The Pain & Disability Assessment Centre (PDAC) is a comprehensive full house assessment centre providing expert medical opinion to Ontario personal injury lawyers since 1999. The assessors we use are experienced in the preparation of AB and Tort reports for both defense and plaintiff lawyers.

The following is a brief bio of our senior Orthopaedic Surgeons who perform Independent Medical Evaluations (IMEs) for us:

Dr. Brian Alpert, Spinal Reconstructive Surgery

Dr. Alpert is a physician duly licensed in the Province of Ontario, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada, Board-certified as a specialist in Orthopaedic Surgery, Fellowship-trained in Spinal Reconstructive Surgery, Sports Medicine and Arthroscopic Surgery, Diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, an Executive Member of the Ontario Medical Association Chronic Pain Section, and an Orthopaedic Chronic Pain consultant at several clinics in the province of Ontario.

Dr. Alpert has been trained by the American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians in the use of the American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 4th edition, to determine catastrophic injuries. Dr. Alpert has been an instructor in Advanced Traumatic Life Saving at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre from 1986 to 1990, and is certified by the American College of Surgeons. He has extensive experience in conducting medical-legal evaluations of patients injured in motor vehicle accidents or other types of trauma for chronic pain, disability and catastrophic impairment, for insurers and lawyers, both defence and plaintiff.
Dr. Johnny T. C. Lau, Foot & Ankle Surgery

Dr. Lau is an Orthopaedic Surgeon, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Arthritis Program, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network. After graduating in 1994 in medicine from the University of Toronto, he completed his orthopaedic training in Toronto and during this time completed a Masters Science Degree with a specialty in Foot and Ankle Biomechanics. A seven-year residency in orthopaedics at U of T provided him with a wealth of valuable experience. In 2001, Dr Lau went to Baltimore, Maryland for a one year Clinical Fellowship in Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery at Union Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Lau, cross-appointed to U of T as Assistant Professor in orthopaedic surgery, sub-specializes in reconstructive foot and ankle surgery, sports and arthroscopic foot and ankle surgery, foot and ankle arthritis surgery (including ankle replacement and joint transplants), rheumatoid foot and ankle reconstruction and diabetic infection and ulcers.

His current research focuses on clinical studies comparing total ankle replacement and ankle fusions, comparing big toe fusions and big toe replacement, and assessing outcome scores used to evaluate surgery.

Dr. David Backstein, Hip & Knee Arthroplasty

Dr. Backstein is the Head, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Medical Lead & Chair, Mount Sinai Centre for MSK Disease, and an Associate Professor, University of Toronto.

Lower extremity arthroplasty with an emphasis on complex knee reconstruction is the focus of Dr. Backstein’s practice. Research in the area of hip and knee arthroplasty is conducted on an ongoing basis. Areas of focus include outcome and evaluation of new technologies.

Dr. Backstein leads a team of Arthroplasty surgeons at Mount Sinai Hospital that sees the most complex cases in Ontario. The most challenging surgical cases that he performs are revisions. These are patients who have already undergone a knee or hip replacement, however, as a result of a number of factors including complications such as infection, bone loss, or the age of the prosthetic, need to have the prosthetic replaced.

As a passionate educator, Dr. Backstein as committed to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and surgical skills to the more than 150 trainees and observers who seek to learn from his renown skill. He was Director of the Undergraduate surgical education program at U of T, between 2004-2011 and continues to guide the next generation of surgeons and conduct important research on the most effective teaching tools for surgeons.
Dr. Stewart Wright, Hand & Upper Extremity, Hip & Knee Replacement.

Dr. Stewart Wright is a third generation Toronto orthopaedic surgeon and grandson of the founder of the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital. He has a special interest in hand, wrist and elbow, as well as hip & knee replacement surgery.

Dr. Wright obtained his Medical Degree from Memorial University in Newfoundland and did his orthopaedic training at the University of Toronto. He completed a Fellowship in Hand Surgery at the Raymond M. Curtis Hand Centre, affiliated with John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Wright joined the staff of in 1982 and is presently an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Wright has served as Chair of the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation's Medical & Scientific Review Committee since 2007 and was elected to the Foundation's Board of Directors in May of 2009.

Dr. Tajedin Getahun, Hip & Knee, Foot & Ankle Surgery.

Dr. Getahun is a qualified Orthopaedic Surgeon practicing in Ontario. He obtained his certification in Orthopaedics from the Canadian Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He achieved his undergraduate degree from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario and performed his post-graduate training at the University of Ottawa.

He has completed two Fellowships: the first in Adult Hip and Knee Reconstruction at the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Institute at Sunnybrook Hospital; and the second in Foot and Ankle Surgery at the Toronto Western Hospital. He is presently practicing as a Consultant Surgeon at Trillium Health Centre in Mississauga.

We use expert orthopaedic surgeons to provide you with expert opinion and superior medical-legal reports.

Let us look after your orthopaedic needs - from neck to toes!

For more information please contact us by phone 416-640-5799 or 1-866-969-5799, or by e-mail eitan@painanddisability.ca.