

Official Newsletter of the University of Toronto's Division of Vascular Surgery



## Special Interest Articles:

- Research Day
- Faculty Profile  
Dr. Giuseppe Papia
- A glimpse under the editorial hood of the NEJM

## What's inside:

- Research Day 2
- Faculty Profile 3
- New Faculty 3
- NEJM 4
- Awards & News 5
- Upcoming Events 5
- Publications 6

## Chair's Column



During our recent Resident and Fellow Graduation Dinner at the Hockey Hall of Fame it was apparent that there are several similarities between a Stanley Cup winning team and our U of T Division of Vascular Surgery.

Firstly, both groups have a distinct international flavor. A couple of decades ago the vast majority of NHL players were Canadian, whereas the 2015/16 season was the first during which more than half the players were from countries other than Canada. This reflects the internationalization of the game, which we also see in our training program. Our 7

graduating residents and fellows came from countries around the globe including Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Ireland, not necessarily hockey hotbeds, but great sources of surgeons!

Secondly, whether we're part of a hockey or surgical team, we're all role players. Some are stars (Sidney Crosby), some are snipers (Phil Kessel) and the rest of us are fourth line energy guys (you know who you are). Surgical teams are no different with clinicians, educators, researchers, allied health personnel and administrative staff. We all need to depend and trust each other and its only through looking after our own job, and excelling at it that the group/team will succeed.

Now, you may say there are differences between hockey and surgery, and I can think of a couple: education level, income and haircuts among a couple others.

But as we enter the summer offseason let's all of us role players think of how we can make the team better, and come back to training camp in peak condition for a deep playoff run.

Have a great summer everyone!



Dr. Thomas Forbes

## Congratulations to our Graduating Residents & Fellows



Above: Graduating Fellows, Seamus McHugh (L) & Abdullah Alfozan (R) with Drs. Wheatcroft (L) and Oreopoulos (R)

Left: Graduating Residents (L-R), Rafael Gonzalez-Pupo, Sultan Al-Sheikh, Dr. Oreopoulos, Ahmed Kayssi, Luis Figueroa (absent, Abdulmutalib Al-Masloom)

## Research Day



Dr. Melina Kibbe, from Northwestern, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer, with Dr. Johnston



Mr. Bill Blair with this year's recipients of Blair Foundation Innovation Awards, Drs. Wheatcroft (L) and Greco (R)

The U of T Vascular Surgery Research Day was held in early June at the University Club of Toronto the day after our Resident & Fellow Graduation Dinner at the Hockey Hall of Fame. Research Day was packed with outstanding presentations by our students, residents, and scientists.

Cale Zavitz won the Award for Best Presentation by a Junior Resident for his presentation, "Quantification of serum Oxidized LDL-specific immunoglobulins in murine models of atherosclerosis with a novel Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay".

Ahmed Kayssi won the Award for Best Presentation by a Senior Resident for his presentation, "Drug-eluting balloon angioplasty versus non-

stenting balloon angioplasty for peripheral arterial disease of the lower limbs".

Trisha Roy won the Alumni Award for Best Presentation by a Resident enrolled in the Surgeon Scientist Training Program for her presentation, "Magnetic Resonance Imaging as a predictor of forces required to cross peripheral arterial lesions with a guidewire".

We were thrilled to welcome Dr. Melina Kibbe from Northwestern as the 5<sup>th</sup> K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer. She gave two outstanding talks entitled, "Sex bias in biomedical and clinical research" and "The ups and downs of translational research – one surgeon's journey". Prior to Research Day she was able to meet with faculty and residents at a Women in Vascular Surgery Luncheon and to participate in a

Symposium on academic publishing where her experience as Editor of JAMA Surgery proved invaluable. We wish Dr. Kibbe the best of luck as she takes on new responsibilities as Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of North Carolina this summer.

Research Day also provided the opportunity to hear from the inaugural recipients of the Blair Foundation Innovation Grant Awards. Drs. Elisa Greco and Mark Wheatcroft provided outlines of their studies and had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Blair.

Research Day could not have been possible without the support of Gore Medical and we thank them for their continuing support of our academic and teaching programs.



Cale Zavitz, winner of Best Paper by a Junior Resident, with Dr. Johnston



Ahmed Kayssi, winner of Best Paper by a Senior Resident. with Dr. Johnston



Trisha Roy, winner of Best Paper by a SSTP Resident, with Dr. Johnston

## Faculty Profile – Dr. Giuseppe Papia

**Place of Birth:** Toronto- The Toronto Western Hospital actually. I grew up on the same street with 16 first cousins in Little Italy of College Street

**Family:** My mother is the youngest of 12 and my father is the youngest of 9 - no wonder there are just me and my sister. I am married to Natalie (high school sweetheart) who runs a furniture retail store and we have 3 children Salvatore (13) Alessandra (11) and Gianfranco (11). Had all my kids during residency. Sal while I was in the lab during SSTP, and the twins 4 weeks before the General Surgery Royal College exams (yeah!)

**Training & Career:** Medical School University of Ottawa, General Surgery UofT, SSTP obtained a MSc. in molecular biology with Dr. Ori Rotstein, Vascular Surgery and Critical Care Medicine UofT, Patient Safety at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Cambridge, MA.

**What are the biggest changes you've noticed during your career?** In vascular surgery everything. I have seen so many things from advanced aortic endovascular, tibial and pedal angioplasty, even open operations making a comeback go from impossible to reality.

**What advice would you give a medical student who is considering a career in vascular surgery?** If you like managing patients with multiple medical problems, and being able to greatly impact their quality of life with amazing surgical techniques then vascular surgery is the right specialty for them.

**What are you most proud of during your surgical career?** It is still young yet so hope to achieve that someday. But I would say my work which continues nationally with the Surgical Safety Checklist and helping as a member of a great team to promote that in Ontario when first launched in 2010, and currently across Canada. Also limb salvage BTK angioplasty and Project Saving Legs. It has completely changes how I approach patients with severe CLI and tibial disease as well I believe we are really making an impact at reducing amputations rates and improving quality of life in these. I am also proud to have been I believe the first Canadian vascular surgeon board certified in adult Critical Care Medicine and have practiced critical care which I enjoyed very much.

**Who are/were your mentors?** This is tough because there are so many and they change. If I named anyone in particular I would feel terrible for those I have not. So I will say my parents and family. They came to Canada with so little and created so much.

**What are your hobbies in your spare time?** I love to spend time with my family. My kids are at an age that I develop new hobbies by doing what they do. We now spend the winters skiing at Blue Mountain. Also I enjoy cycling especially in sportif events. I don't race but have been to Europe and the US on long organized rides which test your endurance and always teach you something about yourself.

**What is your favorite sports team?** I'm a big soccer fan and Juventus in Italy is my team. I was very happy this year when they won the championship for a record 5th time in a row. I love baseball and have been a Jays fan my whole life. The Leafs.....lets just say I will never cheer for any other hockey team, but this one is hard to cheer for.



Dr. Giuseppe Papia

## Welcome to our new U of T Vascular Surgery Faculty



Dr. Mohammad Qadura

We are proud to welcome Drs. Mohammad Qadura (St. Michael's) and Luis Figueroa (Humber River) to our U of T Vascular Surgery Faculty.

### Mohammad Qadura

Dr. Qadura earned his bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of Ottawa. He then completed his PhD in Thrombosis and Hemostasis at Queen's University. Dr. Qadura then completed his medical school and residency in Vascular Surgery at McMaster University. During his residency, he performed translational research at the Thrombosis & Atherosclerosis Research Institute in McMaster University. Dr. Qadura's research

interests include identifying the role of inflammatory cells and cytokines in the development of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms.

He is also interested in investigating the inflammatory factors that are involved in the progression of arterial disease. Dr. Qadura is extremely excited about joining the Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Toronto and practicing his passion in Vascular Surgery and transitional research.

Welcome to St. Michael's and the University of Toronto, Mohammad!

### Luis Figueroa

Dr. Figueroa was born in Mexico City. He obtained his Medical Degree from La Salle University. He trained in General Surgery at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. In 2011, he pursued further training joining the University of Toronto, Vascular Surgery Program.

His clinical interests are aortic surgery and new technologies in peripheral arterial disease. His personal interests include wilderness medicine and the outdoors.

Welcome to Humber River and the University of Toronto, Luis!



Dr. Luis Figueroa

## A glimpse into the editorial world of the NEJM



Dr. Mohamad Hussain

For two weeks in May, I had the incredible opportunity to attend an elective course at the *New England Journal of Medicine* headquarters in Boston, MA with a diverse group of residents from all over the world – including Singapore, Malawi, Italy, Scotland, US, and Canada. Originally established as the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery* and the *Collateral Branches of Medical Science* in 1812, NEJM is now amongst most widely read medical journals around the world with over two million unique visitors to the *Journal's* website every month.

I spent the majority of my time at the NEJM Editorial Offices, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Countway Library on the Harvard Medical School Campus. I attended daily editor-led seminars on various topics, from 'journal club' style discussions on major NEJM trials, to understanding how to write high-quality manuscripts and reviews. Homework assignments on preparing letters to the editor and decision letters on live NEJM submissions further refined my critical appraisal skills. There were also trips to NEJM-affiliated events, such as the

Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital – this was held at the historic Ether Dome during our trip, which was the site of the first anesthetized operation in 1846!

The true highlight of each week however was the Editors' meeting. Every Thursday afternoon, the Editor-in-Chief (Dr Jeff Drazen), the 8 Deputy (full-time) Editors, the Associate (part-time) Editors, and statisticians gathered to discuss the fate of roughly 15% of the top submissions that make it to the final stage of the editorial process. I was fascinated by how the editors dissected and debated each paper, focusing in on the quality of science and its potential impact on the field and health policy. They also persisted on presenting data in its simplest form that is closest to the 'truth,' and allowing the readers to interpret the results for themselves. I witnessed the importance of this principle first-hand, as a major drug-company sponsored trial with exaggerated conclusions in the original

manuscript submission were extensively revised during the editorial process to more accurately reflect the data in the final paper.

Unsurprisingly, few of the over 15,000 yearly submissions to NEJM are published. Only 5% of original research, 1-2% of clinical images, and 20% of letters succeed. Randomized trials and research in current global issues (such as Zika, Ebola, etc.) are favoured, whereas basic science research and meta-analyses are not. Interestingly, although NEJM does publish surgical research, none of the editors are surgeons – surgical papers are often handled by the nearest medical subspecialty editor.

My two weeks at NEJM were truly informative. I'm thankful to the NEJM staff and editors for their hospitality, my mentor and cardiology section Deputy Editor Dr. John Jarcho for his guidance, and Dr. Al-Omran for his support as usual. Further, I'm glad to have shared this short but educational experience with a wonderful group of colleagues. I encourage every resident interested in research to apply for this course to get a glimpse into the editorial world!

- Mohamad Hussain

**Congratulations to Mohamad Hussain for winning 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize for Podium Presentation at the U of T Department of Surgery's Gallie Day**



U of T Vascular Surgery Resident, Mohamad Hussain (3<sup>rd</sup> from R) and NEJM interns

## Awards and Announcements



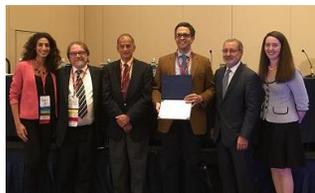
Congratulations to **Dr. Graham Roche-Nagle** (University Health Network) for his academic promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. This is an important achievement and a testament to his academic productivity and leadership. Well done GRN!



This year at our annual Graduation Dinner the residents and fellows voted for the top teacher among the faculty surgeons and residents. Congratulations to **Drs. Andrew Dueck** (Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre) and **Ahmed Kayssi** for winning the faculty and resident awards respectively.



Congratulations to **Dr. Giuseppe Papia** (Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre) for being awarded the 2015 – 2016 Peters-Boyd Academy Clerkship Faculty Teaching Award for Clinical Teaching at Sunnybrook.



**Sneha Raju** and **Ahmed Kayssi** were selected out of 120 posters to present in the Poster Competition Championship Round at the recent Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Annual Meeting, with Ahmed winning the Top Poster Presentation Award. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row that a U of T student/resident has won this award!



U of T Vascular Surgery resident, **Sarah Morrissey** and her husband **Ryan Snelgrove** (U of T General Surgery Fellow) are proud to announce the birth of their second son, Russell (Rusty) Dallas Snelgrove who was born at 12:58am on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Mt. Sinai weighing in at 9lb5oz. Big brother Hank is happy to have a little brother to boss around! Rusty is already working on his 2041 CaRMS application, but it's too early to know which surgical program will be his first choice.

## Upcoming Events & Meetings

Sept 16-17	CSVS Annual Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> –Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	ICRE, Niagara Falls, ON
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds
Oct 16-20 <sup>th</sup>	American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Washington, DC
Oct 22-25 <sup>th</sup>	Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, Montreal, PQ
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Veith Symposium, New York
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds

---

**Mark your calendar:  
Next year's Research  
Day is scheduled for  
May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Administrative Office:  
149 College St, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto, ON, M5T1P5

PHONE:  
(416) 978-7423

FAX:  
(416) 978-3928

E-MAIL:  
[vascular.admin@utoronto.ca](mailto:vascular.admin@utoronto.ca)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

Twitter & Instagram!  
@UofTVascular

## We welcome your support

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

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

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

**Our educational and academic programs would not be possible without the generous support of the following industry partners through unrestricted education grants. Thank you!**



## Contribute to our Newsletter

Story ideas, articles, photos or comments are welcome for upcoming issues, please send them to [vascular.admin@utoronto.ca](mailto:vascular.admin@utoronto.ca) or [thomas.forbes@uhn.ca](mailto:thomas.forbes@uhn.ca)

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

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS APRIL - JUNE 2016

- 1: Appoo JJ, Bozinovski J, Chu MW, El-Hamamsy I, **Forbes TL**, Moon M, Ouzounian M, Peterson MD, Tittley J, Boodhwani M; CCS/CSGS/CSVS Thoracic Aortic Disease Guidelines Committee. Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Canadian Society of Cardiac Surgeons/Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery Joint Position Statement on Open and Endovascular Surgery for Thoracic Aortic Disease. *Can J Cardiol*. 2016;Jun;32(6):703-13.
- 2: Ayeed SB, **Hussain MA**, **AlHamzah M**, **Al-Omran M**. Poor knowledge of peripheral arterial disease among the Saudi population: A cross-sectional study. *Vascular*. 2016 May 12. pii: 1708538116649801. [Epub ahead of print]
- 3: **Crawford SA**, Doyle MG, Tse LW, **Roche-Nagle G**. 'In-stock' fenestrated stent graft for the urgent repair of an abdominal aortic aneurysm. *BMJ Case Rep*. 2016 May 20;2016.
- 4: **Crawford SA**, Sanford RM, **Forbes TL**, Amon CH, Doyle MG. Clinical outcomes and material properties of in situ fenestration of endovascular stent grafts. *J Vasc Surg*. 2016 May 13. pii: S0741-5214(16)30029-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jvs.2016.03.445.[Epub ahead of print]
- 5: **Hussain MA**, **Al-Omran M**, Mamdani M, Eisenberg N, Premji A, Saldanha L, Wang X, Verma S, **Lindsay TF**. Efficacy of a Guideline-Recommended Risk-Reduction Program to Improve Cardiovascular and Limb Outcomes in Patients With Peripheral Arterial Disease. *JAMA Surg*. 2016 Apr 6. [Epub ahead of print]
- 6: **Hussain MA**, Mamdani M, Saposnik G, Tu JV, Turkel-Parrella D, Spears J, **Al-Omran M**. Validation of Carotid Artery Revascularization Coding in Ontario Health Administrative Databases. *Clin Invest Med*. 2016 Apr 2;39(2):E73-8.
- 7: **Hussain MA**, Bin-Ayeed SA, Saeed OQ, Verma S, **Al-Omran M**. Impact of diabetes on carotid artery revascularization. *J Vasc Surg*. 2016 Apr;63(4):1099-1107.
- 8: **Kayssi A**, **de Mestral C**, **Forbes TL**, **Roche-Nagle G**. A Canadian population-based description of the indications for lower-extremity amputations and outcomes. *Can J Surg*. 2016 Apr;59(2):99-106.
- 9: **Roy T**, **Dueck AD**, Wright GA. Peripheral Endovascular Interventions in the Era of Precision Medicine: Tying Wire, Drug, and Device Selection to Plaque Morphology. *J Endovasc Ther*. 2016 Jun 20. pii: 1526602816653221. [Epub ahead of print]
- 10: Singh KK, Matkar PN, Quan A, Mantella LE, Teoh H, **Al-Omran M**, Verma S. Investigation of TGFβ1-Induced Long Noncoding RNAs in Endothelial Cells. *Int J Vasc Med*. 2016;2016:2459687. doi: 10.1155/2016/2459687. Epub 2016 Apr 10.
- 11: Walker JT, Elliott CG, **Forbes TL**, Hamilton DW. Genetic Deletion of Galectin-3 Does Not Impair Full-Thickness Excisional Skin Healing. *J Invest Dermatol*. 2016 May;136(5):1042-50.