



Division of Head and Neck Oncology and Reconstructive Surgery

Dr. Jonathan Irish

This year has been a significant year for the division. Dr. Ralph Gilbert completed his term as Division Head. During Dr. Gilbert's tenure the division became stronger clinically and academically with continued strong commitments to post-graduate education in head and neck surgical oncology. Thanks to Ralph for his guidance and leadership for the past 10 years.

Dr. Jonathan Irish has taken the Division Head position and over the first 6 months the division took the opportunity to complete a strategic planning process. This has resulted in a reinvigoration of the research mission of the division. Dr. John de Almeida has taken the division lead for the research portfolio and Dr. Tony Eskander is the site lead for Sunnybrook and is the Health Services Research lead, Dr. Eric Monterio is the site lead for Mount Sinai Hospital and is the Safety and Quality Research lead, Dr. David Goldstein is the site lead for UHN and is the Outcomes Research lead. Dr. Doug Chepeha is the Clinical Trials lead and Dr. Al Vescan is the Skull Base research lead.

The division directs the American Head and Neck Society Advanced Training Fellowship under the leadership of Dr. Jeremy Freeman. This highly sought after fellowship program with six clinical rotations and one research position draws applicants from around the world. The program continues to be committed to the development and training the future leaders of our sub-specialty. Dr. Jeremy Freeman will continue as the Fellowship Director and a Fellowship Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Irish and comprised of Drs. Freeman, Chepeha and Higgins will provide governance and oversight to

the program. One of the major initiatives led by Drs. Higgins and Chepeha is to renew the Fellowship Education Curriculum. This process will incorporate similar initiatives at the Canadian Society and American Head and Neck Society levels.

This year the graduates of our Fellowship Program include Dr. Peter Vosler who will take up a staff position at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Dr. Ryan McSpadden who will take up a staff position at Roswell Park in Buffalo and Dr. Gian-Marco Busato who will take up a position in the Greater Toronto Area community and Dr. Wael Hasan.

From a clinical care perspective the 3 head and neck centres under the University of Toronto umbrella are large volume centres by any measure.

The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre at the University Health Network is the largest regional program in Canada with 7 full time head and neck surgical oncologists (Drs. Patrick Gullane, Ralph Gilbert, Dale Brown, Jonathan Irish, Douglas Chepeha, David Goldstein and John de Almeida). The Princess Margaret Head and Neck Program provides a complete spectrum of head and neck services including endocrine, microvascular surgery and minimally invasive approaches including robotic surgery. The program has a strong multidisciplinary translational research program, with four core labs focused on different aspects of head and neck oncology. This program has been strongly supported by the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation with key donations from the Joe Findlay Fund, Wharton Family with donations and endowments from the Sullivan, Thomas, Galloway, Elia and Dorrance families.

The Mount Sinai Hospital (MSH) has had a strong collaborative program with the Princess Margaret including multidisciplinary clinics, collaborative research and collaborative clinical care. The MSH continues to offer tertiary/quaternary head and neck services with an internationally acclaimed program in endocrine oncology initiated by Dr. Jeremy Freeman. Drs. Witterick, Vescan, de Almeida and Monteiro in collaboration with the UHN neurosurgery group provide a world-class program in MIS skull base surgery at Mt. Sinai and the Toronto Western Hospital. The Mt. Sinai site has an active and productive molecular oncology program in endocrine and oral cancer.

The Sunnybrook/Odette Site offers tertiary/quaternary Head and Neck Oncology Services including Endocrine and Microvascular Surgery. This year the Sunnybrook group recruited Dr. Tony Eskander to a faculty position. Tony is well known to our division having completed his residency at the University of Toronto and then a head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstruction fellowship at the Ohio State University. Tony brings to the division and to the Sunnybrook unit an expertise in Health Services Research with strong collaboration with ICES and will be a valuable addition to Sunnybrook's already strong program and to the division's research program. The group at Sunnybrook also has a major presence in the Odette multidisciplinary Skin Malignancy Site Group. Dr. Kevin Higgins is the site chair for Head and Neck at Sunnybrook. The group continues to collaborate with UHN and has an active research program in molecular imaging and outcomes research. Dr. Danny Enepekides is the Head of Surgical Oncology at the Odette Cancer Centre at Sunnybrook, one of the leading departments in the country.

The division had a very productive academic year. Our collaboration with the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York and the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston in presenting the annual Current Concepts Meeting continues and involves a broad spectrum of our faculty. The meeting in New York this year was very successful

with broad representation from our surgical group. The meeting in November of 2018 will be hosted by the University of Toronto.

The division members continue to be highly sought after speakers with presentations in the past year at a number of high profile head and neck meetings including; AHNS, and numerous national and international societies. This year Dr. Ian Witterick completed his term as President of the North American Skull Base Society. Ian presided over a very successful annual meeting in San Diego. Dr. Jon Irish completed his tenure as President of the American Head and Neck Society and the AHNS Meeting in Washington DC featuring a strong Canadian flavour. Dr. Enepekides was Program Co-Chair of the meeting and Drs. Gilbert and Witterick were recognized with presidential citations for their leadership in head and neck surgical oncology. This year Dr. Ralph Gilbert will complete his term as President of the International Academy of Oral Oncology and will oversee the 7th World Congress of the IAEO in Rome in September 2019.

The division continues to thrive providing world-class clinical programs to the region and the province. The division through its academic programs continues to have a national and international presence providing leadership in advanced head and neck training and improving the care and survival for patients afflicted with head and neck malignancies.