



The Muse

Medical
Staff
Association
Newsletter

Winter Edition

February 2018

Greetings from the President



Dear colleagues,

Welcome to this edition of the MUSE! We are delighted to include highlights from our Winter General Business Meeting and Art Show, held on January 25, 2018, along with contributions from Dr. Ireland, Dr. Ragbeer, and Dr. Cameron.

Our Winter GBM offered an opportunity to recognize the contributions of 5 physicians from across HHS with the awarding of the 3 Consultants' awards, the inaugural West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Colleagues' award, and the Family Medicine award. The evening also highlighted the invaluable contributions of 3 Hamilton-based charitable organizations that are improving the lives of residents in our community.

As is traditional at our Winter GBM, a group of 12 artists exhibited recent works from their collections. Photographs of the artists with their works will be posted on our MSA webpage!

Dr. Kitts, the CEO of the Ottawa hospital, provided the keynote address for this year's Winter GBM and highlighted the importance of physician engagement and involvement at all levels of decision making in the hospital setting. Dr. Kitts also led a small physician leadership forum before the GBM that focused on qualities of good leadership, with specific application to physicians working in a hospital environment. His insights were well received.

As part of the work here at HHS to foster greater physician engagement, the MSA executive continues to actively participate in the Physician Hospital Partnership program. This program now includes a range of initiatives addressing different aspects of physician involvement in decision making. We are planning to include a conversation related to the work of the PHP as a major focus of our April GBM!

I hope you enjoy this edition of the MUSE and I look forward to seeing you in April!

Dr. Dereck Hunt, President
MEDICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Inside the MUSE...

**View the Annual Awards 2017
Photos on the new MSA Website**

<https://www.hhs-msa.com/>

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The Inaugural WLMH Colleague's Award
Dr. Gary Benson
Family Medicine, West Lincoln Memorial Hospital

presented by Dr. Dean Hansenberger



The Dr. Clive Davis Award
Dr. James Velianou
Interventional Cardiology,
Hamilton Health Sciences and Niagara Health

*presented by Dr. Philip Devereaux
Dr. Dereck Hunt, MSA President*



The Dr. Jeffery Coates Award
Dr. Tapas Mondal
Pediatric Cardiology, McMaster Children's Hospital

presented by Dr. Sheri Findlay



The Dr. Dan Dwyer Award
Dr. Marko Simunovic
Surgical Oncology, Juravinski Hospital & Cancer Centre

presented by Dr. James Wright



The Family Medicine Award
Dr. Shalini Sharma
Family Medicine, Hamilton Health Sciences

presented by Dr. Ranjan Sur

The MSA is proud to announce the Annual Donations of \$5,000 each to 3 worthy organizations helping those in need in our community

Dundas Seahawks

Special Olympics Swim Team

a program for intellectually handicapped children and adults.

nominated by Dr. Stephen Kelly

presented to Janet Young, Head Coach



L to R: Dr. Stephen Kelly, Mark Haggarty, Janet Young (Head Coach), Bobbi-Lyn Cleland, Graham Wilson (Coach)

On behalf of the Dundas Seahawks Special Olympics Swim Team, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the members of the Medical Staff Association for the very generous nomination and donation to our team. We were honored to be chosen and thank you for inviting us to join you at the MSA celebration; it was truly an exciting experience for Bobbi-Lyn and Mark as well.

At our practice on Wednesday evening, we announced to the team that Dr. Stephen Kelly, (Tom's Dad), had nominated our team for a *very* generous donation. We are grateful to the Medical Staff Association for recognizing our team and helping to support our continued efforts in the community. The excitement was electric!! I've attached a picture of our team, the smiles say it all!! It makes me so proud to be an employee of Hamilton Health Sciences and have the privilege of working with the wonderful physicians of the MSA.

On behalf of the athletes, coaches, families and caregivers, THANK YOU!!



ART CULTURE POETRY POLITICS IDENTITY
COMMUNITY POSITIVITY DIASPORA LEADERSHIP
VIDEO MUSIC HISTORY CELEBRATION



Empowerment Squared

is a Hamilton-based charity that works with communities to effect sustainable change through the development of educational pathways, literacy and social skills for children and youth who are newcomers to Canada. Supported by McMaster volunteer chapter

Nominated by Dr. Brian Cameron

Presented by Dr. Dereck Hunt to:

(L-R) **Anne Marie Annie, Program Coordinator**

Leo Johnson, Executive Director

Joana Fejzaj, Executive Assistant

Ileana Pineda, General Administrator

Read Leo Johnson's *Journey of Inspiration* below...



While most teenagers were surfing the web, watching friends and learning to drive, Leo Johnson spent eight years in refugee camps, after fleeing war-torn Liberia in 1998. He still remembers reading by a streetlight in his youth as the only means to study. He arrived in Canada in 2006 with an unmatched inspiration. A government-sponsored refugee, he was on his own in an unfamiliar (and very cold) place. "I decided I could either carry on with a victim mentality – or be a champion of possibilities."

He applied to McMaster University and was accepted. "They gave me a shot," says Leo, who had completed his high school education in the refugee camps. In his second year, he founded Empowerment Squared, a charitable organization that promotes access to education, life-long learning, and now groundbreaking educational projects in his native Liberia.

He graduated with a degree in political science in 2011, but not before receiving the Albert Lager Prize for Student Initiative and earning a spot as a semi-finalist in CBC's Next Great Prime Minister Competition. He's also received the YMCA Peace Medal, Gandhi Peace Award, and World Citizenship Award from the City of Hamilton and has been recognized among the top 75 immigrants in Canada – and he's been named one of the Hamilton Spectator's Top 40 under 40.

read more at <http://empowermentsquared.org/llc-the-inspiration/>

The Brenda Flaherty Community Fund

Pearl Veenema, President and CEO, HHS Foundation accepts the donation on behalf of Brenda, presented by Dr. Dereck Hunt, MSA President, at the MSA Winter GBM on January 25. Pearl thanked the Medical Staff Association for their participation in this new fund that focuses on aftercare support for patients in need when they leave Hamilton Health Sciences.



Brenda Flaherty, former EVP Clinical Operations and COO at Hamilton Health Sciences

My sincere appreciation and thanks to the Medical Staff Association for the generous donation of \$5,000 to the Brenda Flaherty Community Fund. HHS commitment to population health supports individuals who have significant health disparities due to their challenging socio-economic status.

The Brenda Flaherty Community Fund will support staff that are caring for patients in the community and attend to many basic unmet needs to foster better health. Our health care teams are caring and supporting

individuals who have urgent unmet needs including and are not limited to the following; inadequate food/supplements limited or no funds to fill prescriptions, have safer access to medication dosettes, need for transportation support, clothing for basic needs and winter month, basic furnishings as they transition to supportive living, supplies such as daily hygiene and incontinence supplies and mobility aids. The staff will access this fund to purchase necessities until social and community services are organized.

The HHS Outreach Team work with some of the most vulnerable members of our community to help them better manage their health and have significantly reduced ED visits by 30% and hospital admissions by 42%. This Community Fund will assist people who have several chronic diseases and have no support system making it difficult to access the care and services they need.

Together we are champions for individual and population health and it has been a privilege to work with so many caring and committed physicians in my 37 years at HHS. I am thankful for your generous donation and should you wish to contribute further I have added the link, hamiltonhealth.ca/brenda

Thank-you for you making a difference in the lives of many patients in our community.

Brenda Flaherty

Dr. Ron Ireland: physician, author, artist, educator



Ron and best friend
Hershey

Ron M. Ireland, MD FCFP, M.Ed

Assistant Clinical Professor
Family Medicine
de Groote School of Medicine.

Lincoln Medical Centre
4413 Ontario St
Beamsville, ON.L0R 1B5 905 563 1212

Visit this website for a journey through a treasure trove of healing, educational and inspirational gems.

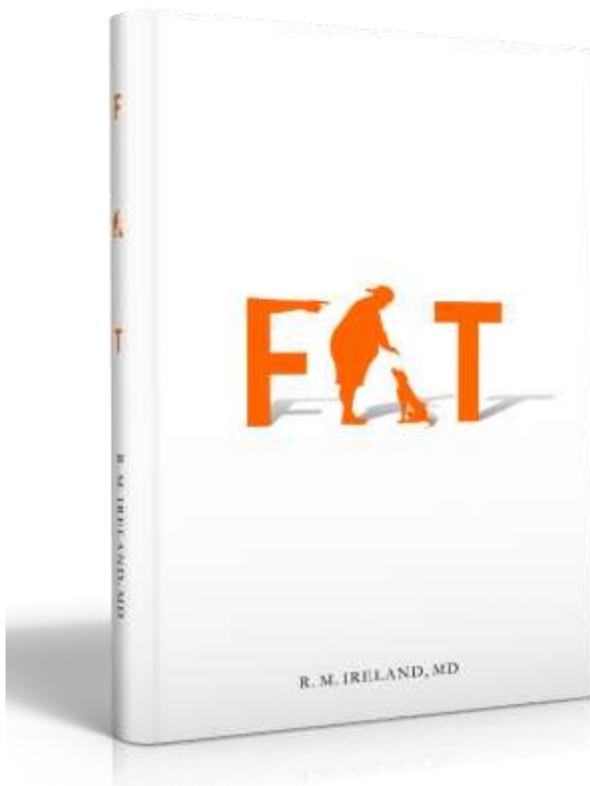
www.ronireland.com.

"Fat", published Sept 1/17: A Trojan horse fictional account of a morbidly obese young man growing up and engaging life, illustrating the day to day problems that morbidly obese people face. Along the way, the reader encounters health information that enables the hero to find a new path towards health.

Fat is an upsetting title for a self-help book. It's meant to be. It's a story about definition, labelling, categorization, and shedding those epithets. Fully two thirds of our population struggle with overweight and obesity, and still manage to be lateralized, if not outright scorned. And that comes from all angles, inside and out.

Understanding is the first step towards healing.

Scroll down for a preview of Ron's website art gallery.....



Ron Ireland's Art



Seagulls



Mother & Babe



Linked

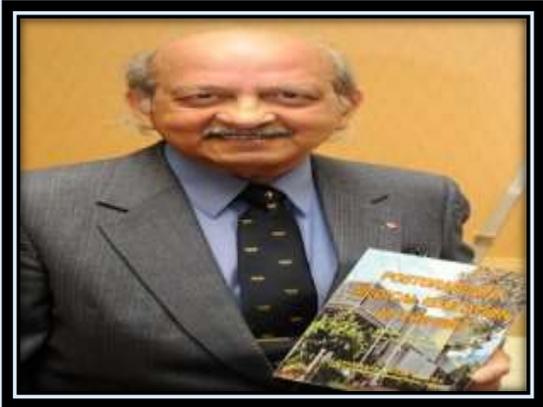


Dancers



Fishing

Dr. Mohan Ragbeer: physician, historian, author



Mohan's Latest Publication

Postgraduate Medical Education at The University of the West Indies

an account of its origin, and
Reform and Expansion of the Faculty of Medicine,
from fantasy to reality

Professor Mohan M. S. Ragbeer,
MD, DCP (Lond.), LMCC, FRCPath, FRCPC, FSMT,
WI (Hons.),

First full-time Dean, Medical Faculty, UWI, 1971-5
A synopsis of this account was presented on Dec 5, 2004,
with the aid of PowerPoint, as the *Dr Jeffrey Wilson*
Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the *Association of*
Consultant Physicians of Jamaica, in recognition of the 30th
anniversary of the first DM graduate of the Medical
Faculty, UWI, and Jamaica.

Book Description

Jamaica's Finance Minister Edward Seaga declared it a 'miracle'; later PM Michael Manley called him a dreamer, and Trinidad's Eric Williams told him he didn't belong with them. A Canadian Medical Association journalist disparagingly also called him a dreamer and an optimist. But Barbados PM Errol Barrow backed him, while Minister Ebanks of Cayman offered him the CMO position. The book he's written called simply *PGME at the UWI*, deals with the challenges a poor region faces when it seeks self-sufficiency to develop educational institutions of high standard, free of external control. It describes in fair detail the critical actions taken at a crucial time in UWI history, when it faced grave financial and social difficulties, while the author and many others in the medical and other Faculties grappled with the beast that threatened its existence as a regional body with great potential to unite the Anglophone Caribbean, and give its scholars a place and a voice.

The Medical Faculty in trying to be self-sufficient on a shoestring and stem the 'brain drain' of half its annual output of doctors, faced the skepticism and near ridicule of some influential 'well-wishers' and 'off-shore medical entrepreneurs' who were luring the islands, one by one, into allowing their idyllic locations and independence to be exploited as bases for American medical education for profit.

Given the bare minimum in resources, he – in collaboration with friends and associates, named in the book, conceived and set up a successful series of innovations in medical education, programs and policies to produce and wide range of health workers. Ten years later, the skeptical journalist summarized his work as '*high quality on a low budget*'.

Today, the UWI thrives on three campuses, produces enough physicians, generalists and specialists, for the Caribbean needs and some for export even, many to Canada. The output continues: from aides and assistants to nurse practitioners, administrators and educators, general and family physicians, specialist physicians, including Public Health with a range of basic scientists, through the original Masters and Doctorate programs, who now populate the medical services of the Commonwealth Caribbean. But his unique specialist in Community Medicine program, designed to integrate clinical and public health functions for poor nations, and widely supported in the Americas, languished after his departure.

Dr. Brian Cameron on 'paying it forward' in Guyana.....



Dr. Cameron presents “**Paying it Forward in Surgery**” Awards from the McMaster International Surgery Desk to Guyanese surgeons:

(L-R) Dr. Deen Sharma, Dr. Navindra Rambaran, and Dr. Madan Rambaran at the 10th Guyana Medical Scientific Conference, November 2017.

When I returned to Guyana for the 6th time in 2005, I was questioning the value of my visits and didn't know if it would be my last. I was doing a bit of medical student teaching and helping the local general surgeons with some cases. I suspect many of us who have worked in the developing world have had at times the same doubts about the value of our contributions. As it has turned out, the decision to continue to visit Guyana led to one of the most fulfilling projects of my surgical career.

Guyana is an English-speaking Caribbean country on the north edge of South America, and has ranked as one of the poorest in the western hemisphere. The population of 750,000 has remained constant for 20 years due to out-migration, especially of professionals. There are now over 200,000 Guyanese-Canadian in the southern Ontario diaspora, including many medical leaders such as Hamilton's **Dr. Bud Doobay** and **Dr. Mohan Ragbeer** who have made significant contributions to their country of origin.

My Guyana adventures started in 1995 with a visit to Canadian surgeon Dr. Jamshid Aidun who had volunteered to serve in remote Lethem, near the Brazilian border and only accessible by bush-plane twice a week. The Ministry of Health had not been able to keep a doctor there, but over 7 years in Lethem, Dr. Aidun resurrected the surgical capacity of the local hospital and generated a public health program for the surrounding 34 villages. His aspiration was to see a

Guyanese surgeon working in Lethem, and 20+ years later that dream has been realized. McMaster and Canadian faculty have contributed immensely to the remarkable improvements in surgical training and surgical care in the country.

With vision and leadership from local Guyanese surgeons and support from CIDA and the Canadian Association of General Surgeons, I helped start a new postgraduate training program in surgery in 2006. Over the following 8 years, 29 Canadian surgeons made more than 75 visits to Guyana to teach and mentor. Eighteen Guyanese surgeons have graduated and have now assumed leadership roles with the training program, hospital, and medical council. A number of graduates have been mentored for clinical surgery fellowships in Hamilton.

Continuing medical education and research really started to take off in Guyana with the establishment of its Institute for Health Sciences Education and an annual Guyana Medical Scientific Conference in 2007. This past November, more than 400 physicians registered for a full day of research presentations. Surgical graduates organized a pre-conference Skills Workshop, the conference itself, and are now running the postgraduate surgical training program themselves. Guyana surgeons were recognized for 'Paying it Forward' to patients, students, and the community with some new awards (see photo above). *Continued...*

Paying it forward in Guyana...

Now there are 7 locally-based postgraduate training programs in Guyana, and McMaster continues to partner with Guyana and the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program in the specialties of Pediatrics (**Dr. Andrea Hunter**), Anesthesia (**Dr. Joel Hamstra**), Internal Medicine (**Dr. Zahira Khalid**), Nephrology (**Dr. Azim Gangji**), and Pediatric Surgery (**Dr. Karen Bailey**). Many more HHS medical staff have visited Guyana to teach, or have mentored Guyanese trainees in Hamilton.

What have we learned during our decade-long Guyana partnerships? Postgraduate training partnerships should be locally based and locally relevant, with a minimal but focused Canadian component. As external partners we can bring credibility, faculty, research opportunities and resources. However local leadership is essential to sustainability, and train-the-trainer courses are critical to faculty development. (see our commentary in *Can J Surg*, Feb 2015).

I began by saying that I had wondered about the value of my Guyana visits. In 2005, through circumstance and chance, the Guyana relationships I had nurtured allowed me to be part of an exciting time during the start of their postgraduate training program. I have continued to visit Guyana, perhaps 20 times, since that potential 'last' visit in 2005. The education and research opportunities have helped further my own academic career. But more importantly the examples of 'paying it forward' in patient care, education and leadership by my older and younger Guyanese colleagues continue to inspire me.

Written by: **Dr. Brian H. Cameron**
Pediatric Surgery

'Text Books for Change' – A Global Initiative

'One man's junk is another man's treasure,' in 2013, became more than just a saying for the founder of *Textbooks for Change*, Chris Janssen. In 2014 *Textbooks for Change* grown to become a global enterprise.

The MSA is pleased to announce that the "*Textbooks for Change*" program has started up at HHS thanks to the dedicated efforts of **Dr. Menaka Pai**, Department of Medicine, and is now up and running with a donation box at the General Hospital staff library, the Juravinski Hospital staff library. The Health Sciences library at MUMC also has a textbook drop off.

This program makes it possible for individuals to drop off medical textbooks (<15 years old) that they are no longer using so that the books can be transported to partner hospitals in East Africa. A few of the books (20%) are resold at local campuses at affordable prices to fund local campus initiatives, and out-of-date or damaged or unusable textbooks are recycle. If you have any textbooks that you are no longer using, please think about bringing them in and supporting this important cause! Read more at <https://textbooksforchange.com>.

The Juravinski Hospital library is open 24 hours a day and the donation box is readily visible (if the library happens to be locked, security should be able to let you in if you have your ID badge with you). The General Hospital library is located at 293 Wellington and is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 – 4:30. To facilitate donations at the General site, the General Hospital librarians have indicated that they would be more than pleased if individuals called them at ext 44248 or 44247 to assist with making arrangements.

ATTENTION HHS MEDICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Call for Nominations

For the Prestigious Dr. Stephen Garnett Distinction Award for 2018

Criteria Guidelines

ELIGIBILITY: Members of the Medical Staff Association who have Active or Honourary status

Nominations for the Dr. Stephen Garnett Distinction Award to be awarded to a physician who, over the course of their career in medicine, have demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

CLINICAL

- Involved in some distinguished aspect of clinical activities (present or previous) at Hamilton Health Sciences.
- Local, national or international recognition in some aspect of clinical activities or program.
- Role model for the learners.
- Excellence in clinical care.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Showed distinction in some aspect of administration: department level, Medical Advisory Committee or Medical Staff Association.
- Contribution to Hamilton Health Sciences mission (champion to the cause).

MEDICAL STAFF

- Contribution to Medical Staff activities, such as education, mentoring or other extra activities that benefit the Medical Staff.

AMBASSADORIAL

- Ambassador for Hamilton Health Sciences in local, national or international forums.

It is important that your letters of nomination address the established criteria and why you feel your nominee meets these criteria.

Submit your nomination letter to:

HHS Medical Staff Association Office,
Hamilton General Hospital, 3 Upper, Room 321
237 Barton St. East
Hamilton, ON L8L 2X2 **or**
Email msa@hhsc.ca **or** Fax to: 905-577-1479.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 31, 2018

to be presented at the
MEDICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION
Annual Dinners & Awards
on Thursday June 21, 2018 at
The Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington
Reception: 6:00 pm

Watch for your personal invitation in the mail in April

MSA HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2017



In recognition of exemplary contributions to healthcare in our Community, Nationally and Globally

The Medical Staff Association is asking for your nomination of an HHS physician for this year's Humanitarian Award.

Kindly send your nomination letter to the
MSA Office, Hamilton General Hospital
3 Upper, Room 321, 327 Barton St. East
Hamilton, ON L8L 2X2.

Or by email to msa@hhsc.ca

Deadline: March 31, 2018

To be presented at the MSA Annual Dinner & Awards in June...watch for details.



- ✦ FREE Monogrammed Lab Coats
- ✦ Buffet by Rainham Farms
- ✦ Important Physician/Hospital Updates

Medical Staff Association General Business Meeting

Thursday April 12, 2018

Margaret R. Charters Auditorium, HGH

Buffet open at 6:00 pm Business Meeting 6:30 pm

Register **NOW** by email at msa@hhsc.ca or call ext 46770

Annual Dinner & Awards 2018

Thursday June 21, at the Royal Botanical Gardens

Watch for your personal invitation in May



Development Opportunity: Crucial Conversations for Physicians Program

A **Crucial Conversation** is a discussion between 2 or more people where the stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong. These conversations, when handled poorly or ignored, lead to strained relationships and disappointing results. This program, **which focuses on crucial conversations in a healthcare environment**, will equip you to have crucial conversations, engage in healthy dialogue, take action and achieve results. This program is taught worldwide and has a proven impact on productivity and quality, teamwork, relationships, performance and efficiency.

2018 Program Dates: Crucial Conversations for Physicians

- Friday, March 2, 4:00-8:00 pm (dinner included)
- & Saturday, March 3, 8:00 am-4:30 pm (breakfast & lunch included)
- Friday, September 21, 4:00-8:00 pm (dinner included)
- & Saturday, September 22, 8:00 am-4:30 pm (breakfast & lunch included)

[March, 2018 Program](#) [September, 2018 Program](#)

Course Fee: \$600 for HHS Physicians

This program has been accredited for 10.75 hrs. of MOC Section 1

For a detailed program overview and/or to register: centreforpeopledevel@hhsc.ca