



# DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Department of Medicine  
University of Toronto

June 2021

## Monthly update Newsletter

1. 2021 Summer division retreat demonstrates continued progress despite the pandemic
2. Congratulations extended to our graduating residents
3. Resident-nominated faculty awards distributed at summer retreat
4. New chief resident team takes the helm
5. Adam Kassam installed as President, OMA
6. Michael Catapano receives three peer-reviewed grants
7. COVID-19 restrictions have not stopped U of T residents from staying active
8. Journal Club and Grand Rounds going on summer vacation together

1. 2021 Summer division retreat demonstrates continued progress despite the pandemic

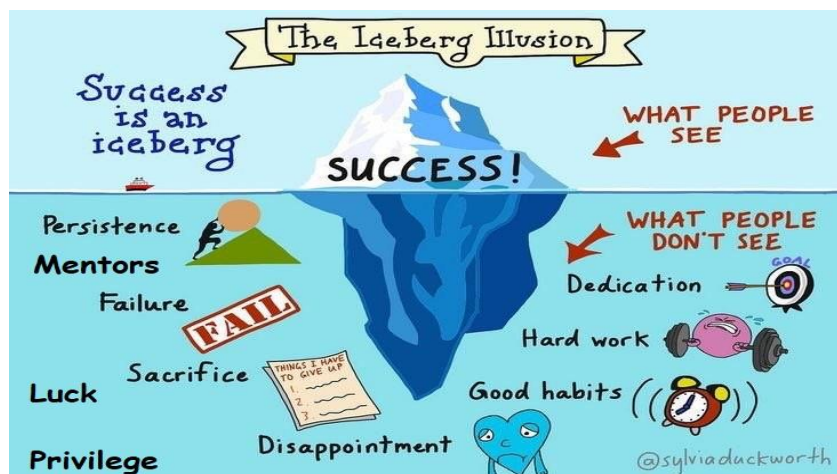
We were very pleased to participate in the Summer U of T, PM&R faculty retreat this year. Even though it was a virtual event, we still had very good presentations and discussions.

Mary Gospodarowicz gave an excellent presentation on the important elements of mentorship. She had a terrific slide set and clearly demonstrated a passion for establishing successful mentorship opportunities and relationships. This was followed by an excellent discussion regarding our residency training program. We heard about both some of the strengths and areas for improvement in our program. There was a very good discussion after the presentation and there will be additional exploration of these themes at upcoming residency program committee meetings. The presentations were followed by several reports demonstrating ongoing progress from the following four committees:

- Advocacy and specialized rehab – Mark Bayley, Chair, presented
- Quality and Innovation – Amanda Mayo presented
- Social media – Andrea Furlan and Ali Rendely presented
- Wellness – Kim Coros and McKyla McIntyre presented.

We are also pleased to report that McKyla McIntyre has accepted the role of leading the wellness committee for our division.

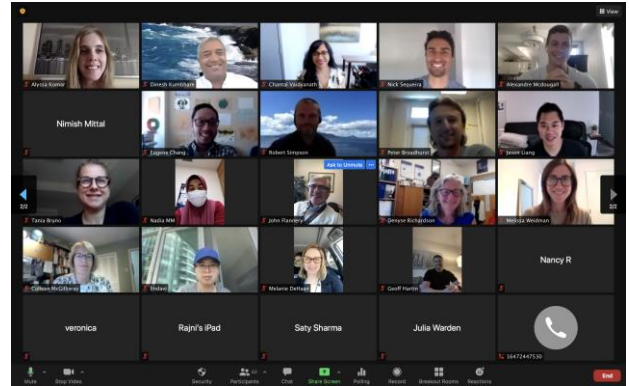
Many thanks are extended to those who presented and participated in the virtual session on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Attached is Mary Gospodarowicz's PDF slide presentation. We know that we all miss seeing each other in person and we do have an in-person retreat planned for September 24<sup>th</sup>.





# DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Department of Medicine  
University of Toronto



2. Congratulations extended to our graduating residents  
Although we will be sorry to see them finish their training time with us, we are pleased to see our senior residents complete their training this month. These include: Michael Catapano, Jason Liang, and Dhinesh Sivananthan. We also are pleased to announce the completion of fellowship for a number of individuals including: Maria Bernardo, Jordan Farag, Anne-Sophie Laberge (Aug 2021), and Rebecca Titman.
3. Resident-nominated faculty awards distributed at summer retreat  
Congratulations are extended to the winners of this year's resident-nominated faculty awards.
  - Teacher of the year – McKyla McIntyre
  - Mentor of the year – Ali Rendely
  - Resident advocate Award – Alan Tam
  - “The Physiatrist I Aspire To Be Award” – David Langelier
  - Sunshine Award – Tracia Young
4. New chief resident team takes the helm  
We are pleased to welcome our resident chief team for the year which includes co-chiefs Natalie Daly and Melissa Weidman and our PC representative Alyssa Komar. We are very much looking forward to working with them.

## Chief Team 2021-2022

• **Co-Chiefs:**

- Melissa Weidman & Natalie Daly



• **RPC Representative:**

- Alyssa Komar





## DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Department of Medicine  
University of Toronto

5. Adam Kassam installed as President, OMA

It is great to see a physiatrist as leader of our Ontario Medical Association as well as to see the passion and vigor that Adam brings to the position. We are really pleased to have a member of our specialty and a member of our faculty in this important and prestigious position. Please see the press release below for more information.

<https://www.oma.org/newsroom/news/2021/may/dr.-adam-kassam-becomes-president-of-the-ontario-medical-association/>

6. Michael Catapano receives three peer-reviewed grants

We were very happy to see that Michael Catapano, as a resident, is a recipient of three externally-funded grants. These include a CIHR grant (\$88,000 CAD), a CONMED grant (\$50,000 CAD), and the United States, Department of Defense grant (\$1.5 million USD). The third and largest grant is a study with colleagues in orthopedic surgery at Sunnybrook Hospital and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center investigating the use of oxandrolone in acute high energy, lower limb fractures. It is rare for a resident to be so successful in grant funding.

7. COVID-19 restrictions have not stopped U of T residents from staying active

This May, some of our residents participated in the Virtual Toronto Marathon's 5K and 10K races. Our physically distanced team collectively raised money for several charities, including the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, Canadian Mental Health Association, and SickKids Foundation. Bonus was some lovely Toronto scenery (see picture below). Though we could only be together through a selfie collage and motivational WhatsApp messages, we look forward to staying active together again as restrictions ease.



8. Journal Club and Grand Rounds going on summer vacation together

We recently ran across the Journal Club and our Division Grand Rounds, walking hand and hand, going off on vacation together. They decided to take the summer off and go to their cottage but have promised that they will return in September. They have not yet clarified for us if they will be returning virtually only, or in some type of virtual and in-person hybrid. We wish them a good time off and hope they get a chance to reinvigorate themselves for the coming Journal Club and Grand Rounds season.

Have a happy summer everyone. We hope that you will have a chance to enjoy some relaxation time.





## DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Department of Medicine  
University of Toronto

As always, let us know if you have stories of interest that you would like to have distributed. Don't forget to connect with our Twitter site @UofT\_Physiatry.

Larry Robinson MD  
Chief, Rehabilitation Services  
John and Sally Eaton Chair in Rehabilitation Science