Message from the Chair:

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have enjoyed the all-too-short Canadian summer. As this season ends, I am pleased to present the Summer Newsletter, which presents a sampling of our department’s activities. As the term progresses, please send us your updates, so we can share them with your colleagues in the next newsletter.

For many of you, today marks the first day of the academic year. Over the summer, our team of educators has been busy launching the Competence by Design (CBD) Program, preparing for the new group of undergraduate medical students and planning Faculty Development Day. Drs. Lisa Bahrey, Alayne Kealey and Clyde Matava continue to discover innovative ways to smooth out the kinks in resident evaluations, as we begin the next stage of the CBD Program. Dr. Vincent Chan’s team has planned an outstanding program for Faculty Development Day, which will be held on November 13, 2017. Please mark your calendars and register early as many sessions are only available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. The Undergraduate Program team, led by Dr. Ahtsham Niazi, is launching a set of e-learning tools that will be used as we make changes to the medical education program.

Our administrative team at the Department of Anesthesia at University of Toronto continues to expand and we will be recruiting two new members in the near future. Included in their long list of responsibilities will be the facilitation of promotions and appointments. Academic promotion is an important way to recognize your many contributions and we are seeking better ways to assist you with the promotions process.

This month, we will begin the strategic planning process. Through a series of hospital site visits, questionnaires, meetings and consultations, we will begin to develop a five-year plan that will guide our academic mission. I look forward to meeting you at either a breakfast or afternoon session.

Finally, September 16, 2017, marks the first-ever Residents Sport Day. Dr. Rohan Kothari and his team have organized an afternoon of sports, food and fun. Please register you and your family members to support our residents. They have worked hard to ensure that the day will be a great success!

So, goodbye summer and hello September! Let’s rekindle the excitement we felt as students when we were starting a new school year. The following quotation is a shout-out to our amazing educators, who have worked so hard over the summer months.

“Working hard for something we don’t care about is called stress; working hard for something we love is called passion.”

Simon Sinek
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Anesthesiology Examination Board

Congratulations to Drs. Eric You-Ten and Kyle Kirkham, who were selected as candidates to represent the University of Toronto as Examiners for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. In this position, Drs. You-Ten and Kirkham will participate in yearly examinations of candidates at the oral examinations, and will help to develop written examination questions. Both candidates bring to this position a wealth of experience related to resident education, simulation and assessment.

Virtual Reality for Surgery Preparation

We are thrilled to share the news that Drs. Clyde Matava and Fahad Alam has been invited by the Toronto Public Library to present their virtual reality work to the general public for their Cutting Edge: Health and Technology Lecture Series. They will be presenting on three separate evenings at three different sites – Brentwood, Downsview and City Hall.

The session is called Virtual Reality for Surgery Preparation.

“Virtual reality (VR) is not just for gaming as Toronto hospitals are using the technology to help people get over pre-surgery anxiety…”

Click on the link below for more details:

Cutting Edge: Health and Technology Lecture Series
Education Program Coordinator

We are very grateful to have Ms. Hanaa Ahsan continue in her role as the Education Program Coordinator. Hanaa will continue to provide administrative assistance and oversee the Undergraduate and Fellowship programs, which are under the direction of Drs. Ahtsham Niazi and Doreen Yee, respectively. Hanaa is a recent graduate in Human Biology and Health Studies at the University of Toronto. She has provided invaluable, stable support for these educational programs.

Department of Anesthesia Representative on the Faculty Council

Congratulations to Dr. Sue Belo, who was elected as the Department of Anesthesia representative for the Faculty Council at University of Toronto. In this position, Dr. Belo will help shape the direction of the University’s academic policy, programs, rules and regulations, and by-laws. Dr. Belo is the Chief of the Department of Anesthesia at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. She completed a PhD in Pharmacology before undertaking medical school and residency training. Dr. Belo has extensive experience related to administration and policy development. She will join Dr. Gerald O’Leary who also serves as a representative for the department.
eLearning and Technological Innovations

The department has rolled out new e-modules to support the new Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) residency program and medical student programs. Thank you to our faculty and residents who have worked tirelessly in the creation and design of these state of the art-modules. Some new resources for supporting e-learning include the Department’s YouTube Channel and Twitter account. Follow these to stay in tune with all the latest news in the world of anesthesia.

CIHR Foundation Grant for the Perioperative Brain Health Centre

We were delighted to receive the news that Dr. Beverley Orser was awarded the Canadian Institute of Health Research Foundation Grant entitled "Targeting GABA-A receptors to mitigate postanesthetic cognitive deficits". The grant is worth $3,579,083 (7 years) and will support preclinical studies associated with the Perioperative Brain Health Centre. Dr. Orser’s laboratory is located in the Department of Physiology and the Perioperative Brain Health Centre is located at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Dr. Orser thanks Dr. Dianshi Wang and his team for their help in preparing the grant, and Dr. Shelly Au for planning the budget.

EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT:

First Department-Wide Social: BBQ & Sports Day

Date: September 16th, 2017
Time: 3:00-6:00 pm
Venue: Soccerworld, 176 Cherry St, Toronto, ON

Click on the link for details: Everbrite

Faculty Development Day – Save the Date

Date: November 13th, 2017
Time: 7:00 am – 2:45 pm
Venue: Chestnut Residences and Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut St, Toronto, ON
National Institute of Health (NIH and National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS Grant for the Malignant Hyperthermia Investigation Unit

Please join me to congratulate Dr. Sheila Riazi, Professor Eduardo Rios and Dr. Michael Fil who were awarded the NIH/NIAMS Grant entitled "The HH- A large cohort of patients with congenital myopathies of uncertain etiology". The grant is worth $2,700,000 USD and will support to refine the diagnosis of HH its underlying pathophysiology and devise new treatments to help these symptomatic patients, who currently have no prospective treatment. The close collaboration of a molecular lab, a cellular lab and a specialized muscle disease clinic enables a multi-level experimental approach, needed to fuel future clinical trials with prospective anti-HH interventions.

Undergraduate Program Introduces New E-Module

Dr. Ahtsham Niazi, Director of the Undergraduate Program is introducing a new e-module to the 2018-2019 curriculum. The Fluid Management E-Module, created by Drs. Beverly Morningstar and Clyde Matava will provide evidence-based guidelines on perioperative fluid management for our medical students. This is the next step in solidifying our flipped classroom model of teaching in the undergraduate program. We are also delighted to release the 2nd edition of our Anesthesia Clerkship Manual. New illustrations have been added and the content has been revised and updated to make the manual more concise in order to benefit student learning.
Faculty, Residents, Fellows, Alumni and Staff – send us your news, updates, articles and photos to share in our quarterly newsletter!

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