

focus



As the end of the year rolls around, I again find myself looking back on what we've accomplished in the past twelve months, and taking stock of the priorities and direction we've adopted as a department. It's also a time to reflect on our departmental family, immediate and extended, and to welcome the opportunity to keep in touch with each of you.



Davin Johnson



Amanda McIntosh



Tom Gonder

I. Departmental News

One of the biggest changes that we have witnessed over the last year has been the merging of HDH with KGH to create the **Kingston Health Sciences Centre** (KHSC). Although the integration has had some administrative impacts, our clinics continue to operate smoothly and we are adapting to changes as they arise. Our home remains in the HDH campus, and I continue to arrive at work climbing the steps to the 172-year-old Sydenham Street entrance.

Two years ago I shared with you the news that **Dr Davin Johnson** was joining our department. In the intervening time, he has completed a cornea fellowship at the Université de Montréal and has rejoined us to round out our Cornea and External Disease service.

We are thrilled to welcome **Amanda McIntosh** as our new departmental administrative assistant. She has filled the position with the same aplomb, enthusiasm, and delight as her predecessor, Maggie Black.

Dr Tom Gonder was a recipient of the inaugural **Exceptional Healer Award**, an award presented by the HDH Patient and Family Council. This award was created to recognize physicians who typify the ideals of patient-centered care, namely dignity, respect, patience, education, and participation. Dr. Gonder was quick to recognize the contributions of all members of our department support staff in contributing to the patient experience.

Kingston Health
Sciences Centre

Centre des sciences de
la santé de Kingston



Hôpital
Hotel Dieu
Hospital



Hôpital Général de
Kingston General
Hospital

II. Clinical Services

It's almost a foregone conclusion that the number of patients we treat each year will always increase, and this year was no exception with our annual visits exceeding 82,000 patients. In last year's newsletter I mentioned implementing a **high efficiency surgical suite** for simple (standalone) cataract procedures under the direction of **Dr Todd Urton**; this year we have seen a nearly two-fold increase in cases/day when using this facility.



Todd Urton



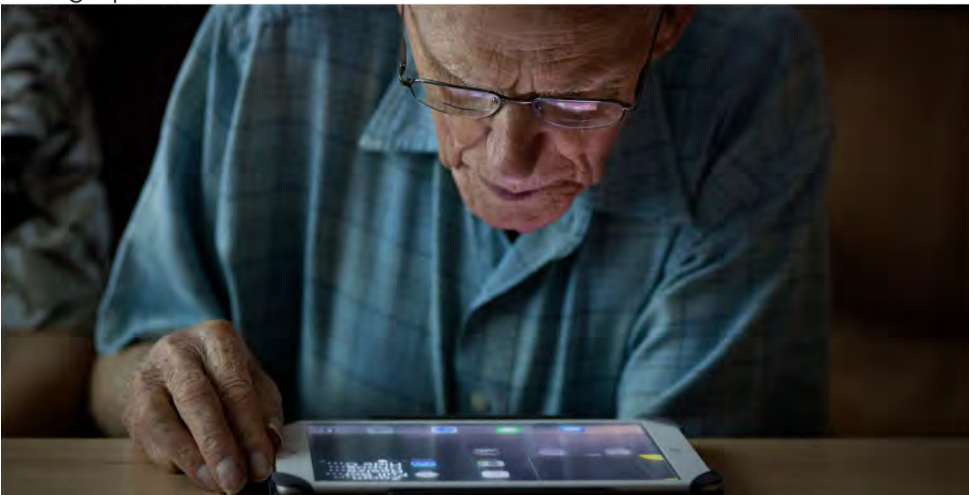
The HESS Cataract Surgery Suite—on the left, mid-procedure, and on the right, the efficient change-over: while the room is being turned over, the next patient is already waiting and being evaluated by the surgeon.

Meanwhile our high efficiency intravitreal injection suite is the envy of most eye centres. The department continues to offer two medical retina fellowships under the mentorship of **Dr Sanjay Sharma** and **Dr Tom Gonder**. This year we welcome Dr Qossay Atwan (from Saudi Arabia) and Dr Adil Bhatti (Ottawa) who have been providing exceptional care and service.



Mark Bona

Under the leadership of **Dr Mark Bona**, we have created the **Southeastern Ontario Vision Rehabilitation Service (SOVRS)** which brings together the multi-faceted needs of low vision patients under one roof. In partnership with the CNIB and the Queen's Department of Occupational Therapy, the clinic specializes in assessing the needs of low vision patients, exploring different tools and resources available to them, running education programs, and conducting research into low vision rehabilitation. KHSC has recognized Dr Bona's work and supported his innovative regional model by declaring the Vision Rehabilitation Clinic as one of its strategic priorities.



A low vision patient attends an iPad workshop, showcasing the many tools available to aid with reading and navigating the web.

Finally, a budding initiative in our clinical services saw us partnering with the University of Miami to develop a **"drone slit lamp"** which will help us treat our patients from Northern Ontario, greatly improving access to care, and cost effectiveness of screening for disease. This device is essentially a remote controlled slit lamp that will use the Ontario Telemedicine framework to provide remote eye care to the James Bay region. The equipment has now arrived at the Hotel Dieu site and is undergoing testing for validation before shipping to Moose Factory.

III. Academic Milestones



Rob Campbell

Dr Rob Campbell was awarded the **David Barsky Chair in Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences**. He also co-chaired **The Ontario Glaucoma Quality Standards Expert Committee**,

which published the first stakeholder draft of new interdisciplinary Quality Standards for Glaucoma Care in Ontario. The Expert Committee continues to work with Health Quality Ontario and will finalize and publish the final product in 2018 after further public and stakeholder input. Dr. Campbell also published an influential paper in **CMAJ** on the issues facing recent ophthalmology graduates in Canada, which was the focus of a CMAJ editorial.



Delan Jinapriya

Dr Delan Jinapriya, also in our glaucoma service, has been taking leadership roles in the COS, chairing the 2017 **Skills Transfer Courses** (of which **Dr Strube** was a course director and **Dr Law** was a faculty member for the strabismus course), and assuming positions on this year's CME and general planning committees. He was also the chair of the **Annual Young Guns of Glaucoma**, and was an invited speaker for the **54th annual Walter Writght Symposium**.



Meanwhile, at the AAO meeting in New Orleans this year, **Dr Yi Ning Strube** and **Dr Mark Bona** also held notable positions on panels relating to strabismus surgery, and techniques in vision rehabilitation, respectively.



Sanjay Sharma

Dr Sanjay Sharma was recognized for his medskl.com project with the **John Reudy Award for Innovation in Medical Education** from the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada.



Jim Farmer

Dr Jim Farmer was promoted to **Associate Professor** in our department.

On the research front, our residents continue to inspire with innovative projects, culminating in presentations at our annual **Resident Research Day**. This year's winners were **Dr Tim Ratzlaff** (PGY-4), and **Dr Jacob Rullo** (PGY-3), with projects on ergonomics in the setting of the ophthalmic exam, and venous collagenosis, respectively.



IV. Education in the Department

Rosen Day Symposium



Yi Ning Strube



Christine Law

This year marked the thirteenth Rosen Day Symposium, and for the first time we hosted it at Queen's University's stunning new performing arts complex, The Isabel Bader Centre. This year's topic was Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, organised by **Dr Yi Ning Strube** & **Dr Christine Law**. The conference was a huge success, with meeting registration selling out early. Participants overwhelmingly enjoyed the venue, the food, and most of all, the speakers. Many commented on the enthusiasm, innovativeness, and clarity of the talks and world-renowned guest speakers (Dr Gil Binenbaum, Dr Brenda Gallie, Dr Ken Nischal, and Dr Kenneth Wright).

Planning for next year's Rosen Day on the topic of Retina is in full swing, and already has an all-star lineup, including Dr Tien Wong, Dr Guarav Shah, and Dr Alan Cruess.



This past year has seen exciting changes in our residency program. In July, along-side the other residency programs at Queen's, and under the able leadership of **Dr Stephanie Baxter**, we implemented a **competency based medical education (CBME)** curriculum for all incoming postgraduate residents. The introduction of CBME will de-emphasize time as a metric for learning, focussing more on the demonstration of competence. Residents will progress through four stages of learning during their residency, including a new *Transition to Practice* stage designed to increase the preparedness of our residents for the real world. In each stage, they will have to demonstrate that they have achieved competency in the clinical tasks that are expected of them, resulting in proficiency in the essential skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be comprehensive ophthalmologists.



Stephanie Baxter

While many changes are still forthcoming, the realization of CBME has had a successful start in Ophthalmology. While there is a long way to go, we are confident that we are well on our way to improving the educational experience and opportunities for our residents. To this end, our **SimLab** continues to see great use by our residents practicing procedures before seeing their first patients.



Residents practicing various procedures in the SimLab

With the investment in a new learning and teaching platform, the Department is using **Echo360** as a way to engage students in the classroom before, during, and after teaching seminars. Echo360 is an online platform that allows students to watch both live and pre-recorded seminars, and provide real-time feedback, ask questions, bookmark important parts of the presentation, and take notes. It also offers quality improvement opportunity through aggregate analytics and easy glide paths for professors to use tools to support pedagogy.

V. Community Involvement

You will all be familiar with Canada's resettlement of Syrian refugees over the last two years; the City of Kingston welcomed more than 250 refugees. **Dr Christine Law**, one of our pediatric ophthalmologists, recognized a need to offer a widespread screening program for our new neighbours, and organized a vision screening blitz. Working with interpreters and settlement workers, ten of our staff and residents, along with nine of our technicians, donated their time on a weekend to help assess more than 100 refugees. Following their eye exams, patients were provided with forms indicating any diagnosis or management recommendations as needed.

This year, too, for the second year in a row, technologists from our Vision Rehabilitation Clinic organised a team to participate in the CNIB's Night Steps fundraiser. The team from our department raised nearly \$1000. These proceeds contribute to the sustainability of vital programs and services the CNIB has to offer such as youth groups, peer support, accessible technology, and recreational and educational programs.



Vlad Kratky

In the spring, **Dr Vlad Kratky** took a 4-month sabbatical at Charles University in Prague, in the Czech Republic, where he took on the position of Visiting Professor at a teaching hospital. While there, his main project was to develop an oculosplastics subspecialty unit for the local residency program.



Rosen Day 2018

Retina

Friday May 11th, 2018

*Isabel Bader Centre for the
Performing Arts, Kingston, Ontario*

