GRAD NIGHT CELEBRATION

On a beautifully sunny evening, June 23, we spent a memorable evening at the UBC Golf Club celebrating our new graduates: Henry Chen, Grace Qiao, Lauren Sawatzky and Carol Tadrous. Graduating Fellows: Niraj Mandal, Mohammad Amir Bin Ismail, Alannah Walsh, Jeanne Lafortune, Moritz Feil, Ebony Smith, Abdul Raheem Abu Shanab, Treasa Murphy, Tuan Tran, Riyaz Bhikoo, Irfan Kherani and Myra Butler. PhD awardee: Xiuyun Wu as well as members of UBC Faculty Staff who had decided to retire from clinical work: Roy Cline, Martin McCarthy, Hugh Parsons, and Sam Broome.

The event was well attended as we all rejoiced in the successes of the Department and our new-found delight in being able to attend an in-person event after so many months of COVID constraints. Dr. Claire Sheldon spoke with warmth and humour about the graduating Residents, and Fellowship Heads about each Fellow, reflecting all our appreciation for their work, contributions to the Department and optimal patient care, and wished them every success in the future.

Warm congratulations to the following who were given University Department awards this year:

- Basic Science Research Award- Dr. Myeong Jin Ju
- Clinical Research Award- Dr. Peter Dolman
- Fellows Teaching Award- Dr. Bryon McKay
- Clinical Trainee Research Award- Dr. Steven Bae
- Resident Mentorship Award- Dr. Heather O’Donnell
- Faculty Administrative Support Award- Dr. Simon Warner
- Faculty Contribution to the Medical Student Teaching Award- Dr. Hugo Sutton
- Faculty Contribution to the Resident Teaching Program Award- Dr. Jesse Chew (surgical) and Dr. Zaid Mammo (clinical)
- NEW Community Ophthalmology Teaching Award- Dr. Gavin Docherty
- NEW Colleague of the Year Award- Dr. Kaivon Vaezi (clinical) and Dr. Jason Barton (research)
Congratulations to Dr. Xiuyun Wu, who defended her PhD in June and will be starting a new job at Meta’s (formerly Facebook) virtual reality lab.

Together with collaborator Douglas Altshuler (UBC Zoology), Dr. Spering has received a Kickstart Grant from the Djavad Mowafaghian Center for Brain Health to research eye movements during hummingbird flight (https://www.centreforbrainhealth.ca/news/winners-of-2022-dmcbh-kickstart-grants-announced/)

Welcome to Dr. Daniel Yoo, Post-doctoral Fellow. Dr. Yoo received his PhD (Neurosciences) from Carleton University under the supervision of Dr. Patrice Smith.

On July 22, 2022, Olubayo Kolawole, a PhD student in the Gregory-Evans Lab, passed his Comprehensive Exam. Congratulations Olubayo!

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**RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS**

**Dr. Mahyar Etminan:**

**Dr. Miriam Spering**

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**AWARDS GIVEN**

**Dr. Deborah Giaschi:**
- Congratulations to Dr. Giaschi on receiving a Health Innovation Funding Investment (HIFI) Award from UBC Health in the team entitled ‘CATALYZING MULTIMODAL MAGNETOENCEPHALOGRAPHY (MEG) RESEARCH ON CHILDREN’S BRAIN HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT’

**Dr. Ipek Oruc:**
- Congratulations to Dr. Oruc on receiving a Health Innovation Funding Investment (HIFI) Award from UBC Health in the team entitled ‘AUTOMATED DETECTION OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE FROM RETINAL FUNDUS IMAGES USING DEEP LEARNING’

**Dr. Sonia Yeung:**
- Congratulations to Dr. Yeung on receiving a Health Innovation Funding Investment (HIFI) Award from UBC Health in the team entitled ‘AUTOMATED DETECTION OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE FROM RETINAL FUNDUS IMAGES USING DEEP LEARNING’
- A big congratulations to Dr. Yeung on being selected as one of the 2022 Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award for Overall Excellence - Early Career recipients. More details here: https://www.med.ubc.ca/news/2022-faculty-of-medicine-distinguished-achievement-award-recipients/
The Research Excellence Cluster in Vision: Molecules, Behaviour, Society is led by Dr. Joanne Matsubara, and aims to shape the future of vision research. It does so by connecting a network of diverse vision and brain researchers with scientific experts in cutting-edge technologies. Together, the Vision Cluster focuses on new foundational discoveries to improve the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of eye and brain disorders by state-of-the-art methods in engineering, artificial intelligence, ophthalmic and neuroimaging, telemedicine, proteomics, and super-resolution microscopy.

The formation of the Vision Cluster has been a long time coming. Capacity building and collaborations are key to the culmination of the Vision Cluster, which is supported by Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters from the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation. Since its inception in April 2022, the Vision Cluster has grown to 20 Faculty members, 16 trainees, and 1 research staff.

The Vision Cluster is subdivided into 5 Subclusters (SC). Faculty members, trainees, and research staff are invited to join the Vision Cluster and participate in the next meetings. Contact Dr. Ruanne Lai at ruanne.lai@ubc.ca.

**Clinician-Scientists**
- Dr. S. Appel-Cresswell, Div of Neurology
- Dr. K. Ho, Div of Digital Emergency Medicine
- Dr. A. Iovieno, DOVS
- Dr. M. L. Jackson, DOVS
- Dr. K. Keramatian, Dept of Psychiatry
- Dr. Z. Mammo, DOVS
- Dr. C. Sheldon, DOVS
- Dr. S. Yeung, DOVS

**Foundational Researchers**
- Dr. L. Foster, Dept of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Dr. D. Giaschi, DOVS
- Dr. H. Y. Im, Dept of Psychology
- Dr. M. J. Ju, DOVS, SBME
- Dr. J. Matsubara, DOVS
- Dr. O. Moritz, DOVS
- Dr. I. R. Nabi, Dept of Cellular & Physiological Sciences
- Dr. I. Oruç, DOVS
- Dr. H. Rhodin, Dept of Computer Science
- Dr. M. Spering, DOVS
- Dr. S. Tang, Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dr. V. Yadav, Dept of Chemical and Biological Engineering

The Vision Cluster is currently accepting new members to join all SCs, in particular SC 5: Accessibility of Vision Care in Society. Individuals who have an interest and experience in telemedicine are encouraged to inquire. Contact: Dr. Ruanne Lai at ruanne.lai@ubc.ca.
Dear colleagues,

As we move into the 2022 – 2023 Academic year, we hope the summer season has brought opportunities for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation!

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and enjoy this year’s in-person Annual Graduation Celebration. It was a joyous event, filled with time to focus on many positive elements of our program and opportunities to reconnect and enjoy each others’ company again. We would like to, once more, congratulate our graduated residents! Over the past couple of months, they have moved into the next stages of their careers, and we are so excited. Dr. Henry Chen is completing a Retina fellowship at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Carol Tadrous is currently completing a Glaucoma fellowship at UBC. Dr. Lauren Sawatzky is working as a comprehensive ophthalmologist in Penticton, BC. Dr. Grace Qiao is working in Vancouver as a comprehensive ophthalmologist. We are so proud of each of your accomplishments and are excited to hear what the future holds for your careers!

During our graduation celebration, Dr. Rob Pintwala announced this year’s Residency Training Program teaching awards. “Each year our resident group takes time to reflect on the many staff who have enriched our training in the past year and who we feel are deserving of recognition for their contributions to our education. Many of our wonderful staff were considered - some for their ongoing commitment to teaching, and some for a renewed focus on resident education. Unfortunately, the awards could only be presented to a handful of individuals. I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all of our wonderful teaching faculty for their continued support of our residency program and our growth and development as ophthalmologists. Your mentorship and guidance is pivotal to our training and, now more than ever, is sincerely appreciated.”

The 2022 Residency Training Program Teaching Awards go to:
Dr. Jesse Chew, for excellence in surgical teaching
Dr. Zaid Mammo, for excellence in clinical teaching
Dr. Gavin Docherty, for excellence in teaching in a community setting
Dr. Heather O’Donnell, for excellence in resident mentorship
Dr. Bryon McKay, for excellence in resident teaching by a fellow

As we send off our graduates, please join us in welcoming our new PGY2 residents! Dr. Mahadev Bhalla, Dr. Jennifer Ling & Dr. Lauren Hughes are UBC graduates and are excited about this upcoming year of training. You may have met these residents during their PGY1 rotating internship year, but they have now started their core ophthalmology training. That means, they will be around the department more often - make sure to say hello and welcome them to the program!

During this upcoming 2022 – 2023 year, we can expect that the program will continue to respond to the recommendations of the Environmental Scan and our accreditation concerns. We have been working with each rotation head to ensure that fulsome training experiences for all residents, including regular face-to-face feedback and summative evaluations. The residency training program will be coordinating resident call coverage, keeping within all RDocs standards with a focus to optimize resident education, safety and wellness. Finally, the program has compiled semi-annual surgical participation numbers and annual teaching evaluations. These will be distributed to physicians shortly via email. With these, the program will work with departmental and hospital leadership to not only ensure that all teaching faculty are contributing and elevating our program, but also to develop ways to recognize those individuals who continually create a lasting positive influence. A sincere thank you for everyone’s efforts.

We wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable summer. As always, if there are any concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Claire
Nawaaz
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 June 2022 are:

Hugo Sutton  
Harald Gjerde  
Kristopher Kowal

The new cohort of 3rd year students has started their clerkship. Thanks to everyone for your commitment to taking students in your office, especially during the summer months, when to can be challenging for Selina to fill the schedules. If you have any half days that you would like to help out, please contact her at Selina.Lau@vch.ca.

We are in the midst of planning for next year’s electives. If you are not part of an elective for the 4th year students and would like to either create a 2 week experience or become part of an existing elective, please let me know. Your contributions are always appreciated.

I am pleased to announce that Dr Hugo Sutton won this year’s Undergraduate Teaching Award. He has consistently taught medical students on a very regular basis; welcoming them in his office more than weekly, including through the pandemic. Thank you Dr Sutton. Your contribution did not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,
Jane Gardiner

NEW COS BOARD MEMBER

Congratulations to Dr. Briar Sexton on becoming one of the newest members of the COS Board. Dr. Sexton will be on the COS Board of Directors for the 2022-2024 term as Treasurer.

ORDER OF CANADA

Dr. Paul Dubord has recently been appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada. Dr. Dubord is a member of the Branch for Global Surgical Care’s Advisory Committee. He is being recognized for his contributions to ophthalmology and for his tireless humanitarian work on the international stage, notably in India. Considered one of Canada’s highest civilian honours, the Order of Canada is meant to recognize people who make "extraordinary contributions to the nation."


UBC DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATE

Drs. Wai Ching Lam and Neeru Gupta were interviewed by the selection committee and UBC Ophthalmology Staff in June. Thanks to all those who took part. A decision is currently awaited from Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Upcoming Departmental Events:
August 26, 2022: Next UBC Faculty Meeting

Upcoming Resident Program Events:
August 5, 2022: Next RTC Meeting