



THE MSA PULSE

Volume 1 / Issue 4, December 2015



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Friday January 15th
Annual Medical Staff
Dinner Meeting
Hamilton Golf & CC
232 Golf Links Road

18:30h - Cocktails
19:30h - Dinner

- Tuesday March 29th
Quarterly Meeting
2nd Floor Juravinski
Tower

17:00h - Social
17:30h - Meeting

EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD



Josh Gordon is the 17th recipient to receive the MSA Exemplary Service Award. Josh worked in the SJHH Regional Printing and Graphics Department and has always been very helpful when working on projects for the MSA. Congrats Josh!!

This award recognizes a St-Joseph's Healthacre support staff who performs above and beyond what is expected of them on a daily basis. If you have a member of the support staff you would like to nominate, please contact the MSA office or any of the executive members.

MSA SOCIAL AND PUB NIGHT

The members that attended the 2nd Annual MSA Social and Pub Night on November 13th were rewarded with an evening of good food, friends and entertainment.

SJH's own Mike Maas played old favourites as well as some of his own songs. He is an up and coming artist on the Hamilton music scene and is quite talented.



Check out his music for free at www.soundcloud.com/mikemaas

Contact Us

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FINLEY'S FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

Dr. Christian Finely, a SJH Thoracic Surgeon, and his wife Dr. Rebecca Comley have recently made a \$1,000 donation to Wesley Urban Ministries for New Comers to Canada. This donation is matched by the Government of Canada until December 31st, 2015. They are challenging the membership to give what they can during this Holiday Season and help with the Syrian refugee effort

To confirm that a charity is registered and eligible for the federal matching, please visit:

http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/humanitarian_response-situations_crises/how_to_syria-syrie_comment.aspx?lang=eng

If you are interested in supporting efforts in our local community, please refer to this list:

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/newcomers/agencies.shtml>

CREDENTIALS

On October 28th the Joint Board of Governors, senior leadership and physician leaders of the hospital attended an informative presentation about credentialling from the Health Law Group.

We have obtained permission to distribute this presentation to the membership. You will find the Power Point file attached to the same e-mail as this newsletter.

SPOTLIGHT ON 2 INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS AT SJHH

For more information about the St-Joseph's Health System International Outreach Program please visit www.internationaloutreach.ca or stop by the information table that will be set up at the Annual General Dinner Meeting on January 15th.

NEPHROLOGY

SJHH, through the International Outreach Program (IOP) and the Division of Nephrology, is involved in a now 5 year old initiative to provide hemodialysis in Guyana to all Guyanese with ESRD, regardless of ability to pay. Prior to this the Government of Guyana only paid for the first 13 treatments, after which hemodialysis could only be pursued in a small private unit at a cost of USD200 per treatment. In a country with a per capita GDP of USD3200 this was essentially a death sentence for more than 95% of patients. Dr. Budhendra Doobay, a now retired vascular surgeon known to many here, became aware of this and decided he would open a hemodialysis unit in his ancestral family home in Guyana, which was empty. He approached the Division of Nephrology, we said he was crazy, he returned with a complete dialysis-quality water system installed in his house a few months later, and we signed on. There are now 90 patients dialyzing at the Doobay Renal Centre, with one of five nephrologists from SJHH (Brimble, Carlisle, Gangji, Ingram, Rabbat) visiting at the Division's expense every 2 months. Most pay nothing, almost none pay the full cost (about USD40 per treatment). Funding comes from caring Guyanese in Guyana and in the Toronto area, particularly from Dr. Doobay's Temple in Markham. The Division of Nephrology has also provided some funding, and, in conjunction with the IOP, provides training for Guyanese nationals registered in the University of Guyana Internal Medicine Program here in Hamilton, in order to build capacity. This has to date been funded by the Division.

It is difficult to pick a single story, but perhaps illustrative is the labourer, 39 years old, that Dr. Ingram met last week on dialysis down in Guyana. He pays nothing. He has 9 children between 3 and 20. Each year on dialysis will provide 9 years of parenting that would not have occurred otherwise. At the very least, all of his children will remember their father.

The effort is only sustainable if the Government of Guyana comes onside fully and if we can build in-country capacity. It is our hope that, if we train enough Internal Medicine trainees from Guyana, that some will choose nephrology as a career, and will practice it in Guyana.

ANESTHESIA

Three years ago, there were only four physician anesthesiologists in the entire public health system in Guyana. There were no anesthesia residents. Anesthesia as a specialty was in grave trouble. The prospect for patients requiring anesthesia care was even more grave. Today, thanks to the hard work and dedication of members of the McMaster University Department of Anesthesia, there is a glimmer of hope. For the first time ever there is an Anesthesia Residency Training Program in Guyana. There are seven residents enrolled across all three years of the program. Two senior residents will be coming from Guyana to Hamilton in 2016, each for a four-month elective. Their names are Dr. Youlanda Hendricks and Dr. Onica Higgins-Gill. What they learn here will not only enhance their individual practice, but will build the future practice of anesthesia for an entire country. When these residents complete their program, they will be the first anesthesiologists ever to be trained in Guyana.