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Via Email

Dear Colleagues,

It's "back to school" time for all of us! I certainly hope that everyone had some time to relax with friends and family over the summertime. Certainly, it was clear that it was a busy time for many, especially those going through transitions. We welcomed 14 PGY1's who are experiencing the first months of being "real doctors". Additionally, it is clear that a number of residents are going through the transition to fellowships. A number of our present residents are busy preparing applications and travel plans as they embark upon interviews for varied fellowships. At the same time, we welcomed 21 new fellows to the various programs in our Division. Finally, we have six new attendings across the University of Toronto, Division of General Surgery hospitals making the ultimate transition from trainee to "independent" practice. Not surprisingly, these transitions are marked by anticipation and some degree of anxiousness. It is a good time for us all to remember what it is like to make these changes and to help out where we can.

September 2012 is also a time of anticipation for the entire division. There is a lot going on in the division over this 2012-2013 academic year. I'd like to draw your attention to the upcoming Royal College review. Dr. Najma Ahmed has been doing an outstanding and tireless job in recent months leading and preparing for the review. She has met with, and will continue to reach out to, a number of you to make sure that we are optimally prepared for the review process. Please take a moment to visit and navigate the substantially beefed up website that really outlines all of the important aspects of general surgery residency training program (<http://generalsurgery.utoronto.ca/edu/residency.htm>).

Another major milestone this year is the launching of the Departmental Strategic Plan. We will hear about the launch of this from Dr. Rutka at his Annual Address this Friday at 7:30am at Li Ka Shing at St. Michael's Hospital. The division of general surgery will have a major role in ensuring the success of the strategic plan and helping to drive its implementation. I've had a chance to read the strategic plan and it is a superb articulation of the opportunities and responsibilities we will embrace in the years to come. It is very succinct and makes our mission very clear.

One of the areas that is emphasized in the strategic plan is integration and outreach. In my letter today I would like to outline the numerous ways in which we seek to integrate the general surgery community both within the city and the way that we reach out to others across the province and beyond. With this in mind, I would like to highlight some of the important citywide rounds and communities of practice that are increasingly thriving:

- ✚ Toronto Surgical Oncology Rounda (TORSO) -November 11th, 2012 - Estates of Sunnybrook - **Details to come!**
- ✚ Citywide MIS rounds - September 24th. Email Dr. John Hagen for details (john.hagen12@gmail.com)
- ✚ Trauma Rounds (<http://surgery.utoronto.ca/programs/trauma.htm>)

Importantly, 2012-2013 will be a year in which we initiate the implementation of the BPiGS Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocol across our many hospitals.

Additionally, other important events to note and enter in your calendars are:

- ✚ The CAGS conference September 13th to 16th in Calgary. There is a major University of Toronto contribution there including President Ralph George's address on Saturday September 15th. I would also like to mention that two of our residents won awards this year; Best Clinical Science and Best Basic Science (full details can be found here <http://generalsurgery.utoronto.ca/home.htm>).
- ✚ Research Night - October 18th at Oro Restaurant starting at 6:30pm
- ✚ Update in Minimally Invasive Surgery - November 16th to 17th at the Metropolitan Hotel
(<http://sites.cepdtoronto.ca/minimallyinvasive/>)
- ✚ Update in General Surgery - April 18th to 20th at the Hilton Hotel
(<http://events.cepdtoronto.ca/website/index/SUR1304>)
- ✚ The Annual Assembly of General Surgeons at the Metropolitan Hotel either May 23rd or 30th (TBD) where Dr. Peter Angelos from the University of Chicago will be the Tovee Lecturer.

I'd like to wish you all the best for the 2012-2013 academic year and I very much look forward to working with all of you.

Yours sincerely,



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