



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF
COLON AND RECTAL SURGEONS

CSCRS NEWS

SUMMER 2009

2009 CSCRS Research Award Competition

And the Winner is.....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2009 CSCRS Research Award Competition Cover

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members Cover

New Trial Cover, 2 & 4

Message from the President 2

Job opportunity 4

Contact CSCRS 4

Congratulations go to **Dr. Devon Richardson** of Dalhousie University who has won the \$10,000 CSCRS Research Award competition for his submission of: "Canadian practice patterns in rectal cancer care." Richardson et al, Halifax.

The CSCRS Research Committee is chaired by Dr. Terry Phang (Vancouver) and composed of members, Dr. Husein Moloo (Ottawa), Dr. Stephen Kelly (Hamilton), Dr. Tony MacLean (Calgary), and Dr. Cliff Yaffe (Winnipeg). The Committee had a tough decision to make and felt that all three projects under

consideration presented good questions. Ultimately, it was felt that the most established project that is likely to succeed in one year is the study of "Canadian practice patterns in rectal cancer care", which has already been performed in the Maritimes and had a questionnaire that was well-developed. The methodology used will provide answers to the questions asked recognizing the limitations of questionnaire surveys.

Dr. Richardson has been asked to present his methodology and research theory at the CSCRS dinner and award reception in Victoria,

BC. The event will take place in conjunction with the Canadian Surgery Forum on Sept. 11th, 2009 at 7:30 pm.



Dr. Devon Paula Richardson is the proud winner of the 2009 CSCRS Research Award for her submission entitled: "Canadian practice patterns in rectal cancer care".

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Date: Friday, September 11th, 2009

Time: 2:30 to 4:00.m.

Place: Victoria Convention Centre, Victoria, British Columbia

Room: Balmoral room on the lower level

Please try to attend this important meeting – your presence is valued and appreciated. The Agenda and other materials will be available at the meeting.

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Message from the President

The summer is now upon us and our thoughts are focused on fun vacations and warm sunny days and balmy evenings with family and friends. As August approaches, our sights will be directed to the beautiful city of Victoria in British Columbia, this year's spectacular venue for the Canadian Surgery Forum.

This year, the CSCRS and CAGS have collaborated in sponsoring the Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery Postgraduate Course, featuring a superb faculty of both colorectal and MIS surgeons from Canada and abroad. Complementing the theme of minimally invasive approaches to colorectal disease, Dr. Conor Delaney will deliver the 2009

Philip H. Gordon Lecture, entitled *Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery*. The CSCRS "Colorectal Show and Tell" Symposium will feature a number of interesting and controversial topics that should stimulate a great deal of discussion.

The CSCRS Research Committee, composed of Dr. Terry Phang (Chair), Dr. Steve Kelly, Dr. Antony MacLean and Dr. Husein Moloo, has been diligently reviewing abstracts and research proposals for the CSCRS CSF paper sessions and for the CSF Research Award sponsored by Theramed. Their work is much appreciated.

I will take this opportunity to thank Jasmin Lidington and Ashley Ceder-

wall for all of their hard work for the Society.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Steve McElroy and Theramed for their ongoing research and educational support for the CSCRS.



Dr. Cliffe Yaffe
President, CSCRS

New Trial

A Randomized, Prospective, Multi-centered Study Comparing Clinical Outcomes of the Ligation of Intersphincteric Fistula Tract (LIFT) Procedure versus Use of an Anal Fistula Plug (AFP) in the Surgical Repair of Trans-sphincteric Anal Fistulae of Cryptoglandular Origin

Background

A new procedure, the Ligation of the Intersphincteric Fistula Tract or LIFT procedure was introduced last year by a group from Thailand. This procedure involves ligation of the intersphincteric fistula tract. Their initial success rate in patients with transsphincteric fistulas was 94%¹⁴. It is a method that is quick, simple

and inexpensive. The group in Minnesota adopted this method and set up a prospective database. The results after the initial 31 patients demonstrate a 58% success rate at a median follow-up of 22 weeks. Well-designed experimental studies

are needed to answer questions regarding anal fistula repair. A systematic review from June 2008 concluded that 'major gaps remain in our understanding of anal fistula surgery'. Currently, there is a randomized controlled trial underway comparing the advancement flap to the fistula plug. However, no study has been completed comparing outcomes between the LIFT procedure and the use of the fistula plug in the repair of high transsphincteric anal fistula of cryptoglandular origin.

Study Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine the rate of fistula closure between the Ligation of the Intersphincteric Fistula Tract (LIFT) procedure

compared to the use of an anal fistula plug in trans-sphincteric anal fistula not related to Crohn's disease. Secondary objectives include measurement of continence, quality of life and complications.

Study Design

This study is a registered multi-center randomized, controlled trial (Centers include University of Ottawa, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts General). Patients who have a trans-sphincteric anal fistula where the surgeon has determined that a lay-open fistulotomy is not the applicable repair technique will be randomized to repair by either the Ligation of the...

Continued on page 4

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ACADEMIC COLORECTAL SURGEON
for the Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON

The Division of General Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital, an affiliated hospital of the University of Toronto, is seeking a colorectal surgeon. The successful candidate will hold, or be eligible for, licensure in the province of Ontario, be a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or equivalent. The candidate should have completed a formal colorectal surgery training program and have proficiency in laparoscopic procedures. In addition, expertise in clinical or basic research is required and the candidate should have a Master's degree or PhD.

Expressions of interest should be forwarded along with your curriculum vitae by October 1, 2009 to:

Dr. R. McLeod/ Dr. Z. Cohen
Mount Sinai Hospital
Department of Surgery
600 University Ave, Suite 449
Toronto, ON
M5G 1X5
T: 416.586.4800 x8534
E: epearsall@mtsinai.on.ca

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

New Trial *(Continued from page 4)*

Inter-sphincteric Fistula Tract (LIFT) procedure or by placement of a porcine bioabsorbable anal fistula plug.

After signing an informed consent, demographic information and a brief health history related to the subject's current medical condition will be obtained. Each study subject will also be asked to complete a fecal incontinence quality of life questionnaire (FIQoL) and the Cleveland Clinic Fecal Incontinence Score (CCFIS). On the operative day, subjects will be randomized to receive either the LIFT procedure or placement of the anal fistula plug. Operative details will be collected. Follow up will be done at 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months including completion of the FISL and CCFIS forms, evaluation of the fis-

tula repair and monitoring for complications. Evaluation of surgical repair will be completed by the colorectal surgeon.

Before and after digital photographs of the anal canal will be captured for review and documentation of repair status.

(Registration number: NCT00830661)

This is a new trial if any members are interested in joining they can contact me for further details.

Dr. Husein Moloo

E-mail: hmoloo@toh.on.ca

THANK YOU! The CSCRS gratefully acknowledges Theramed® for their generous support and assistance in the publication of this newsletter.

Want us to spread the word?

We would be happy to circulate your news articles, reminders and/or updates in the monthly CSCRS e-news. Please e-mail your items to CSCRS@rcpsc.edu and communicate your message to your colleagues in the colorectal surgery community.



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