



DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Department of Medicine
University of Toronto

January 2018

2018 Monthly update Newsletter

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1. CaRMS interview day a great success

Many thanks are extended to Lisa Becker and Tracia Young for organizing an excellent CaRMS interview day on January 16, 2018. Many faculty members participated in the pre-selection of those to be interviewed and we ultimately interviewed 26 candidates for our positions. We had some extremely talented individuals apply for our residency program this year, and we know it will be another very competitive year for matching in PM&R. Special thanks are extended also to our chief residents and others who made an outstanding video based on an Ed Sheeran song. The results of the matching process will be out in March.

2. Cathy Craven appointed leadership of Neural Engineering and Therapeutics research team at TRI

Congratulations are extended to Dr. Cathy Craven who has assumed leadership of the Neural Engineering and Therapeutics (NET) research team at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. This work is not new to Dr. Craven as she has been an integral part and co-leader of the NET team since its inception. Dr. Craven also continues as a Senior Scientist and Medical Lead for Spinal Cord Rehabilitation at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. Please extend congratulations to Dr. Craven who can be reached at: Cathy.Craven@uhn.ca.

3. Fellowship News: Greetings to Chronic Pain Rehabilitation fellow, Dr. Abdul Hamid Hamad

Abdul obtained an MD in 1993 and PMR degree in 1999 from Damascus University, Syria, which is the oldest university in the region. Later, he had additional training in Sweden, Belgium and Italy on interventional physiatry including peripheral joint injection under US guidance, and management for Spasticity, using Botox and ITB. After completion of residency, Abdul worked in Syria for four years, mainly in sports medicine and MSK medicine. In 2003, he moved to Saudi Arabia where he worked with patients having ailments requiring inpatient rehabilitation such as Neuro, Ortho and multiple injuries conditions. During his long journey in the field of rehabilitation medicine, he recognized a huge gap in both understanding and treating patients with chronic pain. Hence, he decided to go forward and deepen his knowledge and skills in helping those with such longstanding suffering. Since starting his training he reports, "I have been able to gain valuable information about chronic pain pathophysiology and the best evident strategies to tackle it thanks to the knowledgeable and supportive supervisors including Dr. Flannery, Dr. Furlan, Dr. Kumbhare, and Dr. Deshpande. I came to Toronto, Canada, and loved it later on for the atmosphere of liberty and multiculturalism. I was raised in Syrian where people from numerous ethnic and religious backgrounds could live together peacefully for hundreds of years."



4. Royal College website that might be of interest as we think about competence by design

All of us involved in resident education are aware that competence by design, or competency-based medical education, will soon be coming. It is predicted that for residents entering PM&R in 2019, they will be under this new paradigm. The Royal College has published, "The Meantime Guide" which has many helpful resources for those of us starting to think about how we will implement the competence by design initiative. This can be found at: <http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/documents/cbd/full-meantime-guide-e>

5. We are looking forward to a Quality Day on February 16, 2018

Many thanks are extended to Alex Lo and members of our QI team who have prepared an outstanding Quality Day scheduled for February 16th. The agenda for Quality Day is enclosed with this newsletter. We hope you will be able to attend Quality Day and extend our focus on the quality of patient care.

6. Mark your calendars for our Divisional Retreat on May 11, 2018

We are planning our retreat on May 11, 2018 this year. In addition to updates to our strategic plan, we are planning to have a speaker focused on improving communication skills, a critical skill for us all. We will also have an awards and recognitions ceremony. We are hoping for good weather so we can have another great division picture to be placed on Facebook and elsewhere.

7. Larry Robinson nearly suffers nose injury while looking for tongue fasciculations

Larry Robinson was recently looking at a tongue in an animal who had slurred speech and possible muscle atrophy. While he was doggedly pursuing the correct diagnosis, he looked for tongue fasciculations and nearly lost part of his nose in the process.



Please let me know if you have items or news to add to the Newsletter.

Please also don't forget to check out our Facebook page.

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Enclosure: Quality Day, Feb 16, 2018 Agenda.