

## Special Interest Articles:

- Altimetrics
- Alumni Profile  
Dr. Abdullah Alhaizaey
- Faculty Profile  
Dr. George Oreopoulos

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## Chair's Column

I trust everyone had an enjoyable and restful summer and had some time with family and friends. Now that the cooler fall weather has arrived in Toronto, there are several rights of fall including the Jays playoff run, the start of the Leafs and Raptors seasons and the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery. The CSVS meeting took place at the end of September in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia where U of T Vascular Surgery had an impressive showing. Half of the podium presentations and poster presentations were by U of T faculty or trainees. This is unprecedented. Special

thanks to Drs. Lindsay, Dueck & Al-Omran, Division Heads at UHN, Sunnybrook & St. Michael's for ensuring a strong turnout from their groups, and to Dr. Roche-Nagle for leading our trainees research projects. One of his students, Mary Tao, won the Sigvaris Award for Best Venous Paper and Graham himself won the Provan Award for Education. U of T continues to provide leadership for the CSVS with Giuseppe Papis leading the Education Committee and Graham Roche-Nagle leading the Research Committee. I was very proud to give this year's Presidential Address. It was an opportunity to give

thanks to mentors and colleagues and to talk about some of my passions, hockey and vascular surgery. The talk was entitled "Four Seconds" and looked at the final couple seconds leading up to Sidney Crosby's 2010 Olympic Golden Goal and reflecting on issues specific to our specialty.

Great work everyone and let's keep it going in Halifax next year.



Dr. Thomas Forbes

## Gore announces multiyear support of U of T Research Day

W.L. Gore and Associates has agreed to a three year commitment as sole sponsor to support the U of T Vascular Surgery Research Day through an education grant. Special thanks to David Grieco, Senior Development Officer in the Office of Advancement at the U of T Faculty of Medicine for stewarding this donation. Marty Sylvain, Global Sales Leader for Gore says, "W.L. Gore & Associates has provided creative therapeutic solutions to complex medical problems for more than forty years. During that time, more than 35 million innovative Gore Medical Devices have been implanted, saving and

improving the quality of lives worldwide. W.L. Gore & Associates is committed to advancing vascular surgical and endovascular therapy and as a result is pleased to be able to provide educational grant support to the University of Toronto, Division of Vascular Surgery. It is our hope that through this educational grant we will be able to support the University of Toronto in some of our shared values including commitment to ongoing learning, dedication to sharing knowledge with peers and patients,

creating consensus within the medical community and the analysis of clinical outcomes". "We're extremely grateful to Gore's commitment to our Research Day", says Dr. Thomas Forbes, University Division Chair of Vascular Surgery, "This significant commitment will allow us to continue to have a first class venue to celebrate the academic and research successes of our Division's trainees and to welcome the K. Wayne Johnston Visiting Lecturer, which will continue to be the highlight of the day."

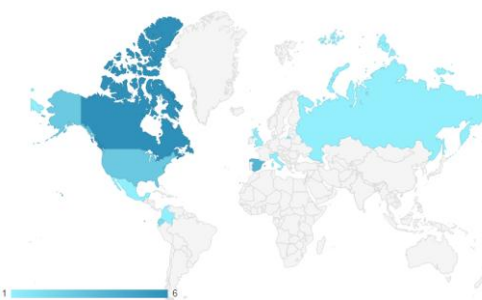
## Measuring Global Impact of Published Research

### Geographical breakdown

Country

- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Colombia

Countries where Kayssi A. *J Vasc Surg* 2015; 62(2):491-8, has received social media attention.



Global impact of Hussain M. *Circulation* 2015;23;131(25):2226-31, using Altimetrics.com

Albert Einstein said, “Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts” ... which brings us to the challenge of measuring the impact of scientific publications. Historically, measures such as a journal’s impact factor or an author’s *h*-index, or citation counts were used. However, these measures are imperfect and hampered by the sometimes glacial speed of academic publishing. Recently, metrics related to social media and online usage have become more topical, one example being Altimetric.com (MacMillan, which owns Nature Publishing Group). Let’s use some recently published papers by 3 of our star resident researchers as examples, all of which are too recent to have been cited in the traditional academic press. Ahmed Kayssi published a review of HRQL

between open aneurysm repair and EVAR in August’s *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. Too early for citations but it’s been tweeted by 8 people from Canada, the U.K. and South America!

Mohamad Hussain published an article in *Circulation* on carotid revascularization in June. This paper will eventually lead to traditional citations, but according to Altimetrics it has already received 31 mentions on Twitter, Facebook and Mendeley from around the world, from Mexico, to Italy, to Russia!

Even publications ahead of print can receive global attention. Trisha Roy’s article on peripheral interventions to be published in the *Journal of Endovascular Therapy* has received global

attention with 5 tweets:

In the top 25% of all articles scored by Altimetric

MORE...

Mentioned by


5 tweeters

These altmetrics can be useful in seeing how our articles are received beyond the academic press, telling us who has been talking about the article, what they’ve been saying, and where the mention came from.

As researchers we want our work to be read and have impact, otherwise “if a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it ...”. These newer metrics are another measure of U of T Vascular Surgery’s global reach and impact in this increasingly connected world.

## #ILookLikeASurgeon

For those of you on Twitter you may have noticed the #ILookLikeASurgeon hashtag this fall. This campaign was started by Heather Logghe, a surgeon in North Carolina, and built on the success of the #ILookLikeAnEngineer campaign. It aims to promote diversity and break gender stereotypes in traditionally male fields. Of course, very few can be part of both campaigns ... except for our Dr. Trisha Roy, vascular surgery resident enrolled in the Surgeon Scientist Training Program, pictured here with Dr. Christiane Werneck.

 **Trisha Roy** @trisharoymd · Aug 10  
 #ILookLikeAnEngineer #ILookLikeASurgeon. Training with a great female vascular surgeon Dr. Werneck @UofTVascular



← ↻ ★ 2 ...

## Alumni Profile – Where are they now? – Dr. Abdullah Alhaizaey

Dr. Abdullah Alhaizaey completed a vascular surgery fellowship at U of T and returned to southern Saudi Arabia and Aseer Central Hospital. We received this recent letter from him which reminds us of the impact our trainees can have:

Dear Dr. Oreopoulos,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere thanks to all University of Toronto staff during my fellowship training in vascular surgery. After 6 months from the start of my career in south region of Saudi Arabia, I can tell you that the University of Toronto has saved many patients' lives in this region.

First of all, I'm in Aseer Central Hospital (A.C.H), it is in Abha city, it is a 700 beds capacity. 55 emergency beds, 25 working ICU beds "nowadays working to extend it to be 60 beds". We are a separate vascular surgery department with 3 vascular surgeons, 3 vascular specialists & 2 residents, one intern &/ or medical student.

We have the facilities for all types of vascular surgery procedures.

During the first six months of my career we performed the following cases:

1. (18) TEVAR cases for traumatic aortic transection, the first was during my first duty hour in A.C. Hospital & 6 of them during one week on-call !!!
2. (4) carotid endarterectomies for symptomatic ICA severe stenosis.
3. (53) peripheral arteries angioplasty &/ stenting for critical limb ischemia. All of them in operation room with great result during the follow-up.
4. I'm a member of ESRD access program directors in Abha region; I did more than 50 access procedures since the beginning of this program.
5. I'm a member of Saudi Arabia- Ministry of Health emergency & critical program support in Abha region. It is a program to improve the management for 5 secondary care (peripheral) hospitals in the south region. I did 13 emergency cases, 5 amputations, 5 bypass & femoral arteries repair & 3 brachial artery repairs.
6. I have two cases infra-renal AAA; 6.1 cm & 5.6 cm; one of them underwent uneventful EVAR & the other one planned for EVAR within the next weeks.
7. We've established our vascular lab in the hospital.
8. We started to negotiate for Hybrid –OR. I hope we will succeed in that!
9. We will start a retrospective study of left subclavian artery occlusion during TEVAR. WE have 36 TEVAR cases, 24 of them with uneventful SCA occlusion.

Great thanks to all U of T staff & special thanks for your continuous support.

Dr. Abdullah Alhaizaey, Vascular & Endovascular Surgeon, ACH- Saudi Arabia



Dr. Abdullah Alhaizaey

## U of T Vascular Surgery in the News

This National Post article describes the outstanding skill and dedication displayed by our Dr. Lindsay and a multidisciplinary, multi-hospital team last summer as they saved the life and limb of a young girl after a catastrophic boating accident. Take a moment to read the article as a reminder of the gift we have to make such impact on the lives of our patients and their families.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/this-girls-leg-was-95-severed-in-a-boating-accident-how-doctors-saved-her-life-and-her-limb>





## Vascular Surgery Bootcamp



Lauren Gordon & Cale Zavtiz, PGY1's in vascular surgery, performing a carotid endarterectomy

The 2015 Vascular Surgery skills camp, organized by Luis Figueroa (PGY5), ran from the 20th to the 31st of June at the University of Toronto Surgical Skills Centre in Mount Sinai Hospital. After completing the Department of Surgery's common surgical skills camp at the beginning of the month, Lauren Gordon and Cale Zavtiz, the Vascular Surgery residency program's new PGY1 trainees, spent two weeks in a combination of vascular surgery-specific lectures and hands-on training sessions designed to teach critical skills prior to the start of clinical residency training.

Lectures included arterial and venous physiology,

vascular labs, carotid disease, and aortic aneurysmal disease in order to provide the trainees with the fundamentals. Staff and residents then led them through how to perform a carotid endarterectomy, open AAA repair, femoral embolectomy, femoral anastomosis, and SFJ dissection. Endovascular skills were also front and centre, including case-based teaching with faculty and hands-on practice with aortic and peripheral devices, wires, and catheters from three different manufacturers, including completing simulated EVARs on a computerized model. In keeping with the division's focus on educational research, trainees were

evaluated throughout the camp, including a final evaluation to ensure competency to complete a carotid endarterectomy and open AAA repair under supervision.

To our knowledge, this is a program that is unique among Canadian Vascular Surgery training programs, and is one which was highly valued by both of our new trainees. Thanks go to all the staff and residents who committed their time to setting our new residents up for success in their training.

U of T is now looking for opportunities to open this up to other Canadian training programs.



Dr. Forbes with Dr. Peter Lawrence from UCLA, guest speaker at CSVS Meeting in Victoria, BC

## Awards

### Congratulations to Dr. Trisha Roy

Congratulations to Dr. Trisha Roy, U of T and SSTP vascular surgery resident, for winning the Passareillo Award for first prize in the rapid paced poster competition at the recent International Society of MR Angiography Meeting in Cincinnati, OH. Well done Dr. Roy!

### Congratulations to CSVS Award Winners

Cook Research Award – Dr. Leonard Tse

Provan Education Award – Dr. Graham Roche-Nagle

Sigvaris Award (best venous paper) – Mary Tao, supervised by Graham Roche-Nagle



## Faculty Profile – Dr. George Oreopoulos

Dr. Oreopoulos is currently an Assistant Professor of Surgery with a clinical practice at UHN in vascular surgery and interventional radiology. He is also the Program Director of the U of T Vascular Surgery Residency Program.

### *Where were you born?*

GO: Toronto (St. Michael's Hospital)

### *Tell us about your family?*

GO: Wife Amrit who is a nephrologist at St. Joe's, 2 sons, Dimitrios (11, named after my late father, a pioneering UHN nephrologist), Constantine (Costas, 7, named after the family's late patriarch in Greece).

### *Who were your mentor(s)?*

GO: I would not have become a surgeon if it weren't for Raymond Matthews, a general surgeon at Toronto Western, who taught me about the joy of surgery. Barry Rubin taught me to always have a plan A, plan B and a plan C before entering the OR. Tom Lindsay has given me timely and critical career advice. Wayne Johnston, one of the smoothest operators I've worked with taught me the importance of adequate vascular exposures and a common sense approach.

### *What are the biggest changes you've noticed during your career?*

GO: During my vascular residency, EVAR was not available to patients in the GTA, now more than 80% of my aortic cases are treated this way. Almost every elective vascular case has a potential endovascular option. Regionalized systems of care and a large number of well trained vascular surgeons across the region have changed the number and types of cases being referred to tertiary vascular centres.

### *What are the biggest opportunities that exist for a young vascular surgeon?*

GO: With the expanded role of endovascular surgery, new surgeons will need strategies to help them maintain their open surgical skills, particularly in the field of aortic surgery. I believe our new 0 + 5 direct entry residency training program will do more to adequately prepare future vascular surgeons with a longer period of more focused training than was available previously.

### *What advice would you give a medical student who is considering a career in vascular surgery?*

GO: All branches of medicine have something to respect and enjoy. Vascular Surgery is not the easiest way through a medical career, but it is one of the most rewarding, offering up dramatic "saves" and equally dramatic catastrophes. The specialty will continue to evolve and vascular surgeons will need to be comfortable with change and know how to incorporate new therapies into their practice.

### *What are your hobbies in your spare time?*

GO: Martial Arts; Karate (Shotokan and Goju-Ryu styles), Tai-Chai, Kendo (Japanese fencing)

### *What is your favorite sports team?*

GO: "We the North!" – the Toronto Raptors of course.



Dr. George Oreopoulos

## Upcoming Events & Meetings

Oct 4-8 <sup>th</sup>	American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Chicago, IL
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds, University Club of Toronto
Oct 22-24 <sup>th</sup>	International Conference on Residency Education, Vancouver, BC
Oct 24-27 <sup>th</sup>	Canadian Cardiovascular Conference, Toronto, ON
Nov 17-21 <sup>st</sup>	VEITH Symposium, New York, NY
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds, University Club of Toronto
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds, University Club of Toronto
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	U of T Vascular Surgery City-Wide Rounds, University Club of Toronto
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	U of T Vascular Surgery Research Day, University Club of Toronto
June 8-11	SVS Vascular Annual Meeting, National Harbour, MD

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*This year's K. Wayne Johnston Lecturer will be Dr. Melina Kibbe from Northwestern University in Chicago*

Administrative Office:  
149 College St, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto, ON, M5T1P5

PHONE:  
(416) 978-7423

FAX:  
(416) 978-3928

E-MAIL:  
[vascular.admin@utoronto.ca](mailto:vascular.admin@utoronto.ca)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://vascularsurgery.utoronto.ca/>

and Twitter!  
@UofTVascular

## We welcome your support

*K. Wayne Johnston Lecture in Vascular Surgery* – This is held annually at our Research Day and gives our faculty and residents the opportunity to learn from a world leader in our specialty.

*Division of Vascular Surgery Chair's Fund* – This fund allows for continued support of our residency and fellowship programs, research support and continuing medical education and professional development.

Donations can be made online at [donate.utoronto.ca/surgery](http://donate.utoronto.ca/surgery) or by cheque to:  
The Office of Advancement  
c/o David Greico  
6 Queen's Park Crescent West  
Toronto, ON M5S 3H2

## Welcome to Michelle Paiva, our new Administrative Assistant

Please join us in welcoming Michelle Paiva as the newly appointed Administrative Assistant for the Division of Vascular Surgery. Michelle will support the academic and educational initiatives of the Division under the direction of Drs. Forbes (Division Chair), Greco (UME Director), Oreopoulos (Residency Program Director) & Wheatcroft (Fellowship Program Director).

Welcome to U of T Vascular Surgery Michelle!

## Contribute to our Newsletter

Story ideas, articles, photos or comments are welcome for upcoming issues, please send them to [vascular.admin@utoronto.ca](mailto:vascular.admin@utoronto.ca) or [thomas.forbes@uhn.ca](mailto:thomas.forbes@uhn.ca)

Moving, or do you know someone else who would like to receive this newsletter? Please let us know.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015

1. Angarita FA, **Dueck AD**, Azouz SM. Postoperative electrolyte management: Current practice patterns of surgeons and residents. *Surgery*. 2015 Jul;158(1):289-99. doi: 10.1016/j.surg.2015.02.014. Epub 2015 Apr 11.
2. El-Beheiry MH, Kidane B, Zehr M, Vogt K, Parry NG, Malthaner R, **Forbes TL**. Predictors of Discharge Home Following Blunt Traumatic Thoracic Aortic Injury. *Ann Vasc Surg*. 2015 Sep 11. pii: S0890-5096(15)00679-2. doi: 10.1016/j.avsg.2015.07.019. [Epub ahead of print]
3. **Kayssi A**, DeBord Smith A, **Roche-Nagle G**, Nguyen LL. Health-related quality-of-life outcomes after open versus endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. *J Vasc Surg*. 2015 Aug;62(2):491-8.
4. Noel-Lamy M, Jaskolka J, **Lindsay TF**, **Oreopoulos GD**, Tan KT. Internal Iliac Aneurysm Repair Outcomes Using a Modification of the Iliac Branch Graft. *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg*. 2015 Oct;50(4):474-9. doi: 10.1016/j.ejvs.2015.05.021. Epub 2015 Jul 15.
5. **Osman E**, Tan KT, **Tse L**, Jaskolka J, **Roche-Nagle G**, **Oreopoulos G**, **Rubin B**, **Lindsay T**. The in-hospital costs of treating high risk patients with fenestrated and branched endografts. *J Vasc Surg*. 2015 Sep 11. pii: S0741-5214(15)01598-0. doi: 10.1016/j.jvs.2015.07.040. [Epub ahead of print]
6. Ramadan A, **Wheatcroft MD**, Quan A, Singh KK, Lovren F, Dhingra N, Teoh H, **Al-Omran M**, Leong-Poi H, Verma S. Effects of long-term chloroquine administration on the natural history of aortic aneurysms in mice. *Can J Physiol Pharmacol*. 2015 Aug;93(8):641-8. doi: 10.1139/cjpp-2015-0068. Epub 2015 Mar 20.
7. **Roy T**, **Forbes T**, Wright G, **Dueck A**. Burning Bridges: Mechanisms and Implications of Endovascular Failure in the Treatment of Peripheral Artery Disease. *J Endovasc Ther*. 2015 Sep 8. pii: 1526602815604465. [Epub ahead of print]
8. Ruthrauff AA, King MW, Soulez G, Tan KT, **Crawford SA**, **Roche-Nagle G**, Cloutier G, **Tse LW**. Effects of Pulsatile Fatigue on In Situ Antegrade Fenestrated Polyester Stent Grafts Deployed in a Patient-Specific Phantom Model of Juxtarenal Aortic Aneurysm. *J Vasc Interv Radiol*. 2015 Oct;26(10):1551-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jvir.2015.06.038. Epub 2015 Aug 4.
9. Verma S, Eikelboom JW, Nidorf SM, **Al-Omran M**, Gupta N, Teoh H, Friedrich JO. Colchicine in cardiac disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *BMC Cardiovasc Disord*. 2015 Aug 29;15:96. doi: 10.1186/s12872-015-0068-3.
10. Wong SS, Cleverly S, Tan KT, **Roche-Nagle G**. Impact and Culture Change After the Implementation of a Preprocedural Checklist in an Interventional Radiology Department. *J Patient Saf*. 2015 Jul 31. [Epub ahead of print]