



# CSPS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

Vol. 35, No. 1

Spring 2024

## Message from the President



*Earl Campbell MD, FRCS*

COUNTING sleeps is predicated on not having any call obligations. However, as I write this, colloquially speaking, you have only 64 more sleeps until the Welcoming Reception for the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeon's annual meeting. In case you missed it and are wondering "Do I travel east or west this year?", well, unless you live in Newfoundland or Cape Breton Island, the answer is: East. The 77<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the CSPS will be held in Halifax from June 18 to June 22, 2024.

Dr. Nicholas Carr has organized a stellar educational experience, twisting an environmental theme

into the meeting. This year, the Society will also be offering the option of attending the educational sessions virtually for those who cannot travel to the meeting. Despite our best attempts, we have yet to figure out how to do an on line hospitality suite so YOYO ("you're on your own" - for those of you who aren't under 30) for that one. Trying to fulfill our educational needs, not only will there be presentations and panels led by practicing experts but we have also invited Ms. Chantal Ritcey, an expert in artificial intelligence to present to

*Please see **President's Message** page 4*

## 2024 Lifetime Achievement Awards

*On the evening of June 21st at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, two Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented to CSPS members who have made remarkable contributions to the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons and to Plastic Surgery.*



**DR. PETER NELIGAN** started his academic career in Dublin Ireland where he completed his undergraduate and medical school degrees at Trinity College. He completed general surgery then plastic surgery training at Dublin in 1983. Shortly after, he moved to Toronto where he was both a clinical and research fellow at UofT for three years. He completed

fellowships in burns, microvascular surgery, and pediatric plastic surgery. Many CSPS alumni will remember these early days fondly, as Peter does. Following this, he then pursued private practice in Sudbury ON. He made many good friends and gave his patients "Stacked in Sudbury" t-shirts.

*Please see, Dr. Neligan, page 2*



**DR. KEN MURRAY** is a teacher, mentor, colleague and friend to countless residents that have passed through the University of Manitoba Plastic Surgery Residency Program for the last 4 decades. Born and raised in London, Ontario he completed his undergraduate degree at The University of Western Ontario, medical degree at Dalhousie University, followed by Plastic Surgery Residency at The University of Western Ontario

under the guidance of Dr. Robert McFarlane. It was during this time that Ken developed his love for hand surgery in-particular. This is also where he learned his school of hard knocks teaching style taking after his mentors! Following his training he completed 2 hand

*Please see, Dr. Murray, page 2*

## Leslie R. Chasmar Mentorship Award - Dr. Jim O'Brien



The Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons is pleased to announce that Dr. **James O'Brien** of Saint John, New Brunswick will receive its 2024 Leslie R. Chasmar Mentorship Award. The Award will be presented at the CSPA's President's Banquet on the evening

of June 21, 2024 at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dr. O'Brien has been a member of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons since 1988. Dr. Margaret Wheelock nominated Dr. O'Brien for this award, writing: "Throughout our various interactions, Jim has always been a supportive mentor to me, offering guidance and advice as my roles changed. Throughout these, his true enjoyment of plastic surgery and genuine interest in the mentee has been paramount."

## CSPA 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award

### *Purpose*

This award honors an established plastic surgeon who is a member of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons and has made an outstanding contribution to the profession and to the CSPA.

The award will be made on the basis of teaching, research, innovation and service to the community or other endeavors.

Nominees for this annual award will be reviewed by the CSPA Nominating Committee.

### *Eligibility*

Members in good standing of the CSPA for at least 20 years are eligible.

### *The Award*

The Award consists of the waiver of registration fees for the Annual Meeting in the year in which the award is bestowed and a plaque given at the annual President's Banquet.

### *Nomination Procedure*

The complete nomination consists of a letter from a member of the CSPA formally proposing the nominee and outlining the nominee's specific contributions to plastic surgery and to the Society accompanied by the nominee's curriculum vitae.

Send nominations to CSPA Secretariat, 803 Laurier Ave. E. #2, Montreal, QC H2J 1G2, Fax: 514-843-7005  
cspa\_sccp@bellnet.ca, **before February 16, 2025.**

from page 1, *Dr. Neligan*

However, his calling was in academics, and in 1991 UofT was lucky to recruit him back to join faculty. Five years later, he became Chair in the UofT Division of Plastic Surgery, and he served in this role for ten years. His productivity was of epic proportions, and it was clear that he was a pioneer, innovator, and an amazing teacher. His students, residents, and colleagues benefitted greatly from his uncanny ability to problem solve, his lack of fear to take on the biggest/hardest challenges, and his desire to push our specialty forward. His CV has seven pages of trainees who have benefitted from his expertise, including his most cherished – Dr. Joan Lipa and Dr. Richard Hopper. At UofT, he was double-appointed in Plastic Surgery and Otolaryngology, and had a keen interest in head and neck reconstruction. He was, and still is a well-established expert in this domain.

In 2007 Dr. Nick Vedder recruited him to the University of Washington in Seattle WA to take on the role of section chair for Plastic Surgery (reconstruction group) at the UW Medical Center. He was tasked with growing a program of reconstructive microsurgeons, which when he joined was a group of two young graduates (Drs Hakim Said and David Mathes). He got to work quickly and over the next 12 years he doubled the group's size and started a microsurgical fellowship program. During his time at UW he shifted his practice to focus on his new passion – lymphatic surgery. He pioneered this field, and pushed it forward at a remarkable pace. He attended meetings, worked with expert groups, tried innumerable instruments/microscopes, and developed a full lymphatic program at UW, including having it designated as a "Center of Excellence" in lymphatic surgery. He also published a textbook on the topic and continues to provide expertise/invited lectures into his retirement.

Peter's gift as a leader was his lack of ego. Honestly, I'm not sure that those he worked with truly understood how much of a "big deal" he was internationally in our surgical community. He was just as likely to stay late, work overnight, do call, or help out a colleague no matter if it was in the middle of the night or if he was travelling overseas. And in reciprocation, we often covered his patients when he spent half the year traveling to various meetings and invited lectures.

Perhaps what our residents will best know him for is "THE BOOK" – his editorial

*Please see, Dr. Neligan, page 4*

from page 1, *Dr. Murray*

fellowships – 1 at The University of Western Ontario and another at Southern Illinois University where he maintained strong ties with his mentors Dr. Bob Russel and Dr. Elvin Zook – both leaders and masters in hand surgery.

Dr. Murray moved to Winnipeg in 1982 working at Misericordia Hospital and St. Boniface Hospital alongside Dr. GB Singh and Dr. Reid Waters with whom they established Plastic Surgery Associates of Winnipeg and one of the first private day surgery facilities in Canada – The Western Surgery Centre over 40 years ago. At the time of his arrival, he entrenched himself in the academic residency program. Dr. Murray became Residency Program Director in 1996 and held this position for over a decade until 2007! He was also an Associate Professor at The University of Manitoba and held the position of University Section Head in Plastic Surgery from 1999-2003.

His contributions were not only tremendous at The University of Manitoba but also to Canadian Plastic Surgery as a whole. He was Chief Examiner for Plastic Surgery at the Royal College from 1993-1995 and examiner at the American Board of Plastic Surgery until recently. He has held executive committee memberships in every major international hand surgery society, and has held almost every major Canadian Presidency in Plastic Surgery including President of GAM for 3 years between 1989-1991, Manus President in 1992-1994, and Presidency of CSPA Education Foundation 1993-1995. This all culminated in being CSPA President in 2005. His dedication to advancing and representing Canadian Plastic Surgery at the national and international stage has been exceptional to say the least.

Despite all of these accomplishments his true passion has always been teaching future generations of plastic surgeons who have come through Winnipeg. Many of his

*Please see, Dr. Murray, page 4*

Spring 2024 Vol. 35, No. 1

### **CSPA NEWS**

A publication of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

Editor: Karyn Wagner

Deadline to submit for next issue:

October 1, 2024

803 Laurier Ave. E. #2

Montreal, Quebec, H2J 1G2

Tel : (514) 843-5415; Fax: (514) 843-7005

E-mail: cspa\_sccp@bellnet.ca

**In memoriam - Lawrence Hurst, MD,  
FRCSC**



The Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons regrets the passing of **Dr. Lawrence N. Hurst** on October 24, 2023

Dr. Hurst graduated from the University of Toronto in 1965. He did post-graduate

training in plastic surgery at the University of Toronto from 1966 to 1971 and was granted his fellowship in surgery in 1971. In 1972, he did a fellowship year at Stanford University Medical Centre in California and is American Board Certified in Plastic Surgery. He joined the University of Western Ontario faculty in 1973 and held the rank of Chairman, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. His clinical and research interests were in plastic, hand and micro surgery. He has published widely in these areas. He was Program Director, Residency Training Program of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery from 1992 to 1997 at the University of Western Ontario and he currently holds the rank of Professor Emeritus.

He was awarded the CSPA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013 at which time his colleague, Dr. Brian Evans said: "In his professional life he provided mentorship for many of the members of the society, and gave many others a few gray hairs when he served as an examiner for the College. I still see patients in my office who worship him for what he has done for them."

Dr. Hurst became a CSPA member in 1972. He held the office of President of the CSPA Educational Foundation from 1987 to 1989, Vice-President of the CSPA from 1990-91 and President from 1991-92. He was chair of the Royal College Plastic Surgery Specialty Committee from 1996-1999.

**In memoriam - Gordon Knutson MD,  
FRCSC**



The Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons regrets the passing of **Dr. Gordon Knutson, MD, FRCSC** on May 9, 2023.

Born in Regina the year of the Great Depression, Gordon's future might at first have seemed

uncertain to his Norwegian and Swedish immigrant parents — but what proceeded was a charmed life.

He excelled at three professions: hockey player, dentist, and plastic surgeon, and was happily married to his high school sweetheart for 70 years, raising four children.

Hockey was good to "the Blond Blizzard." He won the league scoring title while playing for the Regina Pats. He was the star centre of the Montreal Royals when they became the first team from Quebec to win the Memorial Cup. And at 19, he faced-off against Jean Beliveau in the Quebec Senior Men's League all-star game. Gordie Howe once told a family friend that "Gordie Knutson was the best prospect ever turned out of Saskatchewan."

He surprised the Montreal Canadiens when he refused their offer of a two-way pro contract. By then, he'd moved onto his next goal: dentistry. He practiced in Calgary, and then moved to England with his bride, Marjorie Brown. There he supported himself playing in the British Hockey league while studying oral surgery in London. He was the first Canadian to be awarded a Fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons.

With a new interest in surgery, Gordon decided to pursue medicine at McGill. He was a resident at the Montreal General Hospital, followed by residency at four Toronto teaching hospitals. Further studies took him to Chicago, training under hand surgery pioneer, Dr. Koch; to Buffalo, for head and neck surgery at Roswell Park; and to the world-renowned Burn Unit in East Grinstead, England. He became a member of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons in 1967.

**In memoriam - Stuart Heddle MD,  
FRCSC**



The Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons regrets the passing of **Dr. Stewart Heddle** November 5, 2023.

Trained as a plastic surgeon at Columbia Presbyterian in New York and returning home to Hamilton, he practiced in the

Hamilton community for 36 years. A CSPA member since 1977, Dr. Heddle was one of the early microsurgeons in the community initially at the Hamilton Civic Hospital before the amalgamation of the hospitals. He had many leadership roles including the Burn Unit Director. He had broad interests clinically from Burns and Trauma, to vasectomy reversals and aesthetic surgery. He was one of the few members of our community to have his own surgical facility where he practiced after leaving the Hamilton General.

CSPA 2024 Annual Meeting  
From June 18 to 22, 2024 the CSPA will meet  
at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel

**RESERVE YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS  
BEFORE MAY 17, 2024**

Online reservations can be made at  
[https://www.marriott.com/events/  
start.mi?id=1693937137016&key=GRP](https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1693937137016&key=GRP)  
or by calling 800-943-6760 and asking  
for the Canadian Society of Plastic  
Surgeons room block

**Register for the meeting at:  
[www.plasticsurgery.ca](http://www.plasticsurgery.ca) / Annual Meeting /  
Registration**

us on artificial intelligence in the practice of medicine. Dr. Peter Nelligan will be our A. W. Farmer lecturer.

A seismic change will occur to the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons this fall. Ms. Karyn Wagner will retire from the Society effective September 30, 2024. Karyn started working for the Society in 1988. Karyn has seen executives come and go and has remained the constant for our Society, providing both institutional memory and also keeping successive administrations on task year after year while concurrently performing the day to day duties that are required of the Society. If you have ever organized anything like a meeting, you will know that the sign of organizational success is when it runs smoothly and the attendees aren't even aware of what is going on around them to make it successful. But if you are wondering where those buses come from when we have a fun night or how we determine how many eggs benedict might be necessary on a Friday morning of a meeting or how your dues assessments come out each year on the same date, well, that's Karyn. The Society has thrived because of her unwavering dedication and her attention to detail.

The Board of the Society is in the final stages of reviewing a contract with Gallaher Membership Services Inc., a company who provides societies with management services, to assume the day to day running of the Society after Karyn's retirement. Rob Gallaher, the company's president, will be attending our meeting. Please introduce yourself to him when you get the chance.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you "come-from-away"s (like me) as possible to mix with our Haligonian friends in a couple of months.

## Visiting professor funding available

Visiting professor funding is available through the Educational Foundation of the CSPS.

The maximum amount per individual is Cdn\$2,000 to cover travel expenses, hotel accommodations and honorarium. Funds will be allocated with priority given to a professor visiting more than one center.

Application for funding may be made by contacting the Educational Foundation of the CSPS, 803 Laurier Ave. E. #2, Montreal, QC H2J 1G2 (Phone: 514-843-5415; Fax: 514 - 843-7005; e-mail: [cspcs\\_sccp@bellnet.ca](mailto:cspcs_sccp@bellnet.ca)).

masterpiece of our plastic surgery textbook, now [2019] on his 3<sup>rd</sup> go at it to create an even better edition. [In 2023 in its 5th edition] And, countless other textbooks of microsurgery, lymphatic surgery, and reconstruction will be forever on our shelves. You will be familiar with his numerous roles as "President" of just about every society, his role as faculty at flap courses, and as an invited speaker to just about every part of the globe. You may have also benefitted from hearing him rock out his guitar at various meetings, have shared a drink (or 10) with him at every meeting, watched him dance into the early hours and get up for a 7am talk. If you've interacted with him, you would know his warmth, his humor, his passion, and his compassion. And if you've worked with him, you will know his mantra "It'll be fine" (insert Irish accent here...), which was his reassurance to all when they ran a complicated case by him for advice.

I simply cannot think of a more deserving person of this award. And on a personal note, as a young female microsurgeon recruited to UW to start practice in 2011, I could not have found myself luckier than to have the mentorship, leadership and support that Peter Neligan has brought into my life. To say I miss seeing him daily is a huge understatement, but in true Peter style, I still receive almost daily memes and jokes, whilst also providing me advice for the tough cases that he used to do but has left me to take care of!

*Quoted from Dr. Shannon Colohan nomination letter*

former residents are leaders in our field today including Dr. Roman Skoracki, Dr. Michael Neumeister and Dr. Mohammad Al Qatttan. His passion for residents through teaching weekly McCarthy Club and Oral Examination Rounds at St. Boniface over 30+ years is truly commendable. Regardless of a pandemic or health concerns later in his career, he continued to teach weekly rounds virtually. These teaching sessions and the lessons we learned are certainly the one memory all residents will for sure remember about Dr Murray.

His passion to help the residents in our program was not just his own but it was shared by his wife Judy and their children Joanna, Catherine and John. They opened their house for Thanksgiving and Christmas every year for those that could not travel home to be with their own family. His family became our "family" during our residency in Manitoba.

Dr. Murray, is the type of teacher and surgeon we should strive to be in our life and careers. He is a true professional who despite his extensive training and skill, never stopped learning. He taught all of his trainees to engage in lifelong learning and to always push the status quo. His passion for teaching is unparalleled. He is a true master of plastic surgery having performed many firsts in Manitoba in microsurgery and hand surgery.

*Quoted from Dr. Avi Islur nomination letter*

## Membership application deadline

THE DEADLINE for submission of membership applications and letters of nomination to the Membership Committee is April 15, 2025.

New members are accepted into the Society upon a vote of the members present at the Annual Business Meeting. This meeting will take place on Friday, June 6, 2025 at the Toronto Hilton Hotel

New members will receive their certificate at the President's Banquet that evening.

Application forms are available on the CSPS website ([www.plasticsurgery.ca](http://www.plasticsurgery.ca)) and from the Society Secretariat CSPS/SCCP, 803 Laurier Ave. E. #2, Montreal, QC H2J 1G2, telephone: 514 - 843-5415; Fax: 514 - 843-7005; [cspcs\\_sccp@bellnet.ca](mailto:cspcs_sccp@bellnet.ca).



**CANADIAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS**  
77th ANNUAL MEETING  
June 18-22, 2024  
Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, NS

**Scientific Program Highlights**

**Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

- > Canadian Society for Surgery of the Hand (CSSH): **Wrist Arthroscopy Pre-meeting Course**
- > Canadian Society for Surgery of the Hand (CSSH): **Ultrasound Hand Course**
- > Canadian Society for Surgery of the Hand (CSSH) Scientific Program

**Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**

- > GAM Canada Annual Meeting: **Microsurgery in Gender Affirming Care**
- > FACE (Forum for the Advancement of Craniofacial Expertise) By invitation only.
- > Educational Foundation Symposium – **Sustainability in the operating room**

**Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**

- > Panel: **Patient-specific Plastic Surgery: The role of Ultrasound in Plastic Surgery in 2024**
- > Guest speaker: **Lipoedema surgery and science: molecular discovery driving surgical management** - Mr. Ramin Shayan
- > Canadian Expert: **What's new in paediatric nerve surgery** – Dr. Kristen Davidge
- > Panel: **Melanoma**
- > CSPS Invited Speaker: **Artificial Intelligence in Plastic Surgery** – Chantal Ritcey, AltaML
- > Young Plastic Surgeons Symposium
- > 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Plastic Surgery Nurses Symposium

**Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

- > Panel: **Women in Plastic Surgery**
- > Canadian Expert: **Managing the longterm breast implant patient** – Dr. Mitchell Brown
- > Guest speaker: **Lymphatics, lymphoedema and lymphatic disease in plastic surgery - translational science in practice** - Mr. Ramin Shayan
- > A.W. Farmer Lecture: Dr. Peter Neligan
- > Residents Meet the Professor: – Dr. Peter Neligan

**Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- > Canadian Expert: **New developments in abdominoplasty** – Dr. Avinash Islur>
- Canadian Expert: **What's new in nerve transfer?**– Dr. Chris Doherty
- > Canadian Expert: **So you want to write a book?** – Dr. Steven Morris
- > **Beyond the Knife**