



# InSight

A Newsletter from the UBC Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences



## WELCOME TO WAI CHING LAM

We would like to welcome Dr. Wai Ching Lam who is the new Head of Ophthalmology at Vancouver Acute. Dr. Lam is well known to many of us, an eminent retina surgeon who was previously Residency Program Director at The University of Toronto. More recently, he was Chief of Service of the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital, and Queen Mary/Grantham Hospital (HKU affiliated). Dr. Lam will be working as a retina surgeon in our community, basing his practice in section C of the Eye Care Centre.

Dr. Peter Dolman finished his term as interim head of Vancouver Acute at the end of April. During his tenure, Peter applied his planning, diplomatic, and problem-solving skills for the benefit of all concerned. It has been a pleasure to work with him over the last 9 months.

## DUNCAN ANDERSON FELLOWSHIP FUND

Please support The Duncan Anderson Fellowship Fund! Duncan was a devoted teacher and contributor who retired recently and who gave so much for his patients, students, and the Department. The fund was initiated a few months ago with the aim of creating an endowment to generate funding for visiting Fellows training in neuro-ophthalmology. Almost \$100,000 has already been raised through the amazing generosity of local donors. Remember that VCH staff members can have their donation matched by the VGH Foundation (if it meets certain criteria). Importantly, we are aiming to raise a total of \$500,000 in order to secure endowment status with the foundation. This would allow long-term funding without impacting the principal monies raised.

Please donate generously to support this important Departmental endeavour! Cheques addressed to VGH Foundation marked clearly 'Duncan Anderson Ophthalmology Fund' should be sent to Katherine Pui at VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, 190-855 West 12th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9. Please discuss matching possibilities with Katherine via e-mail at [katherine.pui@vghfoundation.ca](mailto:katherine.pui@vghfoundation.ca).

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# RESEARCH

## LAB UPDATES

### Dr. Deborah Giaschi's Lab:

- PhD candidate Zahra Kheradmandsaadi received a Trainee Boost Award from BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (Brain, Behaviour & Development theme) for the project "Visual processing, memory and reasoning in children with dyslexia".
- PhD candidate Akosua Asare received a Trainee Boost Award from BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (Brain, Behaviour & Development theme) for the project "Neural correlates of motion perception deficits in children with amblyopia".
- Hee Yeon Im and Deborah Giaschi received a Catalyst Grant entitled "Visuomotor learning in children with amblyopia: Brain dynamics in action and at rest" from BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (Brain, Behaviour & Development theme)

### Dr. Myeong Jin Ju's Lab:

- Dr. Ju's lab has relocated. The location of the space is in the Research Pavilion, Room 292-1 and name of their lab is the "Computational Ophthalmic Imaging Laboratory (COIL)."

### Dr. Orson Moritz's Lab:

- Congratulations to Dr. Brittany Carr, postdoctoral fellow in the Moritz lab, who has obtained a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at the University of Alberta.

### Dr. Joanne Matsubara's Lab:

- Welcome to Dr. Ruanne Lai, appointed as the Research and Knowledge Translation Facilitator for the Vision Research Excellence Cluster.
- Welcome to the MRPM 2022 award recipients: Matthew Campbell, Miranda Tsuyuki, and Charles Li. (Students are supervised by Dr. Matsubara and Dr. MJ Ju).
- Welcome to the Medd 419 Flex students: Harjot Bhandol, Phoenix Yin, Julie Zhu, Susan Yao, Aki Ediriweera Bandara.
- New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) awarded to Dr. Joanne Matsubara and Co-PIs Dr. Myeong Jin Ju and Dr. Blair Leavitt on studies titled: "In vivo imaging for investigating neurodegenerative diseases of the brain and eye."

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### Dr. Mahyar Etminan:

- Etminan M, Richter L, Sodhi M, Mikelberg FS. Association of Topical Prostaglandin Analogue Use With Risk of Spontaneous Abortion. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2022 Apr 28:e220628. doi:

### Dr. Joanne Matsubara:

- Behof WJ, Whitmore CA, Haynes JR, Rosenberg AJ, Tantawy MN, Peterson TE, Harrison FE, Beelman, Wijesinghe P, Matsubara JA, Pham W. "Improved synthesis of an ergothioneine PET radioligand for imaging oxidative stress in Alzheimer's Disease." FEBS Lett. 2022 Jan 31. doi: 10.1002/1873-3468.14303. PMID 3510042.



## JOURNAL REVIEWS

### Dr. Mahyar Etminan, Dr. Alfonso Iovieno, and Dr. Sonia Yeung

- Review of: Effects of hormonal contraceptives on dry eye disease: a population-based study
  - <https://www.aao.org/editors-choice/risk-of-dry-eye-disease-appears-greater-in-hormone>



# DOCTORS FOR PLANETARY HEALTH

## UBC Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Grand Rounds: Planetary Health – Awareness and Action

Presented by Drs. Rashmi Chadha and Douglas Courtemanche from Doctors for Planetary Health

We were very pleased to be able to present this Grand Rounds after an invitation from the Department. After a land acknowledgement we delivered a series of sledgehammer blows documenting the science of climate change and the current trajectory of the climate crisis. To avoid too much trauma we interspersed the facts with pictures of nature (referencing the practice of prescribing nature). Readers are referred to on-line resources, in particular the IPCC AR6 SPM which is a short document filled with the ominous facts.

We showed the model of the Social Foundations and Planetary Boundaries, within which we must live to maintain equilibrium.

We demonstrated that Canadians, doctors and ophthalmologists “get it”, but that politicians seem to not. We highlighted that there is significant climate injustice. The top 10% produce the GHGs and the bottom 50% suffer.

After all the gloom and doom we presented planetary health and climate solutions which are linked to the UN 17 sustainable development goals of 2015, the 83 essays in “Drawdown” (demonstrating practical solutions), and the practical framework proposed by Astrid Brousselle & Jim McDavid from the University of Victoria.

- o Minimize pollutants in air, soil and water
- o Protect and manage land and water
- o Preserve biodiversity: animals and plants

In particular we presented ideas and actions taken by ophthalmologists and documented in the literature. These included the recommendations from the Prevention of Blindness Climate Action Working Group, the lowering of the carbon footprint of IVI in the Netherlands and cataract surgery in Cardiff. Of importance is the paper developing the concept of “greening ophthalmology”.

We offered ideas for climate action and advocacy for individuals at home, at work and within the health care system and even opportunities to become politically active with Doctors for Planetary Health – West Coast.

The rounds is recorded and is available for viewing at: <https://ophthalmology.med.ubc.ca/faculty-resources/grand-rounds/>.

### References:

- IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>
- Kate Raworth. Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2017.
- Abacus poll: What do Canadians think about Climate Change <https://abacusdata.ca/climate-change-cop26-canada/>
- Kotcher L, et al. Views of professionals on climate change and health: a multinational study. <https://twitter.com/sdbernard/status/1395659324039499793>
- Ophthalmologists get it <https://medsocietiesforclimatehealth.org>
- <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ottawa-approves-bay-du-nord-oil-development-off-coast-of-newfoundland/>
- social justice and environmental justice (@Oxford) <https://twitter.com/sdbernard/status/1395659324039499793>
- UN 17 sustainable development goals <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>
- Drawdown: the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming. Edited by Paul Hawken. Penguin Books. 2017
- Brousselle A, McDavid J. Evaluation for Planetary Health. Evaluation 2021, Vol 27(2) 168-183. doi: 10.1177/1356389020952462
- The international agency for the prevention of blindness – climate action. <https://www.iapb.org/learn/work-groups/climate-action/>
- van Leeuwen R, Elferink S. Ophthalmology and the climate crisis: time to take responsibility. Ophthalmology Times Europe March 2022, Volume 18, Issue 2.
- Morris DS, et al. The carbon footprint of cataract surgery. Eye (Lond) 2013 Apr; 27(4): 495-501. doi: 10.1038/eye.2013.9
- Mott M. The greening of ophthalmology. July 2019 <https://www.aao.org/eyenet/article/the-greening-of-ophthalmology>
- D4PH <https://www.doctorsforplanetaryhealth.com>

# RESIDENCY PROGRAM

As the flowers bloom in spring, many of you may have seen QR posters cropping up in the ORs and clinic space around the Eye Care Centre & St. Paul's Hospital Eye Clinic. If scanned, these QR codes will link you to rotation-specific goals and objectives and our new Daily Feedback Forms. These feedback forms have been introduced within the Section E rotation over the past year, and within the Afternoon Consultation service for the past 6 months. They are used to capture frequent, low-stakes feedback aimed at helping residents gain competency. These forms are meant to be completed daily, after observing the resident complete all/a portion of a clinical encounter or procedural skill. Then, in discussion with the resident, the staff physician outlines and captures specific, constructive feedback. These forms align well with the model of resident assessment used with Competency by Design but do not replace the One45 ITERs (In-training Evaluation Reports). We would like to acknowledge the following staff who are the top three completers of these forms. Congratulations!

- Dr. Suren Sanmugasunderam
- Dr. Katherine Paton
- Dr. Noa Mallek

These forms are ready to be used in all rotations and here are the links which can be added to your phone home screen for easy access. If there are questions, please connect with us at [ophth.education@ubc.ca](mailto:ophth.education@ubc.ca).

- <https://tinyurl.com/ophth-objectives>
- <https://tinyurl.com/mini-cex>
- <https://tinyurl.com/entrustability>

**Graduation:** On June 23rd, come celebrate our graduating residents, Dr. Henry Chen, Dr. Grace Qiao, Dr. Lauren Sawatzky and Dr. Carol Tadrous! They have worked extremely hard over the past 5 years of residency, refining their craft and demonstrating their skill and dedication to the field of ophthalmology. Please join this in-person event to celebrate this year's graduates and the many extraordinary accomplishments of this academic year! RSVP: [https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_42T1m3x7Sua7iKi](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42T1m3x7Sua7iKi)



**Accreditation:** The UBC Internal Review is upon us, with meetings planned for Friday June 3rd. Various meetings have been scheduled, including one for UBC teaching faculty members of the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. Email requests for RSVPs have been sent out, although, if you are interested in hearing more, please contact Karen at [ophth.education@ubc.ca](mailto:ophth.education@ubc.ca). 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 over the past two years! Thank you to the hard work of all our faculty, residents, staff, and administration! Our Royal College External Review is Spring 2023 and, before then, let's remain focused on ensuring the success of our residency training program. Ongoing efforts are needed and please keep your eyes out for further program updates.

**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 all those who work in the Downtown Eastside Eye Clinic (DEEC). This clinic provides comprehensive and sub-specialty eye care to the marginalized population in the downtown core and is an invaluable clinical and training experience for our ophthalmology residents. The DEEC is supported by Angela Chang and our residency training program would like to recognize Angela and the entire team at the DEEC for their hard work and dedication to providing accessible, high-quality ophthalmologic care!

Sincerely,  
 Claire A. Sheldon  
 Nawaaz Nathoo  
 Gelareh Noureddin (on leave)

