



FORESIGHT

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MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD

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The Department has had an interesting and eventful spring term. I would like to congratulate **Dr. Raymond LeBlanc** who on June 4, 2006 received an honorary **Doctor of Medical Sciences** degree from the University of Moncton, his alma mater.

Research Day was a grand success again this year on April 5 and **Dr. Balwantray Chauhan** details this event later in the newsletter.

The Dept. continues to have a strong clinical and vision sciences research focus as was evidenced by a very strong turnout at the **Association for Research and Vision in Ophthalmology** meeting (**ARVO**) this year April 30 - May 4, 2006.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Dr. Dan Belliveau**, outgoing President of the **Atlantic Provinces Ophthalmological Society (APOS)** for a wonderful annual meeting, which took place on May 25 & 26 at Fox Harb'r, Tatamagouche. The guest and local faculty are to be commended for the quality of their presentations. This year, the meeting focused on retinal diseases and neuro-ophthalmology.

The graduation dinner on June 2, 2006 was a grand success and I would like to add my congratulations and best wishes to our three graduating residents, **Dr. Jeff Steeves, Dr. Kevin Ramsey, and Dr. Alex Tan.**

The Department was well represented at **Dr. Donald MacRae's** memorial service, which took place on June 5 following his death on May 30, 2006. Dr. MacRae was the founding professor of ophthalmology at Dalhousie University and was a remarkable man



Dr. Alan Cruess
Professor and Head

WELCOME TO:

Doreen Hutchings
Research Secretary
(Dr. Chauhan)

Dee Groot-Koerkamp
Medical Secretary
(Dr. Cruess)

Krista MacMullin
Medical Secretary
(Dr. Orr)

who spanned the era from Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat surgery to ophthalmology. Many of the senior members of our Department remember his kind and gentle management style and the fact that he was a natural role model.

Looking forward, the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences will have a strong presence at the upcoming annual CME Event, the **Dalhousie Refresher Course** in medicine, scheduled from November 30 - December 2, 2006.

We had an excellent series of visiting professors this year including **Dr. Jim Whelan**, **Dr. Randall Olson** and **Dr. Bryan Arthurs**, most recently, and look forward to an excellent slate of visiting professors and Grand Rounds for the upcoming academic year.

Another exciting development in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences is the endowment of a **Foundation Scholar** position in glaucoma research, which will allow us to recruit another clinical scientist with attention to glaucoma research in the department.

We look forward to further development of the department's endowment and would like to thank **Dr. Raymond LeBlanc** and the leadership of the **QEII Foundation** and **Dalhousie University** for helping us create this position. Our goal is to continue to grow the departmental endowment so that we can fund a similar position in clinical research with attention to retinal diseases.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Dr. Vinicius Saraiva**, our first departing retina fellow on the birth of his child, Julia. Both the baby and mother are healthy and happy and Dr. Saraiva and family will be moving to Toronto in July 2006 in order that he may take up an appointment as a vitreoretinal fellow at St. Michael's hospital.

Alan F. Cruess, MD
Professor and Head



Dr. Jim Whelan



Dr. Bryan Arthurs

"We ... would like to thank Dr. Raymond LeBlanc and the leadership of the QEII Foundation and Dalhousie University.."

Check out our updated Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences intranet calendar on DalMedix!

<https://www.med.dal.ca/medix/>

*If any **faculty, staff, resident, student or alumni of the faculty of medicine** would like to be added to our DalMedix member list, contact Tess Williams at 473-4343 or email Tess.Williams@Dal.ca.*

RESEARCH REPORT

Research Day 2006 was held on April 5 at the Holiday Inn Select. Our Keynote Speaker was **Dr. David Hwang** from the University of California, San Francisco. He delivered a superb lecture on corneal transplantation which drew perhaps the largest Research Day attendance ever. It was an excellent day with high quality presentations throughout.



Dr. Babak Maleki

Congratulations to **Drs. Babak Maleki and Darren Behn**, the first and second prize awardees and to **Dr. François Tremblay** who was the preceptor for both projects. Thanks to **Drs. Stan George, Vladimir Kozousek and David Hwang** for being the Research Day judges. Also, thank you to **Naomi Herzog, Doreen Hutchings & Jackie Poole** for a job well done in assisting to organize this well-attended, annual event. **Research Day 2007** will be held on **April 4, 2007** at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Please mark your calendars.



Dr. Darren Behn

In conjunction with the Residency Programme Committee, we will hold a **Research Orientation Evening** for residents (including the PGY1s), fellows and staff on **October 5, 2006** at the conference room in **Spring on University** (corner of Tower Road and University Avenue) at 6.00 pm. The format will be a brief presentation from a representative from each sub-specialty on research projects being conducted. Details will be forthcoming, but please mark your calendars.

The current Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences fellows are **Drs. Sharon Haymes and Jovina See (Glaucoma), Dr. Kamal Sindi (Paediatrics), Dr. Vinicius**

Saraiva (Retina) and Dr. Xu Wang (Basic Sciences). A fond farewell to **Dr. See** who will be returning to Singapore and resuming her position at the National University Hospital and **Dr. Saraiva** who will commence a vitreoretinal fellowship in July 2006 at St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto.



Dr. David Hwang

"...we will hold a Research Orientation Evening for residents... fellows and staff on 5 October, 2006..."



Dr. Jovina See

Recent grant successes include **Dr. Sharon Haymes** (Glaucoma Research Society of Canada), **Dr. Jovina See** (Canadian Glaucoma Clinical Research Council) and **Dr. Balwantray Chauhan** (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Research Resource Grant Program).

Balwantray C. Chauhan, PhD
Research Director

RESIDENCY REPORT

Our profession is responding to heightened societal expectations from physicians in the way they deliver care and participate in the overall health care system. Domains like ethics, professionalism, commitment to life-long learning and scholarly activities, communication skills, managerial abilities, medical expertise and surgical consultancy are all part of what is now expected of a structured educational program like ours. As a result, our program continually endeavours to improve and we will further the quality of our program.



Dr. Kevin Ramsey, Dr. Jeff Steeves, Dr. Alex Tan

"Moreover, of the thirteen remaining residents, we expect at least 50% will make their home in the Maritimes..."

We now have three residents a year at almost all levels. Importantly, this improves our educational critical mass; thereby, enriching the teaching environment. With bigger numbers, also comes a bigger graduating class and, indeed, this year the Maritime region will see three Dalhousie graduates start their clinical activities in the region: **Jeff Steeves** in Saint John NB, **Alex Tan** in Halifax NS, and **Kevin Ramsey** in Charlottetown PEI. Moreover, of the thirteen remaining residents, we expect at least 50% will make their home in the Maritimes. With numbers like this, and considering the extremely high professionalism of our graduates, an important mission of our residency program is being well fulfilled.

This year, three stellar individuals will be joining the core program upon their return from the now well established pan-canadian Toronto Basic Sciences Course: **Stephanie Dotchin, Lori Bramwell, and Paul Cheevers.**

I want to take the opportunity to particularly thank those community-based ophthalmologists outside the Halifax region who are participating on a regular basis in the educational advancement of our residents, their future colleagues. Some take residents in their practice, others make the trip to Halifax to conduct a clinic at the Eye Centre on a regular basis, while others do both! For this, particular thank you's to **Dr. Raj Mohandas** - Antigonish (optic teacher pas ordinaire), **Dr. Colin Mann** - Bridgewater, **Dr. Iva Smrz** - Saint John, **Dr. Robert Scott** - Kentville, **Dr. Hesham Lakosha** - Sydney and, soon to join the group, **Dr. Jim Whelan** - St. John's. To all, your mentorship makes a difference and we appreciate it greatly, thank you.

Finally, I conclude this note by announcing this year's recipient of the **teacher of the year**, as proclaimed by the residents at the graduation dinner on June 2. Indeed, kudos and cheers to **Dr. Stan George** who, in the words of the residents, embodies what it means to be a teacher in a post-graduate medical program: a competent expert, an exemplary mentor, and a caring physician. Congratulations Dr. George and a job well done to the residents for recognizing a fine colleague and teacher.

"...teacher of the year, ...Dr. Stan George..."



Dr. Stan George

G. Robert LaRoche, MD
Residency Program Director

UNDERGRADUATE ELECTIVES REPORT

The first year medicine sessions held at the Learning Resource Centre have once again been a success. I congratulate **Jean Collier's Learning Resource Centre team** for their devotion to this program.

The second year medicine **Night of Ophthalmology** teaching was held on April 10, 2006. Thank you to our many departmental members who taught that evening.

An elective program for the first two years of medical school has been started. This year we had a first year student participating under the mentorship of **Dr. Vladimir Kozousek.**

This September we will participate again in the third year **Introduction to Clerkship.** This program introduces medical clerks to practical ophthalmology skills.

A medical student group has been started called OSIG. OSIG stands for **Ophthalmology Student Interest Group**. The medical students involved approach faculty for presentations on topics of interest. **Dr. Ann Hoskin-Mott** has lectured for the group on diabetic retinopathy. Thank-you Ann.

As well, thank you to **Jackie Poole** and **Tess Williams** for their superb coordination of the fourth year elective program.

John Dickinson, MD
Undergraduate Medical Education Director

CLINICAL VISION SCIENCE

The Clinical Vision Science program graduated **Leah Walsh**, its first **Master of Science** student, as part of Dalhousie University's May convocation. Ms. Walsh defended her MSc thesis entitled "**Does the Method of Treatment Cessation Affect the Recurrence Rate of Amblyopia?**". Thesis supervisor for Ms. Walsh was **Dr. Robert LaRoche**, Dept. of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. Other members of the supervising committee were **Karen McMMain**, **David Westwood**, and **Erik Hahn**.



Erik Hahn, Karen McMMain, Leah Walsh, Robert LaRoche & David Westwood.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION REPORT

On December 3, 2005 the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences hosted a **Primary Eye Care** day. This CME event was directed at family and emergency room physicians. The objectives of the course were to update the participants on common eye problems and their management, discuss new surgical innovations, and provide hands-on workshops to improve slit lamp and retinal examination skills. **Dr. Aditya Mishra** moderated presentations by **Drs. Chris Seamone, Alan Cruess, Arif Samad, David Keating, and Daniel Belliveau** in the VGH auditorium. Overall, the Primary Eye Care day was a resounding success. The positive participant feedback and lengthy wait list indicate there is a large demand for this type of event.

The department has been approached by the organizers of the **Annual Dalhousie Refresher Course, Dr. Michael Fleming and Dr. Doug Sinclair**, to plan a half-day event for **December 2, 2006**. We will keep you updated on the progress of this event and any other CME activities.

Arif Samad, MD
Continuing Medical Education Director

NEWS AND EVENTS

- **Dr. Balwantray Chauhan named as Irving H. Leopold lecturer** March 2006



Dr. Chauhan



This lectureship has been established in honour of Dr. **Irving H. Leopold**, recognized as one of the 20th

century's key leaders in ophthalmology. As an ophthalmologist, pharmacologist, research scientist and educator, he contributed greatly to our understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease.

Dr. Balwantray Chauhan became an Irving H. Leopold lecture series honouree in March 2006. Congratulations on this well-deserved and distinguished honour. Dr. Chauhan is the **Director of Research** for the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and **Dalhousie's first Chair in Vision Research**. His commitment to the investigation and treatment of ocular disease clearly reflects Dr. Leopold's ideals.

- **Dr. David Hwang, Visiting Professor, Univ. of California April 5, 2006**

"New Approaches to Corneal Endothelial Replacement and Regeneration"

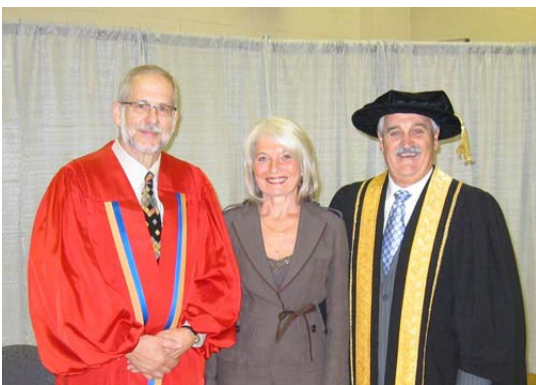
- **Dr. James Whelan, Visiting Professor, Memorial University, April 12, 2006**

"Cataract Surgery—The retina surgeon's perspective"

- **Dr. Randall Olson, Visiting Professor, University of Utah, May 24, 2006**

"Post-Surgical Endophthalmitis in the Clear Corneal Surgical Era"

- **Dr. Raymond LeBlanc receives degree from Université de Moncton** June 2005



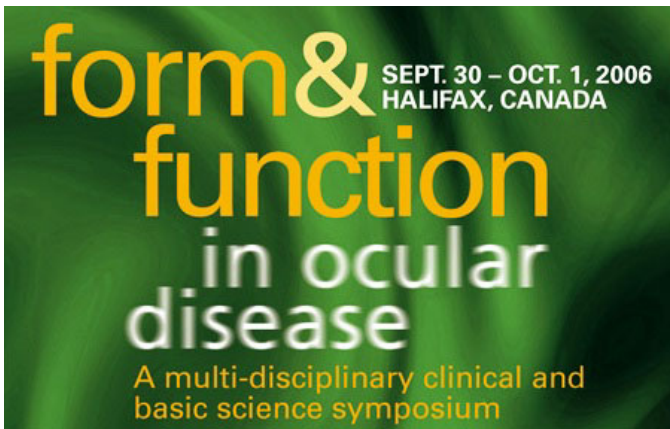
We are pleased to announce **Dr. Raymond LeBlanc** was given the prestigious honorary degree of **Doctorate in Medical Sciences** from the Université de Moncton. Dr. LeBlanc's outstanding dedication to his field continues to be a source of inspiration and pride to us all. Our sincerest congratulations to Dr. LeBlanc.

Dr. Raymond LeBlanc, Françoise LeBlanc & Chancellor of Université de Moncton Louis Comeau

- **Dr. Bryan Arthurs, Visiting Professor, McGill University, June 6, 2006**

"Sebaceous cell carcinoma of the eyelid"

- **Form & Function Symposium— Marion McCain Bldg., Sept. 30—Dec 1, 2006**



The Second **Form & Function** in Ocular Disease meeting will take place on **September 30 and October 1, 2006** at the **Scotiabank Theatre, Marion McCain Building** on the Dalhousie Campus. We have again assembled an internationally renowned faculty of clinicians and scientists who will deliver lectures ranging from the genetics of myopia to optic nerve head biomechanics to retinal implants. The guest faculty will be supported by local faculty from

several departments at Dalhousie. While there is no cost to attend the meeting, you are required to register. Please visit the department web page (<http://ophthalmology.medicine.dal.ca>) and follow the links to register and get up-to-date information on the speakers and programme contents. The meeting will be accredited by the **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons** of Canada.

- **Research Orientation Evening**, for residents, fellows and staff to take place at **Spring** (corner of Tower Road and University Avenue) at **6:00 pm October 5, 2006**.

- **Excellence in Research Dinner, Pier 23—November 3, 2006**



This year, the **QEII Excellence in Research Dinner** will be held on **Friday, November 3, 2006** at the **Cunard Centre, Pier 23**. For more information, you can call QEII Foundation office at 473-7932 or see their new website at <http://www.qe2foundation.ca/>

- **Dalhousie Fall Refresher Course, November 30—December 2, 2006**

Faculty of Medicine
Continuing Medical Education

The **80th Annual Dalhousie Refresher Course** will be taking place **November 30—December 2, 2006**. Please call **Mary Ann Robinson** for more information (902) 494-1459 (<http://cme.medicine.dal.ca/calendar.htm>)

Upcoming Visiting Professors

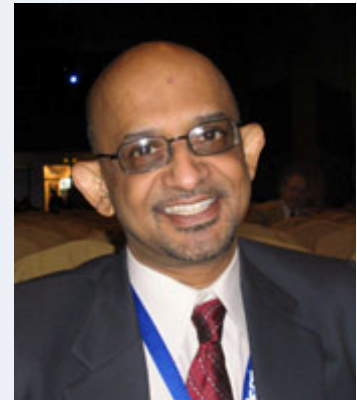
- **Dr. Joseph Demer**, Director, Ocular Motility Laboratory, UCLA—September 20, 2006
- **Dr. Kathleen Digre**, Director, Neuro-ophthalmology, University of Utah—October 4, 2006
- **Dr. Ravi Thomas**, Director, LV Prasad Eye Institute, India — November 8, 2006



Dr. Joseph Demer



Dr. Kathleen Digre



Dr. Ravi Thomas

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Donald MacRae, died **May 30, 2006** after a brief illness. He graduated from Dalhousie University with a B.Sc. in 1930 and M.D.C.M. in 1934. He interned at the VG Hospital and pursued postgraduate studies in otolaryngology and ophthalmology in Montreal and Philadelphia. He had a distinguished medical career and was appointed **Professor and Head of the Department of Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology** in the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine in 1961, before the two specialties separated, retaining Dr. MacRae as **Professor and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology**. Dr. MacRae served a term as President of the **Canadian Ophthalmological Society** in 1966 and continued as Department Head until his retirement from the University in 1975. He was subsequently appointed **Professor Emeritus** in the Department of Ophthalmology.

form & function in ocular disease

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 1, 2006
HALIFAX, CANADA

A multi-disciplinary clinical and
basic science symposium

GUEST SPEAKERS

Austin Roorda, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley:
Dynamic microscopic retinal imaging and stimulation with adaptive optics

Christopher Hammond, M.D., University of London:
Genes or Game Boys: What causes myopia?

Douglas Johnson, M.D., Mayo Clinic:
Probing the problem in glaucoma: Why is the pressure high?

Robert Marc, Ph.D., University of Utah:
Visualizing retinal function and dysfunction

Claude Burgoyne, M.D., Devers Eye Institute:
What really defines glaucomatous cupping?

Lars Frisén, M.D., University of Göteborg:
Resolving neural resolution

Eugene de Juan, M.D., University of California, San Francisco:
Functional electronic visual prosthesis for visual impairment

Sylvain Chemtob, M.D., Ph.D., Université de Montréal:
Injury invites repair

Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences



Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences



Form and Function in Ocular Disease is a bi-annual meeting covering diverse areas in clinical ocular disease and visual neuroscience. We assemble world-class leaders in ophthalmology and vision research as well as faculty from Dalhousie University to address topics from retinal imaging to myopia to ethics.



The symposium is open to clinicians, scientists, trainees and students. There is no registration fee, however registration is required.

The symposium will take place at the Scotiabank Auditorium, Marion McCain Building, 6135 University Avenue in Halifax on September 30 and October 1 (half day).

Section A Registration Information

Name: (as it will appear on badge) _____ Designation: MD Ph.D. Other: _____

Institution _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province/State: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Deadline for pre-registration is August 30, 2006.

Please fax this page to Ms. Doreen Hutchings 902-473-2839 or register online at <http://ophthalmology.medicine.dal.ca>

Section B Accommodation



THE LORD NELSON
HOTEL & SUITES

www.lordnelsonhotel.com

CDN\$139 + taxes*

For reservation please call 1-800-565-2020 and state Form & Function, Dept. of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

* You are responsible for making your own accommodations. A limited number of rooms have been set aside at this special rate until August 28, 2006 and after this date will be released.

<http://ophthalmology.medicine.dal.ca/>



Capital Health



ADULT OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dept. of Ophthalmology & Visual
Sciences

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Many thanks to Dr. Cruess, Dr. Chauhan, Dr. Dickinson, Dr. LaRoche, Dr. Samad, Naomi Herzog, Monique Perrault, Patricia Pontbriand, Jackie Poole & Jennifer Stevens for their contributions and help with this publication.

If you have any news that you would like to contribute to an upcoming issue, please call Tess at **(902) 473-4343** or email **Tess.Williams@Dal.ca**.