

Head's Message

As the academic year comes to an end, I would like to congratulate all of the residents, fellows, and graduate students who have completed their training, and wish them the very best as they move on to the next phase of their career. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of those who contribute to the educational enterprise of the Department of Surgery, including the program directors, faculty, and administrative staff. You have all risen to the challenges of implementing Competency Based Medical Education in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, and have done a remarkable job of making the transition to virtual platforms for many academic and rounds sessions. We can take collective pride in being a department of talented, dedicated, and resourceful people.

This spring, the Department of Surgery undertook a survey to take the pulse of the faculty, and to guide us as we set priorities and prepare for a formal strategic planning exercise. It will come as no surprise that the key areas that we should focus on were felt to be creating an environment that promotes excellence in clinical care, scholarship, and equity; faculty development and engagement; and leadership in undergraduate and postgraduate education. There was strong support for the research mission, and this will be greatly enhanced with the appointment of our new Associate Head of Research, Dr. Robert Olson.

It is also very clear that our faculty members place high value on social and environmental accountability. The Department of Surgery must provide a culturally safe working and learning environment, in which all aspects of diversity are included and respected, and all of our members feel welcome.

At this time, we are finalizing details of the strategic planning process. This will involve a series of virtual town hall

meetings, each with a specific focus, including research, education, and engagement & innovation. Stay tuned for more details. I encourage all of you to participate. We want to hear your voice.

Recent events have highlighted the importance of acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in the health care system, especially as this relates to our Indigenous population. Many of us have not taken sufficient time to learn about and fully understand their historical mistreatment. I challenge all of our faculty to personally read through the 2020 report by Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond, "In Plain Site", and to become familiar with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. The UBC Faculty of Medicine has recently developed its response to the TRC, and all of us have a role to play in the actions that will be necessary for healing and restoration.

In closing, I would like to wish all of our faculty, staff, and trainees a safe and healthy summer. With Covid-19 vaccination well underway, we can look forward to once again enjoying the company of our friends and families in the near future, and a return to at least some of the normal activities that we took for granted before the pandemic.

Dr. Gary Redekop
C.N. Woodward Chair
Department Head
Department of Surgery, UBC



Leadership Transitions

The Department is pleased to announce the following leadership changes that took place since our last newsletter.

Associate Head, Research
Dr. Rob Olson

MD Director, Plastic Surgery
Dr. Christopher Doherty

PGME Director, Radiation Oncology
Dr. Michael Peacock

Division Head, Neurosurgery
Dr. Chris Honey

Associate Division Head, Neurosurgery
Dr. Mandeep Tamber

The Department would also like to thank the following individuals for their years of service:

PGME Director, Radiation Oncology
Dr. Hannah Carolan

MD Director, Plastic Surgery
Dr. Esta Bovill

Retirements

A few faculty members have retired since the last notice and we want to thank them for their years of service to the UBC Department of Surgery.

Dr. Alistair Baillie
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Roger Cumming
Clinical Instructor

Dr. Winston Gittens
Clinical Instructor

Dr. Alexander Nagy
Clinical Professor

Dr. Frank Wong
Clinical Assistant Professor

Congratulations to our Graduates

Royal College Programs

Cardiac Surgery

Keerit Tauh
Arthur Lee

Colorectal Surgery

Francois Fournier

General Surgery

Rihab Al Lawati
Katrina Duncan
Kathleen Garber
Graeme Hintz
Daniel Lustig
Emily Mackay
Shiana Manoharan

Neurosurgery

Mostafa Hassanabad

Otolaryngology

Ethan Newton

Pediatric Surgery

Alghalya Al Maawali

Radiation Oncology

Katie Jasper
Justin Oh
Jordan Wong

Surgical Oncology

Christina Lee

Thoracic Surgery

Dimitrios Coutsinos
Essa Alghunaim

Vascular Surgery

Gautamn Sarwal
Adrian Fung



Missed the Event?

Watch a recording of the 2021 Academic Year End Event [here](#).



Master of Global Surgical Care

Ryan Falk
Sydney Girard
Regan Guilfoyle
David Isa
Rupinder Khotar
Lorenz Yeung

Master of Science in Surgery

Najah Adreak
Edward Percy
Mina Salehi



Postgraduate Education

BC is emerging from the 3rd wave, and we can go back to in-person learning as of August 1, 2021. We are actively preparing for our Mini-CRASH program in July, and for the CRASH program in September and October, for the incoming R1s. We have started exam prep for the current R2s for the Surgical Foundations Exam in October as well. In light of competence-based learning and evaluation, we are encouraging all faculty to provide active teaching (in the operating room and clinic), and to provide prompt comprehensive feedback.

During these unprecedented times, resident wellness and safety have likely not been optimized. High levels of stress and burnout have been reported amongst surgical residents (and surgeons alike). The UBC Surgical Programs and the Resident Wellness Office empowers residents to take care of their mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being. We are committed to creating a culture of wellness, through connection, compassion, and community.

We wish to promote a safe learning environment for trainees (physical, professional, and psychological safety). This learning environment should be free of discrimination or mistreatment.

We are leaders in global surgery and sustainability. Our residents are engaged in these endeavors, and are learning about systemic racism in society and in healthcare.

Dr. Alex Lee

Director,
Surgical Foundations
UBC Department of Surgery

Undergraduate Education

Who knew that the COVID pandemic would last so long and have such profound effects on everything? It certainly has had a profound effect on the education of our medical students at UBC, but we should be so very proud of them all for facing the challenges with brave resolve and cheerfulness.

I want to focus attention on our junior pre-clinical medical students. The current students who just finished their first year of med school, have had to endure countless hours of lonely learning confined to their homes on Zoom. We know how mentally exhausting that can be and what a disadvantaged start to their adventure it has been for them not having that important comradery of other students sitting alongside them in the lecture halls and labs learning anatomy, physiology and the beginning basics of clinical skills. Also in the 'before times' junior students with a curiosity and potential interest in Surgery could participate in 'shadowing' experiences with willing surgeon mentors, but all that was cancelled because of the virus.

I have recently had the pleasure of working alongside a great number of these first-year students in the COVID vaccination clinics where a very large number of them have volunteered to be immunizers. I have been so impressed with their positive attitude. Similarly, our second-year students, who now are about to begin their clerkship this month, have also been relegated to mostly Zoom learning this past year. They may not be as 'ready' as we think they should be. As valued surgical educators who will soon be preceptors for this new crop

of 3rd year clerks I ask you to please bear in mind how disadvantaged these new clerks have been over the past 14 months. The well-known trivalent advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry to "be kind, be calm, be safe" can also apply specifically as guides for all of us teaching these young doctors-to-be. We must realize how tough it has been for our students to learn during this pandemic and be kind teachers. We must remain calmly focused on making sure we train ALL our students well, and to help them 'catch up' as necessary. And lastly, but very importantly we must continue as always to provide our students with a safe learning environment, not only safe from infections but also safe from harassment and intimidation.

Our continued pedagogical challenge in the first two years of medical school is to impart to those junior students a 'recognition of the surgical approach to disease'. With the paucity of both surgical material in the first two years' curriculum, along with the paucity of surgeons as teachers, this is an ongoing deficiency in our medical school and most others in North America. As we see (I hope) the pandemic loosening its grip, once again we will have opportunities for shadowing and other teaching experiences to showcase the wonderful world of Surgery to our students.

Dr. Geoffrey Blair

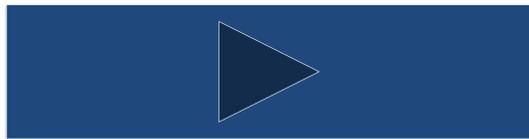
Director,
Undergraduate Surgical Education
UBC Department of Surgery



Congratulations to the Award Winners

2021 Surgery Award Recipients

Watch the awards video shared at the Academic Year End Event on June 23, 2021.



H.R. Robertson Award

Serge Makarenko

A.D. Forward Post Graduate Teaching Award

Andrew Thamboo

Best Resident Teaching Award

Alghalya Al Maawali

A.D. McKenzie Clinical Teaching Award

Hannah Piper

A.W.D. Bill Knox Award

Keerit Tauh

I.B. Holubitsky Memorial Award

Dimitrios Coutsinos

Dr. G Warnock Award

Diana Forbes

Nicky Dorken for Staff Excellence Award

Parm Sidhu

C.H Scudamore HPB Award

Nicole Jedrzejko

Nis Schmidt History of Surgery Prize

Trina Stephens

Recognition Beyond the Department



Dr. Nadine Caron has been awarded the Canadian Cancer Society's inaugural Inclusive Excellence Prize.



Dr. Stephano Chang was the recipient of the 2021 CSCI/CIHR Resident Research Prize.



Dr. Jane Lea has been nominated as a CFMS Culture Change Champion.



More News



Branch for International Surgical Care

2020 Annual Report

Read the report [here](#) featuring feature program highlights, organizational updates and achievements.

New Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

*Dr. Jugpal Arneja and
Dr. Marija Bucevska*



Dr. Jugpal Arneja is the new Editor-in-Chief and Dr. Marija Bucevska the part-time managing editor for the journals Plastic Surgery and Plastic Surgery Case Studies. Plastic Surgery (Chirurgie Plastique) is the official journal of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons, the Canadian Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Group for the Advancement of Microsurgery, and the Canadian Society for Surgery of the Hand. It serves as a major venue for Canadian research, society guidelines, and continuing medical education.

Canada Research Chair in Engineered Immune Tolerance

Dr. Megan Levings

Congratulations to Dr. Megan Levings, a new chairholder for a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Engineered Immune Tolerance. The Canada Research Chairs Program enables Canadian universities to achieve the highest levels of research excellence and become world-class research centres.



Planetary Healthcare Lab

Dr. Andrea MacNeill

From transforming hospital food systems to driving innovation in medical device design, Dr. Andrea MacNeill and a team of researchers will generate solutions to lessen the footprint of healthcare in B.C.

A new lab at UBC is bringing together a team of researchers, ranging from doctors and health economists to business experts, to combat the growing environmental impacts of the healthcare industry.

The Planetary Healthcare Lab—representing the first of its kind in Canada—will not only examine the environmental effects of healthcare delivery and services in B.C., but generate solutions to chart a path forward to net zero emissions.

Dr. Juanita Crook

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Crook has recently been appointed to the role of Chair in Brachytherapy at BC Cancer – Kelowna. Find out why she pursued a career in medicine and some of her interests in her [faculty profile](#).



Department Strategic Planning

Thank you to all those who participated in the survey and provided valuable feedback to help shape the next 5 years for the UBC Department of Surgery. We had over 100 respondents.

The next step will take place in the Fall where we will hold themed virtual sessions open to all faculty members in the areas of Education; Research and Engagement.



Welcome to our newly appointed Clinical Faculty members

As one of the world's leading medical schools, UBC's Faculty of Medicine has a bold vision: to transform health for everyone. It's a bold vision but one that our faculty members spread across our province are helping to realize.

We wish a warm welcome the new UBC Department of Surgery Clinical Faculty members listed below.

Dr. Rachel Barton Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Cowichan District Hospital	Dr. Oleksandr Butskiy Clinical Instructor <i>Otolaryngology</i> Surrey Memorial Hospital	Dr. Stephanie Chartier-Plante Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Vancouver General Hospital
Dr. Sin Huey Cheah Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Nanaimo Regional Hospital	Dr. Roderick Chew Clinical Instructor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Lion's Gate Hospital	Dr. Jeremy Dunn Clinical Instructor <i>Vascular Surgery</i> Burnaby Hospital
Dr. Daniel Duta Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Cowichan District Hospital	Dr. Jake Hiebert Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Royal Inland Hospital	Dr. Adelyn Ho Clinical Instructor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Richmond General Hospital
Dr. Debbie Li Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Surrey Memorial Hospital	Dr. Denis Morris Clinical Instructor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Lion's Gate Hospital	Dr. Sita Ollek Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Kelowna General Hospital
Dr. Jean Oosthuizen Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Penticton Regional Hospital	Dr. Jason Park Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Vancouver General Hospital	Dr. Travis Schroeder Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> East Kootenay Regional Hospital
Dr. Andrew Versolatto Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Mills Memorial Hospital	Thank you for your willingness to contribute to medical education!	

Have a Story to Share?

We are interested in celebrating your academic accomplishments and sharing them with the Department and at www.surgery.ubc.ca. Please contact Bethany.saunders@ubc.ca with your news.

Missed a Grand Rounds?

We have had some incredible presentations this year. Watch past Grand Rounds [here](#).

