Dear friends and colleagues,

On July 2, 2013, I was invited to serve as your Department of Anesthesiology Interim Chair and Head. It has been an exciting period of growth, transition and restructuring with a wide range of activities to report.

The Anesthesia University of Ottawa Research Committee has gone through a process of revitalization which includes the appointment of Dr. Bryson to the role of Vice Chair of Research, commencing January 1, 2014. There has been a focused review of our research budgets, HR structure and internal grants system. We look forward to exciting developments within research over the coming year, especially within the scholarly domains of education, pain medicine, perioperative and outcomes research, cardiovascular, and pediatric anesthesia.

We have been energized by the enthusiasm and hard work of our leaders Drs. Desiree Persaud and Viren Naik and the physician leads involved with bringing the landmark Competence by Design (CBD) model to our residency program. Our department will receive national and international attention in July 2015, when we are expecting to begin training our first intake of postgraduates.

Earlier this fall, we welcomed Montfort Anesthesiology to the ranks of our department. The provincial government recently designated the Montfort Hospital as a “Level A” Academic Health Science Centre. We will be working closely with the Montfort faculty and Dr. Luckasz Bartosik, to secure their faculty appointments, to offer faculty development and other opportunities and to bring Montfort Anesthesia into the folds of our academic programs.

There is an outstanding program lined up for the 2014 Winterlude Anesthesiology Symposium. Dr. Eipe and the Winterlude Committee have brought together an esteemed group of internationally renowned speakers including Dr. Daniel Sessler and Dr. Brian Goldman. This is an event not to be missed! This meeting is also a wonderful networking opportunity, as colleagues and former residents will come from across Canada to attend.

Plans are moving forward to replace the anesthesia fleet of machines over 2014-2015. The request for proposals (RFP) went public on the MERX system December 3, 2013. We are organizing an Evaluations Committee to oversee the trial of potential machines and hope to complete the trial phase by early summer.

Dr. Sohmer is exploring new opportunities for professional development. We are seeking flexible options and will continue to support faculty development in every means possible.

Our TOH Pain Clinic continues to evolve with growing demand for services. We were saddened to learn of Dr. Di Renna’s plans for departure at the end of the year. Dr. Di Renna laid a strong foundation in her role as Pain Clinic Director and will be truly missed. Dr. Wynne has graciously accepted the role of Interim Pain Clinic Director and is doing a fantastic job of ensuring the Pain Clinic functions smoothly. In addition to her clinical and research activities, Dr. Smyth the new Program Director of Pain Medicine, we are about to have two Royal College specialty programs under the umbrella of our Department!

The coming year will bring transitions and improvements with our departmental communications. Our TOH Intranet website was re-launched early in the Fall with a fresh new look and new tools to promote collaboration within our department. Our University of Ottawa website will undergo migration to a new content management system early next year, complete with a vibrant new interface.

As we wind down our activities for a brief pause over the holidays, I sincerely thank all of our faculty, staff, residents, fellows and our administration teams for your support and collaborative efforts during my term as Interim Head and Chair. On behalf of the University of Ottawa and the Ottawa Hospital executive I wish you and your families the very best for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Miller, M.D., FRCPC
Professor & Interim Chair
University of Ottawa
Department of Anesthesia
The Ottawa Hospital - Interim Head of Anesthesia
The 2013/2014 academic year is in full swing now. We are continuing on the heels of a great finish for the previous academic year as evidenced by a 100% success rate for all of our PGY-5s on the Royal College exams.

The Residency Program Committee has been working hard to keep the program running smoothly. We have a number of new members. These include: Dr Gillian Ramsey serving as our interim CHEO resident coordinator, Dr Lillia Fung, our chief resident, Dr Sarah McIsaac our Assistant Chief Resident, Dr Ashleigh Farrell our Ottawa/NOSM rep, Dr Jennifer Wilson our resident research rep, Dr Karim Abdulla our CHEO scheduler, and Dr Amir Bouzari our elected resident rep. Special thanks also to our site resident coordinators continuing on including Drs Anna Wyand, Stéphane Moffett and Chris Hudson whose help have been beyond words!

A number of new initiatives have occurred including, creation of the Associate Program Director position which started in the fall last year. I am happy to announce that Dr Tammy Barrows is continuing on for a second term. Dr Lesley Silver served as our new IMG director, a position she will resume after her maternity leave. Formalizing the terms of reference of our Chief resident and recognizing the need to change the senior resident rep name to Assistant Chief Resident were also areas we completed. We have also been part of the initial trials of the one 45 web eval system of target dates for completions of ITERS and will soon be implementing 360 degree evaluations.

We also formalized the terms of reference of the mentorship program headed by Dr Anne Lui. The mentorship program reached new heights (literally) as residents and mentors participated in trampoline dodge ball.

As part of the Mentorship Program reorganization, we also preceded the activity with a talk on Professionalism by Dr Homer Yang.

Dr Simone Crooks hosted a wonderful send off party for our final years. (below)
Many of our residents have been able to represent the program and department on a number of committees. They have a seat on Hospital committees such as the TOH Patient Safety committee, using the opportunity to complete a number of scholarly projects and the Physician Engagement Committee. At the University level we have a number of residents participating in Accreditation reviews, the Postgraduate education committee and Professionalism committee. At the Provincial level, Drs’ Alistair Smith, Ashleigh Farrell and Matthew Sheppard have important roles on PARO. Dr Sarah McIsaac is the Ontario Anesthesia Committee Resident section Chair and Dr Sarika (Mann) Alisic is the Ottawa representative on the Canadian Anesthesia Society.

As the Royal College moves to CanMeds 2015 and our Program to Competency by Design, these will become exciting and important times for each and every resident and faculty member. We are in a great position to lead the way whilst at the same ensuring all residents at all levels have a voice and are supported in their quests to become safe competent consultant anesthesiologists.
Dr. Kimmo Murto was the recipient of the CHEO Gold Ribbon Award for Leadership this year. Below is CHEO’s statement of recognition:

“Leadership that inspires, leads, guides, mentors and motivates. These are the qualities found in Dr. Kimmo Murto. An accomplished leader, Dr. Murto is the Medical Director of Cardiac Anesthesia, Medical Director of Day Care/ Recovery Room, Deputy Academic Chief for Anesthesia, Director of Research in the Department of Anesthesia and an Associate Investigator with the CHEO Research Group.

In addition to his clinical and research roles, Dr. Murto has been a constant CHEO advocate, fostering an environment of accountability and growth by pursuing new funding opportunities for the hospital and developing strategic directions to enable CHEO to continue to innovate and remain viable and competitive in a changing health care climate. A busy and active member of the health care community, Dr. Kimmo Murto also Chairs the University of Ottawa Gary Johnson Research Day to recognize the research activities of Residents and Fellows and hosts International Medical Students every summer.

A well-respected and admired leader in the CHEO community, Dr. Kimmo Murto is the recipient of the CHEO Gold Ribbon Award for Leadership.”

Mentor Event 2013

The annual meet and greet event started off with much anticipation for tasting the highly rated food by Art Is In whose sandwiches and baked goods are an Ottawa phenomenon.

After delicious melt-in-your-mouth pulled pork buns, quiches, Danishes, macaroons, to name a few, the audience settled in to Dr. Homer Yang’s talk on Professionalism. The vignettes and patient letters that Homer shared with the group generated much discussion on defining Professionalism.

After the lecture, the group headed off to the SkyZone for an hour of trampoline dodge ball. The activity brought out the athleticism and competitiveness of the members of the Department of Anesthesia. Watch out surgeons!

Many of those who attended (n=27) and one who did not, completed a survey on the event. Ninety six percent agreed or strongly agreed that mentorship was an important component of the residency program. The same number felt that trampoline dodge ball was an effective team building activity. The event was considered to fulfil several of the CanMEDs roles: communication, collaborator and professionalism. Note that this survey was biased in that 96% of those who filled the survey participated in the event.

Next year’s event is already in the works based on the responses from the survey response. A bientôt!

Congratulations to Dr. Alan Chaput on his graduation from the Distinguished Teacher Program at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine.

Mentor-Program Director
Dr. Anne Lui
Team Pain Killers wore flashy shirts, big smiles and a lot of spandex at this year’s Ride the Rideau event on September 7th! This is the third year our Department has entered a team in this “feel good event” that raises funds for cancer research at The Ottawa Hospital. We had a superb turnout this year with 14 team members including 7 star residents, 1 “spouse-extraordinaire” and 1 progressive surgeon (actually 15 members if you count Chris Hudson who accidently signed up for the FYC team …. figure that name out!) and raised a record $22,596. The entire event raised more than $2 Million, the best year yet. Word on the street was that the Pain Killers were the best looking team out there --- credit goes to the design skills of Michelle McKenna!! Thanks to Steve’s legs and Sarah’s gentle “encouragement” we also finished well ahead of the Ortho team’s finish times! Yesss!! … that is the best news ever and makes me smile every time I am booked in the Ortho room. There is nothing wrong with a little friendly competition!

I want to extend my sincere thanks to our AFP and the many individual department members that generously supported our team. I hope you will consider training and riding with us next year – you are most welcome to join! Mark your calendars for September 6th, 2014 and help Anesthesiology get in the top five (5) teams for next year!!

Dr. Catherine Smyth
Dr. Sarika Mann's (now Alisc!) wedding took place in Ottawa on August 31, 2013.

Congratulations to Dr. Linda Wynne and Anne (as well as their "best pet" 😊).

Congratulations!
Welcome to the Family...

My husband Mike and I are happy to announce the birth of our daughter Scarlett Wright born Sept 5th at 3:51 am, 6 lbs, 5 oz. Thanks to Dr. Goheen and Dr. Chaput who tried to help me through a very difficult labour. And also thanks to Leo who was on standby when we had a failed a three day long induction the week prior.

Thank you to everyone who came to say hi and help us through our many challenges in this pregnancy and delivery.

Dr. Jahn Mihill
It is with great pleasure that I am writing to all of you about Hôpital Montfort. Our hospital recently received its Group A Academic Health Science Centre designation from the Ontario government and as a result we now report to the Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Ottawa. With this new relationship will come new responsibilities.

The prospects were not always as fortunate for Hôpital Montfort. The Ontario Health Services Restructuring Commission recommended closing our hospital in the late 1990s. After a series of massive demonstrations and extensive news coverage, our case was heard in the Ontario Divisional Court. On December 1999, Hôpital Montfort won on the basis of the fundamental unwritten principle guaranteed in the Constitution, that of the protection of linguistic minorities. A few days following this judgment, the government appealed the decision to the Court of Appeal of Ontario. Two years later, on December 7, 2001, The Court of Appeal of Ontario not only ruled in Montfort’s favor but reinforced this historic ruling. With this ruling, Hôpital Montfort was recognized as an institution “essential to the Franco-Ontarian community” and as such is protected from ever closing.

At that time, Hôpital Montfort only had 3 operating rooms, 800 obstetrical deliveries, anesthesia call was 24 hours long without a 2nd on-call system. We only had the occasional medical student rotating through our department. In July 2005, the Liberal government of Ontario, led by Dalton McGuinty, announced that Montfort would receive more than $171.5 million for a major expansion project called New Montfort. Since then, Hôpital Montfort has undergone major renovations and expansion of both medical and surgical services along with a new partnership with the Department of National Defense. Educational activities increased exponentially.

Today, our hospital boasts 289 inpatient beds including a CRRT equipped 12 bed ICU. Our obstetrical volume is currently at around 3200 deliveries with a c-section rate of 26%. We now have a Level 2 NICU. In addition to our dedicated ophthalmology and obstetrical ORs, we perform 8200 elective surgical procedures in a newly renovated 9 suite main OR block.

Lastly, Hôpital Montfort has established its own research institute and simulation centre on site. In terms of teaching activities, last year our department participated in 376 undergraduate clinical teaching days as well as 252 postgraduate clinical teaching days. We are planning to offer a francophone Family Practice Anesthesia Residency position starting in 2015. Lastly, our department has been targeted as one of six departments at our site for the creation of future francophone CaRMS residency spots at the University of Ottawa. All of this teaching activity is being carried out under a fee for service model. We are still waiting for an AFP. Similar to The Ottawa Hospital, we have recently embarked with the Studer group at improving the patient experience at our institution. Simultaneously, we have undergone a LEAN transformation in the emergency department as well as the department of medicine. Meanwhile, our peri-operative services are set to undergo a LEAN transformation starting in the new year.

Currently we have 15 members in our anesthesiology department. In alphabetical order they include: Drs. Bartosik, Blier, Cawadias, Chartrand, Chow, Custeau, Dore, Goure, Ghatalia, Green, Henderson, Hogan, Landry, Legault and Parent. Recently, we completed another hiring cycle and I am pleased to inform you that Drs. Andrews (McMaster), Bromley (Ottawa) and Des Rosiers (Ottawa) will be joining our department in 2014. Dr Sauve will be doing a 12 month locum with us upon graduation. Lastly, for years we have been extremely fortunate to work alongside a large number of dedicated anesthesia RTs inside and outside of the OR with seamless 24 hour coverage. We now enjoy a split call system and have a dedicated 2nd on-call person.

As you can see, there has been tremendous change at our hospital and within our own department. This transformation has been challenging at times, to say the least. But it has been strongly embraced and supported by our hospital leadership, employees and physicians. As a new partner within the academic anesthesia community, we look forward to developing our new academic identity and building a stronger relationship with the University of Ottawa, the Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and all of you in the years to come.
I have just completed my 3rd anesthesiology mission at Asociacion Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro in Antigua Guatemala.

This institution has 250 inpatients, severely dependently handicapped of all ages often abandoned by their families. Partially funded by donations, their main source of revenue comes from the attached hospital. The hospital runs 4-5 operating rooms (4 capable of general anesthesia, 1 for local anesthesia only) 50 weeks of the year, pausing only for Semana Santa (Holy week leading up to Easter) and the week prior to Christmas.

Each week, groups from all over the world come to provide surgical services to the indigent and others who could not afford much needed surgery. Patients donate what they can afford to pay to the hospital. Some pay nothing. Some pay up to $100, more for major joint replacement surgery. One patient saved for 3 years to get her hip replacement. There is a fantastic group of local workers at the hospital who help with patient positioning, translation, finding supplies, starting intravenous lines and anything else you can imagine!

http://www.obrashermanopedro.org/

Volunteers donate time, services and often the cost of our transport and accommodation. I have been with 2 different groups now. Medicos en accion is a group that started out of Kamloops BC and now has 2 main focal points – Northern BC and Ottawa. The gynecologists are from Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto; ENT from the US and Ottawa and general surgeons from Ottawa, Chatham and next year Mark Hardy, previously from Ottawa, now in Montreal. As well as surgery, the group runs a busy hearing aid clinic, testing hearing and fitting lucky recipients with donated hearing aids. Patti Murphy and I will be bringing all our medications (except opioids which are difficult to transport across borders for obvious reasons!) and a selection of endotracheal tubes, syringes and spinal anesthesia trays. We have requested donations of sevoflurane and isoflurane from Abbivie to be sent to the hospital since these cannot be transported in commercial passenger aircraft.

http://www.medicos-en-accion.com/

The other group with whom I just completed a mission is called Operation Walk Canada. A massive endeavor, the team includes OR staff plus physios (working in tandem with local physios); internists for pre-op assessment and post-op care; SPD, pre and post-op nurses. The company – Smith and Nephew supplied not only the joints but also 4 people to help with inventory and instrument processing

http://operationwalk.ca/guatemala-2013/

It’s busy time. 4 ORs, 2 of which are very very small (think smaller than OR6 at the Riverside). Once you’re in the corner of those rooms, there’s no escape! Each room would do 5 total joints a day, sometimes 5 patients, sometimes 4 patients one of whom was getting a bilateral procedure. A more grateful and stoic bunch of patients is hard to imagine. Preemptive analgesia (Tylenol, Celebrex and occasionally Pregabalin); spinal anesthesia (no opioids) and Tylenol #3 postoperatively was all that was needed! Tranexamic acid, both iv and intra-articular meant only 3 or 4 patients needed transfusion postoperatively, even though the transfusion triggers were higher as most patients had a poor diet.

Please look at the websites – there are some great photos that explain more than I ever could! And talk to Patti or me if you’re interesting in volunteering…

Dr. Linda Wynne
Here, There and Everywhere!

My daughter (Leanne) and I entered a juried competition called “Proverbs” with the OMMA (Ottawa Mixed Media Association). Winners will have their picture hung in the Centrepointe Theatre Gallery in January in their “Proverbs” showing. We brought our paintings, met with the judges and then left. Later, Leanne and I went pick up the paintings and find out the results. There were at least 50 people there. We were both successful and will have our paintings hanging from January 14th to February 12, 2014.

I have been so lucky this year – I have been juried and had paintings accepted with:
- ArtEast budding artist May 2013
- AEO BazArt at Shenkman Arts Centre, Nov 28 to Dec 5th (vernissage Dec 1st 1 – 3 pm - 5 paintings)
- OMMA Centrepoint Gallery Jan 14th – Feb 12th, 2014 (vernissage Jan 14th 6 to 8 pm – 1 painting)
- Display of my paintings in the OMMA Gallery at the Nepean Sportsplex from March 8 to April 26th.

This is all so exciting! It is wonderful to have a hobby that Leanne and I enjoy doing together.

Lynne McHardy
http://www.sibyllineart.com/
A fleeting moment in May 2006: 2 year old Alex meets a neighbourhood cat...

Dr. Lucie Filteau
(right)

Shadow (Labrador retriever) launches her new business venture to get you home safely during the Holiday season… “Operation Wet Nose”.

Julie Ghatalia
(below)

Department of Anesthesia Photo Contest

Submissions are welcome as follows:

Image Subject: Original photos of wildlife, objets d’arts, architecture, scenery, or medicine.
Submissions: Color or B&W Images
Format: JPEG or TIFF or MS Powerpoint
File Size: Max 5MB
Accompanying Legend: Up to 20 words

Please send submissions to: ighatalia@toh.on.ca
Journal Club Meetings

Wednesday, January 15, 2014
CCW 1492, General Campus
(VC to Civic, Riverside, QCH)

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Bickell Room, Civic Campus
(VC to General, Riverside, QCH)

Monday, April 28, 2014
Evening Journal Club
Absinthe Restaurant 1208 Wellington St. W

Gary Johnson Research Day
May 9, 2014
Dr. Neal Badner, Clinical Professor
University of British Columbia, BC.

Conferences

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Visiting Professor Program

Rachel Waugh Memorial Lecture
January 22, 2014
Dr. Brian Kavanagh, Professor (University of Toronto, ON)

John Wrazej Memorial Lecture
March 26, 2014
Dr. Markku Nousiainen, Assistant Professor, (University of Toronto, ON)