

### **Toronto Pulse**

United in a Tradition of Leadership, Discovery & Excellence

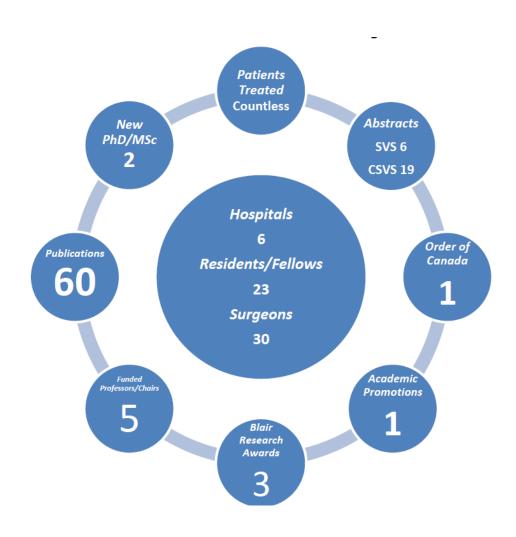
Official Newsletter of the University of Toronto's Division of Vascular Surgery

January 2020

### 2019 – Year in Review: By the Numbers

"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts" is a quote often attributed to Albert Einstein, although there is controversy as to whether he actually said it. Regardless, as we transition to a new year it's important to take stock of the previous year and to recognize all we've accomplished. I am very proud to be part of this Division and I hope you'll enjoy the following sampling of some of the impressive clinical, educational and academic accomplishments of our vascular surgeons, residents and fellows. I can't wait to see what 2020 has in store for us!

- Thomas L. Forbes, MD



2019 By the Numbers

- 0 Injuries at Retreat
- 1 Academic Promotio
- 1 Order of Canada
- 2 SSTP Graduates
- 2 New Funded Awards
- 3 Blair Innovation Grants
- 3 New Resident
- 4 Major Awards
- 4 Visiting Professors
- 6 Abstracts at VAM 2019
- 9 Residents at Bootcamp
- 11 JVS Contributions
- 19 Abstracts at CSVS
- 60 Publications

The 2020 K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer will be Dr. Gilbert Upchurch from the University of Florida **U** of T Vascular Surgery Residents Injured at Annual Retreat

In the spirit of resident wellness, each year our U of T Vascular Surgery residents get together away from the hospitals to hold an educational day as well as some group bonding exercises. In past years we saw axe-throwing (not catching) and beach volleyball ... and 2019 saw Go-Karting!

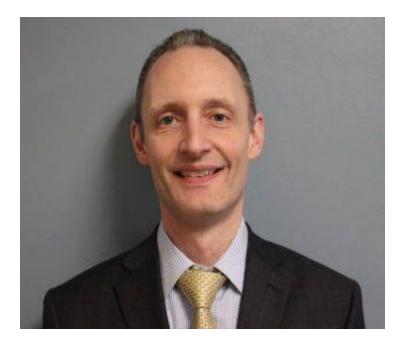
We're glad to see that everyone had fun and survived the day in one piece!



#### Academic Promotions – Dr. Mark Wheatcroft to Associate Professor

Congratulations to Dr. Mark Wheatcroft who was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Wheatcroft studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, U.K. (MBChB), and is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCS). He trained in general and vascular surgery in Edinburgh, Sheffield and Doncaster, UK. In 2011 he completed a 1 year fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of Toronto and then, after a 6 month peripheral interventional radiology fellowship in Doncaster UK, returned to Canada in 2012 to take up a staff post as a vascular and endovascular surgeon at St Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto.

He is also the Program Director for the U of T International Fellowship in Vascular Surgery, Director of the annual National Vascular Bootcamp and Director of Surgical Foundations. Congratulations Dr. Wheatcroft!



### Order of Canada – Dr. K. Wayne Johnston

In a ceremony at Rideau Hall, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, invested Dr. K. Wayne Johnston, our founding and inaugural Division Chair, into the Order of Canada.

In the words of the Governor General's press release, "Wayne Johnston is a foundational figure in vascular surgery. A professor at the University of Toronto and a surgeon at the Toronto General Hospital, he has refined the treatment and diagnosis of several vascular conditions, including abdominal aortic aneurysms. Notably, he led the landmark Multicentre Canadian Aneurysm Study, which was a reference mainstay for surgeons worldwide. A true innovator in the field, he spearheaded the establishment of vascular surgery as a subspecialty, creating its training and certification requirements with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada."

The Order of Canada is one of our country's highest civilian honours. Its Companions, Officers and Members take to heart the motto of the Order: DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM ("They desire a better country").

Created in 1967, the Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Close to 7 000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order. Those who bear the Order's iconic snowflake insignia have changed our nation's measure of success and, through the sum of their accomplishments, have helped us build a better Canada.

Appointments are made by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Advisory Council for the Order of Canada.



**2** Graduates of U of T Surgeon Scientist Training Program

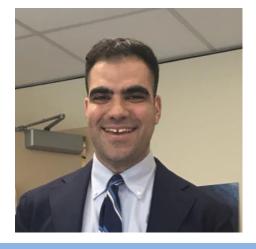
The Surgeon Scientist Training Program (SSTP) at the University of Toronto provides a unique opportunity for our residents to receive first class research training as well as clinical training. The SSTP has been vital in establishing the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto as one of the leading academic Surgery Departments in the world. The SSTP began in 1983 and has trained over 410 residents with 300 MSc and 110 Ph.D. students. The SSTP attracts the best residents, produces high impact research, and serves as a training ground for academic surgeons worldwide.

In 2019 we were proud to see Drs. Konrad Salata and Omar Selim added to the roster of U of T Vascular Surgery residents who have graduated from the SSTP.



Dr. Konrad Salata received his PhD after successfully completing his thesis, "Long term population based follow up of open versus endovascular repair of elective abdominal aortic aneurysms". His supervisor was Dr. Mohammed Al-Omran.

Dr. Omar Selim received his Masters of Science after successfully completing his thesis, "The development and validation of the diabetic wound assessment tool (DIWALT)". His supervisors were Drs. Alan Okrainec and Andrew Dueck.



### **2** New Funded Awards

#### Dr. Robert Maggisano SSTP Scholarship

Through a generous commitment from Dr. Maggisano, the Department of Surgery will establish the Dr. Robert Maggisano SSTP Scholarship in the Division of Vascular Surgery, at the University of Toronto. This endowed scholarship will be awarded to a vascular surgery resident enrolled in the Surgeon Scientist Training Program. On behalf of the Division of Vascular Surgery, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Maggisano for making this generous pledge in support of vascular surgery, surgical science and our phenomenal trainees at U of T. The Dr. Robert Maggisano SSTP Scholarship will be awarded annually and in perpetuity, and will ensure the continued support of our SSTP residents, tomorrow's leaders in academic vascular surgery.

#### **Angelo & Christina Marzilli Scholarship**

Through a generous pledge by Decor-Rest Furniture Ltd., the Department of Surgery will establish the Angelo and Christina Marzilli Scholarship in the Division of Vascular Surgery, at the University of Toronto. The Angelo and Christina Marzilli Scholarship will be awarded to a vascular surgery resident enrolled in the Surgeon Scientist Training Program over the next five years. On behalf of the Division of Vascular Surgery, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Decor-Rest and the Marzilli family for making this generous pledge in support of vascular surgery, surgical science and our outstanding trainees at U of T. The Angelo and Christina Marzilli Scholarship will be awarded annually and will ensure the continued support of our SSTP residents, tomorrow's leaders in academic vascular surgery.

We are honored to include Dr. Maggisano, and Decor-Rest and the Marzilli family among the donors that support this important program and the work being led in vascular surgery across Toronto.

### **Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund Awards**

Since 2016 the Blair Foundation Vascular Surgery Innovation Fund has supported investigator sponsored research in vascular disease. During the last three competitions many excellent applications were received and 7 projects were funded. This year's successful applicants are:

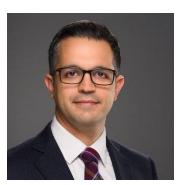
Dr. Charles de Mestral (Division of Vascular Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital) "Contemporary management and long term clinical course of claudicants in Ontario"

Dr. Ahmed Kayssi (Division of Vascular Surgery, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre) "Online Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Intervention to Improve Post-Operative Outcomes Following Major Amputation"

Dr. Mohammed Qadura (Division of Vascular Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital) "Fatty Acid Binding Protein 3 (FABP3) – A Novel Diagnostic Marker for Peripheral Artery Disease and Critical Limb Ischemia"



Dr. Charles de Mestral



Dr. Ahmed Kayssi



Dr. Mohammad Qadura

## **B** New U of T Vascular Surgery Residents

We were thrilled to welcome three outstanding residents to our Vascular Surgery Training Program. Let's learn more about them in their own words:



#### Dr. Asha Behdinan

I was born in Victoria B.C, but also spent much of my childhood in Mississauga. I completed my undergraduate degree at McMaster University in Arts & Science, with an emphasis in economics. Early on, I became very interested in the intersection of economic policy and healthcare on a global scale. I hope to further explore this area through a global surgery lens during my residency training. In my spare time I enjoy outdoor sports, reading, and baking. I am very excited to be joining the Vascular Surgery team at the University of Toronto this July!



#### **Dr. Shaida Deghan**

Originally from El Paso, Texas, I found myself in the city of Tehran for some time before coming to Canada in 2004. I attended York University and majored in Health Sciences with a specialization in cellular physiology. I then moved down the street and completed my MSc in basic sciences with the Nutritional Sciences department at the University of Toronto in 2011. After working in the research field for two years, I started studying medicine at the University of Toronto. My clerkship years were where I found my passion for surgery. During my first two years of residency, while attending Queen's University for General Surgery, I found my true surgical passion ... Vascular Surgery. I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to continue my residency journey at the University of Toronto's Vascular Surgery Department.

When not in scrubs, I enjoy travelling around the world, dancing at concerts, baking and spending time with my amazing family and friends.



#### Dr. Angela Lee

I was born in Toronto but raised in Montreal. I completed my undergraduate degree (Microbiology and Immunology major), medical degree and master's degree all at McGill University. Everyone in my family has pursued a different field of study, ranging from religious studies to economics. My interests lie in improving medical education and addressing gaps in surgical care in underserved and vulnerable populations. During residency, I look forward to mentoring medical students and serving as a vascular health advocate through my clinical and academic work. My hobbies are basketball, film photography and assembling figurines. I am overjoyed to be joining the University of Toronto vascular surgery family!

Major Research and Education Awards



Dr. Mark Wheatcroft D.H. Gales Education Award for Outstanding Contributions to Surgical Skills Education



Dr. Mohammad Qadura Society for Vascular Surgery Research Career Development Travel Award



Dr. John Byrne Society for Vascular Surgery Research Career Development Travel Award



Dr. Charles de Mestral Ontario Early Career Researcher Award

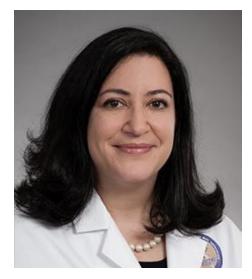
Dr. de Mestral was awarded an Ontario Early Career Researcher Award for his proposal entitled, *Regional Foot Care and Amputation Prevention Pathways For All Ontarians*. Dr. de Mestral is a Surgeon-Scientist at St. Michael's Hospital & Unity Health Toronto and an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto. The Early Researcher Awards program helps new researchers working at publicly funded Ontario research institutions, in a variety of academic fields, build their research teams. The program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. This award (\$190,000 over 5 years) will support research in foot care and amputation prevention for people with diabetes or peripheral artery disease in Ontario. Dr. de Mestral will be (i) characterizing the region-specific clinical and economic burden of amputation, (ii) exploring the real-world impact and cost-effectiveness of amputation prevention efforts, as well as (iii) gaining a better understanding of existing facilitators and barriers to optimal foot care across Ontario.

2019 – Year in Review: By the Numbers

### Visiting Professors



Dr. Omid Jaezeri SVS Wylie Travelling Fellow Denver, Colorado



Dr. Sherene Shalhub University of Washington Seattle, Washington



Professor A. Ross Naylor University of Leicester Leicester, U.K. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer



Dr. Matthew Corriere University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan

**G** Abstracts Presented at 2019 Vascular Annual Meeting

The 2019 Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Annual Meeting was held in National Harbor, Maryland and U of T Vascular Surgery residents and faculty were out in force by presenting and contributing to 6 abstracts and presentations.

Stay tuned for even more when VAM returns to Toronto in June 2020!



SS28. Compliance With Society for Vascular Surgery Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Care of Patients With an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Its Impact on Outcomes Jens Eldrup-Jorgensen, <u>Thomas L. Forbes</u>, Elliott Chaikof, Dan Neal, Lawrence W. Kraiss

PCo20. Health Care Costs of Endovascular Compared With Open Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair Rodolfo V. Rocha, Maral Ouzounian, Charles de Mestral, Thomas L. Forbes, Peter C. Austin, Douglas S. Lee, Mohammed Al-Omran, Thomas F. Lindsay

PCo3o. Endovascular Aneurysm Repair Graft Explantation Should Not Be Delayed Until Symptoms or Rupture Occurs: A Canadian Multicenter Experience Luc Dubois, Heather Gill, Jerry Chen, Pascal Rheaume, Andrew Hill, John A. Harlock, April J. Boyd, <u>Graham Roche-Nagle</u>

PCo48. A Comparison of Outcomes in Incidental and Symptomatic Penetrating Aortic Ulcers Jason Koppert, Naomi Eisenberg, Maral Ouzounian, Jacob A. Udell, KongTeng Tan, John Byrne

PC120. Assessing Basic Vascular Surgical Skills With Smartphone Video Lauren E. Gordon, Mohammad Qadura, George Oreopoulos, Elisa Greco, Mark Wheatcroft

PC200. Preoperative Anemia Has Sex-Based Differences in Immediate Postoperative Mortality Sneha Raiu. Naomi Eisenberg. Janice Montbriand. Graham Roche-Nagle

### **9** First Year Vascular Surgery Residents Welcomed to National Vascular Bootcamp

The National Vascular Surgery Bootcamp welcomes first year residents from across the country for an intensive week long immersion into the basics of vascular surgery. In 2019, 9 residents from across the country joined us, including those from UBC, University of Calgary, McMaster, Western, University of Montreal, Laval, University of Ottawa and University of Toronto.

Special thanks to our Bootcamp Director, Dr. Mark Wheatcroft, and Michelle Paiva for organizing the week.

Bootcamp would not have been possible without the leadership of our Program Director, Dr. George Oreopoulos and the contributions from our U of T Faculty (Drs. Greco & Johnston), guest faculty (Dr. Harlock) and residents (Drs. Abdelmasih, Al Suwailem, Crawford, Firdouse, Gordon, Hussain, Jacob-Brassard, McVeigh, Raju, Selim, Van Asseldonk, Zavitz).



# U of T Vascular Surgeons Contributing To the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*



University of Toronto vascular surgeons have long played important roles with the Journal of Vascular Surgery, including K. Wayne Johnston's term as Editor-in-Chief. Congratulations to the following U of T surgeons & researchers who are recognized in the December 2019 issue for their important contributions to the Journal and the peer review process.

Editorial Board: Thomas Lindsay

Distinguished Reviewers: Elisa Greco

Reviewers: John Byrne, Charles de Mestral, Matthew Doyle, Kathryn Howe, Ahmed Kayssi, Mohammad Qadura, Graham Roche Nagle, Mark Wheatcroft

Associate Editor: Thomas Forbes

## **19** Abstracts Presented at 2019 Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Meeting

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery took place in beautiful Kelowna, British Columbia.

U of T had a leading 19 podium and poster presentations and our faculty and residents took home 3 research and education awards. Congratulations to Dr. Mohammad Qadura for winning the Cook Award, Dr. Graham Roche-Nagle for winning the Gore Award and Dr. Lauren Gordon for winning the Provan Award.

We're looking forward to the 2020 meeting in on the opposite coast in St. John's, Newfoundland.



## **601** Publications

#### Did you say 60? Wow!

### This represents an all-time high for the number of publications by our U of T residents, fellows, faculty and researchers.

#### Here is the impressive list for you to browse:

Abdelmasih M, Kayssi A, Roche-Nagle G. Penetrating paediatric neck trauma. BMJ Case Rep. 2019 May 14;12(5).

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A, Duval S, Eckstein HH, Ferraresi R, Gambhir R, Garguilo M, Geraghty P, Goode S, Gray B, Guo W, Gupta PC, Hinchliffe R, Jetty P, Komori K, Lavery L, Liang W, Lookstein R, Menard M, Misra S, Miyata T, Moneta G, Munoa Prado JA, Munoz A,

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Story ideas, articles, photos or comments are welcome for upcoming issues, please send them to <u>vascular.admin@utoronto.ca</u> or <u>thomas.forbes@uhn.ca</u>

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

#### **Upcoming Events & Meetings**

Jan 16, 2020	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds, University Club of Toronto Visiting Professor – Dr. April Boyd, University of Manitoba
Mar 10, 2020	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds, University Club of Toronto Visiting Professor – Dr. Cynthia Shortell, Duke University
Mar 31, 2020	Abstract Submission Deadline for Research Day
Apr 30, 2020	U of T Vascular Surgery Graduation & Research Day Dinner
May 1, 2020	U of T Vascular Surgery Research Day 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer – Dr. Gilbert Upchurch
May 8, 2020	U of T Department of Surgery Gallie Day
June 17, 2020	Reception – U of T Welcomes SVS to Toronto!
June 17 2020	SVS Vascular Annual Meeting (VAM) Toronto, ON

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