Drs. Jim and Leslie Rourke on

CRAFTING A LEGACY

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Message from the Dean

THE PAST NUMBER OF MONTHS have been ones full of change and excitement for the Faculty of Medicine. The launch of the new Translational and Personalized Medicine Initiative (TPMI) took place on Nov. 27, with Memorial University receiving $50 million over the next five years to support ground-breaking health-care initiatives in our province. This major partnership with IBM, the Government of Canada, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador allows us to take research in our province to a world-leading level and provide enhanced, personalized patient care through collaborative, multidisciplinary research.

On Feb. 10, we celebrated the unveiling of a project that has been years in the making – Crafting a Legacy. An art piece that is dear to my wife Leslie and I, we were thrilled to finally share it for all to see and enjoy. It now calls the atrium of the new Medical Education Centre home, and I encourage you all to stop and view this artwork that depicts the history of health care in our province.

I hope you enjoy this issue of MUNMED. Read about some of the activities and events that have taken place over the past exciting few months and some of the exceptional work done by our faculty, staff and students.

Note from the editor

Over the past 27 years, MUNMED has grown from a simple paper newsletter to a full magazine available in print and online, with its purpose continuing to be the sharing of information and news about the Faculty of Medicine with its alumni, faculty members and staff. Much of the credit for this is due to Sharon Gray, long time editor of MUNMED, who, with the help of different contributors to design and written content, brought the publication to this point and helped make it what it is today.

In an effort to learn more about the readers of MUNMED and to explore how the publication can further evolve, we ask for five minutes of your time to fill out a survey, found at the following link: http://fluidsurveys.com/s/MUNMED/

Thank you for your participation and most especially, your readership of MUNMED over the past few decades.

All the best,

Elizabeth
Crafting a medical legacy in Newfoundland and Labrador

FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS, the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial has been helping to mould young physicians and create research, teaching and clinical opportunities to shape a healthy tomorrow for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

To celebrate this and the opening of the new Medical Education Centre on the St. John’s campus, Dr. James Rourke, dean, Faculty of Medicine, and his wife Dr. Leslie Rourke wanted to commission a piece of artwork.

“My wife Leslie and I wanted a legacy piece to celebrate the connection between the Faculty of Medicine and our province,” said Dean Rourke. “A piece of medical history that depicted how health care and the Faculty of Medicine have shaped Newfoundland and Labrador, and furthermore, how the history, landscape and people of this province have influenced how we practise medicine.”

After much thought and discussion with people involved with many types of art, it was at the Royal British Columbia Museum that the couple saw a concept that spoke to their vision: murals of clay tiles crafted by students. They saw the potential to have people connected with the faculty create a piece of art incorporating meaningful depictions of medicine and health across the province.

Crafting a Legacy could be called a “clay quilt,” with artistic contributions from past and present students, faculty and staff of the Faculty of Medicine and two local professional artists, all under the instruction of celebrated mural artist and art educator Lynda Faulks.

“The Faculty of Medicine, from its beginning, has emphasized working together,” said Dr. Rourke. “Therefore, it was important to us that this project could involve many who have been connected in different ways to the faculty.”

Dean Rourke himself created a tile for the mural, titled Pioneer Grenfell, about the contributions Sir Wilfred Grenfell made to medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“The young Wilfred Grenfell is at the heart of my tile,” he said. “He symbolizes for me pioneer doctors heading into unknown places and challenges to use all of their knowledge, skills and dedication to care for the patients, families and communities most in need.”

The clay mural, located in the atrium in the Medical Education Centre, was unveiled at an event on Feb. 10, in front of more than one hundred guests. Attendees included President Kachanoski, his wife Teresa Kachanoski, Mary House, widow of the late Dr. Maxwell House, and many others from the medical and arts communities.

“Both the project and the artwork created for the atrium have far exceeded our dreams,” said Dean Rourke. “To have a dream come true better than was dreamed is truly a wonderful thing. We are thrilled that this wonderful piece of art will be enjoyed for years to come.”
$50-million partnership to strengthen health research in Newfoundland and Labrador

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY WILL RECEIVE $50 MILLION over the next five years to support an unprecedented healthcare initiative that will provide enhanced, personalized patient care through collaborative, multidisciplinary research.

Less than 20 per cent of applied medical research is translated into a possible device, medication or therapy; the launch of the new Translational and Personalized Medicine Initiative (TPMI) aims to change that by bringing bench research to the patient’s bedside.

Partners in the TPMI gathered at a news conference Nov. 27, to announce the initiative and describe how patients will benefit from the latest and most innovative discoveries in health research, designed to improve health outcomes that have been specifically identified for them.

The partners are the Government of Canada through the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, jurisdictional partners and private-sector partner IBM.

The combined $50 million investment includes $30 million from IBM, including $10 million in equipment and staffing and a further $20 million in-kind investment for big data and analytics software.

Nearly $13 million for the TPMI comes from the Government of Canada through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research SPOR SUPPORT Units program ($10 million) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency ($3 million). The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is investing $7.2 million.

“This collaborative partnership between public and private sectors is a significant investment both in Memorial University and in the health and well-being of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador,” said Dr. Gary Kachanoski, president and vice-chancellor, Memorial University. “We are proud to be to be part of this ground-breaking initiative which would be impossible without the support and resources of our partners.”
Premier Paul Davis said the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is looking forward to an ongoing partnership in the TPMI. “Memorial University will be working with our community to bring about true change in the planning and delivery of healthcare services, and ensure that those changes respond to the needs of the public.”

David Wells, senator for Newfoundland and Labrador, speaking on behalf of Minister of Health Rona Ambrose and Minister of State Rob Moore, said the federal government is pleased to support the Translational and Personalized Medicine Initiative as well as the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research and the roll-out of the SUPPORT Units across the country. “These centres of research expertise reflect our government’s commitment to improving health outcomes for patients through research innovation.”

Dr. James Rourke, dean of medicine at Memorial, said the overall goal of the TPMI is a collaborative approach to enhance the use of health-care resources. “Increasing our capacity to bring evidence into the health care system and clinical practice can only result in improved health outcomes for patients and their families. We are grateful to have a significant private sector partner in IBM.”

Ralph Chapman, vice-president, public sector, IBM in Canada, said this collaboration is a terrific example of government, business and academia teaming to meet important economic and social needs through advanced research and innovation. “This collaborative model will provide researchers with IBM big data and analytics technology and expertise to more quickly manage and analyze massive data sets around critical healthcare challenges and ultimately, help improve patient outcomes.”

Dr. Jane E. Aubin, chief scientific officer and vice-president research, knowledge translation, and ethics with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), said the SPOR SUPPORT Units provide a vehicle for sharing best practices between jurisdictions. “With Newfoundland and Labrador now on board, we have taken another step toward a cohesive national partnership that will see evidenced-based research embedded in health care delivery and patient care.”

The TPMI is made up of two major programs – the Newfoundland and Labrador Support Unit (NL SUPPORT) and the Centre of Health Informatics and Analytics.

The NL SUPPORT Program is part of a network of provincial and regional centres across Canada that brings together patients, policymakers, researchers, funders and health-care professionals. The program is focused on creating resources that facilitate patient-oriented research in consultation with local stakeholders to provide patients with the latest and most innovative practices, therapies and policies for improved health outcomes. NL SUPPORT was created to provide the necessary infrastructure, training and tools required to allow patient-oriented research to thrive in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The second major program under the TPMI is the Centre for Health Informatics and Analytics (CHIA).

CHIA will facilitate research into patient outcomes and offer insight into how services may be improved through the use of high-performance computational infrastructure and de-identified patient datasets. Memorial researchers will have access to one of Atlantic Canada’s fastest computing environments. Each project undertaken under CHIA will comply with the Personal Health Information Act legislated with the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and will also require research ethics board approval.

Projects under TPMI utilizing CHIA will address issues such as colorectal cancer, long-term care and laboratory utilization as well as others. Projects related to the Translational Genomics program include hearing loss, neurocognitive diseases, back pain, vision loss, colorectal cancer and breast cancer. The integration of data will be governed under provincial privacy and ethics legislation.
National aging study receives further funding

DR. GERRY MUGFORD, lead investigator of the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) in Newfoundland and Labrador and an associate professor with Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine in the discipline of medicine and psychiatry, says that Newfoundland and Labrador has been essential in contributing to the study.

“As the province with the highest proportion of seniors in Canada and as one of the data collection sites in the country, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are taking part in one of the largest comprehensive studies on aging ever undertaken.”

The study began in 2010 and will follow a total of 50,000 Canadians over 20 years to provide information which can be used to improve understanding on subjects ranging from disease development to how social habits may affect how someone ages, and ultimately promote healthy aging. The funding is from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

More than 160 researchers from 26 Canadian universities are involved in the study, including experts in genetics, clinical research, social sciences, biology, population health, epidemiology and economics. There are 11 collection sites spread across the country, with 21,000 individuals across the country having completed hour-long telephone interviews and an additional 26,000 having taken part in extensive home interviews and data collection site visits.

“We’ve been receiving very positive feedback,” said Dr. Mugford. “We’re very pleased with how well received the study has been, and Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have been so generous with their time, either by participating via telephone or visiting a data collection site at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John’s.”

The CLSA was launched through $50 million in grants from CIHR, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, several provinces and universities, as well as other partners to set up the research platform, recruit participants and collect data from participants.

The data will be used by researchers from many disciplines across the country, with requests already being made for data to further research topics such as hearing loss, neurological conditions and the health of older veterans.

To learn more about the study, visit www.clsa-elcv.ca.
Faculty of Medicine attends Battle of Gallipoli commemorations in Turkey

“WHERE ONCE THEY STOOD, WE STAND.” Those words rang true last month for Dr. Pamela Snow, a family medicine physician and Mr. Anthony Maher, a first year student in the MD program in Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine. On March 14, the pair represented Memorial University, our province and Canada at the Medicine Day celebrations in Turkey.

Medicine Day, the anniversary of the day the first medical school opened in Turkey in 1827, also celebrates and raises awareness of doctors’ rights in medicine in the country. On the centenary of the Battle of Gallipoli during World War I, the Turkish government wanted to honour the soldiers and medical personnel who fought in the Battle of Gallipoli and thus invited medical school representatives from around the world with familial connections to the battle to attend the commemorations.

Dr. Snow and Mr. Maher were the only guests from North America in attendance and were joined by medical professionals from countries around the world such as Afghanistan, Australia, Germany, India, Ireland and Pakistan.

The pair attended a gala dinner that included a welcome from the Turkish minister of health and an opportunity to meet and chat with other physicians from around the globe. “I met a cardiologist from India whose brother works in Vancouver with my brother-in-law,” said Dr. Snow. “Chance meetings like this show you how small the world really is.”

For both Dr. Snow and Mr. Maher, having familial connections to the Battle of Gallipoli made the trip all the more significant. Mr. Maher’s great-great uncle, Private Joseph Hollahan, and Dr. Snow’s great uncle-in-law, Lance Corporal Frederick E. Snow both served in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at the battle.

The group of invited representatives were taken on a tour of the Gallipoli peninsula, where they visited beaches where battles were fought and monuments erected in memory of the fallen soldiers.

“We had the opportunity to visit some of the sites where the fighting took place one hundred years ago,” said Mr. Maher. “One of the beaches was the site where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment landed during the battle. To visit a site where my great-great uncle served a century ago, when he was even younger than me, was surreal. It was an honour to join representatives from around the world in remembering the sacrifices made by so many.”

“This experience provided a meaningful connection between Newfoundland and Turkey,” said Dr. Snow. “It was such a privilege to participate in this occasion and represent our university and province. It was humbling to be there for our family members, and all families, really, who were affected by the war.”
Medical students encouraged by federal minister to support communities in different ways

RECENTLY, MEMORIAL'S FACULTY OF MEDICINE students welcomed the Honorable Dr. Kellie Leitch to the Medical Education Centre in St. John's. Dr. Leitch was invited to share her experiences in transitioning from medicine to politics.

Dr. Leitch is Canada's Minister of Labour and Minister of Status of Women and still practices surgery part-time at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa.

The invitation was extended to Dr. Leitch by the Medical Students' Society and the Faculty of Medicine's Office of Student Affairs. “Being interested in both medicine and politics, I consider Dr. Leitch a role model,” said Desmond Whalen, student organizer for the event and medical student at Memorial.

Dr. Leitch encouraged students to be active in their communities to help bring about positive changes.

“Learning the ways in which physicians can help thousands of patients by being involved in organizations and public policy is nothing short of extraordinary,” said Mr. Whalen.

Students were also able to participate in a question and answer session with Dr. Leitch following her presentation. She shared advice and experiences related to her career as both a physician and a politician.

“It was interesting to hear how our medical educations can be used outside hospitals and clinics,” said Elizabeth Faour, a medical student and president of the Medical Students' Society, who was also inspired by Dr. Leitch. “There are so many great opportunities out there.”

Dr. Leitch's visit was both engaging and impactful and inspired medical students to think of unique ways they too may be able to help their community in the future.
Associate dean appointed at biomedical sciences

GARY PATERNO has been appointed associate dean of the division of biomedical sciences in the Faculty of Medicine for a three-year term as of Jan. 1.

Dr. Paterno takes the reins after Dr. Karen Mearow’s leadership for more than a decade and whose hard work and dedication to the Faculty of Medicine has been evident in the division’s success.

While looking forward to what lies ahead, Dr. Paterno believes that the division is in a rejuvenation mode. With more and more baby boomers entering into their retirement years, there will be a search for new faculty over the next 5-10 years.

“Recruitment is important for the division of biomedical sciences,” said Dr. Paterno. “This will be an opportunity to build upon the great faculty and researchers that we have, while at the same time, identifying what new areas of research should receive attention as retirements open up more positions. We want to continue creating an environment that will encourage and foster research and help our researchers be the best teachers they can be.”

A native of Niagara Falls, Ont., Dr. Paterno completed B.Sc. and master’s degrees at the University of Toronto and a PhD at the University of Ottawa. He completed post-doctoral training at the Institut du cancer de Montréal and also trained in Oxford, U.K., at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund unit before coming to St. John’s, where he has lived for the past 25 years.

As a biomedical researcher in the Terry Fox Cancer Research Laboratories, Dr. Paterno primarily focuses on breast cancer research. His work is based upon the similarities between a developing embryo and a tumour. A tumour and an embryo both start with a single cell, but unlike a tumor, an embryo has control over the rate in which it divides, grows and changes. By using an embryo to examine certain control points, Dr. Paterno’s lab has identified some critical genes that control the growth of cancer cells. Using this information, it is possible to develop tests for patients to determine how their condition has progressed and what treatment is the best approach at that point in time.

“It’s this type of “bench to bedside” research that helps us translate research findings into treatments that can benefit patients and our health-care system as a whole,” he said.

Dr. Paterno explains that Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine has a unique dynamic because it has a smaller number of faculty than some of the larger medical schools across the country. In larger post-secondary institutions, researchers and clinicians do not always have opportunities to collaborate on an individual level.

“By working closely together with clinicians, it really helps to create a strong relationship as we all strive to help our healthcare system work better.”

Dr. Paterno has been teaching embryology for many years and in recognition of his teaching excellence, he was presented with the Faculty of Medicine’s Outstanding Teacher Award presented by the Class of 2009.

He was also awarded the MUN Student Union Excellence in Teaching Award and Outstanding Contribution to Student Life in April 2014. The award is intended to give students the opportunity to give back to those faculty and staff members at Memorial who have had a positive impact on their lives.

“Dr. Paterno goes to great lengths to make the material accessible. He employs different props and demonstrations to allow the class to better relate to the microscopic processes involved in human development,” said medical student Matt Eagles, Class of 2017.

Dr. Paterno also likes to keep things interesting during lectures by using props to engage students, like a sword he uses as a pointer and to slice-and-dice preserved specimens.

Through these unique approaches to teaching, learning and research, Dr. Paterno brings great energy and positivity to the division of biomedical sciences.
A study on social media and rural continuing medical education

Dr. Vernon Curran, a medical education professor and 2014 recipient of a MUN Medical Research Endowment Fund (MRF) research development grant, is working towards expanding knowledge on the potential use of digital and social media technologies in supporting the self-directed learning activities of physicians.

Medical knowledge is constantly expanding. In order to ensure physicians are up-to-date on the latest advances in the treatment and management of their patients, medical licensing authorities mandate the completion of a number of required Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits on an annual basis. In most parts of Canada, these CME systems are overseen by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Self-directed learning is one way in which physicians can undertake lifelong learning to stay up-to-date on the practice of medicine. Self-directed learning is a well-recognized type of adult learning in which physicians, with or without the help of others, plan and undertake formal or informal learning activities that address their own specific learning needs. In more recent years, as a result of technological advancements, digital and social media technologies have emerged that could offer opportunities for self-directed learning settings.

“We know that physicians are using the Internet, mobile technologies and social media to a much greater extent” said Dr. Curran, “but now with the growth of social media applications we wanted to learn more about how it may be being used for education.” Social media sites such as LinkedIn, Doximity and Twitter are ideal technological social realms for educational sharing, and in Dr. Curran’s case, they are ideal for research.

This field of study is extremely beneficial in a rural province like Newfoundland and Labrador. With a large number of physicians in the province practicing out of rural communities, self-directed learning and social media offer a potential efficient way to network, reduce professional isolation and support one’s professional development.

“This will actually provide the Faculty of Medicine with some guidance,” Dr. Curran explained. “Our Office of Professional Development has responsibility for planning and organizing continuing medical education. We also teach students and residents at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The study findings could help us in identifying better ways to prepare our learners and support physicians for their lifelong learning.”

Through conducting interviews and working with rural physicians around Newfoundland and Labrador Dr. Curran and his co-investigators – Lisa Fleet, Dr. Mo Ravalia and Dr. Pam Snow – will be exploring a phenomenological understanding of social media and its relation to medical education. By systematically conducting interviews and organizing the data collected, a deeper understanding of how medicine, social media, education and medical practitioners function together will be produced.

“What we find from the study might inform the type of training and education we provide to students on how to use social media effectively as part of their continuing education,” said Dr. Curran. “It’s a part of what we do to help students be confident self-directed learners.”
Identifying novel genes causing intracranial aneurysms

DR. MICHAEL WOODS is hot on the trail of the genetic mutations associated with intracranial aneurysms.

There is currently only one option available for those who are potentially predisposed to intracranial aneurysms to screen and confirm their condition. Major medical equipment, such as, MRI and CAT scan tools can locate blood vessels within a patient's brain that have pocketed and begun to pool blood. Doctors are then able to perform preventative surgery to prevent rupture of the vessel and its catastrophic consequences, such as a stroke. But what if there are no vessels pooling blood at the time of screening? Does an individual at risk of intracranial aneurysms need to undergo screening throughout their entire life? Genetic studies may be able to help in this regard.

Intracranial aneurysms are generally familial, which, put loosely, is when two or more family members have experienced an aneurysm, making it a matter of genetics. Dr. Woods is an Associate Professor of Genetics in the MUN Faculty of Medicine. With the support of a grant from the MUN Medical Research Endowment Fund (MRF), he is undertaking detailed investigations of the genetic mutations that are associated with intracranial aneurysms.

Dr. Woods’ research is based on the analysis of DNA samples obtained from intracranial patients and their families. “For what we do, it’s really valuable to study big families,” Dr. Woods explained, “Newfoundland and Labrador has an advantage over many places for studying human genetic disease, because we do have very large families, and they stay in touch with one another.”

Dr. Woods and his team have been fortunate in working with two large Newfoundland families in their search for the genetic causes underlying aneurysms. “It’s detective work in a lot of ways” Woods explained. As each person, regardless if they have a genetic disease, has thousands of genetic mutations, it is very difficult sometimes to determine which one is related to intracranial aneurysms.

“It is similar to trying to find a specific needle in a stack of needles”, states Dr. Woods.

The money from the MRF has provided Dr. Woods with the necessities to begin conducting research in this field.

“Grants are very competitive in Canada, and this $20,000 will allow us to get the start-up research necessary to continue working towards identifying the genetic mutation.” The funds provided by the MRF have allowed for the initial experiments on DNA samples collected here in Newfoundland to be performed at Genome Quebec and McGill University in Montreal, where a next generation sequencing machine generates the data necessary for the study. The data is then analyzed in Dr. Woods’ lab as are subsequent experiments.

Advances in this field of study could have direct impact on the health care system. By locating and then proving a genetic mutation to be related to intracranial aneurysms, family members of those who’ve previously suffered an intracranial aneurysm would be able to be screened in a much more cost effective and efficient fashion. Rather than costly MRI and CAT scan processes, which can require wait times, patients would be able to screen their genetic make-up by providing a simple DNA sample. While screening can indicate a genetic predisposition, Dr. Woods notes, in closing, that “individuals without this specific mutation are still at as high a risk as the general public, but at a much lower risk level than family members who carry the mutation.”
Glitz, glamour and gambling for a good cause

MONTE CARLO 2014 was a night of dancing, gambling and fun that even the Great Gatsby himself would have enjoyed. But more importantly, the event that is organized by the Faculty of Medicine’s medical students, raised over $78,000 that was distributed to six local charities.

“Monte Carlo is an opportunity for us medical students to contribute to making a difference in the province,” said Alvan Buckley, a medical student and member of the 2014 Monte Carlo Executive Committee. “We are very proud of the funds we’ve raised for these deserving charities.”

The Monte Carlo Charity Gala is an annual fundraising event created, organized, and hosted by medical students. This year’s theme was the Great Gatsby Gala, and on Nov. 1, 2014, the 38th annual Monte Carlo was held at the Delta Hotel in St. John’s, N.L. Every year, different charities are selected and the funds are raised through donations, casino-style games, live and silent auctions and much more.

The first Monte Carlo Gala was held in 1977 to raise money for Dr. Conor Maguire, a medical student who sustained a spinal cord injury in a diving accident which left him a quadriplegic. The medical class of 1980 rallied around their classmate and organized a fundraiser, which enabled the purchase of a vehicle wheelchair lift so that he could continue his medical education. Dr. Maguire is currently an associate professor of radiology (nuclear medicine and radiology) at Memorial University.

Dr. James Rourke, dean of medicine, is always in awe that despite their heavy workload, more than 160 medical students dedicate countless hours to ensure the event is a great success.

“The Faculty of Medicine is proud of the commitment and passion our medical students have for Monte Carlo,” said Dean Rourke. “The first Monte Carlo was held in order to support a fellow classmate and since then, it has grown to be a major community event that allows students, faculty and local leaders and organizations to come together for a good cause.”

Today, Monte Carlo is more than just one evening of glitz, glamour and stylish outfits. It involves many hours of volunteering and fundraising by the students, who organize events such as bake sales, garner auction items from families and businesses, and contribute ideas for the design and entertainment for the event. Each student plays a vital role in the production of Monte Carlo, and without their dedication, the event wouldn’t be successful year after year.

Individual donations of $14,560 were given to Ability Employment Corporation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Kids Eat Smart Foundation Newfoundland and Labrador, the Jack Hand Legacy Foundation, the St. John’s Women’s Centre and Team Broken Earth. Team Broken Earth received $6,075 which came from the pie throwing contest held during the event.

“Medicine is about making a difference in people’s lives inside and outside of the clinic,” said Desmond Whalen, another medical student on the 2014 Monte Carlo Executive Committee. “The money raised will allow these charities to help make our communities healthier.”

For more information about Monte Carlo visit munmontecarlo.ca.
Faculty and staff recognized for outstanding achievement

**PRESIDENT GARY KACHANOSKI** has announced the Memorial University’s outstanding educators, researchers and staff members for 2014. Three members of the Faculty of Medicine received awards at a ceremony Dec. 11 at the Bruneau Innovation Centre for Research and Innovation.

Dr. Christopher Kovacs was named University Research Professor. Mary Dray, co-ordinator, Office of Student Affairs, and Lisa Fleet, manager, research programs, Professional Development and Conferencing Services, received President’s Awards for Exemplary Service.

**DR. CHRISTOPHER KOVACS**

Dr. Kovacs is an endocrinologist and researcher in the area of calcium and bone metabolism with the Faculty of Medicine. His translational research focuses on adaptations in calcium and bone metabolism that occur during reproduction and fetal development.

Dr. Kovacs’s independent research career has been funded for 20 consecutive years by the Medical Research Council / Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). He has received over a dozen national and international awards for excellence in research, including the 2003 Gold Medal in Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the 2003 Young Investigator Award from the Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Since 2000, his graduate students have won 47 national and international awards for excellence in research.

**MS. MARY DRAY**

Ms. Dray has supported and advised medical students about finances and other matters for more than 30 years. As student affairs co-ordinator, Faculty of Medicine, she always puts students first and finds ways to help. She is heavily involved in the MedQuest program for high school students interested in pursuing careers in health and she is a member of several societies as well as national and international associations. She also makes a point to help ensure the annual Monte Carlo fundraising event runs smoothly and professionally. Due to her numerous initiatives, she is one of the first people alumni ask about when they return.

**MS. LISA FLEET**

As manager of research programs with Professional Development and Conference Services in the Faculty of Medicine, Ms. Fleet provides leadership and research expertise in medical education and continuing professional development both provincially and nationally to advance the reputation of the Faculty of Medicine and Memorial University. She is an exceptional employee who is highly regarded for her outstanding research skills, professionalism and commitment. A team player with a keen attention to detail and project management, she has initiated and led more than 40 scholarly studies over the past 12 years. This year alone, she was an integral member of two teams that won national awards for their work.
Growing the roots of a healthy community

DR. MICHAEL JONG has a sense of adventure and a heart of gold. Originally from Malaysia, he moved to Happy Valley-Goose Bay in 1982 after training in internal medicine in England. Over the last three decades he has become a cornerstone of the community.

During a two-year break from 1989-91 to complete a Family Medicine residency at Memorial, Dr. Jong with other faculty members at Memorial developed the Northern Family Medicine Education Program (NorFam), which allows family medicine residents to spend up to a year of their two-year residency training in the north.

“If you train someone in a rural area, they’re more likely to return to a rural area,” said Dr. Jong, noting that most of the physicians staffing the Labrador Health Centre are medical graduates of Memorial, or did their family medicine training through Memorial.

As a teacher, Dr. Jong is well-known for leading yearly wilderness camping adventures for residents so they get some knowledge of living conditions in Labrador. He is popular with medical students too and in 2007 was selected as the Community Physician of the Year by the graduating class.

Dr. Jong cares passionately about the people in rural and remote areas and has been creative with facing challenging health-care needs with the aid of telemedicine and other resources. To help meet the demands of rural and northern practice, NorFam offers extra training in specialist services such as surgery, obstetrics, emergency medicine, intensive care and medical evacuation. The effect on the community, especially the Aboriginal community, of improved medical care has been significant.

“Infant mortality has come down tremendously through better pre-natal care and better care of newborns,” said Dr. Jong. “We are now trying to get into community population health research and are looking towards eradicating tuberculosis. Our next challenge is diabetes — the rate among the Aboriginal population is high and it is increasing. It’s a genetic and a lifestyle issue.”

Dr. Jong said the work at Goose Bay is challenging and he finds it encouraging to see how things have improved since he first moved to the community. “At one time the hospital was full of admissions from infectious diseases and suicides. There is still a major problem with suicides but we cannot deal with everything at once.” He said the next step is to conduct applied and population health research.

As a teacher, a trusted physician and a community leader, Dr. Jong has helped improve the lives of many people, especially those in remote areas. He has been recognized by his peers, receiving the Newfoundland and Labrador Family Physician of the Year in 2005 and serving the following two years as president of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada.
Professor receives national award

DR. MANI LARIJANI, associate professor of immunology and infectious diseases in the division of biomedical sciences, has been awarded the Canadian Society for Immunology New Investigator award.

The award is given to one individual in Canada as recognition of their excellence and impact of research contributions. It is contingent on a nomination by two senior members of the society within the first six years of the nominee’s faculty appointment. The Canadian Society for Immunology awards committee is made up of faculty members across Canada and is always faced with making a difficult decision due to the high calibre of nominations. The committee members said they were “extremely impressed” by Dr. Larijani’s scientific contributions, as well as contributions to research training and administration.

Dr. Larijani’s research is focused on understanding the mechanisms of DNA mutating processes. His laboratory studies molecules that impact immunity, cancer and the evolution of viruses. Dr. Larijani’s research has made significant impacts across the fields of structural biology, enzyme biochemistry, immunology, virology, cancer research and evolutionary and developmental biology.

“Receiving this award is gratifying because it signifies further national and international recognition of our research as well as contributions to the training of graduate and undergraduate students,” Dr. Larijani said. “The recognition of our research program is also a direct reflection of the hard work of my excellent trainees and their dedication to scientific discovery.”

The Canadian Society for Immunology New Investigator Award will be presented to Dr. Larijani at the annual conference held in Winnipeg, Man., in June.

The Meridith Marks Mentorship Award

DR. MERIDITH MARKS was committed to fostering the best in others and throughout her career advocated for medical education innovation and research. She was an outstanding alumna from Memorial University, Faculty of Medicine, Class of 1987 who died in April 2012.

The Meridith Marks Mentorship Award (MMM Award) was established in 2014 in honour of the important mentorship Dr. Marks provided in her clinical work and in her medical education scholarship. It has been established through the generous support of members of Dr. Marks’ class, her family and the Faculty of Medicine.

The MMM Award is bestowed annually and recognizes an individual who excels in the mentorship of those involved in medical education scholarship and innovation. Dr. Marks acknowledged that a mentor contributes to the mentee’s development by taking on four important roles – coach, facilitator, counsellor and networker.

The recipient of this award will be invited to visit Memorial University in St. John’s, NL to actively champion the mentorship of faculty members, staff and students via a keynote address, participation in workshops and one-on-one mentoring. It is anticipated that this mentorship will serve to strengthen medical education scholarship in the Faculty of Medicine and the medical education community of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The recipient will receive a monetary award, a commemorative plaque and travel and associated expenses incurred during the visit to St. John’s will be paid. Anyone from an accredited faculty of medicine worldwide who is engaged in medical education research and innovation, and who mentors others in this area, are eligible for the award.

To be considered for this award, a nomination package is needed and all information detailing requirements from the nominator and nominee are available at www.med.mun.ca/mmmawards/.

Some of the important qualities that the nomination committee will be looking for is evidence of someone who has shown excellence in mentorship in medical education scholarship, leadership and involvement in mentorship initiatives and is considered to be a positive role model for protégés.

All nomination materials must be received by October 30. An announcement naming the Meredith Marks Mentorship Award recipient will be made in December. Inquiries and comments should be directed to MMMawards@med.mun.ca.
Move to new residency model attracts fresh interest

THE DISCIPLINE OF FAMILY MEDICINE has moved to a new streams-based model in response to some medical students’ hesitancy to follow the traditional method of internal matching.

Instead, students can now rank their placement preference – a move that is already producing positive results.

“In previous years, we’ve been told that candidates didn’t apply to our program because they could not be guaranteed to train in their chosen location,” said Dr. Danielle O’Keefe, postgraduate program director. “By introducing the streams model, candidates can now rank their stream preferences in the Canadian Resident Matching Service.”

The Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) is an organization that provides a matching service to medical students for entry into postgraduate medical training throughout Canada.

For example, if a candidate would like to go to the Northern-Goose Bay stream in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in Labrador, they can now rank that program at the top of their rankings list using the new streams model.

The Discipline of Family Medicine CaRMS sessions ran Jan. 21-23. The streams model wasn’t the only new item on the agenda this year – the discipline also introduced lunch time information sessions designed to provide information to candidates regarding the organization of the new streams model and what life is like across the training sites. It is the streams-based model, however, combined with additional factors, which members of the discipline believe has contributed to the increase in interested candidates this year.

“Over the period of three days during our CaRMS week this year, we interviewed approximately 200 candidates,” said Steve Lawlor, manager, operations, Discipline of Family Medicine. “This increase of 54 per cent over last year tells us that candidates are interested in what our discipline has to offer.”

And interested those candidates were: it was announced on March 4 that the Discipline of Family Medicine achieved a 100 per cent placement rate in the first iteration – the first time this has occurred since the 2010-11 academic year.
The invisibility of a visible epidemic

HOW DO HEALTH PROFESSIONALS MANAGE THE COMMON, COMPLEX AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF OBESITY?

On Nov. 24 the Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education partnered with Dalhousie University to present an interprofessional, interactive workshop for health and social care professional students, faculty and practitioners.

Behind the Scenes: Understanding Patients’ and Practitioners’ Interactions and Experiences with Obesity Management is a project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The workshop was developed by Dr. Sheri Price, principal investigator, and presented by Dr. Sara Kirk with their research team from Dalhousie University. Through transforming their research findings into a dramatic play using live actors, the researchers aim to reveal the tensions that exist between patient and provider and raise critical questions about the way we understand obesity and how we might better work collaboratively to address this issue.

“The concepts of health and obesity are often conflated and we do patients a disservice by judging their health status and perhaps even their character based on their weight and body shape,” said Dr. Olga Heath, director of the Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education. “This workshop allowed students, faculty members and practitioners to ‘rewrite that script’ and see the person and the real health issues which may be unrelated to weight and body shape.”

Medical historian reconstructs early Canadian epidemic

The 2014 Dr. Nigel Rusted Lectureship in Medical Humanities was presented Nov. 14 by Dr. James Moran, an associate professor in the History Department at the University of Prince Edward Island. His topic was St. Paul’s Bay Disease: Health Crisis in 18th-century Quebec.

In a captivating presentation, Dr. Moran illuminated the historical enigma of a disease known most commonly as St. Paul’s Bay Disease. This epidemic was a greatly feared infectious illness that occurred in dozens of parishes in the British colony from 1775-1790. It was considered to be syphilis of some kind that was not transmitted sexually. It began with small ulcers on the lips, tongue and mouth and developed into large ulcers in the glands of the throat, armpit and groin. The final stage was itchy scabs accompanied by rotting in the bones of the nose.

Faced with a disease that wasn’t well-understood, 18th-century physician James Bowman instructed parish priests to administer mercury in the form of mercurous chloride, and to keep track of patients’ progress.

“This caused the symptoms to subside, but they returned with even more strength in about six weeks,” said Dr. Moran. “The long-term effects were devastating and victims suffered greatly.”

Dr. Moran first became interested in St. Paul’s Bay Disease when he accidentally found records in the National Archives. “The scale of this disease is quite stunning – by the late 1780s the British were afraid of a racial extinction among the francophone population.”

So what happened to St. Paul’s Disease? “There is no evidence that the disease persisted through to the 19th century,” said Dr. Moran. “We would need to exhume a body to determine exactly what it was. It had an episodic arrival and departure.”
ON NOV. 25 the annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon for first and second-year medical students was held in the Junior Common Room at Gushue Hall. A total of 27 awards were presented, including two outstanding teacher awards.

Dean James Rourke welcomed donors and recipients and encouraged everyone to socialize and get to know each other through this annual event.

Each academic year, first and second-year medical students select the person they consider to be the most outstanding teacher in that year. The Class of 2017 selected Dr. Natalie Bridger, assistant professor of pediatrics, for the Outstanding Teacher Award. The Class of 2016 selected Dr. Amrah Pirzada, assistant professor of laboratory medicine, for the Outstanding Teacher Award.

In addition to the awards presented at the luncheon, the following awards were recognized for students unable to attend the event. Samantha Dodge received Dr. Kevin Keough Medical Entrance Scholarship, established through a generous donation by Dr. Ming Lau, Class of 1982, and named after Dr. Kevin Keough who was Dr. Lau's supervisor for his master's thesis in biochemistry (1978).

Cecily Stockley received the Gordon Mercer Rural Medicine Bursary. Named for the founding officer for Student Affairs in the Faculty of Medicine (1972), this bursary is awarded to a student entering first year of studies in the Faculty of Medicine who is from a rural community in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sinead Mercier received the Dr. Brian Gerard Adams Memorial Bursary, established by the friends and family of Dr. Brian Gerard Adams in his memory.

Muna Lougheed received a Dr. John M. Darte Memorial Award. These awards were established by Mrs. J.M. Darte and Mrs. Frances Darte McCabe in memory of Dr. John M. Darte, the first professor and chair of pediatrics at Memorial. The selection is based on academic excellence upon completion of first and second year medical studies.

Susan Wakeham received the Frank and Pat Fagan Family Scholarship for Academic Excellence and Community Leadership. This prestigious scholarship is awarded annually to an academically outstanding student from Newfoundland and Labrador who has completed the preclerkship component of the MD program and who has demonstrated a significant record of community leadership, prior to entry of during the medical program. The recipient will be known as the Fagan Family Scholar.

Alanna Flynn received the Dr. Peter Grant Memorial Scholarship, established through generous gifts from classmates, friends and family of Dr. Peter Grant (Class of 1994) to honour his enduring spirit.

Adam Legge received the Dr. J.H. King Memorial Scholarship in Medicine. This fund was established by the family of Dr. J.H. King, a specialist in eyes, ears, nose and throat, who practiced in Corner Brook for more than 30 years (1947-1978).

Loni Slade received a John M. & Elsa S. Morgan Scholarships. These scholarships were bequested to the university by the late Dr. John M. Morgan and his wife Elsa S. Morgan. They are made on the basis of scholarship standing and preference is given, where possible, to students from the Port de Grave District.

Thomas Howard received the Nathan Goff Penney and Grace Rosamund Penney Scholarship in Medicine. This scholarship was established by a gift from the estate of Nathan Penney as a measure of his gratitude to the Faculty of Medicine for the care given to his wife, Grace.

Ashley Power received the Dr. Calvin N. Powell Bursary in Medicine. This bursary, valued at $1,000, was established by Dr. Calvin Powell (Class of 1982).

Raymond Li received the Morris & Graham Wilansky Memorial Award. This award was established by the family and friends of Morris and Graham Wilansky, in their memory.
The following awards were presented at the Scholarship and Awards Luncheon.

JOSHUA BRAGG, centre, received the Dr. Peter and Mrs. Deborah Collingwood Scholarship in Medicine, presented by Peter Collingwood and Deborah (Templeton) Collingwood.

ADAM COMERFORD received the Dr. Sharon Coffey Memorial Bursary, presented by Jean Kennedy. This bursary has been established in memory of Dr. Sharon Coffey (Class of 1982).

MEGHAN MAHONEY received the Dr. Abdalla M. Hanna Memorial Bursary in Medicine, presented by Sylvia Hanna. Named in memory of Dr. Abdalla M. Manna, a well-known surgeon in St. John’s, this bursary is awarded to a qualifying student entering first year studies in the Faculty of Medicine who is a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador.

JOSHUA BRAGG, centre, received the Dr. Peter and Mrs. Deborah Collingwood Scholarship in Medicine, presented by Peter Collingwood and Deborah (Templeton) Collingwood.

MARK SHEA, left, and JOSEPH ALCORN-OTTO, right, received Evelyn Roach Memorial Scholarships, presented by Dean James Rourke. This scholarship was established by the estate of Evelyn Road in her memory.

SARA DALLEY, right, received the Gina D. Blundon Memorial Award, presented by Mrs. Alice Blundon. This award was established in memory of Gina Doreen Blundon of Carbonear, NL, who passed away suddenly on May 18, 2001. Gina was a member of the MUN Faculty of Medicine Class of 2004 and her classmates, family and friends wish to honour her spirit through the establishment of this award. The recipient must have a positive, caring attitude and have contributed to the quality of student life.

BURTON WARD, left, received the Darshan (Beeji) Wadhwa Memorial Scholarship in Medicine, presented by Dr. Jasbir Wadhwa. This scholarship was established by generous donations from family to cherish and honour the memory of Darshan (Beeji) Wadhwa, who had an unwavering commitment to support academic excellence. Born in India in 1914, Beeji could only attain primary schooling but that was enough for her to appreciate the value of education. She became the driving force for professional education of all her children and grandchildren.

The following scholarships will be awarded annually to two students from Newfoundland and Labrador in their first year of the MD program who meet the minimum academic requirements for a scholarship.
REBECCA MCBRIBARTY, left, received the Dr. Richard Fagan Medical Students’ Society (MSS) Travel Award in Medicine, presented by Alison Howley. This award was established by Memorial University’s MSS in honour of Dr. Richard Fagan. Dr. Fagan was known amongst his peers for his sense of adventure. Whether exploring nature close to home or traveling to ski the Rockies or Andes, his enthusiasm for new experiences was clear and enriched the lives of his peers. This award will help offset the costs required to attend a medical conference.

ALISON GREENE, left, received the Isidor Epstein Memorial Scholarship, presented by Dr. Don McKay. This scholarship is awarded out of income derived from a bequest to Memorial University by the late Mrs. Bella Leukovitz and awarded to an outstanding student upon completion of second-year medical studies.

Gerry Lynch Memorial Scholarship went to Dr. Sandra Cooke-Hubley, who was unable to attend the presentation. Honorable mention went to DAVID JEROME, left, and was presented by Dr. Jonathan Greenland. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student for the completion of a research paper on a medical history or medical humanities topic. Gerry Lynch (1936-1994) served as executive director of the NLMA for 27 years. This scholarship’s focus reflects the contribution Mr. Lynch made to health care policy, both provincially and nationally.

MATTHEW BOWN, left, received the Medical Practice Associates Scholarship for Academic Achievement, presented by Dr. Scott Moffatt. This prestigious scholarship is made available by Medical Practice Associates, the business association of all full-time clinical faculty members in the Faculty of Medicine. Valued at $1,500, it is awarded to the student who has earned the highest grades upon completion of second-year medical studies.

ALISON HOWLEY, left and DAVID JEROME, right, received NLMA President’s Awards. Presented by Dr. Jonathan Greenland. Selection for these awards is based on potential interest in the organizational aspects of the profession of medicine as demonstrated by participation in leadership roles within the medical school.
ALEX BOTSFORD, left, was the winner of the Medical Student Research Forum for 2014. The presentation was made by Dr. Don McKay.

MATTHEW BOWN, left, received the Pathology Prize, presented by Dr. Simon Avis. This prize was established in 1984 by the members of the Discipline of Laboratory Medicine in recognition of the distinguished contributions to pathology and to medical education at Memorial University by Dr. S.N. Huang, a previous chair of the discipline. This prize is awarded to the student whose performance in the general and systems pathology course is considered by members of the discipline to be most distinguished.

Mary E. Pederson Scholarships were presented by Dr. Don McKay, centre, to (from left) MICHELLE PRATT, JULIE WARREN, Don McKay, NOELLE MARSH and SARAH MOLLOY. SANDEEP MURAM also received this scholarship but was unable to attend the presentation. These scholarships are made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Mary E. Pederson (Class of 1980). Five scholarships are awarded annually based on scholarship standing.

REBECCA MCBRIARTY received the Dr. J. B. Roberts Memorial Scholarship, presented by Dr. Scott Moffatt. Friends and colleagues of the late Dr. J. B. Roberts established this scholarship in his memory. The selection is based on excellence in clinical skills as determined by performance in the clinical skills course (OSCE).

Students on the Dean’s List for second-year medical studies include (from left): NOELLE MARSH and SARAH MOLLOY with Dean James Rourke; MATTHEW BOWN, REBECCA MCBRIARTY and MICHELLE PRATT. Also on the Dean’s List but unable to attend the presentation are Raymond Li, Sandeep Muram, Ashley Power, Loni Slade and Susan Wakeham.
FAMILY MEDICINE

The Discipline of Family Medicine is pleased to introduce a six-month Enhanced Skills program in Care of the Elderly. This program is specifically designed for physicians with a focus on geriatric clinical work. The program is ideally suited for physicians interested in geriatric hospital and nursing home work and academic geriatric medicine.

Two new faculty have joined the discipline: Dr. Stephen Darcy and Dr. Amanda Pendergast.

Dr. Darcy completed his undergraduate medical education at Memorial University in 1991 and completed his internship in 1992. Since that time he has practiced in Grand Falls-Windsor, Gander and Brookfield Health Care Centre. He has also held a number of medical administrative positions during his tenure in rural Newfoundland. For the past four years he has been attached to the Shea Heights Clinic in St. John’s. His interests are in community-based participatory research; youth mental health and addictions. He is currently involved in a number of projects through the Shea Heights Health Centre. He has been a member of the College of Family Physicians of Canada since 1999 and a Fellow since 2012.

Dr. Amanda Pendergast earned her MD from the University of Ottawa in 1999. She completed a family medicine residency at the University of British Columbia in 2001. From 2001-2005 she practiced family medicine with obstetrics in Victoria, BC as well as being involved with clinical resident teaching. She began work with Student Health Services at Memorial University in 2005. In 2012, Dr. Pendergast joined the family medicine obstetrical group, which provides intrapartum and inpatient care of pregnant and newborn patients, and started practicing at the Shea Heights Community Health Centre Medical Clinic, where she teaches medical students and family medicine residents, cares for patients, and conducts research. Dr. Pendergast began a Masters in Clinical Science degree at Western University in 2013. Her research interests are breastfeeding, mental health and addictions, and curriculum development.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Obstetrics and Gynecology would like to welcome Dr. Sean Murphy to the discipline. Originally from Labrador City, Dr. Murphy graduated with his MD from Memorial University in 2007 and went on to complete his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Memorial in 2012. He then completed fellowship training in Reproductive Infertility and Endocrinology at Dalhousie University. Dr. Murphy has a clinical interest in general reproductive endocrinology, fertility preservation, and the role of minimally invasive surgery in infertility, as well as the access to fertility treatment. His research interests include the relationship between appetite, energy regulation and reproduction, and the impact of embryo development and grading on IVF outcomes.

In recognition of the excellence, commitment, innovation and leadership demonstrated in teaching knowledge, attitudes and skills through 30 years as Clinical Associate Professor with the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Dr. Elias Bartellas was awarded the 2014 Carl Nimrod Educator Award.

Dr. Elias Bartellas moved to Canada in 1974, completing his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Memorial University. Dr. Bartellas is a strong believer in innovation and takes initiative for continual self-education and implantation of new technology. He has been involved in numerous research projects and has co-authored publications in areas such as, sexuality and sexual activity in pregnancy; the management of nausea and vomiting during pregnancy; laparoscopy assisted vaginal hysterectomy and cervical cancer screening. Dr. Bartellas is a strong pillar within the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a deserving candidate of this award.

Dr. Lucien Moris, APOG President (right); Dr. Elias Bartellas, Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology (center) and Dr. Atamjit Gill, Associate Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology (left).
PEDIATRICS

The discipline would like to congratulate Dr. Austin Richard Cooper on being the recipient of the 2014 regional Mentor of the Year award from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The Award recognizes Fellows of the Royal College in good standing who have had a significant impact on the career development of students, residents and/or Fellows. The nominee must have demonstrated their ability to be an excellent role model in demonstrating the qualities or competencies of a ‘professional’ as described in the CanMEDS framework. Congratulations to Dr. Cooper!

RADIOLOGY

Medical Students Hilary Coffey (Med III) and Andrew Dalton (Med IV) participated in a research project with Interventional Radiologist, Dr. Ravi Gullipalli. This project entitled, “Drug Eluting Balloon Outcomes: single centre experience,” was presented at the International Society of Endovascular Therapy Annual Meeting held in Hollywood, Florida, January 2015. This project won the prestigious Young Investigator Award from the Society.

During our Resident Research Day held annually at the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting two resident research awards were handed out. The Dr. Richard Harley Resident Research Award this year went to Dr. Sarah Pittman for her presentation, “Pediatric Bone Mineral Density in Newfoundland & Labrador;” and the second place resident award went to Dr. Christopher Smith for his research, “Emergency Department Utilization and Trends in On-Call Imaging in St. John’s, Newfoundland - a retrospective study.”

Further research by another resident, Dr. Suzanne Byrne, along with faculty member Dr. Rick Bhatia, “The Impact of Diagnostic Imaging Wait Times on the Prognosis of Lung Cancer,” was recently published in the Canadian Association of Radiologists Journal.

The Discipline of Radiology wishes to congratulate these residents, students and faculty on their success.
DR. PAT PARFREY and DR. BRENDAN J. BARRETT recently published a book titled *Clinical Epidemiology: Practice and Methods, Second Edition*. Divided into two categories, the volume first covers issues of design, measurement and analysis associated with various research designs, then continues with methods to better inform medical decision-making, including aggregation of multiple studies using meta-analysis, health economics, clinical practice guidelines and health technology assessment. Comprehensive and authoritative, *Clinical Epidemiology: Practice and Methods, Second Edition* is intended to educate researchers on how to undertake clinical research and should be helpful not only to medical practitioners but also to basic scientists who want to extend their work to humans, to allied health professionals interested in scientific evaluation, and to trainees in clinical epidemiology.

DR. ANDREW O’KEEFE presented at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology’s annual meeting in Houston, Texas, on Feb. 23, 2015. The Cross-Canada Anaphylaxis Registry (C-CARE) study is the first prospective study to examine the recurrence rates of anaphylaxis in children. This study was established in Montreal, but Dr. O’Keefe is hoping to expand to include the Janeway this year. The study demonstrates a need for further education among both patients and physicians about appropriate recognition and treatment of anaphylaxis.

YUE “TOBY” MA, a PhD student in Dr. Christopher Kovacs’ lab has won a Travel Award from the International Bone and Mineral Society and the European Calcified Tissue Society to present a paper at the joint IBMS-ECTS conference being held in Rotterdam in April. In addition, his paper has been selected for presentation in three venues: a full oral, a short oral, and a poster. The paper is titled “Klotho null fetuses reveal that FGF23 does not regulate fetal-placental phosphorus homeostasis or prenatal bone formation and mineralization.”

DR. BARTON THIESSEN was awarded the 2015 “John Bradley Young Educator” Award by the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society (CAS). The award recognizes excellence and effectiveness in education in anesthesia, and so the Society acknowledged Dr. Thiessen’s contributions to the education of students and residents in anesthesia in Canada. Dr. Thiessen accepted his award during an awards ceremony at the 2015 annual meeting in Ottawa, Ont., on June 22, 2015.

MS. SHARON GRAY, communications co-ordinator for the Faculty of Medicine and long-time editor of MUNMED retired on Jan. 2, 2015 after 27 years. Originally hired by Dr. David Hawkins as the information officer (health sciences), Sharon was given the job of developing a newsletter for the Faculty of Medicine. Sharon is grateful for the support she received over the years from Dr. Ian Bowmer, who served as dean of medicine from 1999-2003; and Dr. James Rourke over the past decade. Sharon said she appreciated the opportunity to get to know all the friendly and hard-working people in the Faculty of Medicine and looks forward to spending her time working on a number of personal projects and interests such as gardening.
BRITTANY GILLIES, an M.Sc. student in the lab of Dr. Christopher Kovacs, has won a CIHR-NSERC Canada Graduate Student Scholarship - M.Sc. Program.

THE ARTS AND MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP (AMIG) is a group run by students in Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine that aims to offer an outlet for arts expression and appreciation within medicine. This year the AMIG executive includes Kalen Thomson, first-year representative; Chelsea Ash, second-year representative; Matthew Bown, third-year representative; Sarah Small, fourth-year representative and director; Gordon Stockwell, resident representative; and Dr. Natalie Beausoleil, faculty advisor.

On Dec. 5, A Christmas Celebration of Arts in Medicine was held in the Medical Education Centre atrium, launching the newly-formed group. The evening began with an opening address by Dr. Susan Knight, chancellor of Memorial University, followed by performances by the Faculty of Medicine String Quartet, the Faculty of Medicine Irish Dancers, a Christmas Reading by Dr. Don McKay, the Academic Family Medicine Band led by Dr. Bill Eaton, and the newly-resurrected Ultra-Sound Choir.

It featured a display of artwork submitted by students and faculty displayed on overhead screens throughout the concert and there was also a special performance by grade two and three string students from the community NSYO Suncor Energy String Program. All proceeds from the evening’s performance went towards funding for music education programs for children in our community through the NSYO Suncor Energy String Program. With an audience of approximately 100 people, $1,000 was raised for the group.

“We’d like to thank everyone who came for supporting the NSYO Suncor Energy String Program,” said Sarah Small, director. “We look forward to seeing you in the New Year at future AMIG events.”

Since Christmas, AMIG has engaged students in a series of “Arts Nights,” aimed at increasing arts awareness and appreciation as well as offering an outlet for arts expression in the school. In March, they had an “AMIG Goes to the Symphony” night, where students were given the opportunity to attend one of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra’s Masterwork Series Concerts. In May, they will be having a “Principles of Photography” night administered by biochemist and photographer, Mark Oakley. In addition, their choir “Ultrasound” will be performing at the MUN Medicine 2015 Graduation Shingles Ceremony. For more information about AMIG, email at amigmun@gmail.com.
In memory

**DR. BENVON CRAMER** passed peacefully away at home on Jan. 2, 2015, after a courageous battle with breast cancer, age 64 years. She was a superb physician, teacher and researcher, a cherished colleague, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and a very dear friend. Following medical school training in Cork, Ireland, Benvon completed undergraduate training in Internal Medicine and Radiology in Ireland and London, England, before moving to Montreal, where she completed clinical and research fellowships in Radiology at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and the Montreal Neurologic Institute. She moved to Memorial in 1984, where her initial clinical work was predominantly in the field of Pediatric and Maternal Fetal Diagnostic Imaging at the Janeway Hospital and subsequently expanded to encompass a wide range of adult radiology. In 2001, she was appointed Professor and Chair of Radiology, a position she served in until September 2014. A brilliant clinician and teacher, she also had an outstanding research career with 46 peer reviewed publications and was awarded the prestigious Caffey Award for best clinical research paper by the Society of Pediatric Radiology in 2000. She gave multiple presentations to learned societies at provincial, national and international conferences and served on innumerable committees and boards, which included Chair of the Canadian Heads of Academic Radiology. She was instrumental in the design of the radiology department at the new Janeway site, the development of a provincial PACS program and a strong proponent of the development of a PET scanning facility at the Health Sciences Centre. Benvon was a visionary leader of the discipline of radiology whose personal philosophy was to view perceived problems as opportunities to find solutions.

On a personal level, Benvon was my closest friend, mentor, colleague, confidante and surrogate sister for 30 years. She was full of warmth, generosity, laughter and completely unselfish kindness. Her family meant everything to her and she balanced an outstanding professional career with devotion to her family to perfection. She was renowned for her hospitality and support of rugby and was presented with the Chairman’s Award by Rugby Canada for her 30 years of dedication to that sport. Benvon is survived by her husband Dr. Patrick Parfrey; sons Brendan (Carla), Kevin (Nik), Owen (Angela) and Patrick; grandchildren Ben and Fiona; sister Geraldine, brother Barry (Sandra) and a large circle of friends worldwide. She leaves us all with a rich legacy of beautiful memories and love.

- Dr. Eilish Walsh, discipline of radiology

**DR. BRUCE JOSEPHSON** (Class of 1974) passed away on Dec. 1, 2014. Born in St. John’s, N.L., he was the son of the late JE and Vivian (Puddester) Josephson. Survived by his partner Paula Yeates; his two amazing sons, Colin and Keith (Emilie); and his granddaughters Claire and Charlotte. Also leaving to mourn his brother Glenn (Belinda); Paula’s parents Joe and Linda; Paula’s children Kelsey, Taylor and Cooper; Paula’s sister Rhonda (Brian); and nieces Lauren and Leslie. Special thanks to his incredible friends Mike and Annette Love, Dean Cheverie and Jyl Davis. Also thanks to Simon Jackson who went above and beyond to help organize his practice over the last few months, and special appreciation to the best administrative assistant in Capital Health and good friend, Michelle Bourgeau.

**DR. RICHARD HUNSTMAN** passed away in Taverham, Norfolk, U.K., on March 7, 2015, aged 88. Born in Perak, Malaysia, he moved to England as a child and later received a scholarship to study Medicine at Cambridge University, where he was awarded the gold medal for his MD thesis. He immigrated to St. John’s, N.L. with his family in 1975 to become a professor at the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University and to also direct the blood transfusion services of the Canadian Red Cross. On four occasions during his 15-year tenure at Memorial he was awarded the Silver Orator Award, given to the faculty member who most impressed the graduating class of medical students. He leaves to mourn his loving wife Elaine and his eight children: Jennifer (Ken), Alice (Krim), Rachel (Jerome), David (Tanya), Lucy (Jerome), Tim (Patricia), Philippa (Charles), and Richard (Sunmi); his seventeen grandchildren and his sister Mary.

**DR. DENNIS MORGAN** (Class of 1980) passed away on Jan. 8, 2015. Born in St. John’s, N.L., on Sept. 10, 1956, he was the eldest of six children. After graduating from Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine and training as a cardiologist, he settled in Victoria, B.C., with his wife, where they raised four children. He leaves to mourn his wife of 34 years Cheryl (Smith); daughters Kristy (Harrison Wolfe), Erin (Chris Manson), Natalie (Stephen Hextall), and son Brendan (Chelsea McMenamie); and sons Kane and Maverick Wolfe. In Newfoundland, his surviving siblings are Harold (Cindy), Roxanne (Larry), Suzanne and Kim (Marcel).
Five steps removed
By Dr. Bill Eaton

STEP ONE: THE DOCTOR ATTENDS TO THE PATIENT
As Sir William Osler famously noted, our work has three elements: to treat the sick, to prevent disease and to relieve suffering. Most of us doctors take a certain professional joy from offering a treatment to the sick, especially if it’s likely to work. Even if it doesn’t, we’re still likely to keep trying in the hope that something will work. Some doctors try mightily to make sure the patient doesn’t get sick again or doesn’t spread illness around. As physicians, there’s nothing like a cure to relieve suffering (or at least avoid a legal suit.)

This is our work and we get paid.

STEP TWO: THE DOCTOR TEACHES THE STUDENT
Once in practice a few years, many doctors feel the need to educate the young. The young need educating, that’s for sure. Why, even Hippocrates had a teacher, although I don’t know his name. (Hippocrates probably kept it that way so the glory wouldn’t get spread around.)

The doctor takes a medical student, clerk or resident under their tutelage and into their office to show them the ropes and pass on a few bits of wisdom. The learners love the experience of being one-on-one with an actual practicing doctor, and both teacher and student learn quite a bit, as in the adage: “a wise man can learn more from the fool than can the fool from the wisest of men.”

This is our work and we get paid, albeit not that much. (Still, we get more than we did when I was in community practice 35 years ago at $200/month.)

STEP THREE: THE DOCTOR BECOMES AN ACADEMIC
After a few years of practice many doctors decide to join the ranks of academics. They head off to medical school and get a salary to organize sessions, sit on committees, run programs and teach students. One job of an academic is to become a faculty visitor and call on the community preceptors to make sure everyone is satisfied with the medical school’s work. Visiting the community preceptors is an important form of teaching. “Facilitating community preceptors to enhance their teaching skills” is what such community-minded academics say they are doing, and as we all know, academics are prone to saying a great deal.

This is our work and we get to keep our salaries when we leave the ivory tower to attend to the wild world outside.

STEP FOUR: THE DOCTOR MOVES INTO FACULTY DEVELOPMENT
After years of being a faculty visitor, some academics become involved in faculty development, wherein they begin to teach other faculty members how to be better teachers. This work includes helping the medical teachers become more proficient in modern teaching techniques regularly displayed at national meetings of academics. Another task of the faculty development teachers is to teach the academic faculty visitors how to distribute these new-found teaching tips to the community preceptors who actually do the teaching.

I know this is legitimate work because the academics get to visit their community-based colleagues and still get paid, even if the colleagues don’t so much. (Well, sometimes there’s lunch or a dinner.)

STEP FIVE: THE DOCTOR DABBLES IN RESEARCH
The university demands accountability and documentation, so the hapless academic now develops a research protocol to look at the best ways of imparting to the faculty development officers how to expedite the faculty visitors’ capabilities to impart the newfangled techniques to the community preceptors to teach the medical learner who is actually seeing the patient.

In other words: studying how best to teach the teachers to teach the teachers to teach the students.

The ultimate aim of university medical academics seems to be to get five steps removed from actual medical work.
MUNMED

Do you have information or story ideas for MUNMED?

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