



InSight

A Newsletter from the UBC Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences



DUNCAN ANDERSON CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP

The Dr. Anderson Fellowship fund in Neuro-ophthalmology is off to an impressive start. Thank you to those who have contributed!

Please consider supporting this important endowment in honour of one of our most respected teachers and all-round contributors. Remember that for the time being donations from VCH members will be matched by VGH Foundation. This endowment will provide much-needed financial support for the UBC Neuro-ophthalmology Fellows.

Thank you for considering a donation to this worthwhile cause.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to teach the undergraduate students of UBC. The top three teachers with the most hours since January 2022 are:

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- Hugo Sutton
-
- Andrew Kirker
-
- Jane Gardiner

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Clinical Skills teaching. It is now complete!!! We managed to teach a double cohort, while at the same time carry on our regular clerkship sessions. I am grateful for all of those who stepped forward. I am also appreciative of those who allowed their fellows to participate.

Shadowing is allowed again for years 1 and 2. It had been put on hold during the pandemic. These are pre-clerkship students looking for exposure to ophthalmology. They will reach out to you directly. It is not something that Selina Lau organizes.

A reminder that students are not allowed to organize their own electives. If a clerkship student approaches you about this, direct them to Selina Lau at selina.lau@vch.ca.

Sincerely,
Jane Gardiner

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RESEARCH

If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?

- Albert Einstein

LAB UPDATES

Highlighting Research

- In order to highlight the Basic Sciences research ongoing in UBC Ophthalmology, a large display monitor will be placed in the lobby area of the Eye Care Centre. Each Research team from UBC Ophthalmology will be contributing a brief presentation to discuss their areas of interest in language accessible to the majority of visitors to the Eye Care Centre.
- As well as explaining the fascinating work in progress here, this will help to foster togetherness and inclusivity within the Department. It could also contribute to fundraising to support future research.

Dr. Joanne Matsubara's Lab:

- Successful grant funding has been obtained for: "**The Vision Research Cluster: From Molecules to Behavior to Society.**" The goal of this new research excellence cluster is to establish new partnerships and collaborations for translational and foundational studies to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of eye and brain disorders using state-of-the-art methods in engineering, AI, neuroimaging, telemedicine, proteomics and super-resolution microscopy. For more information see link below or email Joanne Matsubara.
 - Email: joanne.matsubara@ubc.ca
 - Link: <https://research.ubc.ca/vpri-competitions-initiatives/research-excellence-clusters/research-excellence-clusters-funded>

Dr. Ipek Oruc's Lab:

- Congratulations to Todd Kamensek for being awarded the Demetri Papageorgis Teaching Assistant Award. The Demetri Papageorgis Teaching Assistant Award is an internal award, established in 2001 in honour of Dr. Demetri Papageorgis. Dr. Papageorgis was a dedicated UBC Psychology faculty member who passed away in 1999. The award celebrates the passion for teaching demonstrated by Dr. Papageorgis and current teaching assistants who are following suit.
 - Since 2017, Todd has held eight TA appointments, including our Department's course MEDI 520, and he has taught 735 students at UBC. Most recently (2021W1), Todd has served as the Instructor in PSYC 370, Behavioural Neuroscience I, a third-year lecture-based large-class undergraduate course. We congratulate Todd for this well-deserved award that recognizes his outstanding contributions to teaching and learning at UBC.



Todd Kamensek, Ph.D. Candidate

CONGRATULATIONS

UBC Killam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

- This prestigious award honours GTAs who have demonstrated skills, abilities and contributions that result in a high level of respect from undergraduate students and academic supervisors. With over 2000 Teaching Assistants working at the university, winning this award is a remarkable achievement. The awardees receive a \$1,000 cash prize and are presented with a formal Certificate.
 - Please help us congratulate Todd Kamensek, Faculty of Medicine (Dr. Ipek Oruc's Lab) and Leah Kuzmuk, Faculty of Arts (Dr. Miriam Sperring's Lab) on receiving this well deserved award. Link for more information: <https://www.centreforbrainhealth.ca/news/dmcbh-graduate-students-receive-2021-2022-killam-teaching-assistant-awards/>

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Mahyar Etminan:

- Etminan M, Sodhi M, Mikelberg FS, Maberley DA. Risk of Ocular Adverse Events with use of Phosphodiesterase-5 Inhibitors. JAMA Ophthalmology IN PRESS (April 7th, 2022)

Dr. Orson Moritz:

- Ghaseminejad F, Tam B, Chiu C, Feehan J, Moritz O. Gene editing treatment strategies for retinitis pigmentosa assessed in *Xenopus laevis* carrying a mutant Rhodopsin allele. The paper is published in a special issue of the Journal of Translational Genetics and Genomics, with the topic of "Translational research on diseases of the retina".

Dr. Myeong Jin Ju:

- Miao Y, Song J, Hsu D, Ng R, Jian Y, Sarunic MV, Ju MJ. (2022). Numerical calibration method for a multiple spectrometer-based OCT system, Biomedical Optics Express, 13(3), 1685 - 1701. doi: 10.1364/BOE.450942

RESIDENCY PROGRAM



Spring is in the air!

For our Ophthalmology Residency Program, that means assessments and examinations. Our PGY5 residents have completed the written portion of the Royal College Examinations and are preparing for the applied/oral portion on May 27th. These examinations continue to be offered via a virtual format. Our in-house wet-lab, refraction and mock-oral examinations are scheduled for the week of May 9th. Dr. Geoffrey Law will be organizing the wet-lab examination, and Dr. Briar Sexton will continue to organize the mock oral examination. Thank you both and thank you to each of the volunteer examiners who are integral to these core educational events. Good luck to all of our residents and, to the PGY5s, we have so much confidence in your success!

Accreditation:

There are 2 months before our UBC Internal Review and one year before the Royal College External Review. Being on Intent to Withdraw makes these assessments critical. From updating our rotation- and stage-specific goals & objectives, and firmly establishing the role of our competence committee in resident promotions, to the revamping of our on-call procedures, our program has made great strides and successes over the past two years. Dr. Hurley supplied his report and highlighted some of our program's great strides. Ongoing efforts are needed to address challenges within our workplace culture and, as well, we need to continue to prioritize resident surgical & procedural training.

Unsung Heroes:

Our residency training program would not run without the ongoing efforts of many people working behind the scenes. In an effort to acknowledge these ongoing acts of kindness and support, we are aiming to uncover our own Unsung Heroes. In this edition, we would like to recognize the Front Desk Team of Section E - Rehana Isaac, Jaime Larsen & Michelle Ko who work tirelessly to make sure that Section E runs as smoothly as possible.

Rehana comments that she enjoys "Section E for its craziness". Jaime echoes that sentiment, saying "I love helping the residents in the OPD clinic. It is exciting to see them grow through their learning, and to assist all the esteemed doctors who come through Section E. I enjoy helping the patients, and being part of a team who strives to provide exceptional patient care." Michelle Ko describes that she also enjoys working in Section E, stating that "the front desk team is excellent and the management's caring support has been great. There are tough moments, but the shining upside among many is helping super-humans, I mean the residents, and getting inspired by their dedication to eye care and serving patients. I just wish they could get enough food and sleep to survive themselves!".

Thank you Rehana, Jaime & Michelle for your dedication, hard-work and energy - you each help foster a supportive workplace, working to provide high-quality ophthalmologic care and exceptional residency training.



Rehana Isaac



Jaime Larsen



Michelle Ko

As we look forward to warmer and sunnier days, we remain committed and excited to work alongside each of you! As always, please consider our doors open if there are any concerns.

With best wishes to all,
 Claire Sheldon
 Gelareh Nouredin
 Nawaaz Nathoo



Upcoming Departmental Events:

- April 8, 2022: UBC Ophthalmology Research Day
- April 29, 2022: Next UBC Faculty Meeting
- May 25, 2022: UBC Academic Gowns Event

Upcoming Resident Program Events:

- May 12 and 13, 2022: Mock Examinations, wet-lab, refraction & oral examination
- May 27, 2022: Royal College Applied Examinations
- June 3, 2022: UBC Internal Review
- June 23, 2022: UBC Ophthalmology Graduation Dinner (tentative)

