellowship at the Wilson Centre. He currently has a clinical practice in vascular surgery and interventional radiology at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver and is Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education at the University of British Columbia. We caught up with him recently.

Where were you born?

RS: Faro, Yukon

Tell us about your family?

RS: 2 children (daughter age 10, son age 7), my wife is a cardiologist who did an echo fellowship at U of T.

Who had the most influence on you during your vascular surgery training at U of T?

RS: Dr. K.W. Johnston – When faced with a difficult situation, I still ask myself what would Dr. J do?

What do you remember most fondly about your vascular surgery training at U of T?

RS: Extremely supportive faculty, wonderful exposure to exotic cases and for a small town guy, living in the Big Smoke was pleasantly enjoyable!

What challenges do you foresee in the practice of vascular surgery and in training of residents and fellows?

RS: Competency-Based Medical Education – How will we implement this and what will be lost in the process? Uncertainty of jobs in the future – a bigger deal for our 5yr trainees. Increasing need to be fiscally accountable for everything we do - a competency that we must all acquire.

What advice would you give to a medical student who is considering a career in vascular surgery?

RS: Vascular surgery is wonderfully rewarding because of the relationships you develop with patients, trainees, health care professionals and colleagues! Never underestimate the impact of these relationships on your practice and quality of life!

What is your favorite sports team?

RS: Baseball: Blue Jays, Hockey: Canucks, Football: NY Jets



Dr. Ravi Sidhu

Dr. Douglas Wooster – 2013-14 Colin Woolf Award

Congratulations to Dr. Douglas Wooster who was awarded the 2013-14 Colin R. Woolf Award for Long Term Contributions in Continuing Education by the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine. He is a two time winner of this prestigious award, having previously won it in 2007.

Doug has been involved in medical education activities throughout his vascular surgery career at St. Joseph's Health Center and University

Health Network. He has led program development in continuing education in vascular surgery, developing self-assessment programs including VSEP, SAVI, VMSAP and VenSAP. He has also served on several continuing education related committees, including those of the American College of Surgeons, Society for Vascular Surgery, Society for Vascular Ultrasound and Canadian Association of Radiologists.

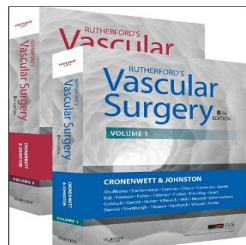
Since 2001 he has led the annual Vascular Imaging Toronto (VITO) conference and in 2010 introduced the annual Toronto Endovascular Conference (TEC). These annual meetings will take place March 27th and 28th this year.

Congratulations Doug, this award is very well deserved!



Dr. Doug Wooster

K. Wayne Johnston, Editor of Rutherford's, 8th ed



Rutherford's Vascular Surgery textbook has long been our specialty's "Bible" and continues to be so as the 8th edition is published.

The first six editions were edited by Robert Rutherford, and continuing in his tradition are U of T Vascular Surgery's K. Wayne Johnston and Jack

Cronenwett from Dartmouth who served as co-editors of the 7th and 8th editions. Other U of T faculty served as section editors and chapter authors.

Along with editing Rutherford's, Wayne has served in every major leadership role in our specialty, having been

President of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery, the Society for Vascular Surgery, and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Vascular Surgery.

In 2009 Dr. Johnston was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Society for Vascular Surgery.

Welcome to new faculty – Dr. Elisa Greco



Dr. Elisa Greco

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Greco to the Division of Vascular Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital. Elisa completed her residencies in General Surgery and Vascular Surgery at the University of Toronto. During this time, she completed a research fellowship at The Wilson Centre for Research Education, while also obtaining a Master's Degree in Education through the Ontario Institute for Studies in

Education. Elisa's clinical focus is renal access, wound care and limb salvage via open and endovascular intervention for peripheral arterial disease. Her research interests include vascular enhanced recovery, research in education, and wound management in diabetic foot ulcers. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards and grants including the Society for

Clinical Vascular Surgery Fellows Meeting Grant, the Postgraduate Medical Trainee Leadership Award, the Society for Vascular Surgery Resident Travel Scholarship, and the Best Research Paper Award, given by the Canadian Association of Continuing Health Education. With her expertise in education, Dr. Greco will lead our initiatives in undergraduate medical education.

Vascular Care in Ontario

K. Wayne Johnston's 1989 Canadian Aneurysm Study listed as one of the 50 most influential papers by Journal of Vascular Surgery J Vasc Surg 2014;60:789-91

Healthcare delivery continues to be a challenging and complex issue in our current economic and political climate. The drive towards "quality" and "outcomes" are welcome but also add a layer of complexity as we treat our patients.

A group of our U of T vascular surgeons have

partnered with colleagues across the province and the Cardiac Care Network to deal with issues including the new Quality Based Procedures funding mechanisms, the development and implementation of provincial databases and coordination of vascular care throughout the province.

CCN's Vascular Care Working Group is chaired by Thomas Forbes with important contributions from other U of T vascular surgeons Andrew Dueck, K. Wayne Johnston, Thomas Lindsay and Marc Pope.

Faculty Profile – Dr. Vern Campbell

Dr. Campbell has had a long career at U of T at Toronto East General Hospital and then St. Michael's Hospital. He was kind enough to answer a couple of our questions:

Where were you born?

VC: Dauphin Manitoba - a small farming community of about 7000 about 350km north of Winnipeg - it's cold!

Tell us about your family?

VC: Married to Katia (40 yrs and still my best friend) 3 children, 1 son and 2 daughters.

Who were your mentor(s)?

VC: A single mentor for my entire career - Wayne Johnston. From my standpoint his mentorship started when I was his resident and I recognized his ethics and his single-minded pursuit of the best possible outcomes in every endeavor he undertook. The way I used him as a mentor changed over the years -but his attributes as a mentor have been rock solid ever since the beginning.

What are the biggest changes you've noticed during your career?

VC: The technical revolution in endovascular surgery - which also surprises me because in contrast to other technical revolutions this one seems to be making the lives of the vascular surgeon slightly more challenging overall.

What are the biggest opportunities that exist for a young vascular surgeon?

VC: Improving outcomes - first by getting the data (something my generation did poorly) and then admitting that publishing individual surgeon outcomes will have the most profound effects. Young vascular surgeons are going to face a lifetime of stagnant or shrinking health care budgets so focusing on outcomes is going to be absolutely critical to hold onto funding. There is a huge opportunity to improve outcomes in dialysis access surgery.

What advice would you give a medical student who is considering a career in vascular surgery?

VC: Your enjoyment and your success will live and die (figuratively and literally) on your technical abilities so if your hands are no good please don't let the technological side suck you in - it won't be enough to sustain you.

What is your favorite sports team?

VC: Absolutely none! I don't follow any sports, or watch any sports TV - my kids think I'm a troglodyte but my wife is very happy!



Dr. Vern Campbell

Upcoming Events & Meetings

- February 12th Vascular Surgery City Wide Rounds, Hart House, South Dining Room, 6PM
- February 28th Division of Vascular Surgery Strategic Planning Meeting
Hart House, South Dining Room, 8am – 3PM (For faculty surgeons only)
- March 27-28th TEC & VITO
- April 23-25th Winnipeg Vascular & Endovascular Symposium
- April 28-May 1 Charing Cross Symposium, London, UK
- May 9th National Capital Vascular Symposium, Ottawa, ON
- May 21st Pacific NorthWest Endovascular Conference, Seattle, WA
- June 12th University of Toronto Vascular Surgery Research Day
The University Club of Toronto (380 University Ave)
Special Guest: Dr. Ron Dalman from Stanford University
- June 17-20th Society for Vascular Surgery Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- Sept 25-26th Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC

This year's K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer will be Dr. Ron Dalman from Stanford University

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://vascularsurgery.utoronto.ca/>

and Twitter!
@UofTVascular

We welcome your support

K. Wayne Johnston Lecture in Vascular Surgery – This is held annually at our Research Day and gives our faculty and residents the opportunity to learn from a world leader in our specialty.

Division of Vascular Surgery Chair's Fund – This fund allows for continued support of our residency and fellowship programs, research support and continuing medical education and professional development.

Donations can be made online at donate.utoronto.ca/surgery or by cheque to:
The Office of Advancement
c/o Darina Landa
6 Queen's Park Crescent West
Toronto, ON M5S 3H2

Name this Newsletter contest!

We need a new and exciting name for our Newsletter. There are many possibilities, *Vascular Views, The Stent and Scalpel, We The Vessels (a take-off of a certain local NBA team)...* etc... etc...

This contest is open to our current residents and fellows, so give it some thought between cases, or on post call days, and email your suggestions to Dr. Forbes. The winner will receive a \$100 Starbuck's gift card and pride in a job well done.

Contribute to our Newsletter

Story ideas, articles, photos or comments are welcome for upcoming issues, please send them to thomas.forbes@uhn.ca

Moving, or do you know someone else who would like to receive this newsletter? Please let us know.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014

Singh KK, Lovren F, Pan Y, Quan A, Ramadan A, Matkar PN, Ehsan M, Sandhu P, Mantella LE, Gupta N, Teoh H, Parotto M, Tabuchi A, Kuebler WM, *Al-Omran M*, Finkel T, Verma S. The essential autophagy gene ATG7 modulates organ fibrosis via regulation of endothelial to mesenchymal transition. *J Biol Chem* 2014;Dec 19 [Epub ahead of print]

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