



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

**President-Ray Dallaire, Past President-Peter Carter,
1st Vice-President- Bruce Swanson, 2nd Vice-President-David Winfield
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Tracy DesLaurier, John Mann, Leon Lubin, Len Evenson
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

AUGUST 2017

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Bruce Foy** on the 1st, **Val Pohl** on and **Walter Yakimets** on the 4th, **Eric Spink** on the 6th, **Bob Bahniuk** and **Peter Morrison** on the 13th, **Taras Chmil** on the 16th and **Peter Gommerud** on the 29th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Len and Jackie Evenson, 50 years on the 5th**. **Eric Spink** and **Christina Gauk**, 16 years on the 18th; **Allan and Jean Warrack, 55 years on the 18th**; **Leon and Jo-Anne Lubin**, 51 years on the 23rd. **Dan** and **Sandy Hasinoff**, 49 years on the 24th and **Peter Carter** and **Eileen Kuhl** 13 years on the 29th.

**THERE IS NOTHING
ON THIS EARTH TO
BE PRIZED MORE
THAN TRUE
FRIENDSHIP**

Primitives by Kathy, Seller Publishing Inc. 2007

President Ray Dallaire welcomed 60 Gyros/Gyrettes and four guests to the August 1st luncheon meeting held at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. **Val Pohl** led the singing of Cheerio and **Dick Nichols** presented the Grace.

District Governor Peter Carter welcomed **Peter Gommerud** and **Karen McNaughton** as new members of the Edmonton Club. Governor Peter asked sponsors **John Ross** and **Sheldon Weatherby** to support and mentor Peter with the Gyro principle of power, poise, and purpose. Governor Peter completed the induction and Karen undertook the new member pinning of Peter. **Welcome Peter and Karen!**



Val Pohl introduced **Nir Katchinskiy**, a PhD. candidate in the Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Alberta who has been working on the development of medical technologies using ultrafast optics and photonics.

Dr. Abdul Elezzabi Professor, Canada Research Chair in Ultrafast Photonics, and Nano-Optics, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Brad Woronuk, Associate Director, Development, Faculty of Engineering, and **Daryl Silzer**, Senior Director, Faculty Development, Health Sciences, University of Alberta

Katchinskiy led a research team based in the Faculty of Engineering that in 2016, developed a method of connecting neurons, using ultrashort laser pulses—a breakthrough technique that opens the door to new medical research and treatment opportunities. The team is the first ever to find a way to bond neurons and in doing so, has given researchers a powerful new tool. Neurons are cells in the nervous system that are responsible for transferring information between the brain and the rest of the body.

To conduct the study, two neurons, put in a special solution that prevents them from sticking together, were brought into contact with each other. Femtosecond laser pulses—each ultrashort pulse occurring every 10^{-15} seconds—were delivered to the meeting point of the two cells. Although the outside layer of the cells was partially compromised, the inside of that protective layer remained intact. As a result, the two cells established solid bonds forming a common membrane at the targeted area.

Throughout multiple experiments, the cells remained viable and the connection strong. It took the neurons 15 milliseconds to stick to each other—the process would have taken hours to occur naturally. The biggest advantage of the discovery is that it gives researchers complete control on the cell connection process. “You can really plan any experiment. The idea is to show that you can use it (femtosecond laser) as a research tool to control what you are attaching,” said Katchinskiy.

A Femtosecond is really, really, fast, one Quadrillion of a second!

“You may not be able to go in and treat the human spine with this, but it brings you closer,” said electrical engineering professor Abdul Elezzabi, who is a co-author of the paper and Katchinskiy’s research supervisor. “But it brings you closer to how these things work.”

So far, the team has applied this method to three types of cells, but the potential of the technique seems limitless. For this project, Katchinskiy and Elezzabi teamed up with professor Roseline Godbout from the U. of A.'s Department of Oncology and Cross Cancer Institute and Dr. Helly Goez, a professor in the division of pediatric neurology in the Department of Pediatrics at the U. of A. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Both are also co-authors of the paper.

Retinoblastoma (Rb) is a rare form of cancer that rapidly develops from the immature cells of a retina, the light-detecting tissue of the eye. It is the most common malignant cancer of the eye in children, and it is almost exclusively found in young children. Though most children survive this cancer, they may lose their vision in the affected eye(s) or need to have the eye removed. The U of A team is also experimenting with laser pulses that target retinoblastoma cells. They are not at the human trial stage yet but will be using pig's eyes in their next research phase.

The team is also developing treatment technology for the dry type of **Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)** which started in December 2016.

*The dry (atrophic) type of AMD affects approximately 80-90% of individuals with AMD. Its cause is unknown, it tends to progress more slowly than the wet type, and there is not an approved treatment or cure. In dry AMD, small white or yellowish deposits, called **drusen**, form on the retina, beneath the macula, causing it to deteriorate or degenerate over time.*



Drusen are the hallmark of dry AMD. These small yellow deposits beneath the retina are a buildup of waste materials. They are made up of cholesterol, protein, and fats. Typically, when drusen first form, they don't cause any vision loss. However, they are a risk factor for progressing to vision loss. When a person has more advanced dry macular degeneration, there are many more of these small yellowish deposits and they are larger. (This description provided by Dr. Lylas G. Mogk, MD- VisionAware.org.)

Preliminary work by the U. of A. Engineering team shows promise; they have been able to remove drusen without damaging cells.

Allan Warrack thanked our speakers for an excellent presentation and noted that the University of Alberta has a long history of supporting research from its beginnings more than 100 years ago.

Thanks to **Val Pohl** and **Dick Nichols** for organizing this well-attended event!



Street Light Change 1910



1926 Motorhome

The **Annual Gyro Club of Edmonton Golf Tournament** was held at the Edmonton **Garrison Memorial Golf Club** on August 15th. Twenty-six golfers began a Nine Hole Texas Scramble tourney with a shotgun start at 2:30 pm. A strong westerly wind kept the mosquitos at bay but played havoc on some of the greens where the ball tended to keep on rolling. Golfers were met on one of the holes By **Sharon Matei, Eileen Kuhl** and **Morgan Lochhead** with a variety of “liquid refreshments”. Thank you, ladies! Twelve Gyros and guests joined the golfers for a steak and chicken buffet in the Garrison Lounge.

Golf prizes were awarded to all the teams and the team of **Shirley Larson, John Mann, Fred Schulte,** and **Ken Willan** were given the first award for the **Most Honest Team**. The team with the **Most Suspicious/Questionable Under Par Score** was **Chuck Gerhart, Jim Lochhead** and **Ron Trant**.

Paulette Schulte was the winner of the **Ladies Longest Putt** on hole #3, **Darren Read** won the award for driving into the **long fescue grass** on Hole #4, **Jim Lochhead** was the winner of the **Men’s Longest Drive** on Hole #7 and **Paulette Schulte** was the winner of the **Ladies Longest Drive** on Hole #9.

Roger Russell and **Valerie Walker** sold many packs of \$5 tickets which were drawn after dinner resulting in a huge amount of golf loot going to all golfers and guests. **Thanks to all who donated cash and golf prizes!**

Thank you, **Barry** and **Valerie Walker,** and **Roger Russell** for your hard work and dedication in undertaking your 15th Golf Tourney.

Walter Yakimets was born at home in Redwater, Alberta in 1935 on the land that had been homesteaded by his Ukrainian paternal grandparents in 1906. Walter's parents were John and Bessie Yakimets. The family included brothers Orest John who ultimately took over the family Redwater farm (sold to oil company in 2005), Michael, a pharmacist in Fort Saskatchewan and sister Elaine MacPhail, a pharmacist in Ottawa. Walter attended school in Amelia, Gibbons, and Grade 12 in Redwater.

Walter's maternal grandparents came to the Vegreville area (New Kiew) in 1902

In 1953, Walter enrolled at the University of Alberta starting with two years in pre-Medicine and four years in Medicine. During third-year Medicine he met Kay Yorke, a BSc. Nursing student. Kay was born in Medicine Hat in 1937; her parents lived in Manyberries. The Yorke family moved to Jasper when Kay was one-year old. She attended grades one to twelve in Jasper and then moved to Edmonton to complete her RN and BSc. in Nursing. Walter and Kay were married in 1959.

Walter graduated in 1959 and followed with one year of internship and five years of specialty training in surgery. Walter Jr. was born in 1961 and Kay and Walter moved to New Zealand in 1962 where he did three years of General Surgery training. This turned out to be an excellent opportunity for Walter to learn many surgical techniques quickly with minimal supervision. Son, Stephen was born in New Zealand. The Yakimets clan moved back to Edmonton in 1965 where Walter completed his surgical training including six months of research and prepared for written and oral exams to obtain his Fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Canada (FRCSC) designation. Daughter, Dawn Marie was born in 1967 and son Neil followed in 1969.

Walter came on staff at the University of Alberta in 1966 and over a thirty-year period from 1966 to 1996 practiced General Surgery with emphasis on abdominal and colorectal surgery. He was a visiting exchange professor in The Cameroons, Tanzania, Korea, and Harbin (China) and one of the external examiners in surgery in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

He also helped his brother Orest with the spring seeding and fall harvest of the 3200-acre farm in the Boyle area for many years. This land was bought after the Redwater farm was sold.

Upon retirement, he had a brief stint as a volunteer surgeon in Guatemala.

Walter has been an active member of the Canadian Club of Edmonton for the past 20 years.

Walter was introduced to GYRO in 1997 by Marty Larson and has made a significant contribution to the Edmonton Club by sponsoring many new members including six of our current roster. He was **President in 2005-2006** and received the **Award of Merit for Outstanding Service** to Gyro in 2011.

Congratulations Walter and Kay for 20 years of active friendship!



'Fast Fred'

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Corn Roast, Dayspring Presbyterian Church,
11145-40th Ave. Tuesday Afternoon/Evening, September 5th**

Time: Bocce 4:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00

Corn on the Cob, Chicken, Salad, and Dessert

Cost: \$25.00 per person with a Twoonie Bar

Event Organizers: Barry Walker, Roger Russell, David Burnett

**Founder's Night Inter-Club Mixed Event, Host-Sherwood Park Gyro
Club, Belvedere Golf and Country Club. Wednesday evening, October
25th.**

Time and cost -TBA

Edmonton Club Organizers: David Winfield and Bob Bahniuk