

From the Chair: Dr. Alp Sener



Dear friends and colleagues,

Another fantastic year has gone by and the achievements and successes of our residents, fellows and faculty highlighted in this newsletter continue to distinguish our Division as a premiere program! I could not be more proud to be part of this group. During this year we have continued to bolster a growth mindset with the newly minted Uro-Oncology Biobank spearheaded by Drs. Power and Pautler, supported by a very generous donation from the Kadrie Family. Dr John Denstedt was honored by the American Urological Association with the **Ramon Guiteras Award**, the highest honor it can bestow upon a member to acknowledge his outstanding contributions and pioneering work in the field of endourology and for outstanding leadership as AUA Secretary during the worldwide pandemic. I was honored to have been selected as the inaugural holder of the fully endowed Andrew Lazarovits Chair in Immunobiology and Transplantation at Western for our translational research in organ preservation and for leadership across transplant organizations. For another consecutive year, three of our faculty were awarded the coveted Department of Surgery Merit awards across three categories: Dr. Pautler (Service), Dr. Campbell (EDID) and Dr. Bjazevic (Research). All of these exceptional accolades highlight the importance of maintaining a trajectory of excellence, growth, sustainability and success in our Division.

Divisional research productivity has continued to grow, and has resulted in another stellar year with our faculty being awarded numerous highly competitive provincial and national grants and high-profile awards including three CIHR operating grants, multiple AMOSO Innovation awards, Dean's Awards of Excellence and several Lavergne Catalysts Grants. In addition to the multitude of peer reviewed publications in the Division, we have been awarded a staggering \$2.2 million dollars of grant funding over the past year...quite incredible!! This performance underscores our strong commitment to academic excellence in education and research that is recognized not only nationally but internationally.

Our residency training program, led by Dr. Wang and Dr. Campbell, has continued to demonstrate excellence under their leadership with many of our residents scoring highest scores on their AUA Inservice examinations. Their collective vision to create a welcoming and structured learning environment has led to improvement in resident wellness and have resulted in our program matching our top-ranked applicants whom we are all looking forward to working with over the next five years. Our fellowships spanning SJHC and LHSC continue to be recognized globally for their highest caliber clinical training and research potential. I would like to welcome our incoming fellows Dr. Solon Ierides (Greece) and Dr. Alvin Low (Singapore) both in endourology, Dr. Leandra Stringer in pediatric urology, Dr. Mithun Kailavasan (United Kingdom) in uro-oncology, and Dr. Abdullah Alfaifi (Saudi Arabia) in kidney/pancreas transplantation--it is a pleasure to have you all join our group.

On behalf of the Division, I would like to thank our graduating residents Dr. Bonnie Liu and Dr. Leandra Stringer for their hard-work and commitment to our patients and to our program. We wish you both a very bright future in your careers and look forward to hearing about your accomplishments in years to come! A warm welcome and thank you to Shelley Paolini, our Divisional Administrator, who joined us this year after Kim's retirement. Shelley will be taking some time off to care for her new baby and hence we are glad to also welcome Sushma Simmasetty as our interim Divisional Administrator to help keep things pointed in the right direction until Shelley returns. Thank you Shelley and Sushma, we truly appreciate all of the hard work that you do behind the scenes.

I hope that you all enjoy reading this year's newsletter. For those alumni who were not able to join us this year for research day, please reach out anytime, I always look forward to hearing from you.

- Dr. Alp Sener



From the Program Directors



Dear Colleagues, Residents and Fellows,

As another academic year draws to a close, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the achievements and strides we have made together in our Urology Program at Western University. Reflecting on this year, it's clear that our program's success is rooted deeply in the dedication, hard work, and passion that each one of you brings to our program.

Firstly, I am thrilled to announce that our residents have continued to excel academically and professionally. This year, Drs. Bonnie Liu and Leandra Stringer have both passed their Royal College Exam, marking a significant milestone in their educational journeys. Their success is a testament to their hard work and the robust support system we have cultivated here at Western. Dr. Liu will soon join the faculty in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, alongside many Western Urology alumni. We are confident she will continue to make us proud. Dr. Stringer will enhance her skills further by joining our Pediatric Urology team as our third fellow next year. It is with great joy that we watch them embark on these exciting new phases of their careers.

In addition to individual successes, our resident group has achieved exceptional results on the AUA In-Service Exam. These accomplishments are not only a reflection of our residents' capabilities but also highlight the effective mentorship provided by our faculty. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our faculty members for their unwavering support, devotion, and teaching, which have been instrumental in shaping the futures of our residents. I would like to express special gratitude to the members of our Residency Training Program, Dr. John Denstedt, Dr. Nicholas Power, and Dr. Alp Sener, whose guidance and expertise have greatly contributed to our program's success this year. Additionally, our Competency Committee Members, Dr. Jonathan Iza-wa, Dr. Blayne Welk, and Dr. Melissa Huynh, deserve recognition for their diligent efforts in maintaining the high standards of our training process.

This year, we also successfully continued our Wellness Retreat initiative, spearheaded by Drs. Nicholas Power, William Luke, and this year by Dr. Heather Rotz. Their efforts have significantly enhanced the well-being of our residents, ensuring that alongside professional growth, their personal health and happiness are also prioritized.

Our appreciation also extends to all the faculty from our distributed educational network in Southwestern Ontario. Your dedication and commitment to training and guiding our residents are invaluable, and we are grateful for your continued partnership in educating the next generation of urologists. This year, I am also pleased to report that our program consistently ranked amongst the top in the Department of Surgery with respect to hospital metrics such as discharge summaries and EPA completion rates. This consistent success underscores our commitment to excellence in both education and patient care.

This year, we welcome new faces to our team. Dr. Erica Li from Western University, Dr. Ian Jane from Memorial University, and Dr. Roseanne Ferreira from Escola Bahiana de Medicina e Saude Publica (EBMSP) who will join us as our new PGY1s in July. Each brings unique strengths and perspectives that will enrich our program. I encourage everyone to extend a warm welcome to them, as we look forward to the next five years together. In the same vein, we are also excited to welcome Sushma Simmasetty as our new Program Administrator. Lastly, as we celebrate these achievements and transitions, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all our residents for their hard work, dedication, and diligence. Your commitment to your education and to providing the highest quality of patient care does not go unnoticed.

Thank you once again to everyone in our division.

P.S. A sincere thank you to Dr. Jeffrey Campbell, Assistant Program Director, for his support and for being my right-hand person. You are deeply appreciated.

- Dr. Peter Wang, Program Director, Urology, Western University

2023-2024 Urology Resident Roles

Chief Residents: Bonnie Liu, Leandra Stringer
Resident Wellness Representative: H. Rotz
Bootcamp Representatives: C. MacLeod, B. Li

RTC Representative: L. Stringer
CaRMS Representatives: B. Li

Keith and Leanne Lavergne and Family Chair in Urology



**Keith and Leanne Lavergne
Honored with the 2023 Community Partner of the Year Award**

As you all know, we were extremely excited to announce and celebrate the Keith and Leanne Lavergne and Family Chair in Urology in September 2022. Their transformational gift anchored our division as an international centre of excellence and enabled support for cutting-edge research in areas of endourology, transplantation, pediatric urology, oncology, functional urology, andrology, and minimally invasive surgery. It is clear throughout this newsletter that the impact of this Chair on the Division of Urology has already been instrumental in acting as a catalyst to get many research programs off to a stellar start!

Each year, a community partner is recognized for their generosity to hospital-based research. Recipients of the award are individuals or organizations who value and philanthropically support medical research, and by doing so, have made a positive impact on the lives of patients at London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care London. This year, along with the London Health Sciences Foundation, the Division of Urology was very proud to nominate Keith and Leanne Lavergne to this prestigious award and we were not surprised that they were ultimately chosen as the 2023 Community Partner of the Year Award Recipients! Congratulations Keith and Leanne, this is so well deserved!!

Tribute to Keith and Leanne can be seen through this link: <https://www.lawsonresearch.ca/impactawards/community-partner-year-award-keith-and-leanne-lavergne>

-Alp Sener

Chin-Hardie Chair in Urologic Oncology



In September 2023, I joined the faculty of Division of Urology as the inaugural Chin-Hardie Chair of Urologic Oncology. This Chair, established by Dr. Joseph Chin and Mr. Bob Hardie, is intended to support research in urologic oncology and to foster teaching of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students in urologic cancer care and research.

My first priority after arriving in London was to establish my medical practice and integrate into the local medical community. Fortunately, I joined an excellent team of colleagues at Victoria Hospital and found support and direction plentiful. This allowed me to quickly become busy and to understand the local landscape and practice patterns. One of the important aspects of the local urologic practice that I wanted to contribute to was the expansion of our minimally-invasive and robotic cancer surgery footprint.

Robotic surgery is being used increasingly around the world because it tends to be a less invasive option that affords more rapid recovery for patients. I have performed robotic prostatectomy procedures several robotic cystectomy operations as well as several laparoscopic inguinal lymphadenectomy procedures, surgeries that are not commonly offered in Canada. As our hospitals retool with more modern robotic equipment over the next year or two, increasing our delivery of modern minimally invasive cancer surgery will become increasingly important to our trainees and our patients.

The second priority was to engage myself in leading new local oncologic clinical trials and to help rejuvenate clinical research infrastructure. Dr. Nick Power and I have embarked upon a restructuring and amalgamation process for our research coordinators that will allow us to expand our clinical trial portfolio and offer more cutting-edge therapies and diagnostics to our cancer population in the future. We have opened several new clinical trials in bladder cancer and prostate cancer that will offer new options for our patients, and hopefully some new cures. One exciting feature that Dr. Power, Dr. Stephen Pautler, and I are working on is the development of a new oncologic biobanking platform. While in its early phases, we have hired a biobanking coordinator, and are in the process of purchasing the required equipment and establishing best practices so that our biobank will be a world-class resource. We have interfaced with other researchers in Canada and are aligning our data fields and specimen processing methods so that we can perform national-level research with the best minds from across the country.

Finally, the remaining goal for the end of my first year is to establish my personal research laboratory that is located in the Cancer Research Laboratory Program of the LHSC Research Institute and the newly endowed Verstehen Family Cancer Center. My research will leverage our biobanking platforms so we can perform novel immunologic and genetic research into genitourinary cancers. I am particularly interested in how tumors evolve and worsen within patients and what we might do to reverse this process. I am also interested in novel biomarkers for cancer detection and in the development of novel treatments for genitourinary cancers.

It is exciting to build on the outstanding cancer research and patient care that has occurred at Western Urology for many decades. I am confident that we will continue to a center for outstanding care of cancer patients and for innovative cancer research.

- Dr. Brant Inman

*Congratulations to Dr. Denstedt on Receiving
the Ramon Guiteras Award from the AUA*



Ramon Guiteras Award Winner:

It is a tremendous honor to be the recipient of this year's Ramon Guiteras award from the American Urological Association. To quote from the award citation "The Ramon Guiteras Award may be awarded annually to an individual who is deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the art and science of urology."

In investigating the history of this award, the past recipients universally include iconic figures in our specialty, beginning with the first awardee Dr Hugh J Jewett who was honored in 1963.

<https://www.auanet.org/about-us/aua-governance/awards/award-winners/previous-honorees>

The Ramon Guiteras was the inaugural award established by the AUA which makes this a very special recognition indeed. It also elevates this to a very special moment for me, when I see so many of my mentors and friends who have been recognized in recent years with the highest recognition bestowed by the AUA. Individuals such as Dr's Ralph Clayman, Arthur Smith, Glenn Preminger, Bob Flanigan and Ed Messing amongst others. Additionally Jay Gillenwater, Gene Carleton and Logan Holtgrewe, who provided me the opportunity to become involved in AUA programs early in my career.

I consider myself to be so lucky to have worked in the environment and with the people I have at my institution since 1990. This includes not only the faculty in my Division but also outstanding residents and fellows, research scientists and equally importantly incredible nursing staff in our clinics and operating rooms. People who have been open to new ideas and ways of doing things. Collaborating with excellent individuals, including engineers, in the medical device industry has also been an exciting experience. I am especially grateful for the international opportunities and experiences I have been fortunate to have over a career of 34 years. We live in a highly mobile world in 2024 but "back in the day" international travel was less common such that I was 33 years old when I first travelled outside of North America. Since then, academic medicine has afforded me the possibility of being involved in over 400 various urology events in over 65 countries.

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The cultures I have experienced, the people I have met, the friends I have made have all had a formative and tremendous impact on the way I view the world. It has been an incredible journey and I would do it all again in a heartbeat.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my wife Carolyn and my two daughters Emily and Ellen. I could not have accomplished a fraction of what I have without their unwavering support throughout my career.

-Dr. John Denstedt



Dash 4 Dad is BACK!

For over twenty-five years, Dash 4 Dad has raised more than **\$1.5 Million Dollars** for London Health Sciences Foundation.

Take part in this fun and inspiring event on **Sunday, June 16, 2024** and help raise much-needed funds for prostate cancer research at London Health Sciences Centre.

Date: In person or virtually on Sunday, June 16, 2024

Location: Springbank Gardens or your neighborhood!

For more information and to register as an individual or a team, visit lhsf.ca/dash4dad

Register by April 30th to take advantage of the discounted early-bird pricing



Exciting Developments in Urology Biobank Initiative:

Over the last few months, we have made significant progress in establishing this invaluable resource for urological research and innovation. Key highlights are below.

Biobank Coordinator Hired- Kes Sebborn joined us earlier this year as our Biobank Research Coordinator and brings a wealth of experience to this new role. Kes trained as a Radiation Therapist in the UK before coming to Canada in 1991. She began work in clinical research, LRCP in 1997 and spent the last 17 years in GU Oncology Research. Kes is passionate about great patient care, relevant and timely research, humour, good beer and chocolate! We are thrilled to welcome Kes into the Urology team.

Identity: After a creative and fierce competition, the name of the biobank was voted to be London Urology BioSolutions Repository. It was chosen to reflect the collaborative, inclusive and ambitious nature of the project.

Team: Collaboration lies at the heart of our biobank initiative. We are delighted to report on burgeoning partnerships with leading biobankers, researchers and institutions, both locally and nationally.

Location: Our freezer will be in the Dr. Brant Inman lab in the Victoria Research labs at LHSC. Research into the correct freezer and software is close to completion. Once the infrastructure is in place, we are excited to move forward. This includes implementing state-of-the-art systems for sample tracking, storage, and retrieval, ensuring the integrity and accessibility of our valuable repository.

Upcoming Research Initiatives: Building upon our foundation, we have plans for several upcoming research initiatives leveraging the resources of our biobank. From biomarker discovery and personalized medicine approaches to patient outcome measures, these projects promise to create a resource for novel insights and therapeutic strategies for a spectrum of urological conditions.

Community Outreach and Education: Education and awareness are integral to the success of our biobank initiative. We hope to engage with the urology community, fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The Biobank extends heartfelt thanks to Dr. Chin and the donor family for their generous \$1M donation. We also acknowledge the dedicated leadership of Drs. Pautler and Power, our esteemed co-directors. For more information or to get involved, please contact Kes Sebborn Research Coordinator at kes.sebborn@lhsc.on.ca.

-Dr. Nicholas Power

*Congratulations to Dr. Sener
on the Andrew Lazarovits Chair in Immunobiology*



Dr. Sener was named the [inaugural Andrew Lazarovits Chair in Immunobiology and Transplantation](#) at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, and London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC). This \$3 million research chair is funded by Lawson Health Research Institute and London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and matched by Western University. The chair will support Dr. Sener's vision of expanding research capacity and provide leadership between the hospital and university to build on the legacy of world-class research being carried out in transplantation and immunobiology at Western and at LHSC.

Dr. Sener has received numerous awards for his research contributions at local, national, and international levels, including the Schulich Dean's Award of Excellence, the inaugural Dr. John Sangster Research Award for Excellence from the AMOSO Governing Committee, the Canadian Society of Transplantation Research Excellence Award, and the Vanguard Award from the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. He is the Founder of the Canadian Association of Chairs of Surgical Research and is heavily involved in promoting research and education through his national and international leadership roles across various urology and transplant organizations, including immediate past-President of the Urological Society for Transplantation and Renal Surgery.

Dr. Sener's laboratory has pioneered the use of hydrogen sulphide in mitigating organ injury associated with transplantation. His laboratory is also using hydrogen sulphide in modulating neovascularization and metastasis in renal cell carcinoma and bladder cancer, as well as in reducing tissue fibrosis following chronic urinary obstruction. Operating funds generated through this Chair will enable Dr. Sener to recruit a world-class fundamental scientist to work in the field of tissue injury and regeneration with a particular focus on transplantation and urological health.

John Yoo, MD, FRCS(C), FACS
Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University

Cathy Vandersluis
President, University Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre

Fun Times...





in Western Urology



Goodbye and Best Wishes!

As my time as a resident draws to a close, reflecting on the past five years fills me with awe. The journey, marked by countless hours of work, being on call, and studying, has paved the way for me to embrace the career I've always dreamed of. Though challenging, it's been incredibly rewarding, and completing my training program at Western fills me with gratitude. I feel prepared, perhaps more than ever, to embark on my professional journey. To my fellow residents, past and present, your guidance, teaching, patience, and support have been invaluable. I am deeply thankful for the camaraderie and teamwork we shared, even amidst the occasional playful teasing. During times when I felt isolated as the sole resident in my year, your willingness to step up and support me made all the difference. Leandra, your companionship during Royal College was a bright spot in the midst of challenges. To the faculty, my heartfelt appreciation knows no bounds. Your dedication to teaching, mentoring, and exam preparation has equipped me with the skills I need to succeed. Each member of the staff has demonstrated a commitment to nurturing the next generation of urologists, and I have been fortunate to benefit from their guidance. A special acknowledgment to Dr. Sener, Dr. Dave, Dr. Wang, and Dr. Campbell for their unwavering support as PD/APD, especially during the tumultuous times of COVID-19. Kim and Shelley, thank you for your tireless efforts in keeping everything running smoothly. Lastly, I extend my deepest gratitude to my husband Tyson, as well as my friends and family, who provided unwavering support and helped me find moments of joy amidst the demands of the job.



"I look forward to our paths crossing again and offer an open invitation to visit Saskatoon, the 'Paris of the Prairies.'

-Bonnie Liu

As I near the end of my urology residency training, I find myself reflecting on how fortunate I have been to train at Western University. I am so appreciative of all the staff and of my exceptional mentors throughout my training. You have helped shape me into the person and surgeon that I am today. Your teachings, lessons, and anecdotes, will follow me into my future career and help inform my decisions and practice. I know that when I am unsure of what to do, I will have your voices in my head leading me in the right direction. I will be forever grateful for the support, advice and motivation provided to me from the group here at Western. To the residents, thank you for your camaraderie, friendship, and laughter. I could not have survived the long Vic days without you all. You are such a wonderful group and your patients are so lucky to have you caring for them. Remember to look after each other. This is a hard road but we walk it together. My time in London has been a gift. I met my fiancée, Marco, who I truly could not have done all of this without. He has been my rock and my support. We grew our family to include our son, Leo, and our dog, Winnie. Life with them is my greatest accomplishment and joy. We are looking forward to getting married this summer and look forward to another year in London. As I move forward into my role as fellow, I look forward to continuing to work with everyone and continuing to learn from all of you. Thank you for everything.



As I move forward into my role as fellow, I look forward to continuing to work with everyone and continuing to learn from all of you. Thank you for everything

-Leandra Stringer

Ai Li Jia Li

Hometown: Brampton, ON
Undergrad: Western University
MD: Western University



I am thrilled to be staying in London to learn from the best Urology Team! It is an absolute privilege to be joining such an excellent program consisting of skilled and friendly residents, fellows, and staff. Outside of medicine, I enjoy strength training at the gym and visiting dog parks with my dog Cookie.

WILLIAM IAN JANES

Hometown : St. John's Newfoundland
Undergrad: Memorial University
MD : Western University



I am thrilled to be joining the esteemed Urology residency program at Western University! The prospect of working alongside some of the top physicians nationally in this field while developing the necessary surgical skills is truly exciting! Outside of academics.

Getting to know the PGY1s:

ROSEANNE FERRIERA

I am thrilled to join the Western Urology family this summer! I look forward to collaborating with the amazing residents, fellows, staff and allies over the next 5 years. I'm passionate about how Urology blends the best of collegiality, innovative technology and continuity of care. When I'm not in the OR/clinic, you will find me painting (have recently ventured into acrylics) or exploring the London outdoors with our dog, Loki.



Follow the Fellows

Even if it sounds cliché, life goes on too fast. It feels like this one-year fellowship passed too quickly, even when Dr Welk and Dr Campbell told me so on my first day at St. Joseph's Hospital. Through a long-distance relationship with my husband Alex, a new daily life in English . It would not have been the same experience without Dr Campbell and Dr Welk. The kindness in every single employee at St. Joseph's Hospital is remarkable. Special thanks to the OR urology team, the nursing team in clinic and the three best secretaries, Amelia, Brenda and Faith. I hope you will all let me know if you come visit Quebec city (not Montreal), I would love to share with you guys all the wonders in town !



-Catherine, McMartin

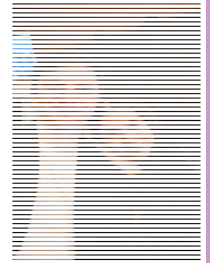
I being a Pediatric surgeon from India had a wonderful privilege to join the Pediatric urology fellowship in Western. It was a true honor to be part of it and very grateful for the fantastic learning opportunities and unwavering support from Dr. Sumit Dave and Dr. Peter Wang. I can today say ,the training program under these mentors has helped me broaden my horizons in the aspects of complex urological reconstruction, robotic surgeries and endourology. I will be going back to India and practicing as a Pediatric Urologist and guide my juniors with the experience I gained here.-



-Satyanarayana Ravula

It's hard to believe it's been almost two years since I arrived here. Moving to London two years ago was one of the toughest decisions my family and I have ever made. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my mentors, colleagues, nursing staff, residents, fellows, patients, and everyone else I've had the pleasure of interacting with for your patience and support. Best wishes to all!

-Mario Basulto



During my time in London, I had an enriching experience both professionally and personally. In terms of my clinical exposure, I was fortunate to be involved in complex oncological cases and participate in multidisciplinary discussions. They are now among my closest friends. I am incredibly grateful to Dr. Power, Dr. Chin, Dr. Inman, Dr. Huynh, Dr. Izawa, and Dr. Beech for their teachings, support, and patience. The experiences and teachings I have received from my professors and colleagues will stay with me for a long time.



Jesus Cendejas

As I begin a new chapter, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving with you in this esteemed department. The shared moments, challenges overcome, and successes celebrated have profoundly impacted my professional and personal growth. Your dedication, professionalism, and support have inspired me immensely. As I bid farewell, I extend my deepest appreciation for your camaraderie, guidance, and friendship. I am confident that the values of excellence, integrity, and teamwork will continue to guide you to greater heights. I carry with me invaluable lessons and cherished connections from my time here, and I hope our paths cross again, with our collaboration standing as a testament to our collective spirit. **-Atheer Alqahtani**



Updates from Alumni

I really cannot believe that it's been nearly 5 years since I was a resident at Western! I am now living as a University of Florida Gator down in Gainesville, Florida. I am happily practicing both urology and kidney transplant at UF. It's a strange feeling to have residents of my own, but I certainly pass down a lot of things I've learned at Western to them – teaching those Americans some Canadian tricks! I'm still very close to both of my co-residents. In fact, I was a grooms woman at Justin's wedding last summer! Nahid and I still speak on a nearly daily basis, to trade advice and reminisce about the "good old days."

-Wen Yan Xie



Hello Everybody! I am almost a year into practice in Oshawa and loving it. Our robotics program will have completed more than 50 robotic prostatectomies in our first year and are in the process of acquiring an intraoperative ultrasound to perform more complex robotic partial nephrectomies. Thanks to Dr. Luke for coming to proctor some of our first cases. Chloe, Ethan, and Melanie are growing up so quickly. Cheryl and I are doing our best to keep up with the three toddlers and appreciate the ups and downs of parenting. Happy to have residents come join us on elective or to help babysit!



-Ernest Chan

It is hard to believe that I will be entering my third year of community practice in Stratford, Ontario. I love living in Stratford and am taking advantage of the fabulous culinary cuisine and beautiful outdoors. I have also started to learn snowboarding at Chicopee. My wife, Lindsey, has started her general endocrinology practice in addition to maintaining an insulin pump clinic at the hospital. Emily is finishing kindergarten and has been participating in skiing and swimming lessons. Andrew will be turning 2-years-old and loves trucks and playing with his friends at daycare. Dr. Bukala and I are always excited to have residents join us to experience community urology in the Festival city.



-Jeffrey Law

Division Productivity 2023 (Jan. -Dec.)

Honours and Awards

Dr. Jennifer Bjazevic:

- Academic Merit Award - Researcher / Scientist, For outstanding academic achievement. Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, Local
- Northeastern Section American Urology Association Advocacy Summit Travel Award
- Dr. John Denstedt Research Excellence Award, Supervised Student. Gonzalez, E, Razvi H, Bjazevic J. A comparison of thulium fiber laser versus Holmium laser lithotripsy: A randomized prospective clinical trial. Type: Research award

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell:

- Academic Merit Award - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization (EDID), For outstanding academic achievement. Department of Surgery, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, Local.
- Top 10 - Reviewers of the Year CUAJ, Canadian Urology Association Journal - reviewer of the year. National, Canada

Dr. Sumit Dave:

- Best Poster Department of surgery Research day 2023, Investing the Outcomes of a Top-Down versus Bottom-Up Approach to Safely Minimize Need for Further Investigations for Children with Urinary Tract Infections. Taha Ismail, Michael Miller, Jacob Davidson, Claire Wilson, Peter Wang, Sumit Dave, Western University, Type: Research award, PI, Local, Canada.
- Best Poster Department of surgery Research day 2023, Early outcomes and risk factors for complications following pediatric neurogenic bladder reconstruction: a secondary analysis of the Pediatric NSQIP databases(2015-2020) Mohamed Aly1, Claire Parent2-3, Jacob Davidson2-3, Peter Wang1-3, Sumit Dave1-3, Type: Research award, PI, Local, Canada

Dr. John Denstedt:

- Ramon Guitars Award, The top honor bestowed by the AUA. For pioneering work using endourologic approaches for stone disease and for outstanding leadership as AUA Secretary during the worldwide pandemic. American Urological Association, International.

- 2023 International Alliance of Urolithiasis (IAU) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Blayne Welk:

- Academic Merit Award Recipients – Researcher / Scientist, For outstanding academic achievement. Department of Surgery, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, Type: Distinction, Local, Ontario, Canada.
- Department of Surgery Internal Research Grant Winner: The safety of overactive bladder medication exposure during pregnancy and delivery.

Dr. Alp Sener

- Dr. John Sangster Research Award for Excellence, AMOSO Governing Committee. First recipient of this inaugural research award for innovation. Type: Distinction, London, Ontario, Canada.
- Department of Surgery Internal Research Grant Winner: The effect of pharmacological inhibition of endogenous hydrogen sulfide production on the progression of high-grade bladder cancer.

Dr. Peter Wang:

- Wang Surgical Education Node Dragon's Den Pitch Winner: "Augmented Reality on Surgical Operative Autonomy and Assessment."

Lavergne Grant Winners:

- Resident & Fellow: Dr. Basulto-Martínez: 'Non-destructive Spectrochemical Analysis of Urinary Stones Using Micro-X-ray Fluorescence and Electron Microprobe'.
- Dr. Kiattiburut: 'The development of two- and three- dimensional cellular model for Peyronie's Disease'.
- Dr. Penney: 'Developing a probiotic to prevent penile HIV transmission'.
- Dr. Playfair: 'Early versus late surgery for traumatic spinal cord injury: Impact on voiding and sexual function'

Grants

Academic Medical Organization of Southwestern Ontario (AMOSO):

- The risk of dementia associated with the use of overactive bladder and diabetic medications in younger patients (Clinical Health Informatics Program Sequel) PI: **Welk B \$110,997.00** Co-Investigator: Burton J, Fernandes R, Joy T, Teeter M.
- Exploring the role of Akkermansia muciniphila in combating the metabolic effects of androgen deprivation therapy in men with metastatic prostate cancer. PI: **Huynh M \$65,000.00.**

Canadian Cancer Society Research Award:

- Effect of pharmacological inhibition of endogenous hydrogen sulfide production on the progression of high-grade bladder cancer. PI: **Sener A. \$65,000.00**

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):

- PREVENT GU: Prevention of thromboembolism with rivaroxaban in GU cancer patients receiving chemotherapy: A Randomized Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Clinical Trial. PI: **Lavallée- L, Carrier M, Bosse D, Huynh M \$424,575.00.**
- The effect of sodium thiosulfate-supplemented organ preservation in porcine and human donation-after cardiac-death renal transplantation. PI: **Sener A. \$795,600.00**

- Histopathology image analysis for prostate cancer prognosis after radical prostatectomy. PI: **Ward A, Pautler S. \$592,876.00** Co-Investigator: Bauman G

Department of Surgery IRF :

- The Impact of Donor Intervention on Graft Outcomes Following Renal Transplantation. PI: **Sener A. \$10,000.00.**
- Using a Novel 3D Human Model to Evaluate the Efficacy Of Actinidin as a Treatment for Peyronie's Disease. PI: **Campbell JD \$10,000.00.**

Department of Surgery McLachlin Resident Research Grant :

- Assessing factors impacting the pursuit of surgical training in Canadian medical students. PI: **Stringer L, Campbell J \$5,000.00.**
- Entrustment Decision Making Among Staff Urologists. PI: **Turnbull V.** Co-Investigator: Bjazevic (Supervisor). **\$5,000.00**

Lavergne Catalyst Grant – Division of Urology:

- Using a 3D human tissue model to explore actinidin as a novel treatment option for Peyronie's disease. PI: **Campbell JD.** Co-Investigator: J Burton **\$25,000.00.**

- Evaluating a Novel Augmented Reality Platform for open Surgery assessment: a Pilot study. PI: **Wang PZT \$25,000.00.**

Lawson Health Research Institute IRF

- The effect of pharmacological inhibition of endogenous hydrogen sulfide production on the progression of high-grade bladder cancer. PI: **Sener A. \$20,000.00.**

Prostate Cancer Catalyst Grant:

- Exploring the role of Akkermansia muciniphila in combating the metabolic effects of androgen deprivation therapy in men with metastatic prostate cancer, PI: **M.Huynh \$65,000.00.**

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