

Head's Message

As we turn the calendar to 2022, it is a good time to take stock of the events and highlights of the past year, and to look ahead to the next phase in the evolution of the Department of Surgery.

During 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on our professional and personal lives. Rapid development and delivery of mRNA and other vaccines, and strong public health measures, have allowed a partial return to normal activities, but there is still a long way to go, and it isn't clear yet just what the new normal will be. I would like to thank all of our faculty, staff, and trainees for their commitment and resilience during this very difficult time. I miss the joy of day to day face-to-face interaction, but have been thrilled to see that participation and attendance at virtual meetings and rounds has been high, and that despite the challenges, the work of our department has carried on effectively.

The past year has seen a renewed commitment to support research in the Department of Surgery. The appointment of Dr. Rob Olson as the Associate Head, Research, and the formation of a new Research Committee, will enhance our capacity to encourage and promote research across the spectrum from basic and translational science to clinical trials, and to include faculty at distributed sites across BC. Please read Rob's column in this newsletter for a summary of his vision for research, and preliminary details about a new Seed Grant Program.

We have invested considerable time and effort into strategic planning, with a department-wide survey questionnaire, followed by a series of themed focus groups. Following consultation and discussion with our faculty and staff, we anticipate finalizing the plan of action for

the next few years early in 2022. This will include the usual topics of education, research, and clinical excellence, but will go beyond that to emphasize our commitment to equity, social responsibility, faculty wellness and engagement, and global health. The name change of our Branch for International Surgical Care to the Branch for Global Surgical Care reflects our commitment to surgical care for Indigenous, rural, and remote populations, within our own borders, and also to planetary health, including research and innovation in sustainable health systems to reduce the impact of surgical care on the environment.

As the year concludes, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our department members for their contribution to the large enterprise that is the UBC Department of Surgery. I am truly amazed and inspired on a daily basis by your talent, creativity, and commitment to excellence.

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



Leadership Transitions

The Department is pleased to announce the following leadership change that have taken place since our last newsletter.

Division Head, Vascular Surgery
Dr. Kirk Lawlor



The Department would also like to thank the following individual his service:

Division Head
Dr. Keith Baxter



Department Strategic Planning

A draft plan was presented by Dr. Redekop at the December 8, 2021 Grand Rounds and the [recording](#) is now available. You are encouraged to review the [draft plan](#) and provide feedback to gary.redekop@ubc by December 31, 2021. The presentation is also available for viewing.

Undergraduate Surgical Education

Another year has passed and with it came new challenges and opportunities which have become part of undergraduate surgical education at UBC. As Geoff Blair said, “Who knew that the COVID-19 pandemic would last so long and have such profound effects on everything?”

Given this, I wanted to take the opportunity to express how grateful I am to see ongoing excellence and new transitions occurring at every level in our Undergraduate Surgical Education Program.

Firstly, the pre-clinical years have gotten off to a great start with classes transitioning back to in-person learning and less “Zooming”. We hope the comradery of the student body will be re-invigorated by these face-to-face sessions. The class of 2023 was able to once again utilize the Surgical Simulation Centre for their introduction to SPC block and Trauma Day, albeit still with some COVID-19 restrictions. Working together with near-peer educators (surgical residents) they were able to work through clinical scenarios utilizing simulation manikins. Of course, the clinical years once again required flexibility from the students with COVID-19 slowing down the OR experience for some. Alternative learning options are being implemented and an exciting new FLEX project to help create surgical teaching videos has been implemented and a few keen

students have already started to work on this. The class of 2022 is wrapping up their last pre-CARMS electives and have really risen to the challenges of COVID-19. I wanted to express how impressed I am with them as they navigate their residency applications and interviews during this time.

Secondly, I wanted to speak to the surgical educators who have continued to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. COVID-19 has added an extra layer of work to everyone’s schedule, and the students are thankful for anytime that you take to show them pearls of wisdom; whether it be how to place a horizontal mattress suture, a standard approach to examining an abdomen or, how to clearly communicate with team members, all these moments are valuable learning opportunities. I know that you share the desire to provide our students with a safe and dignified learning environment. This has to be the standard we achieve everyday: students who are fearful do not learn.

I lastly wanted to take the time to thank Geoff Blair for being a wonderful teacher and mentor to so many. As of July 2022, it is with sadness that I have come to accept that he will be moving on to bigger and better things and will no longer serve as the Director of Undergraduate Surgical Education. I have had the privilege of working with him for the past 3 years and I have seen his passion for teaching and improving education first hand. He has been tirelessly working to improve the quality of surgical education at UBC. He does it all: from creating wonderful MCQs and hammering out the famous Surgical Song Book to personally taking the time to help struggling students with how to “think like a

surgeon”. Even though he stepped away from practicing as a Pediatric Surgeon a few years back, he continued to do his part by actively providing COVID-19 vaccines alongside nurses and medical students.

As the search for a new Undergraduate Surgical Director unfolds in the New Year, we will continue to improve upon undergraduate surgical education at UBC. Our mandate is to impart to students a framework on how to be a well-rounded medical student, to “think like a surgeon” when appropriate, and to provide them with valuable learning opportunities while simultaneously being “kind, calm, and safe”.

Dr. Arman Abdalkhani
*Associate Director,
Undergraduate Surgical Education
UBC Department of Surgery*



PGME Spotlight: General Surgery

Hello from The General Surgery Residency Program! It has been a challenging last 18 months for everyone at UBC. The General Surgery residents and faculty have led and cared for patients and each other through COVID-19 and many natural disasters, as has everybody reading this article. Thank you to everyone for always living the UBC vision “Inspiring people, ideas and actions for a better world”.

We have 43 fabulous residents in our program. Our foundational residents have been diligently learning surgery, and adjusting to CBME. We currently have 8 residents pursuing advanced research degrees at UBC, Harvard, Cambridge and Johns Hopkins, with two residents pursuing the Clinical Investigator Program. Our residents are advocating for global and environmental health, and for the broader community raising over \$10,000 last year for the Vancouver Community Food Bank. Our senior residents have been working around the province, a testament to UBC’s distributed education mandate.

CaRMS will be virtual again this year. Our residents ran a phenomenal online information campaign and held a highly regarded “How to Ace your Interviews on Zoom” session. The program had a significant focus on equity and diversity in our selection process. Our whole committee did implicit bias testing and we are revamping our scoring rubric to be more inclusive of background experience. We blinded the applications for name and gender. We added a Team Dynamics score to create an objective analysis of abilities

and strengths. All of these steps made our process more fair and transparent, and will hopefully improve our diversity.

We have now completed 10 UBC Academic Symposiums! We were fortunate to be able to do three in person before the pandemic, with seven being held over Zoom. With over 120 faculty members participating from all parts of British Columbia, we were able to highlight the strong clinical and academic calibre of our clinical faculty. 60% of the speakers were from our distributed sites! This novel educational initiative has increased the efficacy of our academic teaching, and will continue in years to come. Our foundational residents are participating in a simulation based Surgical Pentathlon focusing on technical skills. Along with the symposiums, we have engaged in meaningful ways with our distributed sites and provide annual feedback to our distributed sites through a Site Report Card to ensure that education remains of the highest quality. We are about to embark on another round of provincial in-person site visits!

Along with focusing on the Medical Expert role, our program is working on educational innovations in other areas to help with collaboration, curiosity, leadership and communication. For the second year, we held a Surgical Innovation Week for our R2s. With a focus on new design and product ideas, the program has been extremely well received. As of the 2022-23 academic year, our R3s will embark on a brand new Cultural Safety and Professional Communication course. This will also be in conjunction with a new UBC General Surgery Health Equity Grant, focusing on clinical research in health system inequities. Our R4s this year, for the first time, completed a leadership course called RISE. Modeled on leadership programs offered by leading institutions, our course focused on leading self, others, patient safety and quality improvement and approaches to self reflection and coaching in surgery.

It has been a wonderfully productive last few years in the General Surgery Residency Program, and we look forward to collaborating with the broader Department!



Research Updates



I am honoured and excited to take on the new Associate Head Research role within the Department. In my short time in this role, many faculty members have offered to help support our research growth, despite the increased administrative and clinical responsibilities they face during COVID-19. I look forward to working with these individuals and welcome further input into how we can empower faculty to perform high impact research.

As a first step, we have formed a Department of Surgery Research Committee that first met in early December, and contains a broad composition of members from different backgrounds. This committee will help guide the future vision for research, as well as drive increased support for emerging investigators. Stay tuned for information on a planned research retreat where you can learn about the committee's vision, practical research support available, funding opportunities, and to help select 1-3 "big ideas" for the Department's research focus.

I have several personal goals for the Department's research growth, including enhanced research mentorship, increased clinical trial participation and leadership especially in the distributed sites, and increased application and success in large grants including Michael Smith Health Research BC and CIHR. In order to

facilitate this latter goal, the research committee has endorsed a Department of Surgery Seed Grant Program, which will be available to all members, though adjudicated with preference to support investigators where the seed grant will have the largest impact (e.g. early research career).

While I am excited to see future growth of research in the Department, I am already impressed with the high quality that we lead. The 2021 Chung Research Day gave us an excellent opportunity to highlight some of these projects, including:



Dr. Stephano Chang
Neurosurgery
Best Resident Paper:

MR Tractography-Based Targeting and Physiological Identification of the Cuneiform Nucleus for Directional DBS in a Parkinson's Disease Patient with Levodopa-Resistant Freezing of Gait



Dr. Anna Mcguire
Thoracic Surgery
Best Faculty Paper:

Circulating Tumour DNA to Detect Lung Cancer Recurrence Following Surgery: A Preliminary Report

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the following outstanding investigators in our Department:



Dr. Andrew Thamboo
Otolaryngology
Hjalmar Johnson New Investigator Award



Dr. Chris Honey
Neurosurgery Richard Finley Senior Investigator Award

I look forward to continue celebrating our research excellence, while growing a more inclusive, effective, and transformational research culture within our Department.

Dr. Rob Olson
Associate Head, Research
Division Head, Radiation Oncology



UBC Research Grants

April 1, 2021 to November 15, 2021

RESEARCHER	AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE	RESEARCHER.	AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE.
Arneja, Jugpal	\$3,465	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Luciani, Dan	\$111,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Brown, Carl	\$600	Canadian Cancer Trials Group	Luciani, Dan	\$5,198	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Brown, Carl	\$1,625	Various Sources	Luciani, Dan	\$20,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Brown, Carl	\$2,250	Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Sur	Lynn, Francis	\$111,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Brown, Carl	\$30,000	Canadian Association of General Surgeons	Lynn, Francis	\$13,284	Stem Cell Network Inc.
Brown, Carl	\$2,250	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Lynn, Francis	\$20,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Chen, Jerry C.L.	\$1,846	Cook Inc.	Lynn, Francis	\$2,500	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Duzenli, Cheryl	\$136,125	Michael Smith Health Research BC	Lynn, Francis	\$138,465	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Felton, Mark	\$3,465	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Lynn, Francis	\$60,000	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Garnis, Cathie	\$134,831	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Lynn, Francis	\$198,962	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Garnis, Cathie	\$134,831	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	MacNeill, Andrea	\$140,464	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ghahary, Aziz	\$12,600	BirchBioMed Inc.	MacNeill, Andrea	\$10,000	UBC Faculty of Medicine
Ghahary, Aziz	\$131,414	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	McGuire, Anna	\$75,000	VCHRI
Ghuman, Amandeep	\$10,000	UBC Faculty of Medicine	McKenzie, Michael R.	\$133,604	Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
Ghuman, Amandeep	\$10,000	Canadian Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons	Olson, Robert	\$100,000	University of Northern British Columbia
Gleave, Martin E.	\$1,025	National Institutes of Health	Olson, Robert	\$14,833	Michael Smith Health Research BC
Hoffman, Bradford G.	\$111,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Olson, Robert	\$97,113	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Hoffman, Bradford G.	\$20,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Peacock, Michael	\$185,513	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Hoffman, Bradford G.	\$150,705	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Prisman, Eitan	\$90,000	Michael Smith Health Research BC
Hoffman, Bradford G.	\$33,000	NSERC	Prisman, Eitan	\$128,710	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Hsiang, York N.H.	\$37,211	Theravita Inc.	Prisman, Eitan	\$128,170	NSERC
Hu, Amanda	\$14,930	Michael Smith Health Research BC	Raval, Manoj J.	\$27,494	Cook Myosite Incorporated
Isaac, Kathryn V.	\$50,000	VCHRI	Redekop, Gary	\$336,137	Provincial Health Services Authority
Janjua, Arif	\$7,956	GlaxoSmithKline (Canada) Inc.	Scudamore, Charles H.	\$600	Donations for Health Science Research
Janjua, Arif	\$6,240	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	Stuart, Heather C.	\$20,000	VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation
Javer, Amin	\$25,784	SanOtiz Research and Development Corp.	Tamber, Mandeep	\$16,666	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Keyes, Mira	\$35,000	Varian Medical Systems, Inc.	Thamboo, Andrew	\$8,392	Starfish Medical
Levings, Megan	\$125,000	British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund	Thamboo, Andrew	\$16,421	OptiNose US, Inc.
Levings, Megan	\$125,000	Canada Foundation for Innovation	Thamboo, Andrew	\$7,998	St. Paul's Foundation
Levings, Megan	\$20,250	Stem Cell Network Inc.	Thamboo, Andrew	\$5,000	Pacific Otolaryngology Foundation
Levings, Megan	\$30,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Thamboo, Andrew	\$90,000	Michael Smith Health Research BC
Levings, Megan	\$7,500	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$237,160	Canada Foundation for Innovation
Levings, Megan	\$11,250	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$40,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Levings, Megan	\$134,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$10,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Levings, Megan	\$100,000	British Columbia Children's Hospital Foundation	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$2,250	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Levings, Megan	\$40,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$67,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Levings, Megan	\$20,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$12,500	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Levings, Megan	\$148,196	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$40,000	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Levings, Megan	\$261,010	US Department of Defense	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$5,198	BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Levings, Megan	\$150,000	Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$4,083	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Levings, Megan	\$28,875	Michael Smith Health Research BC	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$181,962	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Levings, Megan	\$48,854	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$75,000	Michael Smith Health Research BC
Levings, Megan	\$251,810	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$180,540	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Levings, Megan	\$172,587	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Verchere, C. Bruce	\$190,485	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Levings, Megan	\$171,633	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)			
Levings, Megan	\$200,000	Canada Research Chairs			





Congratulations to the Award Winners

Faculty of Medicine Award Recipients

Each year, the Faculty of Medicine recognizes faculty and staff members for excellence in teaching, research, administration, innovation and public service. Congratulations to our 2021 recipients from the Department of Surgery:

Paris Ingledew

Clinical Faculty Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Andreas Kluffinger

Clinical Faculty Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Sonia Butterworth

Clinical Faculty Award for Excellence in Leadership/Service

Carl Brown

Clinical Faculty Award for Excellence in Research

Rob Olson

Distinguished Achievement Award – Overall Excellence



Beyond the Department & Faculty

UBC Department of Surgery George W. Leroux Memorial Scholarship

Soroush Rokui

Cardiovascular Surgery



Matthew Boroditsky

Plastic Surgery



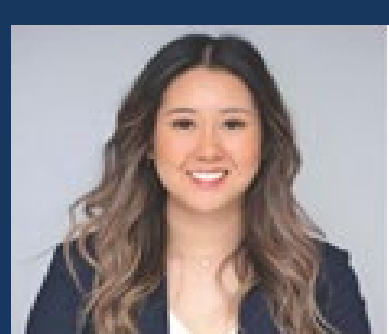
Alexandra Harvey

General Surgery



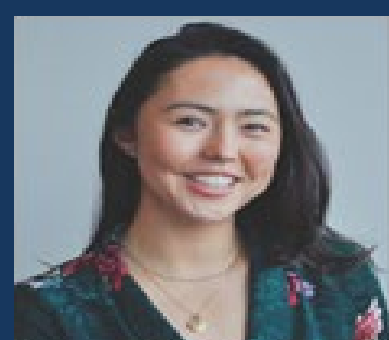
Claire Liu

General Surgery



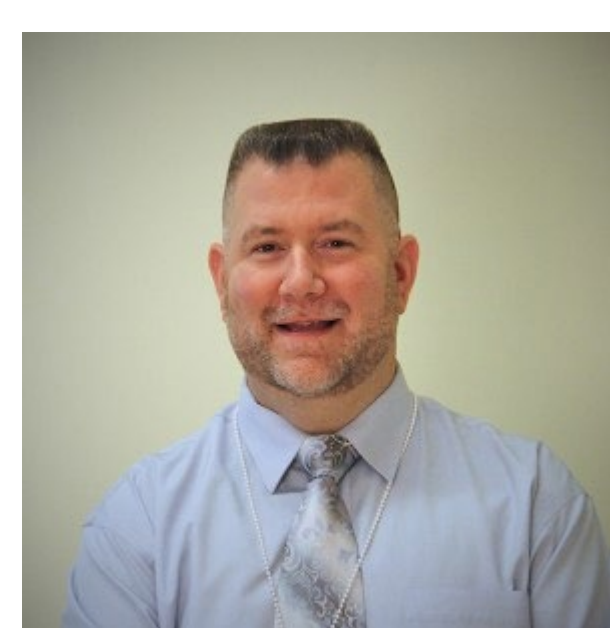
Kylie Nabata

General Surgery



Taryn Zabolotniuk

General Surgery



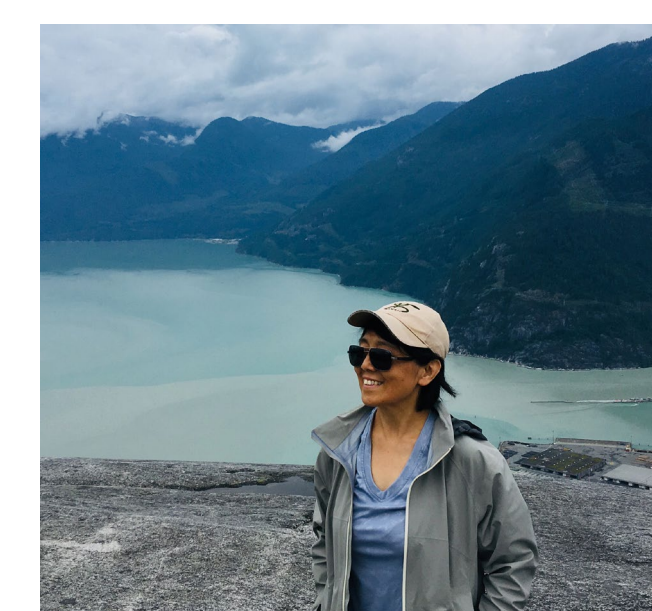
Damian Duffy

2021 UBC Science Co-op Supervisor Recognition Award



Stephen Chung

UBC 25 Year Club



Cuilan Nian

UBC 25 Year Club



Zach Sagorin

Medical Council of Canada's Dr. M. Ian Bowmer Award



Promotions

Our Faculty members teach and inspire learners, serve as role models for the next generation of healthcare professionals, provide administrative leadership, promote professional development and advance research.

Congratulations to our Clinical Faculty members noted below who have been promoted in recognition of their outstanding academic contributions.

Read the [Clinical Faculty Appointments Policy](#) to learn more about criteria demonstrated to achieve each rank.

	Dr. Carol Dingee Clinical Professor <i>Plastic Surgery</i>	Dr. Alexander Lee Clinical Associate Professor <i>Thoracic Surgery</i>	
Dr. Fatimah Alfaraj Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>	Dr. Christopher Doherty Clinical Associate Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>	Dr. Mitchell Liu Clinical Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>	Dr. Dao Nguyen Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Plastic Surgery</i>
Dr. Ahmad Ashrafi Clinical Associate Professor <i>Thoracic Surgery</i>	Dr. Naisan Garraway Clinical Associate Professor <i>General Surgery</i>	Dr. Arthur Mallinson Clinical Associate Professor <i>Otolaryngology</i>	Dr. Jim Rose Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>
Dr. Sarah Baker Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>	Dr. Erika Henkelman Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Plastic Surgery</i>	Dr. Anna McGuire Clinical Associate Professor <i>Thoracic Surgery</i>	Dr. Ashutosh Singal Clinical Associate Professor <i>Neurosurgery</i>
Dr. Amy Bazzarelli Clinical Assistant Professor <i>General Surgery</i>	Dr. Stephen Hiscock Clinical Associate Professor <i>General Surgery</i>	Dr. Colin McInnes Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Plastic Surgery</i>	Dr. Heather Stuart Clinical Assistant Professor <i>General Surgery</i>
Dr. Hannah Carolan Clinical Associate Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>	Dr. Henry Jiang Clinical Assistant Professor <i>General Surgery</i>	Dr. Elaine McKeivitt Clinical Professor <i>General Surgery</i>	Dr. Daniel Wong Clinical Professor <i>Cardiac Surgery</i>
Dr. Neil Chadha Clinical Professor <i>Otolaryngology</i>	Dr. Theodora Koulis Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>	Dr. George Melich Clinical Associate Professor <i>General Surgery</i>	Dr. Allison Ye Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i>
	Dr. Kirk Lawlor Clinical Associate Professor <i>Vascular Surgery</i>	Dr. Rizwan Mian Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Plastic Surgery</i>	



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.

<p>Dr. Nasim Abedi Clinical Instructor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Lion's Gate Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. John Hwang Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Royal Columbian Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Mark Lipson Clinical Instructor <i>General Surgery</i> Langley Memorial Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Janet Ngu Clinical Instructor <i>Cardiac Surgery</i> Saint Paul's Hospital</p>
<p>Dr. Laura Callan Clinical Instructor <i>Radiation Oncology</i> BC Cancer - Kelowna</p>	<p>Dr. Will Jiang Clinical Instructor <i>Radiation Oncology</i> BC Cancer - Surrey</p>	<p>Dr. Tianyi Liu Clinical Instructor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Royal Columbian Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Stahs Pripotnev Clinical Associate Professor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Kelowna General Hospital</p>
<p>Dr. Jessica Chan Clinical Instructor <i>Radiation Oncology</i> BC Cancer – Vancouver</p>	<p>Dr. Jennifer Klok Clinical Instructor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Lion's Gate Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Samantha Lloyd Clinical Instructor <i>Radiation Oncology</i> BC Cancer – Vancouver</p>	<p>Dr. Abigail Shu Clinical Instructor <i>Member at Large</i> Royal Columbian Hospital</p>
<p>Dr. Robert Dale Clinical Instructor <i>Member at Large</i> Royal Columbian Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Iwa Kong Clinical Associate Professor <i>Radiation Oncology</i> BC Cancer - Vancouver</p>	<p>Dr. Brandon McGuinness Clinical Instructor <i>Vascular Surgery</i> Royal Jubilee Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Rohit Singal Clinical Associate Professor <i>Cardiac Surgery</i> Royal Jubilee Hospital</p>
<p>Dr. Adrian Fung Clinical Instructor <i>Vascular Surgery</i> Kelowna General Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Kevin Lichtenstein Clinical Instructor <i>Cardiac Surgery</i> Saint Paul's Hospital</p>	<p>Dr. Dylan Narinesingh Clinical Instructor <i>Radiation Oncology</i> BC Cancer – Surrey</p>	<p>Dr. David Tang Clinical Associate Professor <i>Plastic Surgery</i> Vancouver General Hospital</p>
<p>Dr. Faizal Haji Clinical Assistant Professor <i>Neurosurgery</i> BC Children's Hospital</p>	<p>Thank you for your willingness to contribute to medical education!</p>		<p>Dr. Jack Zheng Clinical Instructor <i>Radiation Oncology</i> BC Cancer - Abbotsford</p>

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](#).

