

Who's New on The Block

Well, perhaps not so new anymore, but new since the last issue of Passages.

KARIM ALAVI, MD



Joined CRSAL this September and is now part of the North Cluster along with Drs. Spencer and Felemovicus. *Medical School:* George Washington University
Surgical Training: Washington Hospital Center and Colon and Rectal Fellowship at the University of Minnesota

NANCY BAXTER, MD, PhD



Became an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Minnesota in 2002. *Medical School and Surgical Training:* University of Toronto
Colon and Rectal Fellowship at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

KELLI BULLARD, MD



Joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in September of 2001. *Medical School:* Harvard University
Surgical Training: University of California, San Francisco, CA
Colon and Rectal Fellowship at the University of Minnesota

SHARON DYKES, MD



Started at CRSAL in August of this year and joins Drs. Gemlo, Sweeney and Trudel in the St. Paul cluster. *Medical School:* Brown University
General Surgery and Colon and Rectal Fellowship at the University of Minnesota

ANDERS MELLGREN, MD, PhD



Returns to balmy Minnesota after spending 4 years as an Assistant Professor and Director of the Pelvic Floor Research Group at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Anders, who was here at the University of Minnesota from 1997 – 1999 for a research and clinical fellowship, received his medical training at Hudiksvall and Danderud Hospitals, and then earned his PhD from the Karolinska Institute.

AMY THORSEN, MD



Joined the CRSAL practice in August of 2002, joining Drs. Karulf, Nemer and Lowry in the Southdale Cluster. *Medical School:* New York University School of Medicine
General Surgery: Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Boston, MA
Research Fellowship: Harvard Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery
Colon and Rectal Fellowship at the University of Minnesota

JUDITH TRUDEL, MD



Was recruited to join the CRSAL staff in St. Paul in 2002. *Medical School:* Laval University, Quebec, Canada
Residency: Montreal General Hospital, Quebec, Canada
Colon and Rectal Fellowship at Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Efforts

March seems like a long time ago – or far off in the distance depending on how you look at it. March is always in the forefront for MCRF as we work year round on our colorectal cancer awareness efforts that culminate during the official awareness month.

March 2003 saw us focus on two major projects. For a fourth year, we were invited by KARE 11 TV to participate in a Colorectal Cancer Phone Bank where viewers of their 5, 6 and 10 p.m. newscasts can call in and ask questions of our panel of experts. The panel consists of physicians from CRSAL, MN Gastroenterology, the U of M, and for a second year, members of our patient advocacy group, ACE. The response to this effort is overwhelming. Our crew of 10 panelists per newscast answered nearly 500 phone calls! And this is with very little on-air promotion prior to or during the newscast. We feel this had become a very important community effort that we commit to each year.

Brought back by popular demand was our second annual Colorectal Cancer Summit. The Summit is held for health care professionals and is developed and run by volunteers from the Minnesota Colorectal Cancer Consortium (MCCC). Similar to the Summit held in 2002, the group drew on the expertise of Minnesota health care professionals to discuss screening and prevention statistics for the state, highlight programs that have been effective in increasing awareness and screening rates and discuss the work of the five working groups that were formed to address issues identified during the 2002 Summit. The afternoon was again an interactive session of small groups gathered to assist the project groups in their efforts. This year's Summit drew 70 participants including physicians, nurses, health care providers, patient advocates, and many others involved with CRC awareness and screening projects from Rochester and points south, through Minneapolis and Brainerd and up to and beyond Duluth.

Planning is already underway for Summit 2004. Instead of another broad overview, the Summit will examine more thoroughly hereditary and familial risk in colorectal cancer. With the help of a number of genetic counselors and other members of MCCC, "CRC Summit 2004: Family Matters", to be held on March 5th, will invite medical professionals to learn more about genetic testing, risk evaluation, identifying high risk patients and when to refer patients for genetic counseling. For the first time, the Summit will also include a portion designed for the general public that will explore how family history affects screening recommendations, genetic counseling and testing, and what genetic resources are available in Minnesota.

For more information about Summit 2004 and the activities of the MCCC, log on to www.cancer.umn.edu/coloncanceraware or contact MCRF at 651-312-1556.

MCRF 2003 Highlights

- Local coordinating host for the National Tour of the Colossal Colon, visited by over 1,800 people and covered by all major metro area news stations
- Helped present the 2nd Annual Colorectal Cancer Summit attended by over 75 health professionals from throughout the state
- Helped to initiate pilot study with Minnesota State Health Workers to increase awareness of colorectal cancer through internet project
- Paul Belliveau presented the 8th annual MCRF Lecture at the Principles and Practices of Colon and Rectal Surgery Course
- Presented inaugural John G. Buls, MD, Lectureship presented by Larry Whelan
- Continued work with patient advocacy group, Advocates for Colorectal Education (ACE), helping to secure speaking engagements, facilitated peer-to-peer counseling, member facilitation of colorectal support group, member newsletter

Research Update

Incontinence is the focus of two studies that are presently underway at CRSAL. Dr. Madoff continues to recruit patients for the Medtronic sacral nerve stimulation device; currently, 5 patients have been implanted. Dr. Parker has enrolled 10 patients to study the affects of antibiotic use during the implantation of the AMS artificial bowel spincter. Five more research projects are in the development stage.

Colossal Colon Tour



Nancy Baxter scopes out the Colossal Colon!

The Colossal Colon Tour came to rest in Minnesota on August 6 – 9, conveniently located in an parking lot outside the Mall of America. The Colossal Colon Tour, if you haven't heard, is a series of interactive stations housed under a big top type tent where visitors can learn about prevention, detection, treatment and survivorship of colorectal cancer. The highlight of the tour is a 40-foot replica of a colon that visitors can

crawl or look through and encounter various diseases of the colon and rectum.

The Colossal Colon is the creation of Molly McMaster, a 27-year-old cancer survivor, who travels with the Colon at each of its 20 stops. The Colon is dedicated to the memory of Molly's friend, Amanda Sherwood Roberts, who lost her battle with colon cancer at age 27.

Nearly 1,800 people found their way to our tent to learn more about colorectal cancer. Once inside, folks were greeted by the more than 275 volunteers - a record on the Tour to date! The Colon Tour will conclude in NYC on November 1st. We hope many of you took the time to be involved if the Colon passes through your city.

Volunteers were recruited for months before the event. We had 14 colorectal cancer survivors join us from our patient advocacy group, Advocates for Colorectal Education (ACE). Colon & Rectal Surgery Associates sent 40 volunteers, and our partners on this project, Minnesota Gastroenterology, provided over 80 volunteers! Also involved were physicians and medical staff from Mayo Clinic, the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses, the MN Chapter of Oncology Nurses, the U of M Family Cancer Registry, Minneapolis VA, and many others who came to help out.

The impact of the Tour went far beyond our 1,800 visitors. We had exceptional media coverage of the event from all the media.

Newspaper, radio, TV – all these had a hand in helping us reach nearly 1.4 million people in the Twin Cities, the official number of media hits recorded by the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation (CRPF), the hosts of the Tour. The Minnesota Colon and Rectal Foundation, as a Collaborating Partner to the CRPF, is actively pursuing the idea of future joint events, with a hopeful eye at a return visit of the Colon!



Eneman Gives Os Finne the thumbs up!

MN Cancer Plan

The State of Minnesota was awarded a comprehensive cancer planning grant from the CDC earlier this year. The plan is a new initiative that brings together health care organizations, health care providers and payers, patients and the public to develop an integrated approach to reduce colorectal cancer deaths. Areas to be addressed are prevention, early detection, treatment, survivorship and palliation issues. The effort is being coordinated through

the Department of Health under the leadership of Dr. Jane Korn.

Making sure that colorectal cancer issues are addressed, several of us will be participating in this year long planning process. Mike Spencer will sit on the prevention workgroup; Rick Karulf on the early detection workgroup; Os Finne will work on treatment issues in the group being chaired by Nancy Baxter, and I, along with a member of our colorectal advocacy group, will work on survivorship issues. If you would

like to learn more about the plan and its goals, I encourage you to log on to www.cancerplanmn.org

Additionally, The Study of Endoscopic Capacity (SECAP) will be conducted over the next 6 months in Minnesota to measure screening capacity. The CDC will conduct the study in four states this year including Minnesota. The survey will be a sample and will include service for flexible sigmoidoscopy as well as colonoscopy.

2002-2003 Clinical Residents

- Ronald Gagliano, Jr.* Fills the post of Chief of Colon Rectal Surgery at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Arden Morris* Went to Ann Arbor, Michigan to become an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan.
- Harry Papaconstantinou* Headed south to Dallas to become an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Department of Surgery, Division of Colorectal Surgery.
- Sharon Dykes and Karim Alavi* Became faculty members of CRSAL and the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery.

2003-2004 Clinical Residents

- Robert Akbari* Received his surgical training at the Temple University School of Medicine. He has just completed a research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.
- Laura Goetz* Began her surgical training at the University of Minnesota, spent one year in the internal medicine program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and completed her residency at Northwestern. Laura joins us from private practice at Ridgeview Medical Center in Waconia, Minnesota.
- Jeffrey Morken* Our native Minnesotan, graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School and completed his internship and surgery residency at Hennepin County Medical Center.
- Rocco Ricciardi* Comes to us after completing medical school, internship and residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts.
- Aileen Seah* Joins us after completing her training at the National University of Singapore and Singapore General Hospital.



Sharon Dykes, Laura Goetz, Ron Gagliano, Amgelene Akbari, Robert Akbari, Karim Alavi, Lyn Johnson

New Endoscopy Center

In May of this year, a new endoscopy center was unveiled at the Fairview Riverside campus. Riverside Endoscopy Center, a joint endeavor of Colon & Rectal Surgery Associates and the University of Minnesota Physicians, has the capacity to perform 5,000 procedures per year. The new center is being staffed primarily by Drs. Parker, Mellgren, Karulf and Finne from the CRSAL side and Drs. Rothenberger, Bullard, Baxter, Jack Lake and Paul Cordts from the U of M side. The Center also provides another venue for our five fellows to increase their knowledge and skill in colonoscopy.

Our thoughts Are With...

Tim Counihan, Class of 1998 and Ron Gagliano, Class of 2003, as the Army calls them back to active service. Keep safe and come home soon!

Al Thorson, Class of 1985, on the recent loss of his brother, Norman. Our deepest condolences go out to Al and his family.

Inaugural John G. Buls, MD Visiting Professorship Lecture May 15th



Marlene Buls and Brett Gemlo

On May 15th, the inaugural John G. Buls, MD, Visiting Professorship Lecture was held at the CRSAL Corporate offices in St. Paul. We were fortunate enough to have Dr. Larry Whelan, class of 1988, as our first distinguished Buls speaker. We were also fortunate enough to have Marlene and Emma Buls join us for this special occasion.

Larry spent a thoughtful and enjoyable afternoon with our fellows and visitors discussing some most interesting cases. Larry then presented a wonderful retrospective look at his time here as a fellow and how he and the Buls' family came to their lifelong friendship. He concluded by talking about one of his passions, which turned out to be sketching, something he can do anywhere and enjoy with his daughter. In attendance for the lecture were 50 friends and colleagues of John's, including CRSAL physicians and staff, referring physicians, family, friends, and patients. The evening concluded with a wonderful faculty dinner where glasses were raised in John's honor. Larry woke up very early to present a most

informative talk on "laparoscopy and colon cancer" during our Friday morning meeting. All in all, a very rewarding experience and one we look forward to repeating yearly.

When the physicians of Colon and Rectal Surgery Associates had recovered from John's sad and untimely passing, they knew they wanted to honor their partner and friend in a very special way. In October of 2001, the Minnesota Colon and Rectal Foundation launched the campaign for the John G. Buls, MD, Visiting Professorship. The established fund will support the visit of an outstanding educator in the field of colon and rectal surgery to Minnesota.

Through this encounter, we hope to continue John's love of teaching by promoting academic and personal development amongst the faculty, fellows and friends of the University of Minnesota Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery.

You still have the opportunity to contribute to this fund. Please use the enclosed envelope if you would like to make a gift.



Larry Whelan, Inaugural John G. Buls Lecturer with David Rothenberger



Larry with our fellows and visitors

Minnesota Alumni Dinner in New Orleans



Jim Young, Luella Goldberg, Josie Young, Stan Goldberg

Many thanks to all who joined us for this year's Minnesota Alumni Dinner during the ASCRS annual meeting. The Windsor Court Hotel was the host site for 107 guests - 45 of those being our alumni guests of honor!



Jeff Griffin, Local Host, and Mike Spencer

This year's dinner was planned beautifully by Jeff Griffin, class of 1980, who lives and works in New Orleans (although ask Jeff sometime about his alternate dinner site, the Rock N' Bowl!) We were pleased that Marlene Buls and her son Alexander were also able to



Vickie and Joel Nizin and Bard Cosman

join us. Larry Whelan, who was the first John G. Buls Lecturer this past spring, was presented his commemorative plaque during the dinner. As always, festivities were overseen by Dave Rothenberger; Ann Lowry introduced the class of 2003 fellows who would be departing us within the week and welcomed the class of 2004; and Mike Spencer took a few minutes to catch



Daryl Jenken, Doug Berglund and George Lischora

everyone up on Foundation activities. The evening was graced with warm remarks from Dr. Stanley Goldberg and Dr. Jim Young, who was our sole U of M Fellow in 1969. A large showing of our international friends were also able to join in the evening.



Cathel MacLeod with Joan and Jack Nicholson

Plans for Minnesota Dinner 2004, which will be held on Tuesday, May 11th, are in the capable hands of recent graduate (and Dallas newcomer) Harry Papaconstantinou. His early ideas mentioned something about rodeo and barbecue?!?! Actually, Harry has something very unique in mind that will carry on the fine tradition that has become the Minnesota Alumni Dinner. *We hope we will see you there!*

Principles and Practices of Colon and Rectal Surgery Course 2003

The faculty has just completed the 66th annual Principles and Practices of Colon and Rectal Surgery Course held in beautiful downtown Minneapolis at the Hyatt Hotel. Over 150 participants joined us from across the states, 30 of those visiting internationally. The Endorectal Ultrasound Course was presented again this year under the watchful eye of Dr. Os Finne. We had over 50 participants for the ultrasound course, with a healthy number of those being fellows from the other training programs whose presence was generously underwritten by B-K Medical.



class of '81, delivered the MCRF lecture on Endorectal Brachytherapy Treatment of Rectal Cancer. Also joining our own host faculty and that of the University of Minnesota was Eric Weiss from Cleveland Clinic Florida and Jaime Mayoral, Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Center at San Antonio and U of M class of 1995. We were pleased to welcome back as special attendants Eric Rolfsmeyer, class of '83 and Chuck Heise, class of '02.

Course 2003 featured the following: Rudolf Schouten, Professor of Surgery at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, as our Frykman Lecturer speaking on the Scientific Basis of the Pathogenesis and Management of Anal Fissure; Ian Lavery, Professor of Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland delivered the Bernstein Lecture on Current Operative Management of Rectal Cancer; and Paul Belliveau, Professor of Surgery at Queen's University in Ontario and U of M

The Course was crafted by Rob Madoff again this year with a little help from his partners. The Course faculty dinner was graciously hosted by Brett and Libby Gemlo at their home in St. Paul. Many thanks to our friends at Medtronic for their support of this special evening. A notable presence missing from this year's activities was that of Dr. Goldberg, who was presenting several lectures at the Latin American/Brazilian Congress in Brazil. Luckily, Luella joined the faculty dinner to convey the warm wishes of both Goldberg's to our guests.



Thanks for Everything!

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following vendors during our 2003 Principles and Practices of Colon and Rectal Surgery Course.

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Mark Your Calendar

Course 2004 is September 7 – 11!

Featured Speakers

William C. Bernstein, MD, *Lecturer*
John Northover, St. Mark's Hospital

Howard F. Frykman, MD, *Lecturer*
David Schoetz, Lahey Clinic

Minnesota Colon and Rectal Foundation, *Lecturer*
W. Donald Buie, Class of 1993

John G. Buls, MD, Lectureship

April 20, 2004

Invited Speaker

Philip Caushaj, Western Pennsylvania Hospital

Please Update Us!

Enclosed in this issue of Passages, is the contact information I currently have on file for you, our alumni. I am trying to keep the list as accurate as possible and ask that you take a few moments to review the information and send back your update either via email, fax or the mail. When the listing is complete, I will make it available to all alumni.

As always, I would love to hear more about what's going on with all of you. Please drop me a note or email about what you've been up to personally, professionally, whatever you would like to share with the rest of us. Thanks for your cooperation!

Cindy Iverson