

Special Interest Articles:

- Synergy, SSTP
- Alumni Profile
Dr. Ken Harris
- Faculty Profile
Dr. Andrew Dueck

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Chair's Column

According to Wikipedia:
Synergy (n): is the creation of a whole that is greater than the simple sum of its parts, from *synergos*, meaning "working together".

In efforts to pursue collaboration and synergy 23 U of T vascular surgeons from 5 hospitals met on a beautiful Saturday in February.

Synergy is hardly a new concept in the business world and has been written about extensively including a 1998 *Harvard Business Review* article by Michael Goold and Andrew Campbell entitled "*Desperately Seeking Synergy*".

I encourage you to read this article in which Goold and Campbell list the advantages and disadvantages of synergy initiatives in business and the inherent struggle in balancing collaboration and autonomy.

They describe business synergy as the ability of two or more units or companies to generate greater value working together than they could working apart. They found that most business synergies take one of six forms: Shared Know-How, Shared Tangible Resources, Pooled Negotiating Power,

Coordinated Strategies, Vertical Integration and Combined Business Creation. It's not a far reach to see how these principles pertain to the practice of medicine in general, and our Division specifically.

Of course another way to look at it is through Benjamin Franklin's sage words, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we will all hang separately".



Dr. Thomas Forbes

U of T Vascular Surgery SSTP Residents

Since 1983 the Surgeon Scientist Training Program in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto has provided excellent research training for surgical residents who are interested in an academic surgical career. Several of our faculty members have benefitted from this program and the tradition continues with several current residents.

Two of our U of T Vascular Surgery residents are currently enrolled in the SSTP and another is soon to follow.

Dr. Mohamad Hussain is investigating the "Utilization and Outcomes of Carotid Artery Revascularization in Ontario" with Drs. Mohammed Al-Omran and Muhammad Mamdami as supervisors. Dr. Trisha Roy is investigating "MR

guided revascularization of occlusive peripheral arterial disease" under the supervision of Drs. Graham Wright and Andrew Dueck. Dr. Sean Crawford will enter the SSTP this summer with Dr. Leonard Tse as supervisor.

These young Vascular Surgeon-Scientists are the future leaders of academic vascular surgery.

Around the Division ...

Congratulations to our Program Director, Dr. George Oreopoulos, who was recently named the Director of Postgraduate Education in Surgery for University Health Network



Our Strategic Planning Meeting took place in February on the U of T campus at Hart House where our faculty discussed priorities for 2015- 2025



U of T Vascular Surgery residents attended a retreat of their own to discuss surgical training and the transition to practice and attempted to answer some much-axed questions



Alumni Profile – Where are they now? – Dr. Ken Harris

Dr. Ken Harris completed his vascular surgery training at the University of Toronto 1984 and began his surgical career in London, ON. During his time at Western, Ken served in a number of leadership positions including Chief of Vascular Surgery, Richard Ivey Professor & Chair of the Department of Surgery, and Associate Dean for Postgraduate Medical Education. Currently he is the Executive Director, Office of Specialty Education and Deputy CEO of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. We caught up with him recently.

Where were you born?

KH: London, Ontario

Tell us about your family?

KH: Wife Joanne, Daughter Lauren

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

KH: I have been privileged to have been exposed to a large number of great teachers. The early Division of Vascular Surgery at U of T was composed of Mike Ameli, John Provan, Paul Walker and Wayne Johnston, each of whom has been influential in my clinical, academic and administrative career. Other individuals such as Ron Baird and Bernie Langer have left their mark.

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

KH: The learning environment, the great team approach including teachers, junior residents and students. There was a great blend of autonomy and supervision with a focus on obtaining the best outcomes for the patient.

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

KH: As Vascular Surgery transforms to more minimally invasive procedures there will be challenges to teach and maintain open operative skills which will always be required. The advances in technology have led to concentrations of Vascular Surgeons in major hubs and we will need to be sure that all Canadians have access to care which is now being provided further from home for many. I believe the move towards a competency based model of education for both residency and those in practice will be an exciting and effective approach.

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

KH: It is a wonderfully fulfilling career but requires commitment and dedication. There are many avenues to explore including clinical, research and education. Take advantage of the many opportunities offered.

What is your favorite sports team?

RS I have always considered running to be a solo sport and my escape.



Dr. Ken Harris

Welcome to new faculty – Dr. John Byrne

We are thrilled to welcome John as a Surgeon-Scientist to U of T with a clinical practice at UHN. Dr. Byrne will join a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and scientists trying to discover the basis of aortic pathologies and innovative interventions and preventative therapies.

Dr. Byrne completed his medical degree at The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland where he was the recipient of the Kane medal in physiology.

Following completion of his basic surgical training he completed a 2 year research program on the systemic inflammatory response syndrome and was awarded a doctorate of medicine. Dr. Byrne is the recipient of the prestigious president's medal from The RCSI for his research on the use of pravastatin in Marfan syndrome which was performed in collaboration with Johns Hopkins. Dr. Byrne completed his higher surgical training with a fellowship in vascular surgery at U of T

and is a Fellow of the RCSI. Dr. Byrne is enrolled in a bachelor's degree in mathematics and statistics.

Dr. Byrne is the author of many publications has been awarded a grant from the Peter Munk Cardiac Center Innovation Fund to investigate the use of novel antidiabetic agents in aneurysmal disease, and is investigating the underlying mechanisms of adult and congenital aneurysmal disease using cell based and in vivo laboratory models.



Dr. John Byrne

Welcome to our new PGY1 residents!

We are very proud to welcome Lauren Gordon and Caleb Zavitz to our U of T Vascular Surgery family as direct entry PGY1 residents beginning in July.

Lauren Gordon

Lauren was born and raised in Thornhill, ON. After completing her undergraduate in Life Sciences at Queen's University (2010), she went on to pursue a Master's degree in Computer Science (2011), also at Queen's. Lauren is currently completing

medical school at Western University. Her main research interests lie in medical computing and medical physics, developing algorithms to better analyze and improve surgical systems. Other interests include narrative medicine. In her spare time she enjoys rock climbing, acrylic painting and cycling around Toronto.

Cale Zavitz

Cale was born in Hamilton but grew up in Fonthill, ON. Prior to entering Vascular Surgery, he

completed an undergraduate degree in Biology, a Ph.D. in Immunology, and a postdoctoral fellowship in pathology and molecular medicine at McMaster University. He completed his MD at the University of Toronto. Outside of residency, he serves as an infantry officer in the Canadian Army with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's), and is an avid skier, runner, and cyclist. His wife Tracy is a Psychiatry resident, and they are expecting their first child in September.



Lauren Gordon



Cale Zavitz

Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Al Lossing

We're very proud of Al Lossing who was the recipient of two awards recently including the Squires-Hyland Trust James Waddell Mentoring Award from St. Michael's Hospital Department of Surgery and the Ontario Telemedicine Network's Champion of Telemedicine Award. Well done!

St. Michael's Department of Surgery
 Dr. Alan Lossing
 Squires-Hyland Trust James Waddell Mentoring Award

Congratulations to Dr. Ahmed Kayssi

St. Michael's The FitzGerald Academy
 Dr. Ahmed Kayssi
 Resident Teacher Award

**Congratulations to our SSTP Residents:
 Trisha Roy
 Best Resident Presentation
 at Winnipeg Symposium
 Mohamad Hussain
 PSI and CIHR Research
 Awards**

Faculty Profile – Dr. Andrew Dueck

Dr. Dueck is currently the Division Head of Vascular Surgery at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto. He was kind enough to answer a couple of our questions:

Where were you born?

AD: Cambridge Ontario

Tell us about your family?

AD: Wife Deb (History Prof at York), daughter Claire (6), son Jack (almost 4), dog Otis (>10)

Who were your mentor(s)?

AD: Many, many, many. Some I learned incredible technical knowledge from, some gave me confidence, some help me work through difficult problems to this day. I have been very well treated far beyond what I deserved or earned and it might sound a bit put on to say that but I really believe that. - Zane Cohen and Eric Poulin from my general surgery training, Al Lossing, Wayne Johnston, Bob Maggisano, Tom Lindsay, Barry Rubin, Wayne Tanner, Vern Campbell and Mike Ameli. Also Al Harrison, Brian Gilbert, Brad Strauss, Chris Calderone, Tom Forbes, Dave Szalav.

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

AD: The changing nature of the economy and political winds have an enormous impact on us as a public service. I think we (surgeons and physicians) are going to need to be increasingly involved in managing resources at the hospital and provincial level.

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

AD: With the current environment, the biggest challenge for young surgeons I think is to find their footing - getting a job with the right resources and support in place, having peers to help with research activity if that's a goal. The young vascular surgeons that I have met are incredibly talented.. if they are given a chance I have no doubt they will show me opportunities and solutions I have missed.

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

AD: Follow your passion without reservation. I love what I do and I wish others can find that too.

What are your hobbies in your spare time?

AD: Aside from spending time with the kids, I'm into photography, playing guitar, basketball and spending time at the cottage.

What is your favorite sports team?

AD: Toronto Raptors of course!

Upcoming Events & Meetings

May 4 th	Trillium Vascular Updates Symposium, Mississauga Hospital
May 9 th	National Capital Vascular Symposium, Ottawa, ON
May 21 st	Pacific NorthWest Endovascular Conference, Seattle, WA
June 12 th	University of Toronto Vascular Surgery Research Day The University Club of Toronto (380 University Ave) <i>Special Guest: Dr. Ron Dalman from Stanford University</i>
June 17-20 th	Society for Vascular Surgery Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
Aug 28-29 th	SVS Comprehensive Vascular Review Course, Chicago, IL
Sept 17-20 th	Canadian Surgical Forum, Quebec City, PQ
Sept 23-25 th	European Society for Vascular Surgery, Porto, Portugal
Sept 25-26 th	Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC
Sept 24-26 th	Eastern Vascular Society, Baltimore, MD
Oct 4-8 th	American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Chicago, IL
Oct 22-24 th	International Conference on Residency Education, Vancouver, BC
Oct 24-27 th	Canadian Cardiovascular Conference, Toronto, ON



Dr. Andrew Dueck

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

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

and Twitter!
@UofTVascular

We welcome your support

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

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

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

Name this Newsletter contest!

And the winner is Ahmed Kayssi who suggested the winning name.

Many great names were suggested by our residents and fellows, some more appropriate than others! Our faculty members voted and after careful deliberation the winner is...

Toronto Pulse

Dr. Kayssi will receive a \$100 Starbucks Gift Card, so the next coffee is on him!

Contribute to our Newsletter

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

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS JANUARY – MARCH 2015

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