

Dr. George Athwal and Dr. David O’Gorman

“The Effects of Propionibacterium Acnes Infection on the Integration of Primary Human Cells into 3D Models of Shoulder Tissue Repair”

Dr. George Athwal and Dr. David O’Gorman received an award for their proposal which focuses on elucidating the effects of P. acnes infections on shoulder tissue repair. Their novel approach utilizes co-cultures of P. acnes with human rotator cuff cells in three-dimensional bio-mechanically stressed tissue models. Dr. Athwal is an Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario (Western University). A graduate of the University of British Columbia Medical School, he attended Queen’s University orthopaedic residency program and completed fellowships at Cornell University and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN. Dr. O’Gorman is an Assistant Professor at Western University. He received his graduate and postgraduate training in microbiology at Macquarie University, Australia, his PhD in cell biology from the University of Sydney, Australia, and postdoctoral training at Western University, Canada. This research will be performed in the Cell and Molecular Biology Laboratory of the Roth McFarlane Hand and Upper Limb Centre in the Lawson Health Research Institute, London, Ontario.