

SKALPEL

Journal of the Department of Surgery



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Celebrating those who have dedicated their lives to the care of Saskatchewan patients ...

Dr. Jeffery McKerrell, Orthopedic Surgery

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We are pleased to present the second edition of SKapel, Journal of the Department of Surgery. Thank you to the team for their hard work compiling this edition and to everyone who contributed.

Our Annual Research Day was a highlight, featuring an excellent presentation by our visiting professor, Dr. Karimmuden from Vancouver, and we are grateful to Dr. Fourney and Karen Mosier for their organizational support. At the Annual Surgery Celebration, we recognized our faculty's promotions, accomplishments, and retirements, which are showcased in this edition.

The Department of Surgery, with its 265 members, continues to excel in education, research, leadership, wellness, and EDI. We are also welcoming several new faculty members across a broad range of specialties, highlighting the ongoing growth within the Department. We are excited about the number of surgeons advancing to Associate Professor this fall, which is indicative of the continued expansion of academics within the department.

Thank you to all the leaders in surgery for your ongoing contributions. In May, we assembled for our annual Leadership Retreat, where we focused on negotiation, leadership, and emotional intelligence.

Surgical services within the Saskatchewan Health Authority remain extremely active and are on track to achieve the target of performing 100,000 cases for the 24/25 fiscal year. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing dedication to the surgical patients of Saskatchewan. A progress summary is available on page 24.

I am very proud of every member of the Department of Surgery for their past, present and future contributions, and I look forward to celebrating your successes in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Michael Kelly, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS

*Provincial Department Head & Fred H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery
University of Saskatchewan & Saskatchewan Health Authority
Knight Family Enhancement Chair in Neurological Surgery*

SKALPEL Journal is a publication of the Department of Surgery at the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.

SKALPEL is an open publication - if you are interested in submitting a story please contact SKapel.Journal@usask.ca.

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SURGERY LEADERSHIP RETREAT



On Thursday, May 30th, 2024, the Department of Surgery hosted its inaugural Leadership Retreat at the Delta Bessborough, a significant event that brought together surgical leaders from across the province. The retreat was designed to delve into the crucial role of effective leadership in highstakes situations, navigating change, imparting essential skills, and fostering strong team dynamics. Attendees were provided with valuable tools to evaluate their leadership abilities, explore innovative methods for team influence, and engage in goal setting and strategic planning.

The day's program kicked off with an introduction by Dr. Michael Kelly, who presented the Department of Surgery's Strategic Plan and the SHA Roadmap. Dr. Kelly emphasized the principles of adaptive leadership and the benefits of having a flexible attitude and mindset. Following his address, Dr. Scott Walsworth, Vice Provost of Faculty Relations at the University of Saskatchewan, shared expertise on negotiation strategies and the essentials of running an effective team. His session aimed to equip leaders with techniques to manage and optimize team dynamics effectively and provided practical strategies for its application in various scenarios. Leadership and Mentor Coach Melissa Pylpchuk then conducted a comprehensive leadership assessment for the attendees. Her session explored different leadership styles, offering guidance on how to implement these styles to enhance leadership effectiveness and team performance. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. Alana Holt, Psychiatrist Wellness Lead at the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Holt's discussion on Emotional Intelligence provided deep insights into the role of self-awareness, empathy, and emotional regulation in leadership.

The retreat concluded with an insightful presentation by Dr. Pat McDonald from the University of Manitoba. Dr. McDonald addressed the Ethical Issues surrounding Surgical Innovation and the Introduction of Novel Technology, providing a critical perspective on the ethical considerations and challenges faced in advancing surgical practices.

Overall, the Leadership Retreat served as a platform for developing and supporting leaders within the Department of Surgery. The event's success underscores its importance, and it is planned to be held annually, ensuring ongoing development and reinforcement of leadership skills in the surgical community.



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
Leadership
RETREAT | 2024
SAVE THE DATE

Thursday | May 30 | 2024
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
DELTA BESSBOROUGH
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

TOPICS for discussion:

- Negotiation
- Leadership Styles
- Assessment in Leadership
- Emotional Intelligence

Retreat Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the impact of good leadership to help lead in critical situations, deal with change, teach skills, and build an effective team.
2. Understand your capabilities as a leader and find new ways to influence your team.
3. Discuss goal setting to empower your team and implement strategy.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Division of Continuing Medical Education, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.
You may claim a maximum of 5.0 hours (credits are automatically calculated).




**Dr. Emily Chan, Division of Orthopedic Surgery**

Dr. Emily Chan successfully completed her residency at the University of Saskatchewan in June of 2023. She is currently completing a Sports fellowship at Dalhousie and will be moving to Winnipeg, Manitoba in the summer to start a second fellowship in Sports and Upper Extremity at the Pan Am Clinic.

Dr. Sarah Edwards, Division of Neurosurgery

Dr. Edwards is currently training in a Hydrocephalus and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery fellowship with Dr. Hamilton at Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, Alberta. She is also working with an excellent Hydrocephalus Research Team to delve into the mysteries of CSF Disorders. Her future plans include more Hydrocephalus, including potentially working on her Masters or maybe even exploring another fellowship to broaden her skills.

**Dr. Katlin Mallette, Division of General Surgery**

Dr. Mallette is training in a HPB Surgery fellowship at the University of Ottawa, while working on her MSc in Clinical Epidemiology through the University of London. She previously completed an MIS/advanced endoscopy fellowship at Western University in July 2023.

Dr. Jeff Scott, Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Jeff Scott successfully completed his residency at the University of Saskatchewan in June of 2023. He is working in a locum position in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and enjoying his time there.

**Dr. Isaac Wiebe, Division of General Surgery**

Dr. Wiebe is currently working in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in a locum position and loving it. His plan is to stay in Moose Jaw for the foreseeable future.

SURGERY OPEN HOUSE



Dr. Jordan Buchko with Undergraduate students, Regina Open House



Dr. Gavin Beck with Undergrad students, Saskatoon Open House



Dr. Braeden Newton - Neuro resident (Saskatoon)



Dr. Gordie Kaban (Regina)

The Student Surgical Society (SSS) is dedicated to providing medical students with the opportunity to be involved in planning and attending events related to the surgical specialties in medicine. One of the missions of the SSS is creating environments in which students have the opportunity to network and connect with surgeons in all specialties. This year, the SSS in cooperation with the Department of Surgery, piloted the first ever Surgery Open House at both Saskatoon and Regina sites. This event was designed to give students the chance to interact with surgeons in specialties that are not regularly encountered throughout curriculum assigned experiences. During the event, students at both sites participated in simulated activities corresponding to the specialties that attended. Some of these simulations included laparoscopic suturing, general surgery scopes, neurosurgery tumour removal, and internal fixation with orthopaedic surgery.

Not only was the event extremely successful in terms of connecting staff, residents, and students alike, but it also yielded the largest turn out of students to any SSS event in a number of years. There were several conversations with students afterwards in which they praised the event for its comfortable environment and exciting new simulations that were not experienced in any other areas of their medical education. As well, the SSS experienced the highest level of interest ever to serve on the Society's Executive. Overall, the students that attended the first ever Surgery Open House were able to network with surgeons in a comfortable and casual environment while also getting the chance to experience procedural skills that are not offered in the regularly scheduled curriculum or from other student-led groups. This event inspired students and got them excited to learn more about what a career in surgery has to offer.

Going forward, the SSS and the Department of Surgery will be holding a Spring event annually in multiple locations.

Information about past and future surgical procedures at the patients' fingertips ...

On March 26 the latest improvement to MySaskHealthRecord officially launched. The new Surgical Procedures feature shows patients information about upcoming surgeries, including:

- Scheduled procedure date
- Specialist/surgeon's name
- Procedure name(s)
- Procedure location
- Status of procedure

Accounts will also contain information about surgical procedures performed from 2018 onwards.

Being able to access surgical information is beneficial for patients said Donna Smandych, a Patient Family Partner who provided advice and guidance to the team developing the Surgical Procedures feature. "I had a procedure scheduled shortly after the launch. The information available in MSHR allowed me to confirm key details, ensuring I was prepared for my procedure date," said Smandych. "When patients can easily access information about their own health, it alleviates uncertainty so we can focus on working with our surgeons and other providers as partners in our health care journey."



Dr. Elke Mau, a Saskatoon surgeon who also advised the team, agreed that patient access to health care information has proven to be an asset for patients and health care providers alike. "Patients, surgeons and the entire care team can work more effectively together when patients are empowered to take an active role in their own care," she said. "Being able to access information about upcoming surgeries prepares patients for appointments and procedures, and gives them an opportunity to ask questions and request clarification."

The Surgical Procedures function went live on March 15, just over a week ahead of the official launch. Over the course of the next few days over 390,000 records were added into existing MySaskHealthRecord accounts. As of April 18, over 43,000 account holders have clicked on Surgical Procedures nearly 99,000 times.

More information:

For providers: www.ehealthsask.ca/services/MSHR/

For patients: www.ehealthsask.ca/MySaskHealthRecord

Video demonstration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY_Z0HkOI48

For specific questions about the Surgical Procedures information on MySaskHealthRecord, contact Gord Smith, Manager, Citizen Services – gord.smith@ehealthsask.ca.

MySaskHealthRecord (MSHR) Open Clinical Documents Update

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) clinical documents were added to MySaskHealthRecord (MSHR) in May 2023 and Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) diagnostic reports were added to MSHR in Nov 2023 as a part of the Phase 1 MSHR Open Clinical Documents project.

Progress on the MSHR Clinical Documents project continues. The team is working on a mechanism that allows clinical documents in the eHR Viewer to be accessible in, or excluded from, MSHR, in accordance with Health Information Protection Act (HIPA) criteria. Training resources will be available at least four weeks in advance of go-live to educate providers about when and how to exclude clinical documents from MSHR and how to report errors.

Watch eHealth Saskatchewan, SMA eNews and SHA Rounds in the coming months for updates and confirmation about the go-live date. For questions about MySaskHealthRecord, contact Gord Smith, Manager, Citizen Services – gord.smith@ehealthsask.ca.

REMEMBERING: DR. JAIME C. PINILLA

September 15, 1935 to June 22, 2024

With profound sadness, we bid farewell to Dr. Pinilla, a cherished husband, father, grandpa, brother, and friend, who passed away on June 22, 2024, after a brief illness.

Born and raised in Santiago, Chile, Jaime excelled in his studies and completed his medical training in surgery before specializing in Critical Care in Manhattan. The 1973 Chilean coup led him to a new opportunity in Saskatoon, where he became a respected professor and Medical Director of the Intensive Care Unit at Royal University Hospital until his retirement in 2004. His work in research, nutritional support, and quality improvement left a lasting impact.

Dr. Pinilla was more than his accomplishments. He was a thoughtful, reserved man with a passion for reading, enjoying evening meals with good food and music, and traveling. His return to Chile and subsequent bond with his family there was a highlight of his life. He also found joy in writing poetry, capturing his experiences and reflections.

He deeply loved his family, quietly celebrating their achievements and sharing moments of joy with his grandchildren. His romantic gestures and constant expressions of love will be remembered fondly.

In accordance with his wishes, Jaime's life will be celebrated in a private family gathering. He is survived by his wife, Candice Bryden; sons, Dr. James Pinilla (Shirlene, Sean), Dion Braustisch; stepchildren, Taylor Bryden (Anthony, Ava, Jackson, James), Sean Bryden (Natasha, Emma, Andee, Eli), Carter Bryden (Emily, Hadley, Huxley); sisters, Blancaluz Pinilla (Patricio, Pamela, Andres), Amalia Pinilla; sister-in-law, Sherry Herbison (Hal); brother-in-law, Todd Benson; and many dear friends.

The Department of Surgery would like to express its deep gratitude to Dr. Jaime Pinilla for his countless hours of service to the people of Saskatchewan.

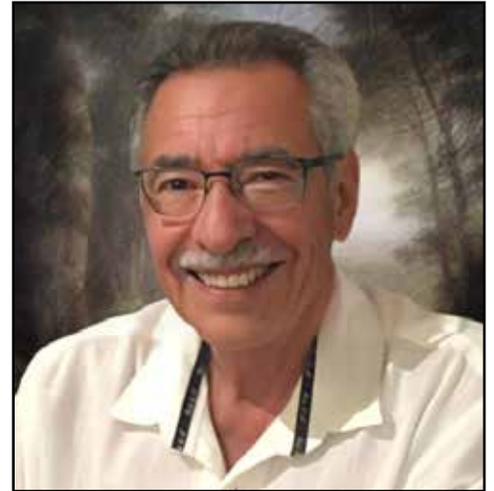


Image compliments of Saskatoon StarPhoenix

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Saskatchewan Health Authority Initiative OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER: Patient Rights & Responsibilities

On November 30, 2023, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) launched a provincial Patient Rights and Responsibilities document called **Our Commitment to Each Other: Patient Rights and Responsibilities**. It replaces all patient rights and responsibility agreements that were in place in the former health regions.

Our Commitment to Each Other is not a new concept. It is an extension of the SHA's organizational values, commitment to safety, Truth and Reconciliation, and to Patient and Family Centred philosophy of care. The document outlines what we can expect from each other during care, no matter where the care is received in the province.

Resources are available under the section *Our Commitment to Each Other: Patient Rights & Responsibilities* (on the SHA public website) in over 10 languages and are available for anyone to download and print (available in both full size letter and postcard - see images). We encourage you to share these resources with your patients.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER
Patient Rights and Responsibilities

We acknowledge that we are living on Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 territories and the Homeland of the Dakota, Lakota and Métis. Recognizing this history is important to us today and our efforts to close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

We want everyone to have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Together, we will continue to design a health system where care is available, accessible and fair for everyone.

In honour of the 6,500 residential school survivors who shared their stories, we will work towards the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. We are committed to addressing impacts of racism, discrimination and trauma.

As a patient you are a part of your health care team. We want you to know what you can expect from us, and what we expect from you during your care. We will help us all to have the best health care experience, together.

AS A PATIENT YOU CAN EXPECT TO BE:

Cared for in a safe and respectful way.

That means we will:

- Provide care that is free from all forms of racism and discrimination.
- Tell you our names and roles before we provide services to you.
- Explain things in understandable ways.
- Provide translation services where English isn't your first language.
- Strive to support you when you want to include cultural supports and healing practices in your care.
- Provide high quality care that is as private as possible.
- Explain the risks and benefits of treatments or procedures before we ask you to make decisions about them.
- Keep your health information accurate and private.

Involved in your care.

That means we will:

- Work with you to set goals and make decisions about your health.
- Partner with you to include your choices, needs and values in your care plan.
- Support you to have at least one family member, friend or other person be with you during your care to support your well.
- Ask you how involved you want that support person to be in your care.
- Ask you about your healthcare wishes and support you to understand how to choose someone else to make decisions for.
- Help you to access your health information if you want to see it.
- Ask you to share your concerns and feedback with us. Your care will not be negatively affected if you do.
- Listen to your concerns and do our best to resolve them.

We ask that you:

- Let your care team know if you have questions about your care or concerns about safety.
- Treat staff, other patients, families and the spaces you are in, with respect.
- Respect the privacy of other patients and families.

Let your care team know if you have questions about your rights and responsibilities.

Share your feedback or concerns.

We want you to have the best possible care experience. We commit to making you an important part of your health care team. Please share any feedback, questions or concerns with your care team. You can also tell us about your care by answering a patient survey.

We will respond to questions with your care team. You can contact a Patient Concerns Specialist for help.

www.saskhealthauthority.ca/our-commitment-to-each-other

Rural Phone: 1-855-778-7708
Saskatoon Phone: 306-825-0202 / 1-866-615-3066

North Phone: 1-833-484-2277
Regina Phone: 306-766-3222 / 1-866-411-7272

OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER
Patient Rights and Responsibilities

Scan the QR code for more information or visit:
<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/our-commitment-to-each-other/patient-rights-and-responsibilities>

The rights and responsibilities set out in this document are subject to applicable legislation and SHA policy, procedures and clinical standards.

On December 8, 2022, we celebrated the opening of our cutting-edge Surgical Skills Laboratory. This facility is integral to our mission of developing proficient clinicians and surgeons while ensuring that practicing surgeons can maintain their skills. We will introduce a surgical skills curriculum specifically designed to address the needs of both our undergraduate and postgraduate surgical programs and support the ongoing competence of surgeons throughout Saskatchewan. Training in controlled, simulated environments has proven to enhance surgical outcomes and patient safety. A key focus of our lab will be to ensure that the technical skills learned in virtual settings translate effectively to real-world scenarios. Our aim is for trainees to achieve proficiency in specific skills before engaging with actual patients.

The lab features a Grounding Space, located in a quiet corner near the entrance, designed in collaboration with the Indigenous Initiatives and Programming of the School of Medicine. This serene area will provide a space for spiritual reflection and honor the use of human cadavers in surgical training.

Our Surgical Skills Laboratory supports the training of surgical and medical students through hands-on practice with various medical procedures, including laparoscopy, arthroscopy, endoscopy, and microsurgery. The facility is outfitted with essential equipment such as scrub sinks, surgical tables, overhead lighting, dual LED monitors, and ceiling supply units.

We are committed to providing advanced technology and instruction in a realistic, stress-free environment, helping medical students and residents develop foundational and advanced skills.

Our lab offers one-on-one preparation for Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) and Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) assessments, the Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET) course, intensive summer curricula and additional skills sessions, and collaborative events with industry partners for instruction in new techniques and instruments.

The Skills Lab allows medical students to engage in hands-on skills sessions through the Student Surgery Society (SSS) under supervision. Residents and fellows receive training on various topics, including: proper instrument handling and foundational skills; an introduction to laparoscopic and arthroscopic surgery; dissection techniques; interpersonal, team-building, and psychomotor skills; emergency surgical airway management; central venous line catheter placement; electrocautery; microsurgery; and C-arm usage.



Surgical Skills Laboratory



Surgical Skills Laboratory



Neurosurgery Resident Cadaver Lab led by Dr. Adam Wu



Orthopedic Surgery Resident Cadaver Lab led by Dr. Tony King

As trainees advance, skills sessions focus on general surgery topics and techniques appropriate to their level, such as bowel and vascular anastomosis, with advanced laparoscopic techniques culminating in offsite laparoscopic animal lab sessions.

Additional programs include surgical simulators and endoscopy for upper and lower gastrointestinal procedures. We also offer cadaver workshops for senior residents focusing on anatomical basics of surgical dissection.

Departments across Saskatoon, including General Surgery, ENT, Neurosurgery, and Orthopedics, will utilize fresh and frozen human tissue for practice.

The lab will use entire cadavers for various surgical specialties, including arthroscopies, joint replacements, laparoscopic surgeries, thoracotomies, and open abdominal surgeries, using unfixed (fresh) samples. Examples of minimally invasive procedures include cholecystectomy, splenectomy, kidney transplant, heart surgery, brain surgery, adrenalectomy, hiatal hernia repair, and colectomy.

Dr. Gavin Beck (Director) & Drs. Lalenthra Naidoo & Jennifer Culig (Assistant Co-Directors) oversee the operations and are well-versed with the lab's procedures and issues.



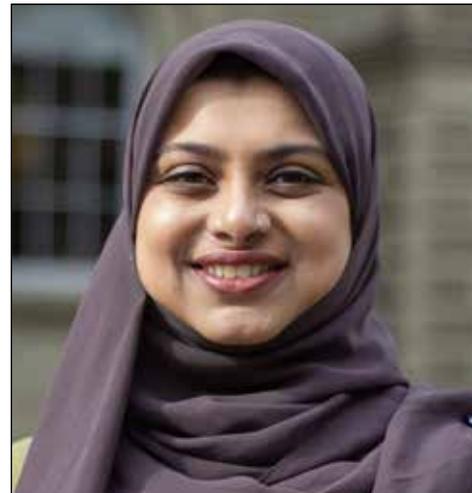
*Dr. Gavin Beck, Division of General Surgery
Director, Surgical Skills Lab and Program Director,
General Surgery Residency Program*



*Dr. Alexander Aikoye, General Surgery
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan*



*Dr. Ahmed Cherry, Orthopedic Surgery
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*



*Dr. Aishya Ghare, Neurosurgery
Regina, Saskatchewan*

Dr Alexander Aikoye grew up in Lokoja and Makurdi in Nigeria. He undertook medical school at University of Ibadan in Nigeria. He developed an interest in colorectal surgery following very broad Basic Surgical Training. He undertook Specialist Surgical Training at Kent Surrey and Sussex Deanery in the United Kingdom. He proceeded to undertake a 1 year fellowship in general and colorectal surgery at Warwick Hospital in the UK.

Dr Alexander Aikoye practiced as a consultant in General and Colorectal Surgeon at the Norfolk and Norwich University Teaching Hospital in the UK for just over four years. He moved over to Canada and joined the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) as a Consultant General Surgeon with special interest in Colorectal Surgery in December 2023.

Outside work he delights in exploring the world, making friends and playing sports.

Dr. Ahmed Cherry was born in Los Angeles, California, and was raised both there and in Beirut, Lebanon. Upon arrival to Canada, he completed an undergraduate and Master's degree in Biochemistry at the University of Windsor. He attended medical school and subsequently, his Orthopaedic Surgery residency, at the University of Toronto. Dr. Cherry completed his Complex Neurosurgical/Orthopedic Spine Fellowship at the Toronto Western Hospital.

Dr. Cherry has experience in a wide range of complex cases in both Orthopedics and Spine, however his clinical focus is aimed towards degenerative spine disease and minimally invasive procedures.

Aside from his work, Dr. Cherry loves to spend time with his friends and family, being an uncle to many nieces and nephews. He also enjoys fitness, photography, and travel – and is looking forward to continuing to explore his new home of Saskatoon.

Dr. Aisha Ghare, a Toronto native, completed her undergraduate degree at Western University in London, ON before pursuing medical school at the Queen's School of Medicine. She returned to London for her neurosurgery residency. During her residency, she developed a strong interest in neuro-oncology which led her to "big" London (UK) for a fellowship in surgical neuro-oncology at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. There, she received training in awake craniotomies, intraoperative mapping, intraventricular tumours and Gamma Knife radiosurgery.

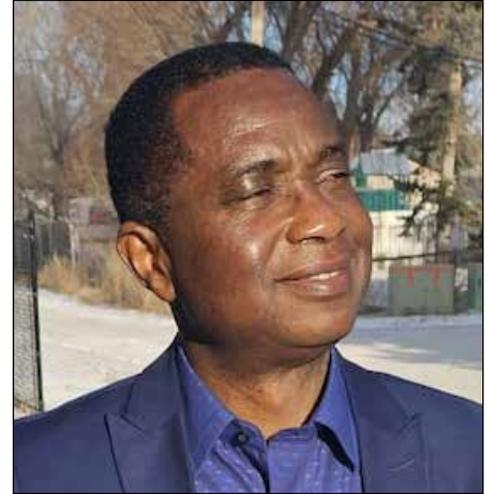
Dr. Ghare is currently finishing a 6-month fellowship with the Vancouver Island Neurosurgical Foundation, focusing on minimally invasive and complex spine surgery. She is excited to join the neurosurgery group in Regina, where she aims to expand her neuro-oncology practice and help her colleagues address the spine needs of the community. When she's not working, she loves hiking, exploring the outdoors with her husband and daughter, cooking, and tackling DIY projects. They are all looking forward to making Regina their new home!



*Dr. Emilie LeRoux, Cardiac Surgery
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*



*Dr. Kayode Oduwole, Orthopedic Surgery
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan*



*Dr. Solomon Orsar, Urology
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan*

Dr. LeRoux attended medical school in Quebec City. She completed her cardiac surgery residency at IUCPQ – Université Laval, being exposed to complex aortic surgery, transplants, VADs, congenital and minimally invasive procedures.

Dr. LeRoux further specialized at Severance Hospital, Yonsei University in South Korea, focusing on off-pump CABG and total arterial revascularization, and at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, in aortic surgery, Ross, TAVI, and other percutaneous valve replacements. She holds a Master of Public Health from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Before coming to Saskatoon, Dr. LeRoux worked at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, ON and at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, BC.

Outside of her professional commitments, Dr. LeRoux enjoys baking, traveling, and hiking. She is joining the team in August and is excited to be in Saskatoon and is looking forward to exploring the area with her husband.

Dr. Kayode Oduwole completed his Orthopedic Surgery residency in Ireland. He earned a Master of Surgery (M. Ch) degree in basic science genetic research from the University College Dublin, Ireland.

He went to complete a fellowship training in Foot and Ankle surgery at the University Hospital of South Manchester, Wythenshawe, in England. He received his Canadian board certification in orthopedic surgery in 2015 and relocated to Canada in 2016. He completed McMaster Sports Medicine and Hip Arthroscopy fellowship (MacSports) and a Hip and Knee Arthroplasty fellowship program, both at McMaster University hospitals in Hamilton Ontario, Canada. After his fellowship training programs, he practiced at different hospitals in Ontario for about 4 years prior to joining the orthopedic surgery group at Victoria Hospital, in Prince Albert.

Dr. Oduwole has a passion for academic surgery, clinical research and teaching of residents. He has special interest in evidence-based management of prosthetic joint infections and related peer-reviewed publications.

Born in Cameroon, Dr. Orsar attended medical school at the University of Jos, Nigeria; after which he did post graduate general medical education and practised as a General medical practitioner before following through with residency in urology at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

His main interest is in Community Urology, Undergraduate and resident education.

Dr Orsar moved to Prince Albert with his family in 2023.

Outside work, he enjoys playing Table tennis, as well as travelling with his family to bask in the beauty of the North Eastern Saskatchewan Lakes.

He also has a bucket list which includes fishing from the North Saskatchewan Lakes, winter hunting of deer and moose and driving farm equipment including a weed removal machine and combine harvester.



*Dr. Kendell Pon, General Surgery
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*



*Dr. Niomi Singh, General Surgery
Regina, Saskatchewan*



*Dr. Melissa Wood, General Surgery
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

Dr. Kendell Pon grew up in Regina and completed her medical school and General Surgery residency through the University of Saskatchewan. She then completed a combined fellowship in Acute Care Emergency Surgery and Global Surgery in Edmonton through the University of Alberta, which included two months working at a teaching hospital in Eldoret, Kenya. She is thrilled to return to Saskatchewan and looks forward to practicing in her home province. With a focus on Acute Care Surgery and Trauma, she will be joining the Saskatoon General Surgical Consultants after completing a locum in Regina this summer.

Other interests include supporting equitable access to surgical care, medical education, and the advancement of sustainable surgical systems. Always eager to explore her amateur culinary side, she also enjoys visiting new places and spending time outdoors, where she can often be found playing tennis or going for runs by the river.

Dr. Niomi Singh is originally from Ontario. She grew up in the Greater Toronto Area and completed her medical degree at Queens University in Kingston, ON. She went on to complete her residency in general surgery in Saskatoon, followed by a one year fellowship in Trauma and Acute care at the Ottawa Civic Hospital.

She is looking forward to starting her practice in Regina where she has joined the CVT. Her practice will consist of Trauma Team lead coverage, General elective surgery, including breast oncology. She enjoys teaching and resident education and looks forward to incorporating this into her practice.

Outside of work she is a busy mom of two and spends most of her free time with her family. Penelope is 4 and Xavier is almost two. They are absolutely thrilled to be back in Saskatchewan.

Dr. Melissa Wood was raised in Calgary, Alberta, spending most of her childhood on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains. She has a BSc from the University of British Columbia and completed Medical School at the University of Alberta. She completed her General Surgery Residency at the University of Saskatchewan, and through the Clinical Investigator Program, an MSc in Surgical Science and Practice with Distinction at the University of Oxford. Her fellowship was in Surgical Oncology at the University of Calgary, during which she completed electives in Sarcoma Surgery in Milan, Italy, and Breast Oncoplastics in Bath, United Kingdom.

Her elective practice will cover a breadth of surgical oncology and general surgery including sarcoma, melanoma, skin cancer, complex GI, colorectal oncology, breast cancer, oncoplastic breast surgery, hernias, endoscopy, and benign breast disease. She is joining the Saskatoon Surgical Oncology Group. Her research interests include qualitative surgical outcomes, surgical education, quality improvement, and human factors.

In her free time, she enjoys walking along the river valley with her dog Singha and husband Patrice, downhill skiing, and cycling.



*Dr. Lauren Zarnett, Neurosurgery
Regina, Saskatchewan*

Dr. Lauren Zarnett, originally from Toronto, ON, completed medical school at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON. She pursued a residency in neurosurgery at Western University in London, ON. Dr. Zarnett then moved to California to obtain a Master's in Epidemiology and Clinical Research at Stanford University, before returning to London to complete her residency. Following this, she completed a fellowship in Neurotrauma at McGill University in Montreal, QC, and a second fellowship in Spinal Surgery at Western University. She provided care as a staff neurosurgeon at the London Spine Centre before moving to Regina.

Dr. Zarnett's areas of interest are traumatic brain and spine injuries. She is dedicated to enhancing patient education and comprehension.

Outside of work, she enjoys practicing yoga, hiking, and spending time with her partner and their three beloved pets.



DR. AMANDA HALL, MD, FRCSC **DIVISION OF GENERAL & PEDIATRIC SURGERY**

Dr. Hall is a surgeon, leader, and researcher in the Department of Surgery at the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority. She has recently been awarded the SHRF Establishment Grant. Her project is a multi-disciplinary study of researchers from USask utilizing cutting-edge organoid models to investigate the connections between Crohn's disease and mental health disorders. Dr. Hall is working with Dr. Tyler Wenzel, PhD in the Mousseau Lab to develop an organoid model that replicates the gut-brain axis between intestinal and brain organoids.

"We're essentially creating a miniature model of a Crohn's patient to examine how brain organoids interact with intestinal organoids, aiming to support the theory that this is a single disease impacting the entire body," explained Dr. Amanda Hall (MD), an Assistant Professor of Surgery at USask's College of Medicine and a Pediatric General Surgeon with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA).

The "gut-brain axis," which describes the chemical and microbial link between the brain and organs such as the intestines, is a well-established phenomenon. This two-way communication system links physical and emotional responses within the body.

While most research in this field has traditionally used animal models, Dr. Hall and her team plan to create small intestinal organoids—cell clusters derived from human stem cells that are developed into intestinal cells. This approach will allow them to conduct tests using a more human-like model.

The USask team has been awarded \$150,000 over three years from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) Establishment Grant Program to advance this research initiative. Additionally, she received the Excellence Award for having the top-ranked grant application for the Establishment Grant in 2024.

AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS



TYALOR BERETI, MD, FRCSC
DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

New Appointment in Surgery:
PGME Site Coordinator (Regina)

ABDALLA BUTT, MD, FRCSC
DIVISION OF VASCULAR SURGERY

New Appointment in Surgery:
UGME Surgery Clerkship Core Site
Coordinator (Regina)

MARK ERNST, MD, FRCSC
DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

New Appointment in Surgery:
Co-Division Lead, Orthopedic
Surgery (Saskatoon)



NICOLE COOTE, MD
DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY
RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Award Recipient:
Canadian Association for Medical
Education (CAME) Rising Star
Award

KYLE GOLDSTEIN, MD
DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Award Recipient:
1st Place Kirkaldy-Willis Research
Award, 2023 Combined UofS/UofM
Orthopedic Resident Research Day

LAYLA GOULD, PhD
DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

Award Recipient:
Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer
Award, College of Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan



AMANDA HALL, MD, FRCS
DIVISION OF GENERAL & PEDIATRIC SURGERY

SHRF Excellence Award,
 for #1 ranked Establishment Grant
 applications in 2024

LUKE HNNENY, MD, FRCS, FAANS
DIVISION OF NEUROSURGERY

Award Recipient:
 Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan
 (RDocs) Exceptional Teacher Award

KUNAL JANA, MD, FRCS
DIVISION OF UROLOGY

Promotion to Associate Professor
 Department of Surgery, College
 of Medicine, University of
 Saskatchewan



KYLIE KVINLAUG, MD, FRCS
DIVISION OF VASCULAR SURGERY

Promotion to Associate Professor
 Department of Surgery, College
 of Medicine, University of
 Saskatchewan

NEBOJSA KULJIC, MD
DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Award Recipient:
 Samuel Claman Prize in Orthopedic
 Surgery, 2023 Combined UofS/
 UofM Orthopedic Resident
 Research Day

KATHLEEN LUMB, MD, FRCS
DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Promotion to Associate Professor
 Department of Surgery, College
 of Medicine, University of
 Saskatchewan



ELKE MAU, MD, FRCS
DIVISION OF UROLOGY & PEDIATRIC SURGERY

Promotion to Associate Professor
 Department of Surgery, College
 of Medicine, University of
 Saskatchewan



MICHAEL MOSER, MD, MSc, FRCS
DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Promotion to Professor,
 Department of Surgery, College
 of Medicine, University of
 Saskatchewan



ZACH OLEYNIK, MD
**DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
 RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

Award Recipient:
 2nd Place Research Award,
 2023 Combined UofS/UofM
 Orthopedic Resident Research Day



JAGADISH RAO, MD, FRCS
DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

New Appointment: :
 President, Trauma Association of
 Canada



ANIL SHARMA, MD, FRCS
**DIVISION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY,
 HEAD & NECK SURGERY**

Promotion to Associate Professor
 Department of Surgery, College
 of Medicine, University of
 Saskatchewan



TRENT THIESSEN, MD, FRCS
DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

New Appointment in Surgery:
 Co-Division Lead, Orthopedic
 Surgery (Saskatoon)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR FACULTY

SASKATCHEWAN Medical Association - Physician Wellness and Support Programs

The Saskatchewan Medical Association offers a wide range of support through its Physician Wellness and Support Programs for SMA members and their families. This support includes the Physician Health Program (PHP), Workplace Wellbeing, EDI initiatives, and the Medical Benevolent Society (MBS).

One of the cornerstone programs in the Physician Wellness Support portfolio is the Physician Health Program, particularly vital in today's high-stress medical environment.

The Physician Health Program (PHP) provides assistance to those struggling with issues such as mental health challenges, relationship issues (professional or personal), substance abuse or addiction, physical health problems, and work or family concerns. The program offers a range of services including, assessment and treatment, education, counseling and coaching, monitoring, and advocacy, to support help members maintain a healthy medical practice. Certified mental health professionals provide one-on-one compassionate support within the PHP. The program has been designed to integrate various backgrounds and areas of expertise while ensuring a unified commitment to non-judgmental and confidential assistance. To preserve strict confidentiality, the PHP operates independently from the Ministry of Health, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Health Authority and College of Medicine.

For more details on any of the SMA Physician Well Being Support Programs, please visit the website at www.sma.sk.ca and navigate to the Physician Support section.

- Easy access to information, advice or support via telephone, email or virtually
- Counselling and Coaching
- Referral to other resources
- Workplace conflict resolution and mediation services
- Assistance when faced with complaints, investigations, audits, or formal proceedings
- Advocacy services
- Virtual training and online resources
- Financial support for unexpected life events

CoMPAS: Coaching and Mentorship Program for Physicians of Saskatchewan

CoMPAS was established to create and support professional connections and relationships amongst physician peers. It is open to all physicians! If you think a peer supported pathway would help you better navigate challenges in clinic care, exam preparedness, leadership development, research, and personal balance/wellness – CoMPAS is the program for you.



Physicians in their first five years of practice in Saskatchewan can enrol as a Coachee/Mentee, regardless of their scope of practice, specialty of practice, or their practice location (Rural/Urban). We hope that each Coach Mentee Pair (CMP) feels more ready for the practice of medicine, and connected to the community you serve in. As a more experienced physician in Saskatchewan, Coaches/Mentors with more than 5 years of practice in Saskatchewan, will be trained and regularly supported to be ready to help their peers become more successful in the first years of practice!

All physicians are welcome to apply into CoMPAS!

Other Information:

Interested Physicians can apply at a Webpage:

USASK Continuing Medical Education - CoMPAS

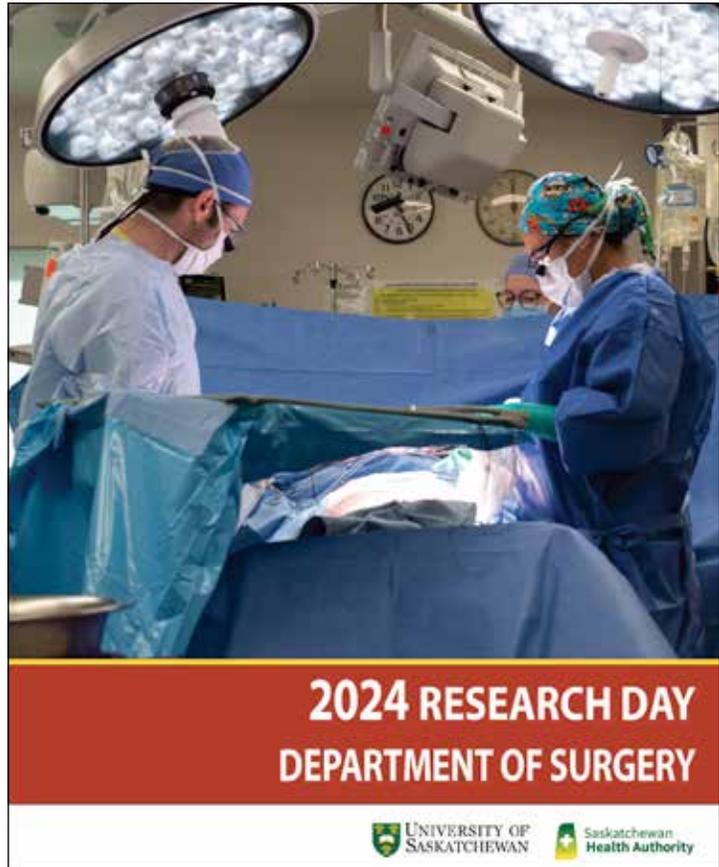
Website link is here: https://cmelearning.usask.ca/specialized-programs/compas/compas_overview_2022.php

Dr. Daryl Fourney, Professor in the Division of Neurosurgery & Director of Research in the Department of Surgery is pleased to provide this update on research activities in the Department of Surgery. Our combined Research Day was held on May 16th, 2024, with a total of 32 abstracts highlighting projects across several Divisions including Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, General Surgery, Otolaryngology, Vascular Surgery, Pediatric Surgery and Urology. In addition to residents and faculty, we had presentations from basic scientists, postgraduate students and undergraduate medical students. Congratulations to all the presenters and award recipients!

Our invited guest was one of our past residents: Dr. Ahmer Karimuddin, colorectal surgeon and Associate Professor from UBC, who spoke on "Exploring Immigrants' Access and Outcomes in Surgical Care in British Columbia, Canada".

I am very pleased to announce that in the last 9 months, our faculty and residents have published over 50 papers and have been awarded over \$455,000 in research funding.

The Department provided over \$37,912 in internal research funding to support our residents and faculty over the last year. Our residents obtained eight Resident Research Incentive Program awards totaling \$3,000, eight Resident Travel awards totaling \$16,912, and six Resident Research awards totaling \$15,000. On behalf of the Research Committee and myself, I wish to congratulate our residents on their projects and give special thanks to our faculty for mentoring our future clinician-scientists. For our faculty, the Research Committee awarded three Faculty Publication awards totaling \$3000.



Dr. Nick Peti (Moderator: Session I) with Podium Presenter during question period

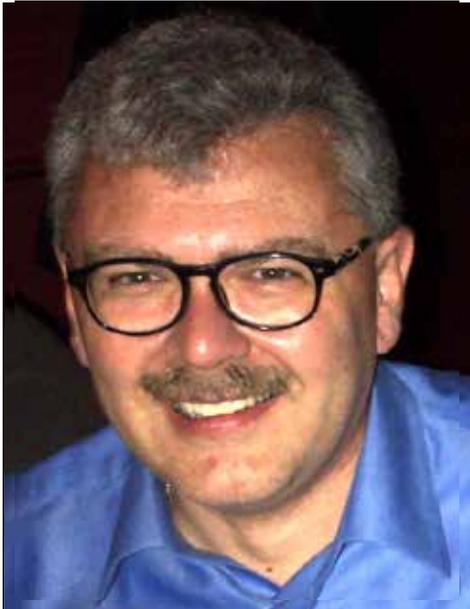


Dr. Ahmer Azhar Karimuddin, Keynote Speaker (USASK Alumni)



Research Day, Keynote Lecture

Faculty Publication Awards Recipients



Dr. David Kopriva, Vascular Surgery



Dr. Michael Moser, General Surgery



Dr. Jans van der Merwe, Orthopedic Surgery

I want to remind everyone about our Research Rounds. These rounds are open to all faculty, residents, and research staff. It is in a hybrid virtual/in-person format so that surgeons across Saskatchewan can access the sessions. Over the last year, topics have included research ethics, systematic reviews, predatory publishers, how to write a paper, and ethical implications of using artificial intelligence in healthcare. I hope you can join us for the next rounds in the Fall!

We are starting a new effort in 2024-25 to pair our faculty with established Sask researchers. More about this is planned for a special Dept of Surgery Grand Rounds later this year.

Please feel free to drop me a line to share your ideas and vision for research endeavours in the department.

SURGERY CELEBRATION

The inaugural Surgery Celebration was held on May 16th, following the Department of Surgery Research Day. This event will replace the Research Day Banquet and is designed to recognize our members, fellows, residents & winners Research Day Award winners. The Surgery Celebration will be an annual event held in conjunction with the Department of Surgery's Research Day, offering a platform for faculty, research scientists, graduate students, residents, and undergraduates to showcase their research.

Dr. Mike Kelly, Provincial Department Head of Surgery served as the evening's MC.

The program began with the recognition of our graduating residents and fellows:

General Surgery Residency Program (presented by Dr. Dilip Gill, Associate Program Director)

- Dr. Zarrukh Baig
- Dr. Tanner Hall
- Dr. Kyle Irvine
- Dr. Annalise Kudryk
- Dr. Nicole Labine

Neurosurgery Residency Program (no 2024 Graduates)

Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program (presented by Drs. Andrew Urmson, new Program Director & David Sauder, past Program Director)

- Dr. Matthew Getzlaf
- Dr. Nebojsa Kuljic

Division of General Surgery, Fellow in Acute Care Surgery

- Dr. Stephanie Ruscheinsky

Division of Otolaryngology, Fellow of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery (presented by Dr. Rick Jaggi)

- Dr. Fahad AIObaid



Drs. Dilip Gill & Zarrukh Baig



Drs. Dilip Gill & Annalise Kudryk



Drs. Dave Sauder, Nebojsa Kuljic, & Andrew Urmson



Drs. Matthew Getzlaf & Nebojsa Kuljic



Drs. Rick Jaggi & Fahad AIObaid



Drs. Mike Kelly & Kunal Jana



Drs. Mike Kelly & Elke Mau



Drs. Mike Kelly & Kylie Kvinlaug



Drs. Mike Kelly & Michael Moser



Drs. Mike Kelly & Jeff McKerrell

Dr. Kelly then recognized our 2024 Faculty Promotion & 2023-2024 Faculty Retirees.

Surgery Faculty Promotions

- Dr. Kunal Jana - Division of Urology (Saskatoon), promoted to Associate Professor
- Dr. Kylie Kvinlaug - Division of Vascular Surgery (Saskatoon), promoted to Associate Professor
- Dr. Kathleen Lumb - Division of General Surgery (Prince Albert), promoted to Associate Professor
- Dr. Elke Mau - Division of Urology & Pediatric Surgery (Saskatoon), promoted to Associate Professor
- Dr. Anil Sharma - Division of Otolaryngology (Saskatoon), promoted to Associate Professor
- Dr. Michael Moser - Division of General Surgery (Saskatoon), promoted to Professor

Surgery Retirees

- Dr. Randall Friesen – Division of General Surgery, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
- Dr. Don McCarville – Division of Vascular Surgery, Regina, Saskatchewan
- Dr. Jeff McKerrell – Division of Orthopedic Surgery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Dr. Edward Tse – Division of Urology, Regina Saskatchewan
- Dr. James Fritz – Division of Otolaryngology, Regina Saskatchewan
- Dr. Wendy Tin – Division of General Surgery, Regina, Saskatchewan
- Dr. Kris Saczek – Division of General Surgery (Pediatric), Regina, Saskatchewan

SURGERY CELEBRATION (CONT'D)

The evening concluded with Dr. Daryl Fourney, Director of Research in the Department of Surgery presenting the **Surgery Research Day Awards**:

- **1st place podium:** Dr. Nolan Hunka, General Surgery
- **2nd place podium & Department of Surgery Kloppenburg Award:** Dr. Eva Liu, Neurosurgery
- **3rd place podium:** Dr. Mars Zhao, Orthopedic Surgery
- **Poster Presentation Award:** Mason Beaulieu, Undergraduate Medical Student
- **Kvinlaug Surgical Foundations Research Award:** Dr. Melanie Elhafid, General Surgery
- **Department of Surgery Undergraduate Surgical Research Award:** Sergey Kens, Undergraduate Medical Student
- **Department of Surgery Research Award (non-resident):** Dr. Jans van der Merwe, Orthopedic Surgery



Drs. Mars Zhao & Daryl Fourney



Dr. Daryl Fourney & Melanie Elhafid



Dr. Daryl Fourney & Sergey Kens



Drs. Daryl Fourney & Eva Liu



Drs. Jans van der Merwe & Daryl Fourney

UNDERGRAD EDUCATION IN SURGERY

23

The 2023-24 academic year has been a tremendous success, and it is thanks to the unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions of every member of our department. Your enthusiasm and commitment to teaching have truly made a significant impact. Last year, we successfully launched the in-house MCQ exam for our third-year clerks, and we are continuing to enhance our question bank by piloting and incorporating questions supported by robust data. We encourage you to keep submitting questions to help us build a rich and diverse question bank that will benefit our students.

As we move into the new academic year, there are a few important updates to be aware of. As previously communicated, the UGME is transitioning to the one45 system for collecting EPAs. You have the option to either initiate the EPA on the student's phone and then complete the rating and feedback

yourself, or you can start and finalize the EPA within your own one45 account. Please remember that this system is web-based only, and no app is available. It is crucial to provide detailed narrative feedback, as this plays a significant role in student development. When filling out a clerk's clinical evaluation, ensure that you select a column in each category. Avoid marking "N/A" if possible, as this will remove the row from the evaluation and could negatively affect the student's total score.

This year, we are excited to introduce a new module titled "Patient as Teacher." This module will feature a storytelling session with a breast cancer survivor, designed to promote humanism in medicine and build empathy among our learners. We believe this initiative will greatly enrich the educational experience and foster a deeper connection between our students and the patients they serve.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce that the annual Department of Surgery Celebration of Teaching will take place on Wednesday, September 25th, at the Sheraton Top of the Inn. We are honored to have Dr. Jory Simpson from Toronto as our guest speaker. Dr. Simpson, the creator of the Patient as Teacher program, will share his insights and experiences with us. We are looking forward to a memorable event and hope to see you all there!

Alex Mortimer, MD, FRCSC

Assistant Professor, Division of Orthopedic Surgery
Director, Undergraduate Medical Education - Department of Surgery



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

CELEBRATION OF SURGICAL TEACHING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2024

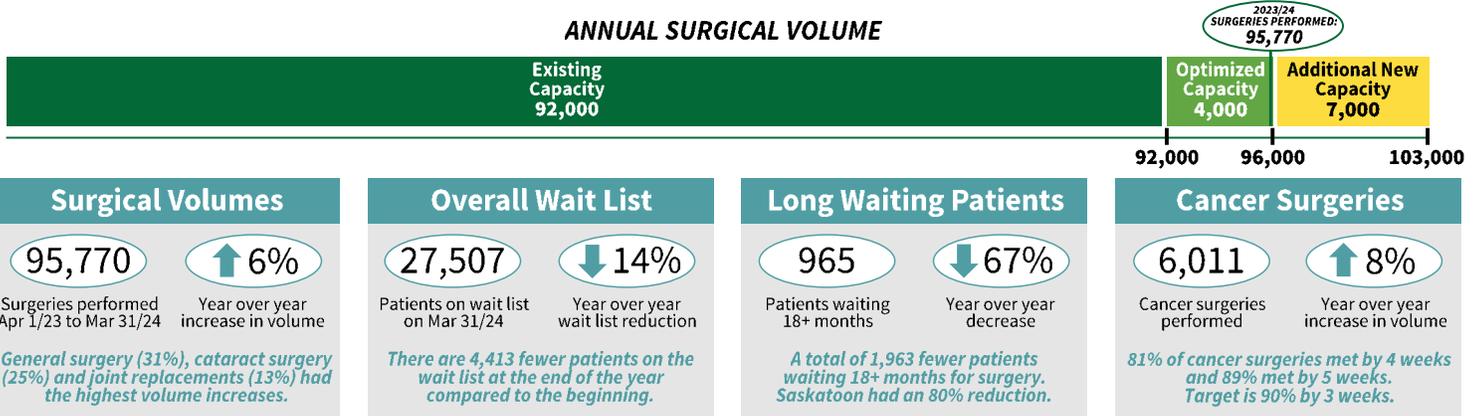
Keynote Speaker
Dr. Jory Simpson
Director MD Program, Department of Surgery
University of Toronto | St. Michael's Hospital

SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY SURGICAL SERVICES UPDATE

SURGICAL SERVICES UPDATE - 2023/24 YEAR IN REVIEW



ANNUAL SURGICAL VOLUME



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024/25

2024/25 Targets



2024/25 Priorities

- Ongoing monitoring of diagnosis-based priority scoring/case mix
- Standard provincial breast cancer referral pathway
- Opening of the Regina Breast Health Centre
- Addressing Provincial Auditor's report recommendations for neurosurgeries
- Completion of OR Manager upgrades in 5 regional/3 rural sites
- Expansion of central intake/pooled referral model to other services
- Expansion of Robotics Assisted Surgery Program in Saskatoon and initiation of program in Regina
- Developing and implementing surgical quality and safety plan

Budget Highlights for Surgery 2024-25

In fiscal year 2024-25 the provincial budget provides for a \$2.282M increase in funding to the surgery program, which will allow the health system to maintain current high volumes of surgery for the coming year, producing steady ongoing improvement in surgical wait lists and wait times. Saskatchewan's investment in surgical programs has increased by almost \$80 million since 2020.

A surgical volume target of approximately 100,000 procedures in 2024-25 represents a progressive but sustainable goal for the surgical program. To support this objective, the health system will continue efforts to recruit and retain health professionals in the surgical program, investing in surgical teams and improving working conditions. Surgical program funding also supports focused interventions to meet patient needs in program areas with persistently long wait lists caused by gaps in human resources, higher than expected demand, or breakdowns in pre or post operative pathways.

In addition to the surgery program budget increase, \$2M will be available in this fiscal year to help expand Saskatchewan's robot-assisted surgery program. Evidence-informed investments in new technology, such as surgical robots, ensure that Saskatchewan people have access to new surgical techniques. Support for innovation encourages surgeons and researchers, and creates a system that can adopt change to improve patient care. The Ministry recognizes the leadership of surgeons in keeping Saskatchewan abreast of improvements in surgical technology.

The budget also provides additional funding for areas such as anesthesia information management, continued expansion of OR Manager© surgical software suite to all surgical facilities in Saskatchewan, and other capital projects that support expansion of surgical volume, maintain patient safety, reduce operating room down times, and support efficiency in management of surgical resources.