



Dear Colleagues,

With summer upon us, there is lots to report in this third Divisional Update newsletter, meant to keep you informed and connected. Although I do my best to track newsworthy items, if I've missed something you'd like to share, please email Carolyn at ocmed.div@utoronto.ca and I'll be sure include it in the next update.

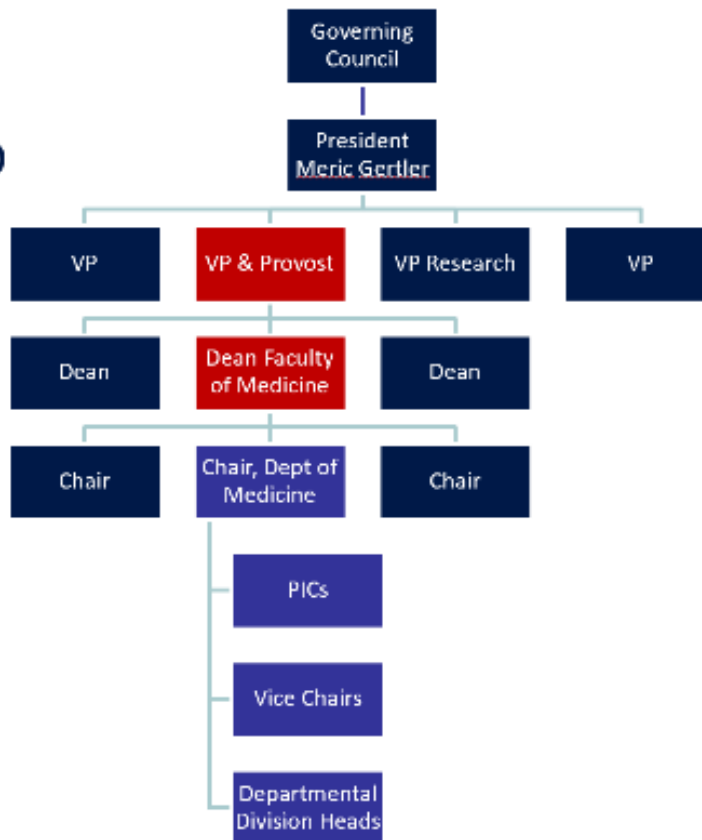
Director's Discussion



The Divisional Strategic Plan. The first step was a stakeholder survey distributed to 20 participants, followed by 3 focus groups of representatives from core faculty, "extended family", and external collaborators. A half day retreat was held on April 26 at the Department of Medicine in the Naylor Building on the UofT Campus. What we heard from you loudly and clearly was that there is an appetite for sensitive but systematic expansion of both faculty and partnerships, a need to elevate our visibility as a Division, and desire to foster a sense of community – all as we sustain and grow our scholarly activities in education, research, and innovative creative and quality improvement activities. A supplemental newsletter will be distributed once the plan is finalized.

I learned during the process that many of you would like to better understand **where we fit in the big picture**. The University is a big organization – let's start there: *We are in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine (TFOM)*

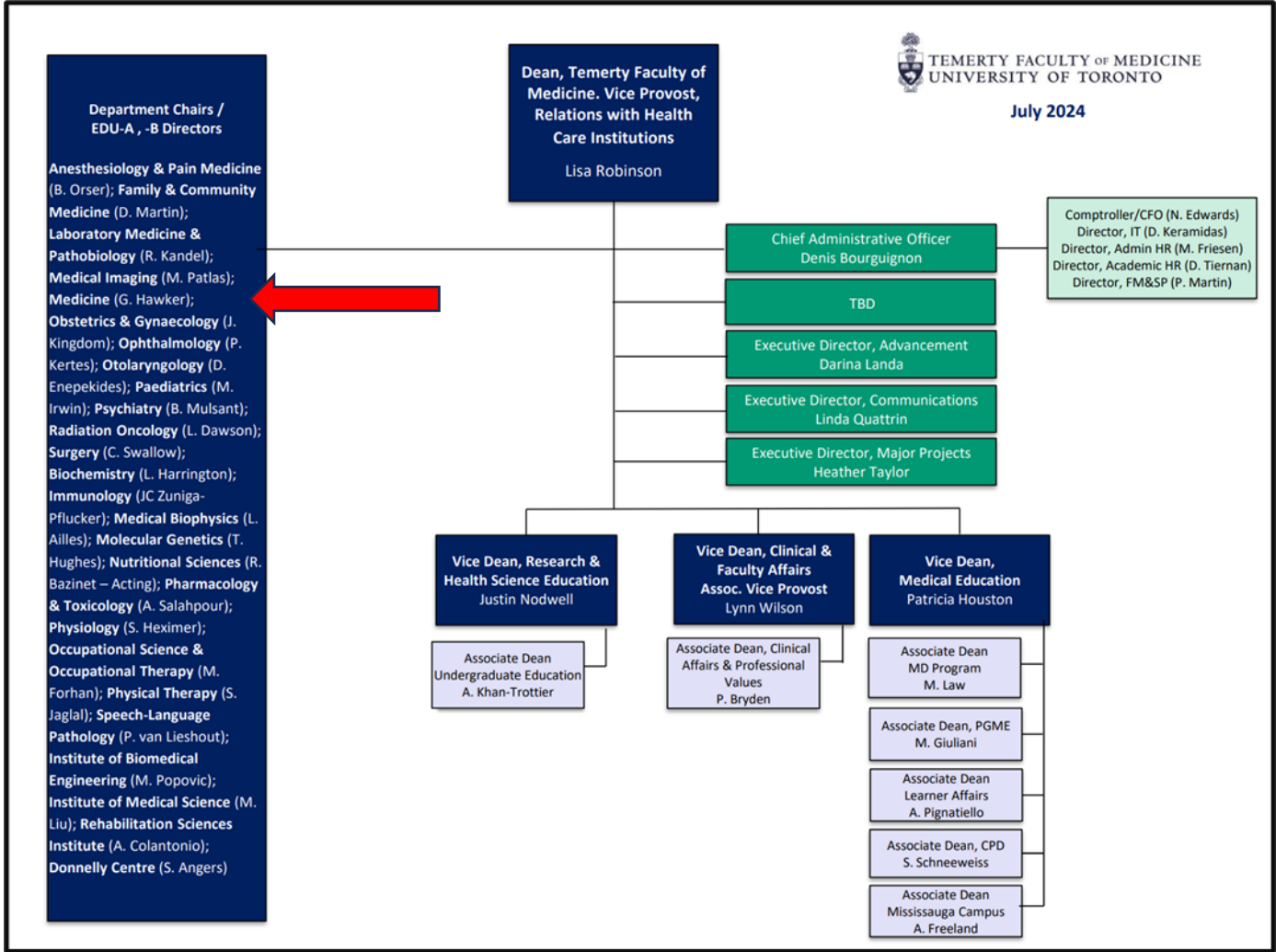
University
of Toronto



https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/system/files/2024-07/Senior%20Admin%20Org%20Chart%202024-2025%20July%201_0.pdf



Within the Faculty of Medicine, there are many Departments. *We are in the Department of Medicine (DoM)*



Within the Department of Medicine, there are many Divisions. *We are the Division of Occupational Medicine*

Medicine UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO						
Culture & Inclusion	Education	Research	Quality & Innovation	Divisions	Faculty	About Us
CARDIOLOGY		GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY		NEUROLOGY		
CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY & ALLERGY		GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE		OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE		
CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY		GERIATRIC MEDICINE		PALLIATIVE MEDICINE		
CRITICAL CARE		HEMATOLOGY		PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION		
DERMATOLOGY		INFECTIOUS DISEASES		RESPIROLOGY		
EMERGENCY MEDICINE		MEDICAL ONCOLOGY		RHEUMATOLOGY		
ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM		NEPHROLOGY				



I hope that helps begin a process of situating us, and I hope to develop a graphic representation of the connectivity of our Division itself with the various partners we have in our scholarly activities. More to follow.

Department of Medicine Annual Day (digital program)

On the evening of June 19, we gathered to celebrate the many faculty members who have achieved a major academic career milestone this year – CFAR, Associate and Full Professor. The Chair of the Dept of Medicine, Dr. Gillian Hawker will be handing the reins to Dr. Moira Kapral, who was the Division Director for GIM for many years. Moira’s first term as Chair will begin on September 1, 2024. Dr. Arno Kumagai, the department’s Vice Chair of Education, will serve as interim Chair from July 1 to August 31.

The DoM has a LinkedIn page. Suggestions for expanding our Division social media presence to showcase the incredible work being done by our faculty (you!) and to enable networking are welcomed.

Congratulations



On June 10, we hosted almost 800 family, friends, faculty, residents and fellows at the annual **Resident and Fellow Graduation ceremony**. Congratulations to **Younus Alyarbi** and **Felix Chan** who have completed their Occupational Medicine fellowship training.



See more photos from the Resident and Fellows Graduation Ceremonies [here](#).



Join me in offering well-deserved congratulations to:

- On April 30, I was pleased to attend a Full Professors Day, honouring **Dr. Joel DeKoven** at Massey College. To be considered for the rank of full professor, the candidate is required to have demonstrated an international reputation in addition to being an effective teacher.
- **Felix Chan** was awarded the OMSOC Bursary (Occupational Medicine Specialists of Canada)
- Hatem Alqahtani passed the Associate CBOM exam last fall
- **Conrad Tsang** has been selected as the recipient of the [Robert Maudsley Fellowship for Studies in Medical Education from the Royal College, February 2024](#) and the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) program with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.
- All new full-time clinical faculty appointed to the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto must complete a Continuing Faculty Appointment Review (CFAR) at the end of their three-year probationary period. Congratulations to **Vince Spilchuk** on his successful review and recommendation for continuing academic appointment.

Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FULL PROFESSORS DAY

Please join us in celebrating our faculty's senior promotion to Full Professor

Massey College (Upper Library & Common Room)
Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Reception at 6:00pm, Remarks at 6:30pm
Kindly RSVP to dom.events@utoronto.ca by Friday, April 26

Dr. Joel DeKoven
Division of Dermatology

Dr. David Tang-Wai
Division of Neurology

Welcome



David Kodama and **Joel Lockwood** have joined the Division of Occupational Medicine with secondary appointments, while also maintaining a primary appointment in the Division of Emergency Medicine. They are both engaged in educational activities related to Aerospace Medicine.

In the next newsletter, we'll be welcoming several more new members whose appointments are in process!



Faculty Feature – Joyce Zhang

In order to learn more about our team, I hope to feature one of our faculty members in each newsletter with brief snapshot. Let’s get to know Joyce a bit better:



Tell us a bit about yourself: I finished my occupational medicine training in 2020. I have a background in internal medicine and pharmacy. Currently I work for WSIB and a few employers in the GTA.

What Divisional activities are you involved in? (eg what do you teach, what research, committees etc)? I am involved in teaching fellows on their corporate medicine rotation.

What other professional activities are you involved in? I work as an internist and investigating coroner in Ontario. I sit on the board of directors at OMSOC, and the OMA Occupational and Environmental Medicine Section. I will begin my term on the CMPA council this summer.

What’s one thing that excites you about the future of the Division of OM at Uoft? I am excited to see how the division will evolve as the practice landscape of occupational medicine changes and evolves in Canada.

What do you enjoy outside of medicine? I am a painter and digital illustrator. I recently wrote, illustrated and self-published two children’s books on the profession of law and engineering. My work can be found on my studio website, postcallstudio.com.

Alumni

Jalees Razavi was honoured with a lifetime achievement award in Occupational Medicine by the United Kingdom's Society of Occupational Medicine just months after receiving a similar accolade from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Member Activities



This is where we can highlight some of the great work our members are doing:

- **Joyce Zhang** was recently acclaimed to a CMPA council position
- The research team of **Victoria Arrandale, Joan Saary, Marina Afanasyeva, Dr. Jeavana Sritharan** received funding from the Joint Federal Research Funding Program for their project entitled Women, Work and Health in the Canadian Armed Forces. The project will use Canadian Armed Forces Health Survey (CAFHS 2019) data analysis to examine health trends and factors affecting Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) women and gender-diverse members.
- **Vince Spilchuk** is working with medical students as the faculty lead for the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Chapter in the 2025 edition of the Toronto Notes



- **Nik Rajaram** proposed edits to relevant Occupational Medicine sections in the AFMC Primer document (Chapters 10 and 12) and was also got listed as a co-author from U of T for the Third
 - <https://phprimer.afmc.ca/en/>
 - https://phprimer.afmc.ca/en/part-iii/chapter-12/#_occupationalhealthservices
 - <https://phprimer.afmc.ca/en/part-iii/chapter-10/>
- 9 abstracts and 2 papers by **Joan Saary**'s team for the Canadian White Matter Hyperintensity Study will be included in the final report of a NATO Human Factors and Medicine working group technical report entitled: The Impact of Hypobaric Exposure on Aviators and High-Altitude Special Operations Personnel. Co-authors: Sherman, P, United States; Connolly, D, United Kingdom; Meeuwsen, T, Netherlands; Ledderhos, C, Germany; Kuehn, S, Germany; Soenksen, S-E, Germany; Noble, HJ, Germany

Member Publications



- S Ahmad, R House, D L Holness, R Nisenbaum, A M S Thompson. Evaluation of neurological testing for hand-arm vibration syndrome. *Occup Med (Lond)*. 2023 Feb 14;73(1):36-41. doi: 10.1093/occmed/kqac137.
- D L Holness, A M S Thompson, G M Liss. The Ontario Workplace Health Champions Program. *Occupational Medicine*, Volume 74, Issue 2, March 2024, Pages 142–145,
- Nikhil Rajaram and Susan Tarlo co-authored a chapter in the 4th Edition of the Encyclopedia of Toxicology with Chun-Yip Hon, who is an associate professor at TMU. "3D Printers and adverse health effects"
- Nikhil Rajaram, MD, FCFP, MPH, FRCPC Sylvie Hudon, MD, FCFP, MSc(A), ACBOM Marina Afanasyeva, MD, MPH, PhD, FRCPC What to consider when seeing patients with work-related health concerns. *BCMJ*, vol. 66 , No. 6 , July August 2024 , Pages 198-201
- Ramirez J, Vartanian O, Holmes MF, Palmer M, Scott CJM, Rhind SG, Gray G, Black SE, Saary J. Prevalence and correlates of white matter hyperintensities in Royal Canadian Air Force pilot and aircrew. *Cerebral Circulation - Cognition and Behavior* 6:100102 01 Dec 2024

Residency Program Director Update from Dr. Vince Spilchuk

The training program bids farewell to our recent graduates, fellow **Dr. Felix Chan**, and **Dr. Younus Alyaarbi**. Felix recently completed his occupational respirology and dermatology fellowship and will be embarking on subspecialty training in allergy and immunology at McMaster. Felix was the recipient of the 2024 OMSOC Trainee Bursary and will be presenting a poster on his research at the OMSOC conference this year. Younus recently passed the CBOM Associate exam and is preparing for the Royal College exam in the fall. The program welcomes our newest fellow, **Dr. Sufyan Almamari** from Oman who starts the program in July.

St. Michael's Hospital Clinic Director Update from Dr. Linn Holness

No update at this time

DLSPH Occupational & Environmental Health Division Update from Dr. Jeremy Scott

No update at this time

Action Required



WebCV Transitioning to “Elements”

Transition is underway from WebCV to Elements, with curation services available over the summer. WebCV will be decommissioned by the end of 2024. Further details, including training materials, can be found on the [VPR website](#) and the [Community Support Site](#). The goal of this project is to populate Elements with faculty CV data and help DoM faculty transition away from WebCV.

To help populate fields in Elements that require manual entry, we are requesting faculty provide their CV and consent to the curation team to use their CV to populate their profile. Over the summer of 2024, there will be a team of work study students updating profiles. **Curated profiles will remain marked as private**, and faculty will receive an email once their profile has been curated asking them to login and review it.

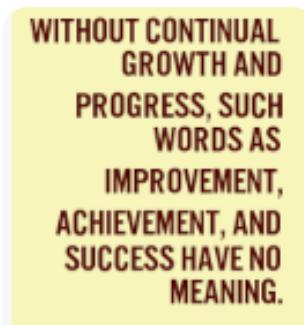
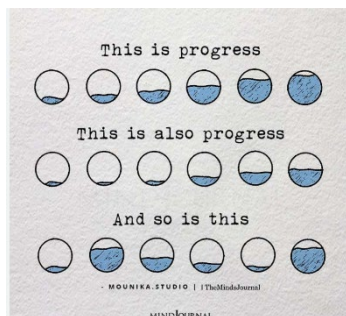
To take advantage of the curation service, please complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [consent form](#). Completing the form will prompt an email message to the address provided.
2. Reply to the prompted email and attach your CV and a profile picture.

Once your profile is curated, you will receive an email and be invited to log in and review. It is also possible to request delegate access so someone else can edit your profile on your behalf. Please email elements.med@utoronto.ca and share the name and email address of the requested delegate.

Edit Your Profile <https://utoronto.elements.symplectic.org/>

Food for Thought – What is Progress?



Together, we are making progress! I am proud to showcase some of the great work you do that moves us forward.

Enjoy the summer!

Joan