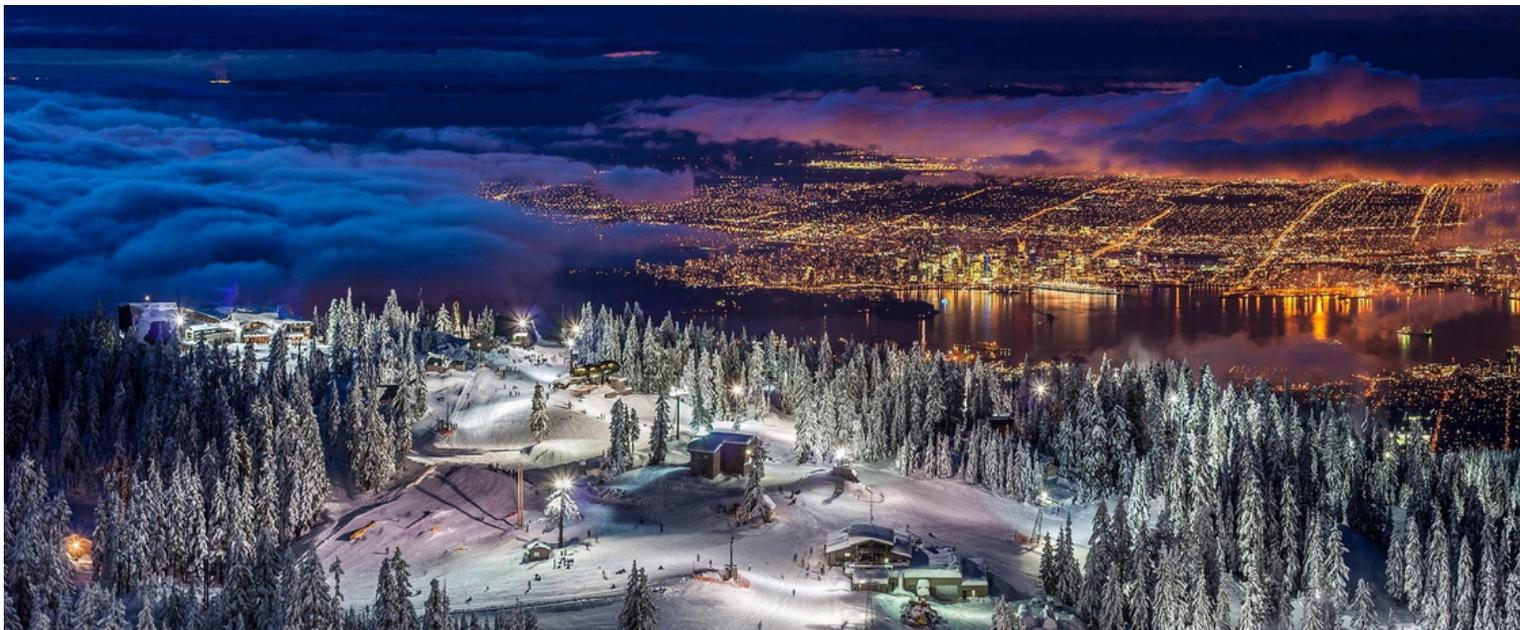




# InSight

A Newsletter from the UBC Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences



## WINTER CELEBRATION

These last few days have reminded us that winter is upon us. But along with the frozen windshields and the sidewalk clearing duties come the delights of winter cheer and warm gatherings with friends and colleagues.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Winter Celebration to be held on Thursday, December 15 at 5:00pm at the Eye Care Centre. Thank you to all those who RSVP'd. Please come and enjoy delicious food, festive drinks, a live band and, most of all, the wonderful opportunity of seeing your friends again \*in person!\*

P.S. Although Santa will not make an appearance this year there will be an arts and crafts area for children as well as possibly a movie (also for children!).

## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

We thank all those who attended the Departmental Faculty Development Day on November 19. We had a great day connecting and communicating with our peers and building a stronger departmental identity!

We look forward to welcoming the remaining participants to the second iteration on Saturday, December 10. Anyone still wishing to RSVP can email [ophth.education@ubc.ca](mailto:ophth.education@ubc.ca)

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# RESEARCH

## LAB UPDATES

### **Dr. Miriam Spering**

- The Oculomotor Lab welcomes new Neuroscience PhD student Abibat Akande, who joined us from Magdeburg (Germany) and Lagos (Nigeria) with a UBC 4-Year Fellowship.

### **Dr. Cheryl Gregory-Evans**

- Dr. Jessica Morrice, a postdoctoral fellow working on ALS, has recently take up a new position at the BC Cancer Agency in a role assessing Human Ethics Committee applications. Good luck Jessica!

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### **Dr. Mahyar Etminan**

- Li L, Aviña-Zubieta JA, Bernstein CN, Kaplan GG, Tremlett H, Xie H, Peña-Sánchez JN, Marrie RA, Etminan M. [Risk of Multiple Sclerosis Among Users of Antitumor Necrosis Factor Alpha in Four Canadian Provinces: A Population-Based Study](#). *Neurology*. 2022 Oct 28:10.

### **Dr. Miriam Spering**

- Kreyenmeier P., Kaemmer L., Fookan J., and Spering M. (2022). Humans can track but fail to predict accelerating objects. *eNeuro*, 9(5):1-15. In this paper, graduate student Philipp Kreyenmeier and colleagues showcase humans' insensitivity to visual acceleration. See: <https://www.eneuro.org/content/9/5/ENEURO.0185-22.2022.full>

## VISION RESEARCH CLUSTER

### Upcoming Events in 2022/23

**Date:** Monday, December 5

**Time:** 3-4pm PT

**Event:** Meeting, Subcluster 4: Ophthalmic Imaging for Eye and Brain Disease

**Location:** Zoom [https://ubc.zoom.us/j/61858936098?](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/61858936098?pwd=WVnSmRmbGRhenFiTXh6aDF2Zm1RQT09)

[pwd=WVnSmRmbGRhenFiTXh6aDF2Zm1RQT09](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/61858936098?pwd=WVnSmRmbGRhenFiTXh6aDF2Zm1RQT09)

Meeting ID: 618 5893 6098 | Passcode: 835117

RSVP: [ruanne.lai@ubc.ca](mailto:ruanne.lai@ubc.ca)

**Date:** Wednesday, December 14

**Time:** 4:30-5:30pm PT

**Event:** Vision Research Seminar

**Speakers:**

- Jane Gardiner, MD, FRCSC, Clinical Professor. Title: TBD
- Deborah Giaschi, PhD, Professor. Title: TBD

**Location:** Zoom [https://ubc.zoom.us/j/69339784726?](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/69339784726?pwd=bzVHNkgzMVd0d1dyVWdhRTFsZjNjUT09)

[pwd=bzVHNkgzMVd0d1dyVWdhRTFsZjNjUT09](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/69339784726?pwd=bzVHNkgzMVd0d1dyVWdhRTFsZjNjUT09)

Meeting ID: 693 3978 4726 | Passcode: 049024

**Date:** Friday, January 27

**Time:** 8-9am PT

**Event:** Ophthalmology Grand Rounds

**Speaker:**

- Mahadeo Sukhai, PhD, Vice-President Research and International Affairs & Chief Accessibility Officer, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). Title: The impact of COVID-19 on the sight loss population.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 7

**Time:** 2-3pm PT

**Event:** Meeting, Subcluster 1: Molecular, Cellular and Eye

**Location:** Zoom [https://ubc.zoom.us/j/61653997402?](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/61653997402?pwd=NTJFTE9BY04yTkg2UUxwWklQL2tXUT09)

[pwd=NTJFTE9BY04yTkg2UUxwWklQL2tXUT09](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/61653997402?pwd=NTJFTE9BY04yTkg2UUxwWklQL2tXUT09)

Meeting ID: 616 5399 7402 | Passcode: 194985

RSVP: [ruanne.lai@ubc.ca](mailto:ruanne.lai@ubc.ca)

Website: [vision.ubc.ca](http://vision.ubc.ca)

Twitter: [@UBCVision](https://twitter.com/UBCVision)



Vision Cluster Members at Comic Vision Workshop to Support Fighting Blindness Canada

# RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Dear colleagues,

With snow on the ground and the holiday spirit in the air, there continues to be flurries of activity within the residency training program!

PGY1 residents: In this Academic Year, our PGY1 residents each have an 8-week rotation with focused introductory training in ophthalmology. Dr. Amar Khaira is currently enjoying this rotation. Dr. Britta Gustavson & Dr. Sabrina Yu will be on rotation over the upcoming months. Their rotation involves experiences at St. Paul's Hospital Eye Clinic, Section E & BCCH Ophthalmology Clinic. If your paths cross, say "hello!" and share a moment of connection. This is such an exciting stage of training, filled with excitement, enthusiasm and nervous energy!

Accreditation: Our 2023 Accreditation dates have been set for May 15 & 16th. Please circle these dates on your calendar and we will distribute the specific day and times for the meetings once finalized. All meetings will be held virtually. As we move toward this important event, we have put together a newsletter series, Elevating Ophthalmology Residency Education: Vision for the Future. In total, eight newsletters will be distributed and we hope that these newsletters will be useful timely program communications, outlining actions taken to address all areas for improvement that were raised at our last External Review 2020. We also hope that these newsletters will be used as resources that can be reviewed again in the future, in preparation for our May review.

Winter Examinations: In our residency training program, the winter months bring semi-annual examinations, including the Mock Royal College oral examination, wet lab examination, and refraction examination. We would like to thank Dr. Briar Sexton for her expert organization of the Mock Royal College oral examination. This event requires participation from many and we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of the examiners - Dr. Kristopher Kowal (neuro-ophthalmology), Dr. Harald Cjerde (pediatric ophthalmology), Dr. Matthew Bujak (cornea), Dr. Wai-Ching Lam (retina), Dr. Fred Mikelberg (glaucoma) and Dr. David Plemel (plastics/surgery). We would also like to thank Dr. Geoff Law & Howard Meadows for organizing both practical and written wet lab examinations for the residents. Each of these elements are important assessments as the program supports residents progressing through their training.

Our PGY5 residents, Dr. Maryam Eslami, Dr. Rob Pintwala & Dr. Amanda Schlenker, are preparing to write the Royal College examinations this year. Similar to last year, these examinations will start in early Spring 2023. They are composed of two multiple-choice papers (written on March 23 & March 24, 2023) and one day with applied / oral exam stations (written on June 9, 2023). We have so much confidence in the skill and knowledge of each of these trainees - keep up the great work as you prepare for the exams. You have got this!

As we reflect on the past few years, it is clear our program and department have accomplished an absolutely tremendous amount. We recognize that it has not been easy, and we would like to thank each of you for your ongoing commitment and dedication, as we move forward through this period of change together. We wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable winter season!

Claire  
Gel  
Nawaaz

## GAINED IN TRANSLATION

The 13th Annual Gained in Translation conference was held in November 2022, hosted by the University of Washington in Seattle. This was the first conference held in person since the recent pandemic and was a big success. This is a collaborative conference between the Departments of Ophthalmology of UBC, the University of Washington, and Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland, Oregon. Through collaborative presentations by both basic science and clinical faculty, the gap between bench research being conducted in the Pacific Northwest and our daily patients is narrowed.

Topics this year included the worldwide increase in pathologic myopia, prosopagnosia updates, and rapid genetic testing in inherited retinal diseases. Dr. Jason Barton presented his work on prosopagnosia, and Dr. Marinko Sarunic presented his work on collaborative models of OCTA analysis across our three sites in diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Alfonso Iovieno was also involved in Dr. Russ Van Gelder's project characterizing the ocular surface microbiome. Dr. Kirk Stephenson, a UBC retina fellow, presented a poster on inherited retinal diseases.

We look forward to next year's conference in Portland, Oregon.

# 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 September 2022 are:

..... Hugo Sutton .....  
..... Alfonso Iovieno .....  
..... Sonia Yeung .....

Thank you to everyone for their undergraduate teaching. However, there is room for more help and if you have an extra half day that you could fit in a student, please contact [Selina.Lau@vch.ca](mailto:Selina.Lau@vch.ca) and she will happily oblige. Maybe, you need an extra half day or two, to complete your 12 session commitment to undergraduate teaching? Or maybe you are aiming for 100 sessions in a year? Whatever your goal, thank you for your contribution.

Early in the new year, we will have the added challenge of Clinical Skills sessions for first year students. Fortunately, we are back to a single cohort of students! The sessions run from 1-5pm on the following dates. We need 4 tutors for each session.

- January 24 and 26, 2023
- February 28 and March 2, 2023
- March 14 and 16, 2023
- March 21 and 23, 2023

Please contact [amanda.jones@ubc.ca](mailto:amanda.jones@ubc.ca) if you can help. Remember that your fellows can do this and get paid. There may be limited space available at the Eye Care Centre or St. Paul's clinic to do this, but if you have your own space, you are encouraged to use it. There is a Fraser cohort of students this year, so it would be great if there is capacity in offices near Surrey Memorial or Royal Columbian. This does count towards your undergraduate teaching commitment.

If you are looking for resources or continued medical education, please check out this Faculty Development link <https://vfmpfacdev.med.ubc.ca/teacher-resources/resources-for-teachers/>. There is a teacher certification program and many other options for workshops or webinars. How about "Digital Content Creation in Medical Education", "Financial Wellbeing for MD's", "Preventing Burnout: How to say No (or Yes) with Joy".

There is a new Peer Support program developed to help teachers in the MDUP with debriefing and reflecting on Teacher Assessments by Learners. They are seeking both teachers who would like to act as Peer Support Volunteers AND teachers who would like to access this support. If you have interest please email [fac.dev@ubc.ca](mailto:fac.dev@ubc.ca) with the Subject line: Peer Support Volunteer Program.

Selina and I are grateful for your dedication to teaching. We wish you a happy holiday and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Jane Gardiner



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Upcoming Departmental Events:

- December 9, 2022: UBC Ophthalmology Faculty Meeting
- December 10, 2022: UBC Faculty Development Session
- December 15, 2022: UBC Winter Celebration at ECC

Upcoming Resident Program Events:

- December 2 and 16, 2022: RTC Meetings

