



**Department of Medical Imaging  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry  
University of Western Ontario  
Annual Report 2010 – 2011**

*Prepared by*

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This year at our **6<sup>th</sup> Annual London Imaging Discovery** day, we celebrated the research accomplishments of our residents, graduate students and faculty. The day has been growing and this year we had our largest display of poster presentations with 65 submissions!! We took the concept of a Keynote Address to a whole new level with presentations from four faculty members who spoke about “Image Guided Treatment” from a multidisciplinary perspective. Showcasing their innovative work were Drs. Kakani, Marotta, Mujoomdar and Romagnoli. The presentations were a fitting follow up to the May London Liver Cancer Network symposium on hepatocellular carcinoma.

Our graduating class in both Nuclear Medicine and Radiology was the largest cohort ever with six graduates from Nuclear Medicine (Saud Alenezi, Mashael Alharbi, Mohammed Alzayed, Jonathan Boekhoud, Abdulslam Eltriki, and Salem Yuones) and five from Radiology (Theodore Blake, Ian Chan, Mariam Ghali Eskander, Mark Landis, and Anil Shastry). This was truly landmark year for our department. Many of our graduates have gone on to complete various fellowships. We wish all our graduates success in their careers and remind them to please keep in touch with us as proud UWO alumni!

This year marked the successful launch of the Biomedical Imaging Research Centre (BIRC) under the leadership of our Division of Imaging Sciences Chair, Dr. Aaron Fenster. Dr Fenster has been integral to BIRC’s development and he has fostered and enhanced collaboration across UWO. You can read more about BIRC in a later section of this report under the heading “Research”.

We look forward to new leadership and structure at the hospitals with Dr. Gillian Kernaghan as CEO of SJHC and Ms. Bonnie Adamson as CEO LHSC. Both Dr. Kernaghan and Ms Adamson launched their new organizational structures for their respective hospitals in April 2011 and work on their major strategic initiatives is already well underway. As part of the hospital reorganization, a warm welcome is extended to our new IVP of Medical Affairs, Dr. Robin Walker. We look forward to future leadership announcements that will be forthcoming at both hospital organizations. From an academic perspective, Dr. Michael Strong our Dean at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is developing the School's vision and mission for the next decade and true to his collaborative leadership style, he has involved a number of faculty and staff at Schulich in the process.

Closer to home, from a hospital perspective, Mr. Glen Kearns has a newly defined role as IVP Diagnostic Services and Chief Information Officer. Dr. Jonathan Romsa was appointed city wide Division Chair/Chief Department Nuclear Medicine, synchronized with the first city wide Chief of Diagnostic Radiology effectively combining Dr. Lum's hospital position with the academic role of Chair, Medical Imaging/Division Chair Radiology. Our three Medical Program leaders, Dr. Derek Ho (Neuro/Musculoskeletal), Dr. Walt Romano (Women's & Children) and Dr. Ian Ross (Abdominal & CVT) are engaged in the development of city wide integrated programs. In anticipation of a combined hospital Department of Medical Imaging, Mr. Tony Orfanides continues to provide city wide integration as Director, Medical Imaging. There is also much anticipation at Lawson Imaging for the future PET MRI program as Dr. Frank Prato continues to develop and expand research at Lawson Institute.

Our training Program Directors in Radiology, Dr. Justin Amann and Nuclear Medicine, Dr. Cigdem Akincioglu (who has handed interim leadership over to Dr. Warrington while she is on maternity leave), Neuroradiology Dr. Andy Leung, and Graduate Studies, Dr. Terry Thompson have continued to dedicate their time and expertise towards the ongoing development of our education and teaching mandate. Dr. Stodilka is also in the process of developing a training program for physicists in collaboration with Department of Biophysics.

One of key areas identified at our departmental retreat in April 2011 was to further develop our Fellowship training program at UWO in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine. We now have two city wide Fellowship Directors, Dr. Nirmal Kakani for Radiology and Dr. James Warrington for Nuclear Medicine. They will be focused on developing processes and robust fellowships in the coming months.

Under the leadership of Ms. Lori Matheson, we have also reorganized our administrative staff to provide support for our programs and to better serve our growing department. This process of review and renewal is a necessary

component of our changing environment as we must continue to think and innovate strategically.

## **Promotions & Awards**

It is without doubt that our success is dependent on the dedication of our faculty, staff and leaders. We celebrated the accomplishments of Dr. Said Osman and Dr. Elaine O’Riordan who were promoted to Associate Professor and granted continuing appointments this year. Well done Dr. Osman and Dr. O’Riordan! In addition, both Drs. Larry Nicholson and Donald Lee have been honored with Professor Emeritus status.

At LID, a number of individuals were recognized for their hard work, research and academic contributions. In recognition of Dr. Tom Munro, former radiologist at University Hospital, the Tom Munro Award for Best Research Presentation at LID was established this year thanks to a very generous donor who has asked to remain anonymous. The award was presented by Dr. Steve Karlik who has assisted our residents in the development of research and academic thinking. Dr. Gary Brahm received this award for his presentation on “*The non-visualized appendix on ultrasound: what does it mean?*” This year’s Rankin Singh Award for research project completed or near completion with exceptional quality was presented to Dr. Faisal Raja; the Carey Singh Award for excellence in teaching and service was presented to Dr. Saud Alenezi; and the RSNA Roentgen award nomination by the Radiology Program Director for outstanding resident was presented to Dr. Stefanie Lee. Our poster prizes were awarded to Dr. Andrew Lu, 1<sup>st</sup> prize for “*The relationship between age and ventilation defects using hyperpolarized 3H3 MRI*”, Eranga Ukwatta, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for “*Segmentation of carotid arteries from 3D ultrasound images: a coupled level set approach*” and Eli Gibson, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for “*Registration of prostate MRI to digital histology for prostate cancer imaging*”. The content of our research continues to excel. Congratulations to all award recipients!!

We truly appreciate and thank our judges of oral presentations Drs. Fenster and Amann. A special thanks is also extended to Drs. Burgess, Cunningham, Stodilka and Theberge as our poster judges at LID. They had an enormous task to judge 65 posters and we hope the newly developed evaluation tool was helpful. We sincerely appreciate everyone’s dedication, merci!!

Our radiology residents each year are proud to recognize faculty accomplishments. The Residents Choice for Outstanding Radiologist Role Model was presented to Dr. Ian Ross and the Residents Choice for Outstanding Commitment to Radiology Education to Dr. David Bach.

Our department’s Appointments & Promotions Committee (A&P) oversees the nomination for the annual Academic Award for Academic Excellence. This year the committee decided to present two awards in recognition of different academic

achievements, one for Research and the other for Clinical Excellence. The work of the A&P Committee members, Drs. Leung, Peters, Thompson, Romano and Sparrow is greatly appreciated as I withdrew from the process this year due stated conflict of interest with one of the nominees. The recipient for Research Excellence was presented to Dr. Ian Cunningham and for Clinical Excellence was presented to Dr. Witek Zaleski. The A&P Committee has also decided to recognize collaboration amongst faculty with a new award for Team Excellence which will be introduced and given out for the first time in 2012. This will align with the UWO Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Awards and it also further supports UWO initiatives such as BIRC.

We were also pleased to nominate and were very proud that three faculty members were recipients of the prestigious UWO SSMD Dean's Awards this year. Dr. Donald Lee received the Schulich Excellence in Education Leader Award, Dr. Terry Peters received the Dean's Award of Excellence for Faculty Individual Research (previous year's recipient was Dr. Ting-Yim Lee) and Dr. Robert Stodilka received the Dean's Team Award of Excellence as a member of the Canadian R&D Centre for Probiotics Team. Many faculty and resident members were present to celebrate with our faculty at the recent awards ceremony and we re-presented to Dr. Stodilka at our LID awards ceremony to honour his work. Several of our scientists received awards and honours during the past year, notably Dr. Holdsworth was named the Sandy Kirkly Chair in Musculoskeletal Research and Dr. Grace Parraga won the CIHR New Investigator Award.

Dr. Aaron Fenster received the Gold Medal for research achievement from the Canadian Organization of Medical Physics in June 2010. Dr. Aaron Fenster was successful in the application to the Centres of Excellence in Research and Commercialization and received \$27M to establish the Centre for Imaging Technology Commercialization with UWO as the host University.

## **Research**

Biomedical imaging research is now flourishing at five sites in London that are affiliated with the Department of Medical Imaging. Over the past years we have focused on developing a collaborative and cohesive approach to biomedical imaging research and training among these groups. To formalize the cohesion, growth and excellence of biomedical imaging research in London, the group leaders from the Imaging Sciences Division of the Department of Medical Imaging successfully applied and were successful in establishing the Biomedical Imaging Research Centre (BIRC) at Western. By integrating our efforts across multiple Faculties, University Departments and Institutes, we have the potential to become the most successful integrated Biomedical Imaging Research Program in Canada.

Investigators in our Division have been successful in commercializing innovations from their laboratories. The commercialization efforts have focused on both licensing and spin-off activities with the leadership provided by World Discoveries. In the past year, Dr. Cunningham has spun off a company (DQE Instruments), which has developed a device used by manufacturers to determine the efficiency of their ex-ray imaging systems. The company is already selling this device to international customers.

Our investigators will continue to build on their successes and help to coordinate and accelerate the formation of research teams that cross the boundaries of Western's Faculties and disciplines, coordinate access to the state-of-the-art clinical and pre-clinical biomedical imaging research facilities in London, increase the number and quality of graduate students in our partnered Departments including fostering our Digital Imaging Group, and develop and mentor promising basic and clinical investigators who are just beginning their careers. Our efforts will strengthen biomedical imaging research in London, and will help Western's mission to become one of the top five research-intensive Universities in Canada.

### **Recruitments, Relocations, Retirements**

Our department continues to flourish and grow with faculty recruitments since July 2010 including the recruitment of Dr. Mousumi Bhaduri who is triple fellowship trained in women's, body and chest/cardiac imaging from the University of Toronto and Dr. Aditya Bharatha who is fellowship trained in neuroradiology also from the University of Toronto. Dr. Julia Grebenyuk joined her husband, Dr. Vladislav Miropolsky following her fellowship in MSK from the University of British Columbia and Dr. Mandel who is dual trained in NM and Radiology from University of Toronto also came on board. Last but certainly not least, Dr. Olga Schmuilovich who is fellowship trained in breast imaging at the University of Western Ontario rounded out our new cohort of Assistant Professors.

This July 2011, we welcomed the return of Dr. Ashley Mercado following his body imaging fellowship at the University of Toronto. Dr. Anil Shastry, dual certified Nuclear Medicine physician and Radiologist, University of Western Ontario and Dr. Lloyd Sly, pediatric radiologist from Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, both will be joining us in September.

Unfortunately, Dr. Bharatha has returned to Toronto but intends to retain academic ties with our program as an Adjunct Professor. Dr. Larry Nicholson also retired this last year to Ottawa/Hull and Dr. Jean Luc Urbain moved to a new position at a VA hospital in the U.S. Dr. Donald Lee has "officially" retired from his university role but will continue his work in neuroradiology.

## **Retreats – how many!**

This has been the year for retreats - UWO, Lawson Imaging, Schulich School Medicine & Dentistry, SJHC Vision, Department of Medical Imaging, Biomedical Imaging Research Centre, Ontario Association of Radiologists, Senior Medical Leadership structure, Academic Health Sciences Network to name a few. This simply reflects the changing milieu of our environment and gives everyone an opportunity to reflect on the future direction together.

Key initiatives to watch for:

- ❖ Academic Role Categories for Clinical Faculty implementation
- ❖ LHIN and AHSC evolution to AHSCN and fall provincial election
- ❖ U.S. economic health care environment
- ❖ Employment/human resources for our new graduates
- ❖ Imaging funding changes
- ❖ SSMD “healthy living and aging” initiative
- ❖ LHSC and SJHC new hospital vision and roles

## **A new academic year, welcome to residents and fellows...**

A warm welcome is extended to our new Radiology residents - Drs. Jonathan Chung, Derek Cool, Pavlo Ohorodnyk, Michael Roth and Rebecca Zener and our new Nuclear Medicine resident – Dr. Michael Pazaratz. We also welcome many Fellows in Radiology – Drs’ Itai Gadiel, Suha Ghoul, Ahmed Guha, Jonathan Marshall and Ilanit Nachum and our Fellow in Nuclear Medicine – Dr. Salem Yuoness. There will also be additional Fellows starting with us in the fall. We will welcome them officially once they join us!

Have a great rest of the summer and stay cool!!