



Department of Ophthalmology

FOCUS

New Faculty:



Dr. Christine Law is the newest full-time faculty member. She joins Dr. Strube in our busy Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Surgery service. Dr. Law is also involved in a study of retinopathy or prematurity sponsored by the National Institute of Health.

New Staff:



Kaitlyn Caird has joined our staff as our Postgraduate Program Assistant. She is also coordinating all of the Undergraduate lectures, electives and events. With the ongoing transition to a Competency-based curriculum, Kaitlyn will be very busy!

Banner Year of Academic Achievement

Queen's faculty members enjoyed another successful year with many faculty receiving new peer-reviewed grants. Dr. Robert Campbell (CIHR), Dr. Sanjay Sharma (Retina Society), and Dr. Delan Jinapriya (Glaucoma Research Society) were all successful in their applications while Dr. Jacob Rullo (PGY2) and Dr. Kunyong Xu (PGY5) both received prestigious resident research grant awards. Dr. Stephanie Baxter (Program Director) was awarded a SEAMO grant for the "Development of Competency-based Assessment Tools". Dr. Mark Bona also received funding for his innovative new model of providing low vision rehabilitation services across the region.

"Our faculty and residents have an extremely impressive record of publications and grants over the past three years" says the Department's Research Coordinator Dr. Isabella Irrcher. We are confident that this trend will continue into 2017!

Department Invests in New Technology

Queen's Ophthalmology has acquired several new diagnostic technologies in 2016 including a wide-field fundus camera and two new OCT units with angiography units. These units have been in place for several months and have made a significant impact on our ability to diagnose our patients and teach our residents and fellows. The potential of OCT angiography is an exciting question and will lead to some powerful insights about the nature of retinal and optic nerve diseases.

In collaboration with investigators from Bascom Palmer, Queen's Ophthalmology, under the leadership of Dr. Martin ten Hove, plans to begin using a "drone slit-lamp" (remotely controlled via the web) with a vision of expanding the current scope of tele-ophthalmology to include comprehensive interactive slit-lamp examination. Validation studies are being planned for early 2017.

Other acquisitions that have occurred (or are in the works) include a new collagen cross-linking machine, an updated image database, a hand-held fundus camera for screening babies with ROP, a dynamic pupilometer, a modernized topography unit and an image-guided marking system for accurate placement of toric lenses.



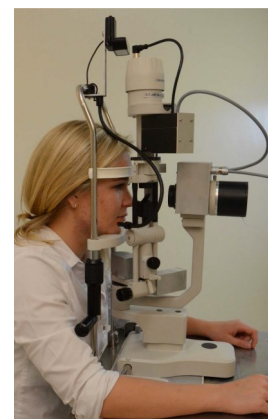
Dr. Robert Campbell



Ultra-wide field Camera



OCT Angiography



Drone Slit-lamp

Resident Education Reaffirmed as #1 Strategic Priority

The Department of Ophthalmology is in the midst of a 5-year strategic planning exercise led by Bain Consulting. Not surprisingly, our faculty quickly reaffirmed their passionate commitment to resident teaching by stating that our highest strategic priority is to have one of the top training programs in the country. Over the next five years, our Department will evolve and innovate on an even higher level following the clear and established path that this exercise has produced says Dr. Martin ten Hove. Look for further details on our Strategic Plan as the exercise concludes early in the new year.

Kingston Hospitals Set to Integrate

Kingston General Hospital and Hotel Dieu Hospital are set to merge into one corporation on April 1 2017. "Our two hospitals already have a long history of sharing programs, services and people," says Dr Pichora, "and this integration is all about

taking this close collaboration to the next level to serve our patients and families even better". The majority of the Ophthalmology service will continue to reside at HDH. We will continue to provide in-patient consultations, ROP monitoring and treatment, and some emergency ocular surgery at KGH.



Dr. David Pichora CEO with Mr. Michael Hickey Chairman of the Board HDH

Medskl.com goes live

Two years in the making and medskl.com —a free open access initiative to digitalize medical education has now officially gone live! This ambitious project, spearheaded by Dr. Sanjay Sharma, will provide medical schools across the world with digital resources based on the 200 MCC objectives in an attempt to "flip" the classroom. With over 200 award-winning faculty from Universities that include Harvard, Yale and Stanford, medskl.com now has registered users from over 60 universities. The American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American University Professors of Ophthalmology are also strongly supportive of this initiative and will be encouraging its use in the ophthalmic curriculum across the US.

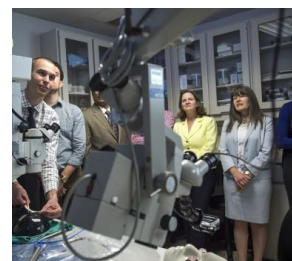


Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Queen's faculty and Founder of medskl.com (Dr Sharma was also recently elected into the prestigious Club Jules Gonin for his research.

Innovation and Evolution in the OR

Teaching residents how to perform intraocular surgery has changed over the years. While we still pride ourselves on the quality and quantity of our surgical teaching, we are now using the surgical simulation lab to introduce basic surgical skills and to allow residents to practice responses to complications which are (fortunately) becoming much less frequent.

In addition, we are exposing our residents to "high efficiency surgery" to better prepare them for the real world of case cost awareness. Residents learn the value of optimal OR design, workflow principles and teamwork. A new high-efficiency OR (opened in September 2016) encourages all members of the OR team to propose innovative ideas that maintain safety and improve efficiency.



Kingston Mayor Bryan Patterson visits our surgical simulation lab.