Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Division of General Surgery

RESEARCH COMPENDIUM

2026

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Editors
2010 Lakho Sandhu
2012 Boris Zevin
2013 Nathan Zilbert
2014 Ashton Connor, Karineh Kazazian, Matashia Seemann
2016 Ashton Connor, Andras Fecso
2020 Zubair Bayat, Alexander Gregor, Matthew Guttman
2022 Julian Daza, Alexander Gregor, Keegan Guidolin
2026 Anudari Zorigtbaatar

Overview

What is the Research Compendium?

This research compendium is designed to serve as a centralized, living repository of the diverse research activities within the Division of General Surgery. Its primary goal is to promote research collaboration across the Division—whether through the Surgeon-Scientist Training Program (SSTP) or through other research pathways—by increasing visibility of faculty expertise, ongoing projects, and mentorship opportunities. Importantly, inclusion in this compendium is not limited to faculty with formal graduate school affiliations or those currently supervising graduate students; rather, it reflects the full breadth of scholarly activity within the Division.

For residents and students, the compendium will facilitate identification of potential supervisors and research collaborators aligned with their interests. For faculty, it offers an opportunity to learn about colleagues' work, identify shared research interests, and foster new intra-divisional collaborations. Overall, this initiative aims to strengthen our research culture by enhancing connectivity, mentorship, and collaboration within the Division of General Surgery.

Please note that the research presented in this compendium reflects only the information provided through responses to our online survey. As such, it does not capture the full scope of research activities occurring within the Division of General Surgery. We recognize that many additional projects, collaborations, and scholarly initiatives are ongoing across the Division, and we hope this compendium will continue to evolve over time as more information is shared.

Basic & Translation Science

Dr. Colin Court

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Pending official affiliation/ renewal
- Current graduate student(s): None
- Past graduate student(s): None
- Description of research: My research program focuses on the biology and treatment of gastrointestinal cancers with an emphasis on liver metastases and regional therapies. Ongoing projects investigate the tumor immune microenvironment of hepatic metastases using translational approaches including spatial transcriptomics, single-cell profiling, and patient-derived experimental models. Key areas of investigation include mechanisms of organ-specific metastasis, immune modulation within the liver, biomarkers of response to surgical and liver-directed therapies, and development of biology-driven early-phase clinical trials.
- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Rebecca Gladdy

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) & Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology (LMP)
- Current graduate student(s): 3 PhD students
- Past graduate student(s): 2 Master's student, 1 PhD student
- Description of research: The Gladdy Lab at LTRI is a functional genomics program that has three areas of interest:
  a. Understanding why leiomyosarcoma patients are high-risk for metastatic disease (lab + computational biology) and using molecular subtyping to better discriminate treatment options
  b. Developing models of pediatric sarcoma while developing new drug therapy
  c. Using spatial technology to understand tumor microenvironment and hypoxia

Our program is highly collaborative within U of T and with global sarcoma centers. The lab currently has an RA, Post Doc, and several graduate students. There is also the opportunity to do clinical research with our prospective clinical databases, which are often done with other global sarcoma centers.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc or PhD)

Dr. Shav Keshavjee

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Multiple
- Past graduate student(s): Multiple

- Description of research: My research is in gene and cell medication of lungs for transplantation. We developed the toronto ex vivo lung perfusion system in other to achieve advanced repairs and immunomodulation of lungs for transplant.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (PhD)

Dr. Ori Rotstein

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Master's of Science student

- Past graduate student(s): Multiple- most recent Avinash Mukkala PhD (completed in Oct 2025)

- Description of research: Our group investigate ischemia/reperfusion injury in the context of hemorrhagic shock and liver injury. We are studying the potential benefit of mitochondrial transplantation in preventing or lessening I/R injury. Our methodology ranges from Cellular and molecular biology to animal models and studies in humans.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Dr. Blayne Amir Sayed

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Vanessa Glorify (PhD)
- Past graduate student(s): Fiorelle Aguilar (MSc)

- Description of research: Our research program focuses on the role of lytic cell death pathways in acute liver injury and how targeting inflammatory cell death alters the immune system in the liver. My lab utilizes several in vivo small animal models (including liver transplantation) and in vitro cellular models of acute liver injury to investigate the role of active lytic cell death pathways in liver injury and failure. We also use in vivo models of chronic liver injury to determine how repetitive acute injury resulting in cell death influences the development of fibrosis and cirrhosis. My clinical practice in liver disease frames my interest in investigating the underlying mechanisms of acute liver injury and hepatic immune priming. It also gives us access to relevant human liver tissue through the robust biobank programs at both The Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto General Hospital.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc or PhD)

Dr. Marcus Selzner

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Francisco Calderon, Catherine Parmentier
- Past graduate student(s): Multiple

- Description of research: Normothermic ex vivo organ perfusion fore the storage, assessment and repair of marginal grafts prior to transplantation

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Kasper Saonun Wang

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Huy Giang, Ayah Alzamrooni
- Past graduate student(s): Sarah Utley, PhD, Michael Fenlon PhD, Chris Vendryes M.S.

- Description of research: The overall focus of my lab is understanding the pathogenesis of biliary atresia, the most common cause of end-stage liver failure and leading indication for liver transplantation in children. My lab studies the role of biliary epithelial regeneration/repair in biliary atresia. We are focused on ciliopathy which has been identified in association with biliary atresia.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Kazuhiro Yasufuku

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Kate Kazlovich, Andrew Effat, Michellie Choi, Esther Dou, Osama Khan, Sean McGrath
- Past graduate student(s): Salma Hindy, Spencer Hu, Alexander Gregor, Khaled Ramadan, Jenny Lou, Marta Overchuk, Miho Horie

- Description of research: My research interests have been primarily focused in three areas:
- Nanotechnology enabled image guided intervention for lung cancer
- Molecular profiling of advanced stage lung cancer by minimally invasive procedures
- Image guided thoracic surgery.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (PhD)

Dr. Jonathan Yeung

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): 2 students
- Past graduate student(s): 5 students

- Description of research: We are a thoracic surgery lab interested in the genomic biology of esophageal adenocarcinoma using patient samples, xenografts, and organoid models. We are also interested in developing molecular diagnostics for lung transplantation.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Clinical Epidemiology & Health Services

Dr. Natalie Coburn

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME)

- Current graduate student(s): Sara Bocchinfuso MD
- Past graduate student(s): Alice Zhu (MSc); Tiago Ribeiro (MSc); Adom Bondzi-Simpson (PhD); Jesse Zuckerman(MSc); Vaibhav Gupta (PhD); Yunny Jeong (MSc); Jordan Levy (MSc); Chrisopher Noel (PhD)

- Description of research: Following the success of several major grants examining patterns of care for treatment of gastrointestinal cancers within Ontario, our research focuses on evaluating and improving the outcomes for patients who have gastrointestinal tract cancers. The major techniques utilized in our research are assessments of outcomes through examination of administrative databases, such as those at ICES (previously known as Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences) and patient-reported outcomes captured by the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS). Following evaluation of patient outcomes, we engage knowledge translation researchers to examine the gaps in physician knowledge that result in gaps in patient care, so that the quality of patient care can be improved by providing physicians with training to reduce the gaps in their knowledge.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (supervision of MSc or co-supervision of PhD)

Dr. Anna Dare

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation:

- Current graduate student(s): Anudari Zorigtbaatar, Sherry Mahmood
- Past graduate student(s): None

- Description of research: Anna's research and policy work focuses on improving access and outcomes for surgical and cancer patients both within Canada and at a global level. She draws on a range of methods and approaches to understand how health systems and countries can better respond to the health and surgical needs of their populations, spanning epidemiology, health services research, health economics, health policy and health systems domains.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. David Gomez

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) & Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): None
- Past graduate student(s): Teagan Tekesnicki (MSc); Jordan Nantais (PhD)

- Description of research:
  - Evaluation of access to and quality of scheduled and urgent surgery
  - Emergency general surgery models of care
  - Resiliency of the Canadian healthcare system to care for casualties from large scale combat operations
  - Epidemiology of firearm injuries
  - Non-compressible torso hemorrhage
  - Management of concomitant gallstones and common bile duct stones

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc or PhD)

Dr. Barbara Haas

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME)

- Current graduate student(s): Sina Hadipour-Lakmehsari, Gemma Postill
- Past graduate student(s): Bourke Tillmann, Matthew Guttman, Elliott Yee, Phil Williams, Darby Little

- Description of research: Long term outcomes following trauma; Process improvement in the care of older trauma patients; Family outcomes after trauma

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Shiva Jayaraman

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: None

- Current graduate student(s): None
- Past graduate student(s): None

- Description of research: Our group is primarily engaged in research related to safe cystectomy, surgical coaching, and research related to outcomes from novel and innovative techniques and procedures

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Paul Karanicolas

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME)

- Current graduate student(s): Brianna Greenberg
- Past graduate student(s): Madeline Lemke, Ramy Behman, Lev Bubis, Hala Muaddi, Richard Walker

- Description of research: Our research focuses on surgical trials in patients with gastrointestinal cancer. We have a number of single and multicentre clinical trials at different phases of development and accrual. We have established a national collaborative group of HPB surgeons interested in conducting prospective clinical trials (The HPB-Concept Team) with CIHR funding, which provides an optimal infrastructure for developing and conducting trials. We also run a program called IMPACTS that conducts trials in surgery integrated with clinical care. Residents will get involved with these trials by leading the background and development of a new concept (e.g. Starting with an idea for a trial, conducting a systematic review, survey, population based study, etc to support a grant application, write the protocol, etc), or by building a new component into an existing trial (e.g. Adding in a quality of life component or economic analysis, etc). Residents will also be exposed to all aspects of trial development and conduct, including central coordination of clinical trials and on-site activities.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (PhD)

Dr. David Wai Lim

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME)

- Current graduate student(s): Areej Mir, Rebecca Smythe, Jenelle Athansius, Samuel-Caleb Yeung (all current MSc students at IMS), Raluca Petrut (starting July 2026 through IHPME)
- Past graduate student(s): Ekaterina Kouzmina (MSc in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at IHPME)

- Description of research: Our research focuses on surgical trials in patients with gastrointestinal cancer. We have a number of single and multicentre clinical trials at different phases of development and accrual. We have established a national collaborative group of HPB surgeons interested in conducting prospective clinical trials (The HPB-Concept Team) with CIHR funding, which provides an optimal infrastructure for developing and conducting trials. We also run a program called IMPACTS that conducts trials in surgery integrated with clinical care. Residents will get involved with these trials by leading the background and development of a new concept (e.g. Starting with an idea for a trial, conducting a systematic review, survey, population based study, etc to support a grant application, write the protocol, etc), or by building a new component into an existing trial (e.g. Adding in a quality of life component or economic analysis, etc). Residents will also be exposed to all aspects of trial development and conduct, including central coordination of clinical trials and on-site activities.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Dr. Mercedes Pilkington

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s):
- Past graduate student(s):

- Description of research: Dr. Pilkington uses mixed methods to understand how to use evidence-based care to standardize and improve paediatric surgical outcomes. This work involves creating Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) guidelines for the neonatal population as well as studying the implementation of such protocols in variable resource settings (e.g., SickKids and East Africa), adaptation of surgical safety tools including the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist, and the creation of new safety processes to improve surgical care delivery globally. Ongoing projects include the Neonatal ERAS Outcomes (NEO) Study which is the first multicentre prospective study using ERAS pathways for neonates who require major surgery. Additional projects include adapting Adult and Neonatal ERAS pathways for low-resource settings, developing novel implementation strategies for ERAS in variable resource settings, and expanding non-operative management of intussusception in Ethiopia. Research interests: Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS), neonatal surgery, global surgery, surgical quality and safety

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Dr. Elliot Wakeam

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s):
- Past graduate student(s):

- Description of research: We have 3 main areas of research in our lab. One is to bring HSR methods to study lung transplant policy and outcomes, including multi hospital benchmarking efforts, clinical trial and HSR research. Secondly we do many clinical trials in thoracic oncology particularly esophageal cancer. Lastly we have some projects in surgical innovation for example relating to esophageal transplantation, sterno-costal allografting and other innovative procedures.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Surgical Education & Innovation

Dr. Abdollah Behzadi

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Pending official affiliation/ renewal

- Current graduate student(s):
- Past graduate student(s):

- Description of research:
  - Clinical outcomes and health-systems research: Examining how the organization and delivery of thoracic oncology services influence the quality and timeliness of lung and esophageal cancer care. Currently leading work on developing and implementing peri-operative and system-level enablers to support same-day discharge pathways for patients undergoing anatomical minimally invasive lung resections.
  - Medical education research: Developing competency-based curricula, national standards, and practical skills preparation in undergraduate surgical education.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Tulin Cil

- School of Graduate Studies affiliation: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Mohini Kalia
- Past graduate student(s):

- Description of research: My research includes studies investigating novel surgical techniques to improve patient outcomes as well as medical education studies to improve performance and experience of surgeons/surgical trainees. Additionally, I have ongoing studies measuring the impact of mhealth technology on patients and HCPs. Another portfolio of my research is focused on health equity and global surgical innovation. One of our studies has piloted genetic testing in Nigeria (not currently available in that region) for breast cancer patients. Educational materials and test results were used in the clinical management of patients. This study is now expanding to Nepal.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Dr. Andras B. Fecso

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): None
- Past graduate student(s): None

- Description of research:
  - Education, coaching, deliberate practice in surgery and endoscopy;
  - Innovation in the field of surgical and bariatric endoscopy.
  - Ongoing projects:
    - AI in Endobariatrics
    - PROMs in Endobariatrics
    - QI projects in Endobariatrics

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Dr. Carol-anne Moulton

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Stephanie Jiang
- Past graduate student(s): Nathan Zilbert, Sydney McQueen, Natashia Seaman

- Description of research: Surgeon psychology and emotion and stress and cultures.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (PhD)

Dr. Amin Madani

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): 2 MSc (IMS), 1 MSc (Biomedical Engineering)
- Past graduate student(s): 1 MD/PhD (IMS)

- Description of research: The Surgical AI Research Academy (SARA) is dedicated towards research and innovation in areas related to surgical training, intra-operative performance augmentation, robotic surgery and telecoaching. We use various methodologies, including artificial intelligence, AR/VR modelling, and simulation-based training to improve patient outcomes through surgical excellence. Our laboratory includes a multidisciplinary team of clinicians, engineers, computer scientists, artificial intelligence scientists, game developers, and educational psychologists. The aim of our research program is to develop and validate new technologies and methodologies to improve surgical performance. Examples include computer vision deep learning models that are capable of identifying surgical anatomy and augment surgeons' mental model, telestration tools for live on-site and remote telecoaching, intra-operative navigation and post-operative video analysis, the use of haptic devices and machine learning for performance assessment, and video games for team-training.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Dr. Jesse D. Pasternak

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): Alexia Mitsopoulos (MSc), Paige McKinley (MSc), Marjin Van -den Berg (PhD), Phillip Staibano (PhD),
- Past graduate student(s): Emily Saso (MSc), Bahar Golbon (MSc), Alex Lin (PhD), M Noltes (PhD), Raoul Verzijl (MSc), Pim Bongers (PhD), Wouter Kluijfhout (PhD)

- Description of research: Our research program focuses on improving clinical outcomes and advancing innovative treatments and diagnostic approaches for thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal tumors. We lead multiple clinical trials in endocrine surgery, including studies investigating autofluorescence and indocyanine green (ICG) imaging for parathyroid preservation, as well as radiofrequency ablation (RFA) as a minimally invasive alternative for thyroid cancer management. A central theme of our work is optimizing patient quality of life throughout the cancer care continuum, particularly for those with low-risk endocrine malignancies. In parallel, our group conducts large-scale data-driven studies using population-based datasets such as ICES to evaluate patterns of care and long-term outcomes in thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal diseases. Our multidisciplinary team includes PhD and MSc candidates, international research fellows, and medical and undergraduate students engaged in both clinical and translational research. We welcome highly motivated SSTP applicants interested in contributing to innovative projects in endocrine oncology.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: Yes (MSc)

Dr. Joanna Ryan

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Pending official affiliation/ renewal

- Current graduate student(s): Stephanie Jiang
- Past graduate student(s): Nathan Zilbert, Sydney McQueen, Natashia Seaman

- Description of research: Surgical education, specifically assessment theory and validity. Upcoming projects include an investigation into the narrative feedback provided by near-peers in EPA assessments, as well as the barriers and facilitators within surgical training for near-peers to function as assessors of junior learners and the implications of this for assessment validity.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Chaya Shwaartz

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS)

- Current graduate student(s): None
- Past graduate student(s): None

- Description of research: Surgical Education, Simulation, HPB and Transplant Surgery
  - Few Ongoing Projects and area of investigations:
    - Impact of Vascular Anastomosis Simulation Tool on Trainee Performance: Investigating how warm-up practice using a high-fidelity vascular anastomosis simulation tool enhances technical proficiency and operative readiness.
    - Advancing Surgical Training Through 3D Desktop and Virtual Reality Models for Liver Surgery: A comparative study evaluating trainee engagement, skill acquisition, and knowledge retention using digital and VR-based platforms.
    - Development of Animated Patient Education Videos for HPB and Transplant Procedures: Creating evidence-based and accessible visual tools aimed at improving patient understanding, preparedness, and perioperative decision-making.
    - Comparative Outcomes and Cost Analysis of Robotic, Laparoscopic, and Open HPB Surgery: Analyzing short- and long-term outcomes, complications and resource utilization to define the role of robotic surgery and optimize value-based surgical care.

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Dr. Sherman Wong

- School of Graduate Studies affiliaton: Pending official affiliation/ renewal

- Current graduate student(s): Stephanie Jiang
- Past graduate student(s): Nathan Zilbert, Sydney McQueen, Natashia Seaman

- Description of research: Acute care surgery, medical device innovation
  - Current projects: surgical management of choledocholithiasis in acute care surgery

- Able to supervise an SSTP student in the upcoming academic year: No

Surgeon-Scientist Training Program (SSTP)

The Surgeon-Scientist Training Program (SSTP) at the University of Toronto is a structured pathway for surgical residents seeking to integrate advanced research training with their clinical careers. The program provides protected time to pursue thesis-based Master's or doctoral training under the supervision of experienced investigators across clinical, translational, health services, and basic science research. During the research phase, residents receive full salary support, though applications for external funding are strongly encouraged.

SSTP residents are also enrolled in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Clinician Investigator Program (CIP), ensuring nationally recognized clinician-investigator training. **Importantly, SSTP enrollment is not required to conduct research during residency,** and many residents pursue impactful research through alternative pathways.

The Division of General Surgery has a strong and longstanding track record of SSTP trainees, creating a robust network of surgeon-scientists and collaborators across institutions and disciplines. Through structured mentorship and a supportive research environment, the SSTP aims to train future surgical leaders who will advance knowledge, innovation, and patient care.

Current SSTP residents

Alibhai, Kameela (kameela.alibhai@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: MSc IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Marisa Louridas
Project: Examining the use of targeted coaching interventions to address burnout and wellness among early and mid-career surgeons.

Arshinoff, Danielle (danielle.arshinoff@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: MSc IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Robert Grant & Dr. Ian McGilvray
Project: Cholangiocarcinoma, with a focus on the molecular heterogeneity in surgical patients.

Hadipour-Lakmehsari, Sina (sina.hadipour.lakmehsari@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Barbara Haas
Project: Long term outcomes in patients and their families following severe traumatic injuries.

Jiang, Stephanie (st.jiang@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: MEd OISE
Supevisor(s): Dr. Carol-Ann Moulton
Project: Exploring how surgical culture and the loss of identity contributes to the experience of the aging and retiring surgeon.

Mahmood, Sherry (sheharzad.mahmood@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: MSc IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Anna Dare
Project: Social determinants of health and cancer outcomes in Ontario.

Zorigtbaatar, Anudari (anudari.zorigtbaatar@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Gonzalo Sapisochin & Dr. Anna Dare
Project: Improving the Early Detection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Mongolia: Developing and Piloting a Culturally Sensitive and Resource-Informed Surveillance Strategy for High-Risk Patients

SSTP Alumni

A

Al-Sukhni, Eisar (eisar.al.sukhni@utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2011
Program: MSc IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Erin Kennedy
Project: The quality of MRI reporting in the preoperative staging of rectal cancer in Ontario.

B

Behman, Ramy (ramy.behman@gmail.ca)
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisors: Dr. Paul Karanicolas and Dr. Avery Nathens
Project: The management of small bowel obstruction: a population-based analysis of practice patterns and outcomes.

Berger-Richardson, David (davidbergerrichardson@gmail.com)
Program: MSc IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Carol Swallow
Project: Determine the role of surgical gloves and instruments in intra-operative tumour seeding.

Bondzi-Simpson, Adom (adom.bondzisimpson@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: Thesis defense pending
Program: PhD-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Julie Hallet
Project: Integrating Equity into Quality Indicators for Colorectal Cancer Care Through Analysis of Wait Times for Curative Intent Surgery: A Mixed Methodological Study

Brar, Karanbir (karanbir.brar@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2025
Program: MSc-IMS
Supervisor(s): Jonathan Yeung
Project: Delineating the genomic landscape of esophageal adenocarcinoma using whole genome sequencing

Byrne, James (jpbyrne@gmail.com)
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Avery B Nathens
Projects: I am exploring how system-level factors impact trauma center performance. Specifically, I am looking at how processes that vary between trauma systems, such as pre-hospital care and early in-hospital care of the severely injured patient, impact patient and center-level outcomes. Also pursuing a number of trauma-related side projects.

C

Castelo, Matthew (matthew.castelo@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2023
Program: PhD-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Nancy Baxter
Project: Clinical delays in young adults with colorectal cancer

Choi, Woo- Jin (mchoi890@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2023
Program: PhD-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Gonzalo Sapisochin, Dr. Bettina Hansen, Dr. Steven Gallinger
Project: Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma resection outcome

Connor, Ashton (ashton.connor@utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Steven Gallinger
Projects: Colorectal cancer genomics, Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma genomics

Cyr, David (david.p.cyr@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2023
Program: PhD-IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Carol Swallow
Project: Refining Prognostication in Resected Colorectal Cancer: The Role of Emerging Clinicopathologic Features

Covelli, Andrea (andrea.covelli@utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisors: Dr. Francis Wright and Dr. Nancy Baxter
Project: Qualitative studies of decision making in breast cancer surgery.

D

Daza Vargas, Julian (julian.dazavargas@medportal.ca)
Year completed: 2024
Program: PhD-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Duminda Wijeysundera
Project: Nested prospective cohort of older adults undergoing major elective non-cardiac surgery

Dekirmendjian, Adriana (adriana.dekirmendjian@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2025
Program: MSc-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Augusto Zani
Project: Pediatric Surgery, specifically Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia

De Mestral, Charles (charles.demestral@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2013
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Avery Nathens
Project: Using methods of health services research and economic evaluation to compare early to delayed cholecystectomy for acute cholecystitis.

Dossa, Fahima (fdossa@qmed.ca)
Year completed: 2020
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Nancy Baxter

E

Elmi, Maryam (mrym_elmi@yahoo.com)
Year completed: 2015
Program: MSc, IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Natalie Coburn
Project: Gastric cancer outcomes and resource utilization: a population-based analysis.

F

Fecso, Andras (andras.fecso@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD, IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Teodor Grantcharov
Projects: The effect of intraoperative technical performance on short-term patient outcomes in laparoscopic gastric cancer surgery. Assessment of intraoperative factors that affect the performance of the surgeon, using the operating room Black Box

G

Gupta, Vaibhav
Year completed: 2018
Program: PhD, IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Natalie Coburn

Guidolin, Keegan (keegan.guidolin@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2022
Program: PhD-BME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Fayez Quereshy, Dr. Gang Zheng
Project: Developing the Porphysome Nanoparticle for Photodynamic Therapy of colorectal cancer

Gregor, Alexander (agregor@qmed.ca)
Year completed: 2022
Program: PhD-IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Kazuhiro Yasufuku
Project: Novel Approaches for Preclinical Lung Sentinel Lymph Node Mapping

H

Haas, Barbara (barbara.haas@utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD, IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Avery Nathens
Project: Trauma systems.

Hamad, Doulia (doulia.hamad@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2025
Program: PhD-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Avery Nathens
Project: Quality Improvement and Patient Safety in Trauma; Understanding the Few to Benefit the Many (Mixed methods)

Hsiao, Marvin (marvin.my.hisiao@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2013
Program: PhD, IMS
Supervisors: Dr. Prabhat Jha and Dr. Avery Nathens
Project: Elucidated the numbers, rates, mechanisms, and access to trauma care of road traffic injury deaths in India using a nationally representative verbal autopsy survey dataset (Million Death Study - www.cghr.org), along with geographic information system (GIS) methods.

J

Jeong, Yunni
Program: MSc IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Natalie Coburn

Jung, James (james.jung@utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Teodor Grantcharov
Project: Clinical epidemiology with interest in cost effectiveness studies.

K

Kagedan, Daniel (dkagedan@gmail.com)
Program: MSc IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Natalie Coburn
Projects: A population-based analysis of patients with pancreatic cancer comparing the effectiveness of chemotherapy vs. chemoradiation therapy. Evaluating the impact of poverty and socioeconomic marginalization on pancreatic cancer outcomes. Comparing rates of postoperative complications and outcomes following Whipple pancreaticoduodenectomy. A population-based analysis of gastric cancer examining the preoperative workup and outcomes.

Kazazian, Karineh (karineh.kazazian@utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Carol Swallow
Projects: Identification and investigation of novel genes that drive metastatic progression in Colorectal Cancer. Defining the role of Polo-Like Kinase 4 (PLK4) on cancer invasion and metastasis, and identification of novel PLK4 interactors in cancer cells.

L

Levy, Jordan
Program: MSc IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Natalie Coburn

Li, Debbie (debbie.x.li@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2014
Program: MSc IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Avery Nathens
Project: A population-based analysis of practice patterns and long-term outcomes in colonic diverticulitis.

Louridas, Marisa (marisa.louridas@utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2015
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Teodor Grantcharov
Project: Coping with complicated situations, mental practice and simulator training to enhance surgical performance in the operating room and in adverse situations, and developing selection criteria for incoming residents' technical abilities.

Luu, Shelly (sluu@lunenfeld.ca)
Year completed: 2021
Program: PhD-IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Carol Swallow
Project: FAM46C/TENT5C is a tumour suppressor in gastric adenocarcinoma

M

Mason, Stephanie (saamason@gmail.com)
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisors: Dr. Avery Nathens and Dr. Marc Jeschke
Projects: A Population-based analysis of long-term outcomes and health-care utilization after major burn injury. A Qualitative analysis of patient-perceived gaps in care following burn injury. A population-based analysis of the association between mental illness and burn injury.

Marini, Wanda (wmarini@hrh.ca)
Year completed: 2024
Program: PhD-IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Michael Reedjik, Dr. Carol Swallow
Project: The role of caspase-1 in triple negative breast cancer and the immune tumor microenvironment

Mealiea, David (d.mealiea@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2021
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Andrea McCart
Project: My research involves oncolytic virus treatment of GI malignancies and the role of host immune response in this process. I'm using in vivo models of oncolytic virotherapy and fluorescent microscopy to study how oncolytic viruses and immune responses interact to produce anti-tumor effect.

Muaddi, Hala (hala.muaddi@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2021
Program: PhD IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Paul Karanicolas
Project: Examining the trends and outcomes of robotic surgery in Ontario

Mutabdzic, Dorotea (dorotea.mutabdzic@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2014
Program: Med OISE
Supervisor: Dr. Carol-Anne Moulton
Project: Exploring how coaching can be applied in surgery.

P

Palter, Vanessa (vanessa.palter@utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2011
Program: PhD, IMS
Supervisor: Dr Teodor Grantcharov
Project: Simulation and curriculum development for surgical procedures.

R

Ramadan, Khaled (khaled.ramadan@mail.utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor(s): Dr. Marcelo Cypel
Project: I am investigating the use of In Vivo Lung Perfusion, a form of isolated lung perfusion, to treat lung metastases. Specifically, I have explored the use of targeted chemotherapy delivered by IVLP as well as the use of Photodynamic Therapy, which harnesses the flexibility of the IVLP platform to target micrometastatic disease.

Ribeiro, Tiago (tiago.ribeiro@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2024
Program: MSc-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Julie Hallet, Dr. Natalie Coburn
Project: Development of a prediction model for days at home after surgery in patients undergoing elective gastrointestinal cancer surgery.

S

Sandhu, Lakho (lakho.sandhu@utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2013
Program: PhD, IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. David Urbach
Project: Quantifying the bias in non-randomized studies and randomized controlled trials in surgery using modified framework synthesis, meta-analysis and Bayesian meta-regression.

Sathya, Chethan (chethan.sathya@utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2014
Program: MSc, IHPME
Supervisor: Dr. Avery Nathens
Project: Determining and analyzing predictors of quality of care within pediatric trauma centers.

Sue-Chu Lam, Colin (colinjscl@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2023
Program: PhD-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Nancy Baxter
Project: Practice Patterns and Health Outcomes of Adjuvant Oxaliplatin Chemotherapy for Colorectal Cancer

Szasz, Peter (peter.szasz@utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Teodor Grantacharov
Projects: The creation of a consensus-based training and assessment framework for General Surgery that can be utilized as the transition to competency-based education occurs. The use and accuracy of internal assessors (staff surgeons) for technical and nontechnical performance assessments in the operating room - appropriate for formative assessments in General Surgery. The development of defensible standards for technical and non-technical performance in the operating room - required for the implementation of summative assessments (milestone assessments) into competency-based education.

Seemann, Natashia (nseemann2011@meds.uwo.ca)
Program: MSc, IMS
Supervisor: Dr Carol-Anne Moulton
Project: Examining the phenomenon of stress in surgery, investigating the causes of stress and exploring coping strategies used by surgeons. This was done by looking specifically at intra-operative stress and combining both physiologic and observational data.

Suri, Megha (megha_suri@hotmail.com)
Year completed: 2012
Program: MSc IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Paul Wales
Project: The role of glucagon-like peptide-2 (a hormone known to augment intestinal adaptation) in neonatal piglet models of short bowel syndrome.

T

Telesnicki, Teagan (teagan.telesnicki@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2023
Program: MSc-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. David Gomez, Dr. Charles de Mestral
Project: A population-based analysis of changes in contemporary management and outcomes of colonic diverticulitis

W

Walker, Richard (rjbwalker@gmail.com)
Year completed: 2023
Program: MSc-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Paul Karanicolas
Project: Learning curves and volume-outcome relationships in robotic surgery

X

Xu, Michael (michaelmx.xu@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2023
Program: IMSc- IMS
Supervisor(s):Dr. Tom Waddell, Dr. Siba Haykal
Project: Bioengineering Vascularized Porcine Free Flaps by Perfusion-Decellularization and Recellularization

Y

Yee, Elliott (elliott.yee@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2025
Program: MSc-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Barbara Haas
Project: Toward Equity in Trauma Recovery: Primary Care and Long-Term Health Outcomes after Severe Traumatic Injury

Yeung, Jonathan (jon.yeung@utoronto.ca)
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Shaf Keshavjee
Project: Lung preservation for transplantation.

Z

Zevin, Boris (boris.zevin@utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2013
Program: PhD IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Teodor Grantcharov
Project: The development, validation, and implementation of simulation-enhanced training curricula for advanced minimally invasive operations.

Zhu, Alice (alice.zhu@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2026
Program: MSc-IHPME
Supervisor(s): Dr. Natalie Coburn
Project: Patient Reported Pain Burden after Diagnosis of Gastrointestinal Cancer: Identifying Factors Associated with Symptom Screening and Moderate-to-Severe Pain Outcomes

Zih, Francis (francis.zih@utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2011
Program: MSc IMS
Supervisor: Dr. Carol Swallow
Project: The role of Polo-Kinase 4 in cancer cell motility and invasion, particularly in colorectal cancer.

Zilbert, Nathan (nathan.zilbert@utoronto.ca)
Program: MEd, OISE
Supervisor: Dr Carol-anne Moulton
Project: How surgeons prepare for operations, looking at the differences between staff surgeons and trainees. A qualitative study using grounded theory methodology investigating the risk-taking behaviour of surgeons.

Zuckerman, Jesse (jesse.zuckerman@mail.utoronto.ca)
Year completed: 2021
Program: MSc IHPME
Supervisor(s): Drs. Julie Hallet & Natalie Coburn
Project: The variation in red blood cell transfusion practice among surgeons and hospitals in the province in gastrointestinal cancer surgery patients