

# Headlight

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA  
DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY – HEAD & NECK SURGERY

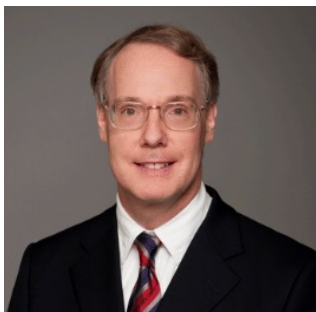


## Spring 2022

### What's inside

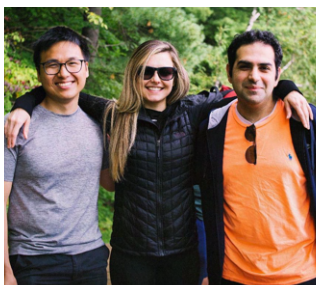
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#### Welcome back!

After a brief hiatus, the Departmental Newsletter is back! Check out what we have been up to for the last year, and the upcoming events we have in store.



#### Congratulations to their Royal College exam & Fellowship Match Success

We congratulate Dr. Kevan Lu, Dr. Corliss Best, and Dr. Ali Jafar for successfully passing the RCPSC exams and matching to their fellowships!

# Welcome Back!

## Chairman's Statement: Dr. David Schramm

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Welcome to Headlight!

I hope that you enjoy the revised Departmental Newsletter. We have tried to incorporate your feedback from the recent Departmental Internal Communication Survey to improve the Newsletter. As you will see, there has been a lot of activity in our Department. We welcome Lilia Antonova PhD as our Departmental Clinical Research Associate. Lilia is already involved with many clinical research projects and has facilitated submission of several manuscripts for publication. Lilia joins our Department after a very successful career as a Clinical Research Manager with the Division of Gastroenterology.

Many of you will have already met Tanika Curry and Jonathan Whelan, our very enthusiastic PGY-1 residents. Tanika has extensive experience in otolaryngology during her training at Cornwall Regional Hospital, Jamaica. Jonathan is already well known to many Departmental members as a University of Ottawa medical student. As Jonathan is a keen cyclist, I am sure that Darren Tse will recruit him for our summer ENT cycling events.



We just received the results of the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) Residency Match. This July, we will welcome Sabreena Lawal and Katie Oxford as our new PGY-1 residents. Dr. Sultan Aljarba, our new internationally-sponsored resident has recently joined us as part of the Pre-Entry Assessment Program (PEAP). Lisa Caulley will soon be moving to Denmark to join her husband. Lisa will continue her Departmental research initiatives and continue her work as our Departmental Director of Equity Diversity and Inclusion. Yousuf AlQurashi is completing his Head and Neck Oncology Fellowship and will be returning to Saudi Arabia to start his practice.

Please also see our Notable Accomplishments section. Congratulations to Kevan Lu, Corliss Best, and Ali Jafar for successfully completing their Royal College examinations. This July, all our PGY-5 residents will start very prestigious Fellowships. Congratulations also to Nita Scherer who was recently named as one of the uOttawa Faculty of Medicine's Remarkable Women.

I had hoped to entitle this Chairman's Statement as "Light at the End of the Tunnel". However, our sixth COVID wave due to the BA.2 omicron sub-variant has presented additional challenges to our surgical ramp-up plans.

The last 2+ years have been very exhausting for all of us as we try to provide optimal care for patients. The recent Harvard Business Review digital article "Leading an Exhausted Workforce" by Robin Abrahams and Boris Groysberg (March 25, 2022) provides very helpful advice for coping with these difficult times. Certainly, it is important to look after yourself and spend time with family and friends. Please let me know if you are interested in obtaining a copy of this article.

I would like to thank Nadia for her hard work on the Newsletter. Nadia has certainly done an outstanding job!

Please let Nadia and me know if you have Departmental events or photos for the summer edition of Headlight.

Dr. David Schramm



# New Faces

## Dr. Lilia Antonova, PhD

### Research Associate

Please welcome Lilia Antonova, PhD to our Department. Lilia joins us after a very successful career as a Divisional Research Associate / Clinical Research Manager with the TOH Division of Gastroenterology where she managed all investigator-initiated epidemiological and basic research studies and supervised divisional research staff, including research assistants and coordinators. Lilia completed her PhD through the CIHR Interdisciplinary Program in Cancer Research (molecular biology/epidemiology stream) at Queen's University. Her Postdoctoral Fellowship in Regulation of Breast Cell Migration by ErbB2 Signaling was completed at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Center for Cancer Therapeutics.



Lilia has her own independent otolaryngology research initiatives and will soon have a faculty appointment at the University of Ottawa. She has dedicated time, funded by our University of Ottawa Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, for residents and staff with defined research projects.

Lilia is certainly very busy. She has 2 young, very active children. Her hobbies include travelling, dancing and singing as part of a Bulgarian folk company, reading, and hiking through Gatineau Park, Mount Mansfield, the Alps or anywhere with a summit.



## Dr. Tanika Curry

### PGY-1 Resident

Meet Tanika, originally from Hanover Jamaica. She completed her undergraduate studies in Biochemistry & Chemistry at the University of the West Indies, and studied Medicine at All Saints University in Roseau, Dominica. She then worked at Cornwall Regional Hospital in Jamaica for 3 years, where she developed her passion for ENT! She moved to Canada in 2019 and worked as a Pediatric Assistant in Edmonton before moving to Ottawa in June 2021 to join our team.

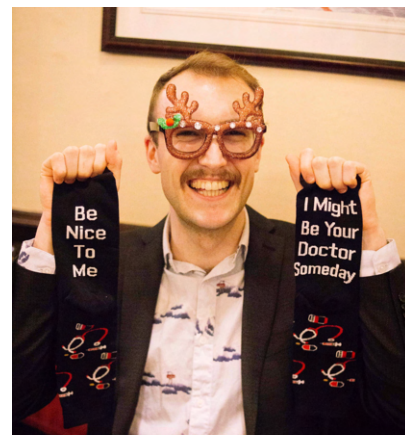
In her free time, Tanika enjoys abstract painting and features many of her masterpieces on her Instagram page. She is also spending time exploring her new home here in the city of Ottawa. If you see Tanika in the hospital, make sure to give her a big Departmental welcome!

## Dr. Jonathan Whelan

### PGY-1 Resident

Meet Jonathan, originally from Saint John, NB. He completed his undergraduate studies in Neurosciences at McGill and joins our Department after completing his medical school here at the University of Ottawa.

Jonathan is very active and can often be found playing Squash or biking through the beautiful parks and trails in the Ottawa region. He also loves to travel and recently completed a solo road trip across North America. One of his favourite things about Ottawa is the food scene, so if you are looking to explore delicious treats in Ottawa, Jonathan is your guy! Be sure to say hi to him if you see him around the hospital!





## **Dr. Sultan Aljarba**

### **Incoming PGY-1 Resident**

Please welcome Dr. Sultan Aljarba to our Ottawa family! Sultan is from Saudi Arabia and will be joining the Department as our Visa-sponsored resident for the next 5 years. He will be starting in April 2022 as part of the Pre-Entry Assessment Program (PEAP). Say hello if you see him around the hospital!



## **Dr. Fahad Al Zadjali**

### **Head and Neck Oncology Fellow**

Please welcome Dr. Fahad Al Zadjali, who is joining our Department this year as the Head and Neck Oncology fellow! Dr. Al Zadjali is originally from the Sultanate of Oman and completed his residency training in the beautiful Toulouse, France. He will be here with us for the next year. Please give him a big welcome if you see him in the hospital!

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## **Farewells**



## **Dr. Lisa Caulley**

As the academic year comes to an end, our Department bids farewell and best wishes to our outstanding colleague and clinician, Dr. Lisa Caulley. She will be moving to Denmark in May to join her husband. While there, she will continue to work as our Department's Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and continue with research initiatives as our Junior Research Chair.

We will miss you, Dr. Caulley! We send our best wishes to you and your husband as you embark on this next chapter!



## **Dr. Yousuf Al Qurashi**

Our Department bids farewell to Dr. Yousuf AlQurashi, Head and Neck Oncology Fellow from 2021-2022. Dr. AlQurashi will be returning to Saudi Arabia to start his practice.

We will miss him in OR #5 and wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

# Notable Accomplishments



## **Dr. Nita Scherer named one of the Remarkable Women nominated in honour of International Women's Day**

A well-deserved feature, reflecting her amazing contributions in EDI, Wellness, and Department Engagement!



## **Dr. Ross Campbell secures funding to perform clinic-based vocal fold injections**

His patients will certainly be smiling as big as he is behind his N95 mask after their voices improve with these treatments!



## **Dr. Jamie Bonaparte's electro rock duo 'Paragon Cause' is nominated for 3 East Coast Music Awards**

What talented faculty members we have! Wish him luck in the upcoming competition!



## **Congratulations to Dr. Kevan Lu on his Fellowship**

Dr. Kevan Lu has secured a prestigious fellowship in Otolaryngology and Neurotology at the University of British Columbia!



## **Congratulations to Dr. Ali Jafar on his Fellowship**

Dr. Ali Jafar will be joining the world class team at University of Texas Houston McGovern/MD Anderson for his Neuro-Rhinology & Skull Base Surgery fellowship!



## **Congratulations to Dr. Corliss Best on her Fellowship**

Dr. Corliss Best has secured a prestigious fellowship in Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at the University of California Irvine!



## **Royal College Successes**

Congratulations to Dr. Kevan Lu, Dr. Corliss Best, and Dr. Ali Jafar for successfully passing their Royal College Exams!

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# Save-the-Dates



## **Annual Poliquin Research Day**

Our annual Poliquin Research Day will be held virtually this year on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We will be joined by Visiting Professor Dr. Darlene Kitty, Director of the Indigenous Program at the uOttawa Faculty of Medicine, with her presentation entitled "Moving toward Cultural Safety, Reconciliation, and Anti-Racism". Look out for the virtual link in your email inboxes!



## **Graduating Residents End-of-year Celebration**

We will be celebrating the accomplishments of graduating residents this year on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Format of the celebration and location of a potential in-person event are to be determined!



# Out & About



**Top Left:** Dr. Jonathan Whelan (PGY1) working behind the drapes with the Anesthesia team, while Dr. Kevan Lu (PGY5) operates!

**Top Right:** Drs. Shannan Hamel & Linda Chow (PGY4) getting Royal College Tips & Tricks from Drs. Corliss Best and Kevan Lu (PGY5), while celebrating Dr. Lu's birthday!



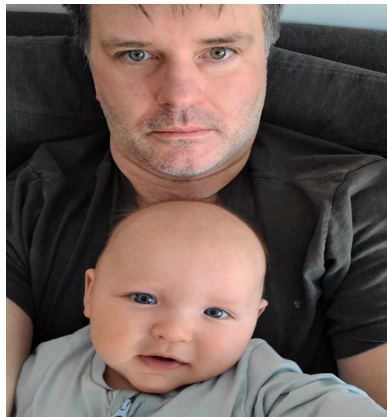
**ENT Cycling:** Drs. Darren Tse, David Schramm, and Jean-Francois Planet bike through Ottawa's beautiful greenery. They'll be out again soon, and they hope you will join them on their next ride!

**Happy Birthday, Dr. Alsaffar:** Our team at the TOH Cancer Clinic celebrates Dr. Alsaffar's birthday after a busy day of clinic!

**Welcome to the world, little Kirwan:** We welcome Kirwan, our newest addition to the ENT family! Congratulations to Dr. Jamie Bonaparte and his partner Michelle on their adorable little one!

**Endoscopic Ear Surgery in Ottawa:** Drs. Darren Tse and Ali Jafar (PGY5) celebrate starting the Endoscopic Otology Program with their first Endoscopic Ear case!

**Go Senators:** Drs. Alsaffar, Vaccani, and Caulley take our graduating residents to an Ottawa Senators hockey game to celebrate their Royal College Successes!





# Out & About

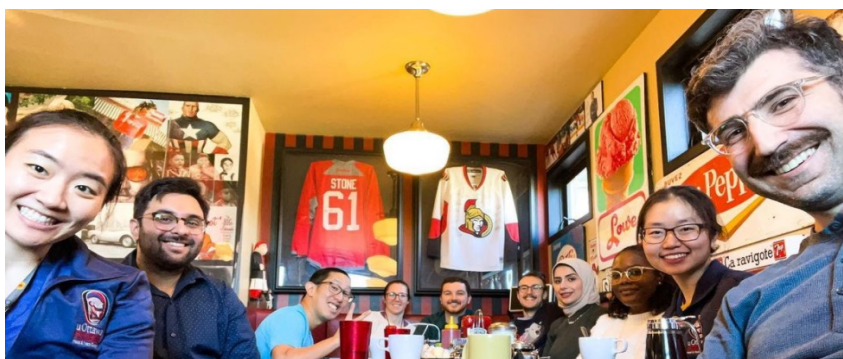


## Social Accountability Initiatives:

Dr. Ryan Rourke and the resident group (wearing their new Departmental jackets!) spent a day working with the Inner-City Health team screening for Head & Neck Cancers in the Inner-City population.

**Farewell, Dr. Caulley:** Drs. Nita Scherer, Johnna MacCormick, Laurie McLean, Kate Kelly (former graduate) and Lisa Caulley have their first reunion since the pandemic at Dommaine Perrault, a local winery, to celebrate Dr. Caulley's wedding, and say goodbye before she leaves for Denmark!

**Dine and Learn:** The resident group learns about BPPV with Dr. Darren Tse while enjoying brunch at the Wellington Diner!



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