



ANNUAL
REPORT
2018/2019

Univeristy of
British Columbia

THE DEPARTMENT
OF OBSTETRICS &
GYNAECOLOGY

Univeristy of
British Columbia

WELCOME TO ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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THE DEPARTMENT HEAD'S INTRODUCTION

REAPING THE REWARDS OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology lives within the same laws of fiscal reality as the rest of the UBC Faculty of Medicine, which receives sufficient provincial funding to survive but depends on supplemental investment to thrive. Seeking the backing that allows the department to flourish is an interminable task, and this year has seen the department reap many rewards from federal support, research grants, administrative awards, and philanthropy.

On June 4th, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health for the Government of Canada, announced an investment of \$10 million toward national cervical cancer research in partnership with BC Women's Health Foundation. This funding will directly support the BC Gynaecologic Cancer Initiative in its efforts to eliminate cancer and improve the survivorship for all gynaecologic cancers. Read more about the Gynaecologic Cancer Initiative on page 44. The BC Women's Health Foundation has been a strong partner in raising funds for this initiative and deserves recognition for this huge success at increasing funding for Women's Health.

We have also benefited from UBC Investment in the form of Strategic Initiative Funding. In 2017, the Department won a SIF for our Faculty Wellness Program. This comprehensive multi-dimensional program was designed in collaboration with our Health Authority partners as a pilot program that could be scaled to the Faculty of Medicine. It opened a dialogue and provided resources to counter burnout and build resilience within our faculty members. There were scheduled wellness events and workshops on mindfulness and resilience. We created a peer-to-peer network to offer a virtual physician lounge. We also developed a formal Mentorship Program (page 40/41), and a Leadership Development Program (page 10/11). And we objectively assessed the impact of the Wellness Initiative by longitudinally assessing burnout using a validated burnout survey, the Maslach Burnout Inventory. The investment of the Faculty of Medicine paid off as the burnout scores decreased significantly, while the resilience scores improved as well. And as often happens, the Faculty of Medicine's investment was amplified by philanthropic investment, when Jane Bryans, a devoted benefactor of our Department, who provided funds to continue the Leadership Development Program. You can read more about the Fred Bryans Leadership Development Program on page 10/11 and about the Mentorship Program on page 40/41.

The Department won another Strategic Investment Fund award from the FoM to explore a re-envisioned Graduate Program. The Reproductive and Developmental Sciences graduate program has been an engine of biomedical research related to reproduction in our department for many decades, but the department's research mandate has since expanded and now covers all research tiers across women's health.

We saw an opportunity to expand the graduate program to reflect this diversity and create scientists across this spectrum. We partnered with the Department of Paediatrics who are seeking a similar mandate within children's health research. But more than just expanding the science from bench to populations, we saw an opportunity to envision a new type of graduate whose focused scientific competencies are supported by a foundation in translational research and who can bring their skills not only to academia, but also to government and industry. You can read more about the Women and Children Health Research Graduate Program on page 34/35.

Of course our most important resource is our faculty, and finding the funds to expand our faculty is an ongoing challenge. Our Department has been very successful seeking competitive funding to provide salary awards, but this year has been exemplary. Dr. Jennifer Hutcheon won a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Perinatal and Population Health. She joins Lori Brotto who also holds a Tier II Canada Research Chair and David Huntsman and Gina Ogilvie who both hold Tier I Canada Research Chairs. And we also had four faculty members, Dr. Michael Angelisio, Dr. Sarah Munro, Dr. Janice Kwon and Dr. Aline Talhouk become Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholars. You can read more about their work on pages 46 and 47 respectively. They join Drs. Gillian Hanley, Sarka Lisonkova, and Paul Yong, who are also MSFHR Scholars.

These salary awards will provide support to our established scientists and clinician scientists for many years, but finding support for new positions is rare indeed. And yet, our Department has been successful this summer in the UBC Faculty Renewal process that will provide an academic salary for two new positions in our department. The first is for an Assistant Professor focused on Sexual Medicine and Gynaecologic Cancer Care, and the second is for an Assistant Professor in Translational Oncology. Both positions will support and expand our existing research programs. This investment in our department, from government awards, to FoM grants, to salary awards, to philanthropic gifts, is the difference between a department that survives, and one like ours that thrives.

Geoffrey Cundiff, Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology



Comparison of Canadian Universities by Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research Productivity over the period 2013 – 2018

The UBC Department is the second largest in Canada with 50% of the faculty numbers of the largest Department at the University of Toronto. (Table 1) It is also the second in terms of the number of publications, although, the UBC department has increased the number of faculty members publishing by 50%, and the number of publications per author has increased by 41%. While not the largest department in Canada, the UBC Department does lead Canadian Universities in the number of publications per author, as well as the number of citations per author. (Table 2)

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF CANADIAN DEPARTMENTS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY IN TERMS OF PUBLICATIONS, NUMBER OF AUTHORS, AND CITATIONS.

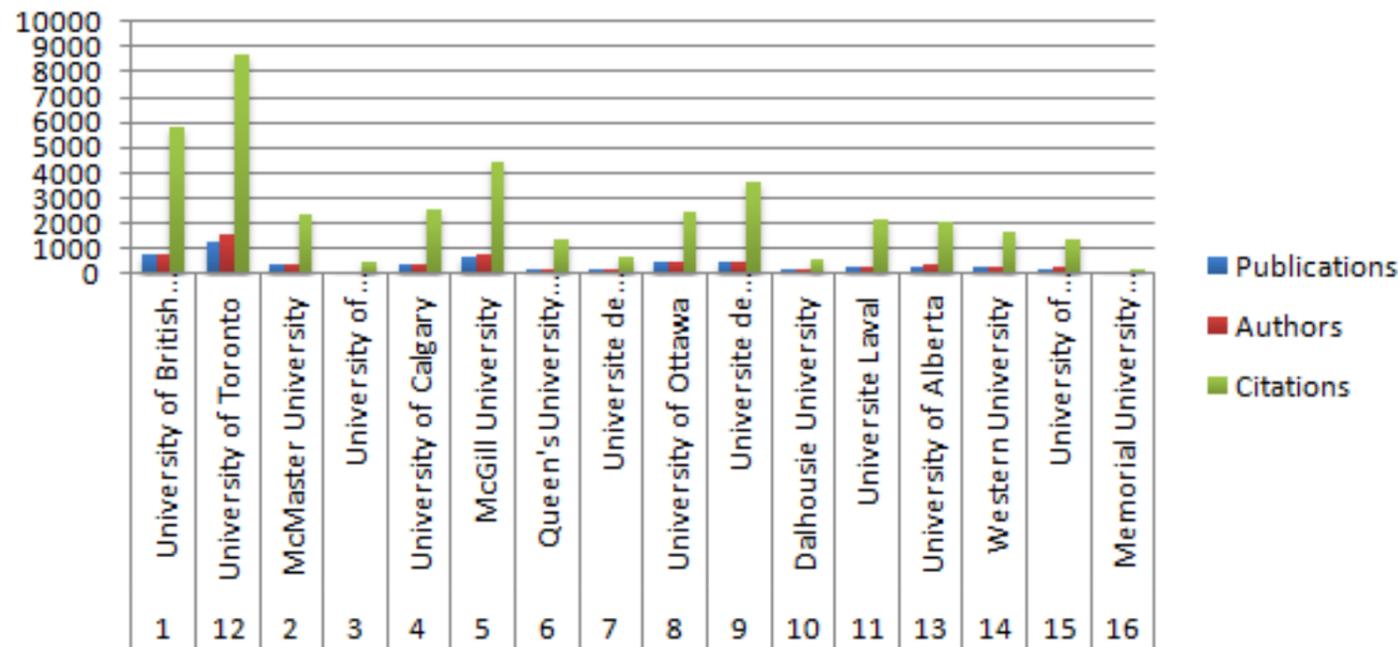
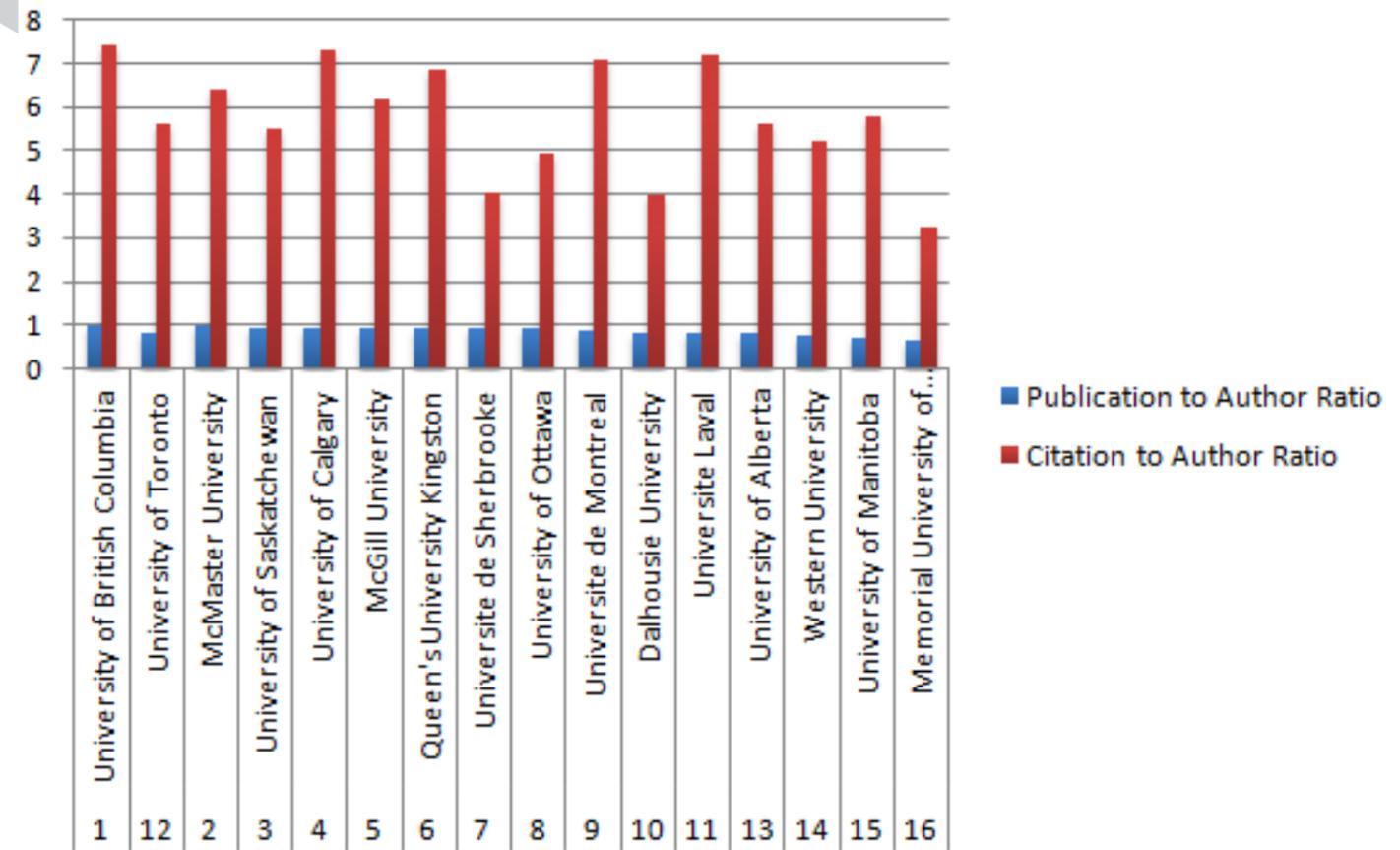


TABLE 2. COMPARISON OF CANADIAN DEPARTMENTS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY IN TERMS OF PUBLICATION TO AUTHOR AND CITATION TO AUTHOR RATIOS.

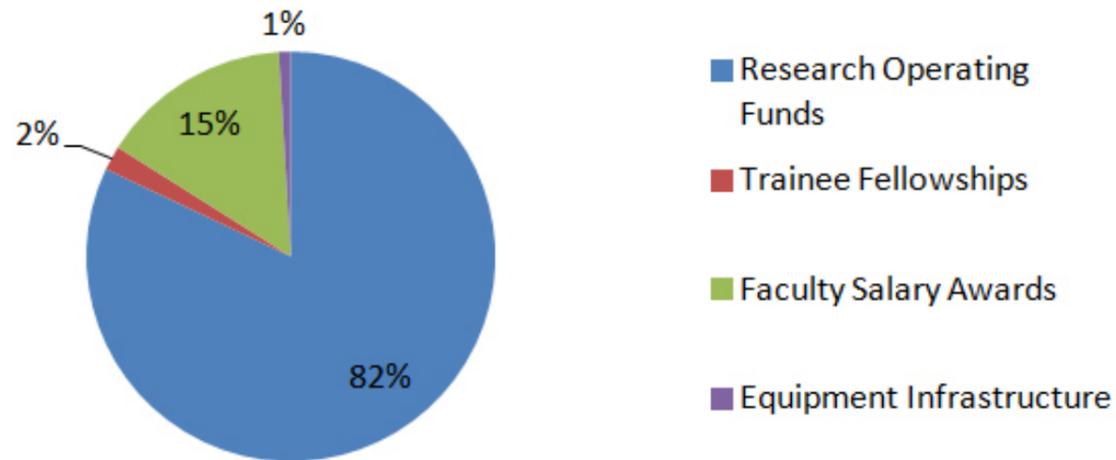


OUR DEPARTMENT'S RESEARCH FUNDING HAS INCREASED YEAR OVER WITH THE LARGEST PROPORTION FOR OPERATING FUNDS, AND THE MAJORITY COMING FROM THE TRI-COUNCIL FUNDS.

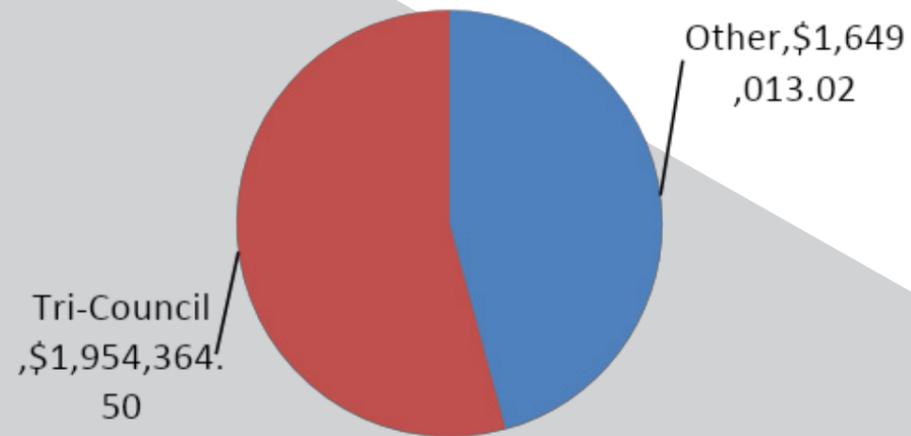
2018-19 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Research Funding

THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY RESEARCH HELD \$4,393,475.99 IN THE 2018/2019 FISCAL YEAR.

Research Funding by Type



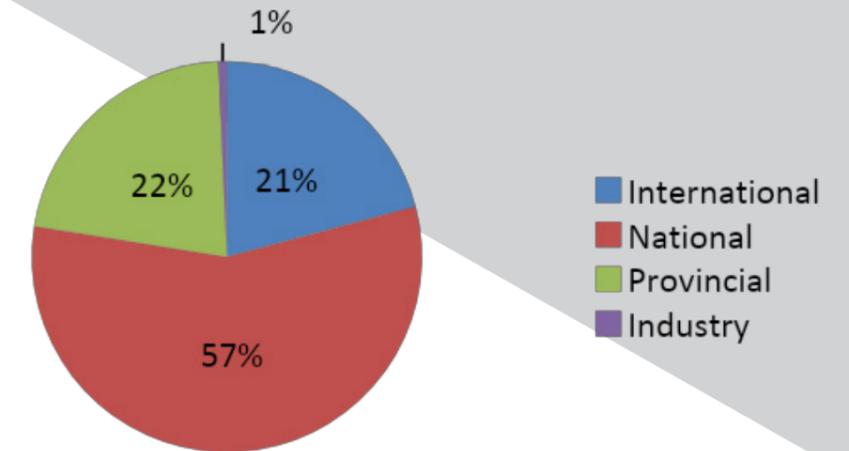
OVER HALF OF THE RESEARCH OPERATING DOLLARS CAME FROM THE TRI-COUNCIL FUNDERS (CIHR AND NSERC).



2018-19 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Research Funding

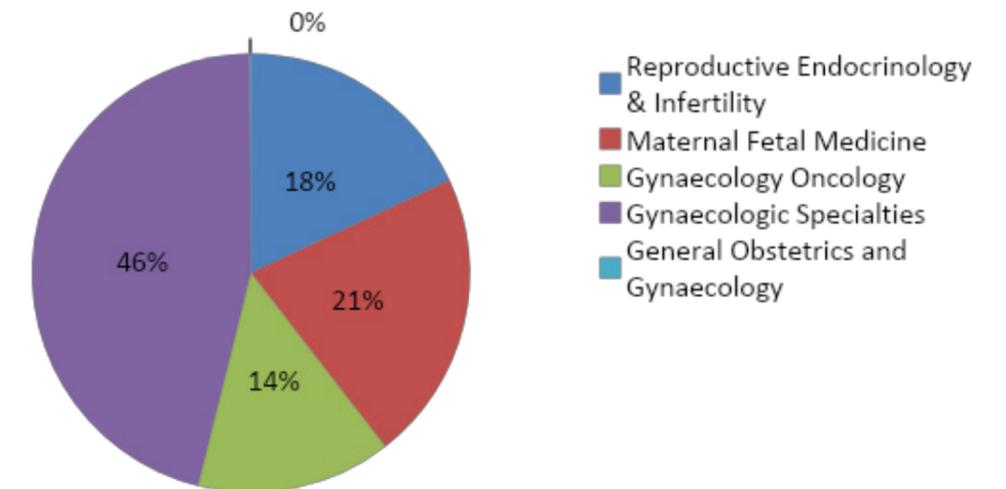
RESEARCH OPERATING FUNDING CAN ALSO BE BROKEN DOWN BY PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOURCES:

Operating Funds by Source



ALL FUNDING BY DIVISION:

All Funding by Division



FRED BRYANS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Fred Bryans Leadership Development Program was initiated in 2017 as a means to cultivate new and future leaders in the Department. Potential participants are identified by their Department or Division Head, with preference given to faculty members already in leadership positions, as well as the future leaders within the department. The goal is to build on current skills that will prepare them for present or future leadership roles. The UBC Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology is grateful to Jane Bryans for her support of this program.

Our vision is to provide faculty members with leadership training that develops and refines a variety of skills, from administrative to soft-skills training. The program explores topics such as conflict resolution, emotional intelligence, leadership assessments such as Strengths Finder 2.0, and the review of a number of administrative-based tasks, such as learning about fundraising and how to navigate through academic medicine. This winter, we will run the third cohort of our Leadership Development Program for new and future leaders within the department. We welcome all faculty members to join!



“ Participating in the leadership program helped me to shift my thinking about what it takes to build a balanced, diverse team. I’m in the midst of a career transition, which comes with more responsibility and a larger team to lead. It has been so easy to get stuck in the day-to-day ‘details swamp’ of team management and lose sight of my vision for our program of research. The training program forced me to take a breath, consider our team’s needs and shared vision, and make some deliberate choices that will set us up for the next 3-5 years. It was a phenomenal opportunity, not only to support me in developing my leadership skills, but also to provide me with tools I can use in mentoring my trainees for success.

Sarah Munro, Assistant Professor, Vancouver, Cohort 2



Karen Meathrel, Clinical Instructor, Kelowna, Cohort 2

“ In attending this 3 day seminar my most impactful session included a psychological strengths finder exercise which showed me my (mostly good haha) personality mechanisms that I use on a daily basis but have never identified. I also appreciated the emotional intelligence session and coaching conversations because the techniques were taught and then we had to practice the skills right away in the session with partners

Robin Johnson, Assistant Professor, Prince George, Cohort 1



Paul Yong, Assistant Professor, Vancouver, Cohort 1

“ I benefited from the Department leadership program in several ways. I found it useful to identify my personal strengths, and how to build on them to become a more effective leader. I also learned some practical tips on the structure of the Department. Finally, I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know my colleagues on a more personal level

“ I had the pleasure to attend cohort two of the Fred Bryans Leadership Conference this last spring. It was lovely to be able to meet so many of my Vancouver based colleagues in the UBC department. As part of the OB/GYN department’s strategic plan to develop meaningful leadership, this course offered many tools to help me in my role as the KGH department head. I appreciated the invitation to get to know my colleagues in Vancouver! The course helped me to understand my own communication style, as well as how to frame difficult conversations, and appreciate that conflict is not always bad. I intend to use many of these tools to help lead the Kelowna OB/GYN department through strategic planning. Thank you Geoff and Andi for the opportunity!



DIVISION OF GYNAECOLOGIC SPECIALITIES

The Division of Gynaecologic Specialities was created in 2012 in recognition of the diversity of academic activities among faculty members who did not fall into one of the traditional streams in the existing divisional structure. The goal in bringing these diverse academicians together into one division was to capitalize on opportunities for mutual collaboration, shared academic motivation, and to create a collective presence within the Department. This has proven to be a successful change as the scholarship within this division has taken off. This was reflected in the fact that the Division now brings in 46% of departmental research funding, more than 20% than any other division.



DIVISIONAL REVIEW

Dr Christian Becker from the University of Oxford was invited to review the Division of Gynaecologic Specialities.



WHAT IS GOING WELL WITH THE DIVISION?

The goal of the Division was to bring clinical academics of different backgrounds and interests together to foster collaboration, improving the scientific output and to create a social presence within the Department.

The research output had increased significantly since the Division was founded.

Recent faculty additions are beginning to pay off as those new members have been successful in acquiring external grants and boosted collaboration between divisions.



WHAT COULD WE BE DOING BETTER?

Showcase the ongoing scientific work, potential and assets.

Take part in translational science meetings to foster scientific exchange and collaboration.

Further engage the team members by holding more regular meetings.

THE DIVISION AT A GLANCE

Catherine Allaire, Division Head of Gynaecologic Specialities



NUMBER OF FACULTY MEMBERS	
» Professors	3
» Clinical Professors	2
» Associate Professors	1
» Clinical Associate Professors	2
» Assistant Professors	1
» Clinical Assistant Professors	3
» Instructors	
FACULTY MEMBERS WITH SALARY GRANTS	3
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Adv Training Program in Chronic Pain Adv Training Program in Family Planning Adv Training Program in Sexual Medicine Adv Training Program in Reproductive Infectious Diseases Adv Training Program in Urogynaecology



WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING WITH DIVISION MEMBERS?

✓ MICHAEL SMITH FOUNDATION HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD



We are happy to announce that Dr Paul Yong has been awarded the Michael Smith Foundation Health Professional Investigator Award. This award is related to his work on sexual pain in endometriosis and the role of somatic mutations, arising from collaboration between OVCARE and the BC Women's Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis.

Endometriosis is a common condition, affecting 1 in 10 women of reproductive age, or approximately one million women in Canada. Half of women with endometriosis experience sexual pain, which is felt as pelvic pain with deep penetration during sexual activity. Together with Dr. Michael Anglesio and Dr. David Huntsman, Dr Yong recently identified non-inherited somatic gene mutations in deep endometriosis (an invasive sub-type).

Through our data registry and tissue bank for endometriosis patients, we will now determine whether these mutations lead to sexual pain, through an association with invasive endometriosis and with increased nerve growth around endometriosis. In the future, it is possible that mutation testing could be incorporated into clinical care for endometriosis to identify subgroups and promote more individualized care. These mutations could also be potential novel treatment targets for this common condition in women.

✓ GEOFF CUNDIFF ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN UROGYNECOLOGIC SOCIETY

On October 13, at the annual Pelvic Floor Disorders Week congress, Professor Cundiff accepted the gavel and began his term as the President of the American Urogynecologic Society. A priority has been to cultivate a relationship with the newly formed Canadian Society of Pelvic Medicine, who will be holding their third meeting concurrent with the AUGS International Scientific meeting in September of 2019.



✓ LORI BROTTO IS ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA COLLEGE OF NEW SCHOLARS, ARTISTS & SCIENTISTS



Dr Brotto has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars Artists and Scientists, which includes top mid-career leaders in Canada. The College provides the RSC with a multigenerational capacity to help Canada and the world address major challenges and seize new opportunities including those identified in emerging fields. The Members of the College are Canadians and Permanent Residents who, at an early stage in their career, demonstrated a high level of achievement. The criteria for election is excellence, and membership is for seven years. Up to 80 Members may be elected each year.

Lori Brotto, a Canada Research Chair in Women's Sexual Health and Executive Director of the Women's Health Research Institute, is internationally recognized as a leader in sexual health research. She has led teams to develop effective psychological interventions to improve sexual dysfunction and genital pain, which collectively affect up to a third of women. Her work has influenced international practice guidelines. In less than ten years since the start of her academic appointment and 15 years since her PhD, she has achieved over 130 peer reviewed publications, 61 grants, and a new book "Better Sex Through Mindfulness", a translation of her program of research on women's sexual health, was published in 2018 by Greystone Publishing.

✓ JANICE KWON APPOINTED ASSOCIATE HEAD OF RESEARCH

We are happy to announce that Janice Kwon from the Division of Gynaecologic Oncology has accepted the position as Associate Head of Research as of 1 August 2019. Janice has been with the Department since 2008 and is an Associate Professor. She is currently the Program Director for the Gynaecologic Oncology Fellowship.



I would also like to take the opportunity to thank KS Joseph for moulding the position into what it currently is today with his tenure in that position since 2015.

✓ PAUL YONG - DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL OR APPLIED RESEARCH

✓ LORI BROTTO - DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY.

Both Drs. Lori Brotto & Paul Yong received the Distinguished Achievement awards at the 2019 Faculty of Medicine awards recognizing their meritorious performance.

UNDERGRADUATE

Hello from the desk of the Undergraduate Program Director! In this report, I will highlight the role of the Discipline Specific Site Leader (DSSL). In our provincially distributed 3rd year clerkship, our medical students work at multiple hospitals and clinics. They have the opportunity to train with and learn from our colleagues with both general and specialized focus in OBGYN, Family Practice, nursing and midwifery.

The clerkship in OBGYN is tailored to the specific resources and assets of each community. We rely on a DSSL at each site to coordinate and supervise our OBGYN Clerkship. These dedicated individuals are the backbone of our clinical undergraduate program. They are responsible for the 3rd year schedules and welcome the students to each 6 week block throughout the year. The DSSL is committed to meet with each student at mid rotation to provide formative feedback. They also deliver hands-on teaching at site specific workshops.

This year, we had the highest number of 4th year UBC medical students apply to an OBGYN Residency. This tells me that in our undergraduate program we are inspiring students to a career in OBGYN. This would be impossible without the enthusiastic participation of our DSSLs across the province. I want to personally thank each DSSL for their dedication to our clerkship.

The list of DSSLs is below; the next time you see them, please take a moment to thank them for their work inspiring the next generation of OBGYNs.

1. Susan Sadeghi (LGH)
2. Andrea Massey (SPH)
3. Hanna Ezzat (BCWH)
4. Sarah Finlayson (PD, VGH)
5. Jacqueline O'Connell (RGH)
6. Mina Wesa (RCH)
7. Julie Wood (BGH)
8. Jason Burrows (SMH)
9. Darren Lazare (SMH)
10. Hilary Baikie (SMP, Kamloops)
11. Shelley La Berge (SMP, Kelowna)
12. Gary Miles (IMP- Victoria)
13. Aaron Kennedy (NMP- Prince George)



SARAH FINLAYSON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR MDUG

SARAH FINLAYSON - 2019 CLINICAL FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING

This award recognizes excellence in teaching by clinical faculty members.



MINA WESA, DSSL FOR ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL

I took on the role as DSSL at Royal Columbian Hospital a few months into starting my OBGYN practice. I had always wanted to be directly involved in teaching, having benefitted from wonderful mentors and keen senior residents who helped shape my own learning and career. I remember the tremendous role that my DSSL (Dr. Ubhi) played in my own experience on the OBGYN rotation as a medical clerk and am very grateful to now have the opportunity to shape the experience of other learners. It is a privilege and I am proud to serve in this role. At Royal Columbian Hospital the learners have the opportunity to work directly with the staff OBGYN and GP attendings on a frequent basis. They get hands-on experience on a regular basis and complete their rotation having a much better sense of whether a career in this field is a good fit for them.



GARY MILES, DSSL FOR THE ISLAND MEDICAL PROGRAM, VICTORIA



My name is Gary Miles, I am the DSSL for the Island Medical Program (IMP), based in Victoria. I teach the 3rd year medical student interns, initially Pap smear technique using a SIM model. We then venture into the wards for clinical bedside teaching, both Obstetrics and Gynecology, over 2 sessions. The students really enjoy these sessions; as they can practice their history taking skills, presentations and apply their academic knowledge finally. I enjoy the teaching and observing their progress while attached to the department. They of course also get further clinical teaching when attached to preceptors in gynecology and Antepartum clinics, colposcopy clinic and the gynecology operating rooms. Labour and Delivery Unit teaching is now with a preceptor attachment instead of the previous case-based approach. This model is vastly preferred by the students. Assessments are done using WBAs and evaluation forms. Feedback is given at mid- and end- rotation.



THE D.A. BOYES COMMUNITY TEACHING AWARD

In honor and memory, of Dr. David Alexander Boyes' lifetime commitment to teaching and engagement of the medical communities of British Columbia, the D. A. Boyes Society announced the inaugural Community Teaching Award. This Award is bestowed annually on a British Columbia or Yukon community that shows exceptional commitment toward Undergraduate and/or Resident education in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In addition to the public recognition of this distinction, the community receiving the Award will be eligible for a financial grant up to \$5000, to be directed towards the sponsorship of a Visiting Lectureship and/or Mentorship by an expert of the community's choice.

The first recipient community was selected by a panel consisting of the directors of Undergraduate and Residency Education as well as members of the Department Executive.

The 2018 award went to the Northern Medical Program. They intend to use the funds to organise professional development lectures in Prince George.



MARIJO ODULIO & ROBIN JOHNSON - RECEIVING INAUGURAL COMMUNITY TEACHING AWARD



THE D.A. BOYES MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD

The D. A. Boyes Society developed the Memorial Research Award in 2018 as a way to honor the memory, of Dr. David Alexander Boyes' lifetime commitment to teaching and engagement. This award is open to all learners within the Department. There will one award available for up to \$5000.

This year we received 8 applications for the D.A. Boyes Memorial Research award for Trainees. The Awards Committee reviewed the applications and prioritized "Applications addressing questions encountered by trainees and others in front-line practice, and projects that will be primarily executed by trainees" as per the terms of reference for the award.

The Committee felt that the trainee applications were exceptional, and while the call for applications was only for one award, the Committee identified 2 excellent applications deemed worthy of an award. So the \$5000 award was be split between two projects.



Principle Applicant: Kate Wahl & Natash Orr

Title: "The acceptability of a phallus length reducer, Ohnut, for deep dyspareunia: A pilot".



Principle Applicant: Jessica Liauw

Title: "Navigating the grey zone: Creating a decision aid for antenatal corticosteroids".



DIVISION OF MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE

The Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine of the University of British Columbia includes 20 perinatologists providing consultative care at 4 sites – BC Women’s Hospital, Surrey Memorial Hospital, Royal Columbian Hospital and Victoria General Hospital. In addition, new clinics have been added at St. Paul’s Hospital and will expand in the future. In addition to providing direct patient care at these sites, Division members provide clinical support to maternity care providers throughout the province and into the Yukon Territory through telephone and telehealth consultations, and through coordination of maternal transports.

Members of the Division work in close collaboration with specialists in other disciplines including Medical Genetics, Obstetrical Medicine, Neonatology, Pediatric Surgery, Reproductive Mental Health and many others. Care is provided in a collaborative model with the patient’s primary care provider. The interdisciplinary clinic provides patients with the services of perinatal nurses, social workers, dieticians and psychologists. The scholarship of the Division spans the full spectrum, including biomedical research related to placentology, clinical investigation related to diagnostic imaging, to perinatal epidemiology.

THE DIVISION AT A GLANCE

Ken Lim, Division Head of Maternal Fetal Medicine



DIVISIONAL REVIEW

The Department invited Dr. Douglas Wilson from the University of Calgary to conduct the review for the Division of MFM.



WHAT IS GOING WELL WITH THE DIVISION?

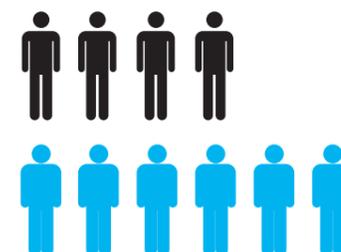
MFM division members are providing high quality clinical evaluation and care for the complex maternity patient. The Perinatal Epidemiology Research group has a national/International presence and significant research productivity. A new Methodology Journal Club for fellows and advanced trainees was developed. A postgraduate program for Enhanced Obstetrical Skills for Family Physicians was developed at Surrey Memorial Hospital.



WHAT COULD WE BE DOING BETTER?

The Division should pursue strategic planning among the MFM division members to explore a collaborative care model that integrates prevailing models of MFM care. This should accommodate an ambulatory consultative and diagnostic service with a full-time provincial consultative service and sited labour and delivery management for high-risk patients. Further to this, the Division should consider financial models that will serve the provincial clinical mandate while preserving and optimizing the academic missions of education, discovery, and knowledge translation. Exploration, discussion, and negotiation with the Health Authorities and the BC Government, around the creation of a Provincial MFM Program and a service agreement that will support it.

NUMBER OF FACULTY MEMBERS	
» Professors	1
» Clinical Professors	6
» Associate Professors	1
» Clinical Associate Professors	5
» Assistant Professors	3
» Clinical Assistant Professors	6
» Instructors	1
FACULTY MEMBERS WITH SALARY GRANTS	4
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine Enhanced Obstetrical Skills Program for Family Physicians



Male 42%

Female 58%

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING WITH DIVISION MEMBERS?



JENNIFER HUTCHEON AWARDED A TIER 2 CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN PERINATAL POPULATION HEALTH



Dr. Jennifer Hutcheon, an Associate Professor in the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, was recently awarded a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair. Her program of research “Using ‘Big Data’ to Improve the Health of Mothers and Their Babies” aims to identify pregnancies at risk and to understand impacts of maternity care policies with the ultimate goal of improving pregnancy and infant outcomes.

To learn more about this program of research visit the Canada Research Chairs website (<http://www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/chairholders-titulaires/profile-eng.aspx?profileId=4497>), or read her research profile on the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute website (<https://www.bcchr.ca/jhutcheon>).



TRACY PRESSEY AWARDED KILLAM TEACHING PRIZE



The Killam Teaching Prize is awarded annually to faculty nominated by students, colleagues and alumni in recognition of excellence in teaching. This, along with the many other teaching awards that Dr Pressey has received, is a tangible expression of the high regard in which she is held for her teaching contributions.



BLAIR BUTLER - 2019 CLINICAL FACULTY AWARD FOR CAREER EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING.

This award recognizes senior clinical faculty members who have demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching over the course of their careers.



DR. NICOLE RACETTE ~ 1959-2019

A Pioneer of a Provincial Division of General Obstetrics & Gynaecology

After graduating from Laval in 1987, Dr. Nicole Racette spent the early part of her career practicing obstetrics and gynaecology as a locum at St Paul’s Hospital. In 1990 she moved to Royal Columbian/Eagle Ridge Hospitals with her office in New Westminster. These years in general practice were formative but soon gave way to sub-specialization.

Nicole entered the UBC Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology’s fellowship program in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) and was subsequently recruited to the department, as an instructor in the Division of REI in 1995. She then joined the Genesis Fertility Centre, where she practiced until 2008, when she took on the role of Division Head for the Division of General Obstetrics and Gynaecology. During the next ten years she redefined the largest division in the department, embracing a provincial perspective and creating programs to support faculty development and excellence in education. While her office was based at DHCC at Vancouver General Hospital, she provided mentorship to many members of our department across BC, helping them to grow into leadership positions.

Dr. Racette was always a passionate advocate for quality assurance and patient safety, and embraced these interests in 2009 as a member of the Gynaecology Quality Assurance Committee. In 2012 she also joined the Patient Safety Committee at BC Women’s Hospital. Given her quality focus, including learning from experience, she would want her colleagues to know that she controlled her multiple myeloma, diagnosed in 2012, because of more than 100 transfusions of red cells and platelets from donors. Don’t forget to donate blood.

Nicole received her Canadian Physician Executive Certificate from the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Physician Executive Association in May 2013, preparing her for additional operational roles at BCWH. She was also promoted to Clinical Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine.

As she became an indispensable member of the administrative team at BC Women’s Hospital, she stepped down as the Division Head. It was hard to lose her in this role, as she was the architect of today’s vibrant province-wide Division of General Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She also had a large impact on our department through her work at BCWH. Our department is better for her many contributions, and she will be deeply missed by her colleagues. At home she enjoyed cooking, especially for the

large crowd that would attend her Christmas parties. Even more so, at the family vineyard she liked to entertain, create itineraries, arrange wine tastings or just enjoy the view. She loved wine and had an encyclopedic knowledge of the wines of the world.

An ardent traveller, she was just as happy in Times Square, above the Arctic Circle or on safari. She was a proficient downhill and back country skier and was comfortable in high heels or hiking boots as long as everything matched. Proud accomplishments include the West Coast Trail, (her first backpack adventure) and the summit of Kilimanjaro where she received her marriage proposal. A lasting memory included a trek up Mt Stromboli, an active Italian volcano, in the dark.

More recently, cycling became her passion and she was particularly proud to have completed the Whistler Gran Fondo, twice with hemoglobin around 90. She was tough.

A loving mother, she attended every school and sporting event with enthusiasm, cheering on the sidelines, making smoothies and even learning to keep score in volleyball. And as life partner to her husband Franco, Nicole was a perfect match.

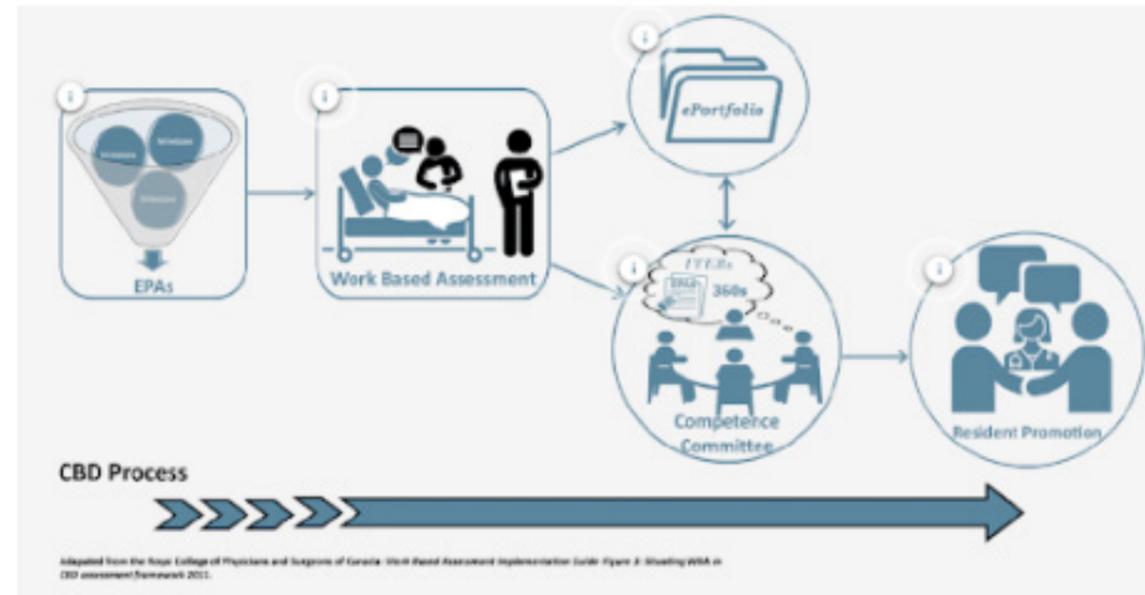
Nicole supported many causes particularly women’s athletics and was part of the group that founded the UBC 28, which provides scholarships for female athletes. She also gave generously to the Arts, VGH and the BC Cancer Foundation.

A memorial fund was set up through UBC by her family. Please visit this site for more information: <https://memorial.support.ubc.ca/nicole-racette/>



COMPETENCY BY DESIGN

In July of 2017, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada initiated a sweeping change to medical education in Canada with the introduction of "Competence By Design". This overhauls the medical education system from a time based apprenticeship model to a competency based medical curriculum. Happily, moving to a competency based residency program has been a Departmental priority since 2010, and consequently, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is well positioned to roll out our first cohort of the Competency By Design curriculum this year. Nevertheless, Dr. Uhbi and the Educational Team deserve considerable praise for such a smooth and effective introduction of such a major pedagogical change.



PRINCIPLE

- * Shifting from a time based to outcome based education for residents who are starting July 1, 2019
- * Multiple low stakes assessments
- * Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) – task that a resident can perform independently
 - ◊ 32 EPA's identified for Canadian OB/GYN Residency Programs
 - ◊ Each EPA has subsections called Milestones that are observable markers of a resident's ability

RESIDENCY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- * Remains the same – rotations remain intact and length of residency not changing
- * 4 Stages of Training instead of PGY 1-5
 - ◊ Transition to Discipline (9 months) – Basic Clinical Training rotations
 - ◊ Foundations (1.5 years) – general obstetrics and gynaecology rotations
 - ◊ Core (2 years) – subspecialty rotations with Royal College Written Exam at the end in September
 - ◊ Transition to Practice (9 months) – chief rotations with Royal College OSCE in May

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

- * Faculty member coupled with one resident for duration of training
- * Provides coaching over time
- * Reviews evaluations with residents

EVALUATIONS

- * Daily assessments completed online using a system called Entrada ~ <https://entrada.med.ubc.ca>
 - ◊ Residents' evaluations will be completed on a smartphone
- * Residents will trigger daily assessments for faculty supervisor to complete and review with the resident on a specific EPA; faculty will also have the ability to trigger assessment
 - ◊ Residents are to ask for evaluations prospectively
- * Summative end of rotation evaluations on one45 will remain
- * Collated data goes to Competence Committee which decides when a resident has successfully completed an EPA and when a resident is promoted to their next stage of training
 - ◊ Residents will be able to see on their progress on their profile and will receive progress reports

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CBD

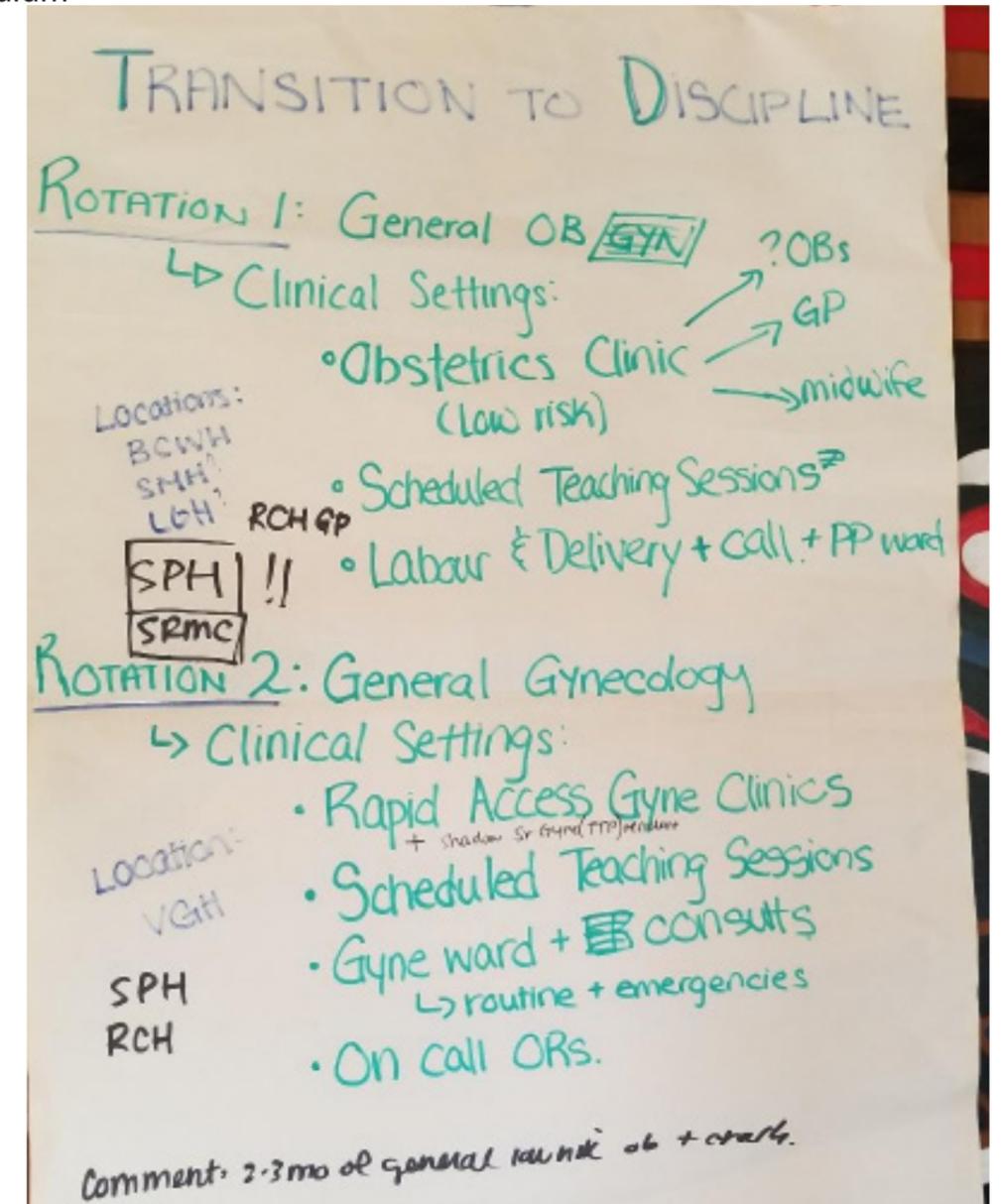
..... SO FAR

The process of implementing a Competency Based Medical Education started with a series of meetings at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This is a multi-year transformational process implemented by the Royal College and involves all specialties. There are multiple cohorts that launch yearly. Preparations for our launch this year, began in 2017. Multiple stakeholders were involved including all Program Directors from the 16 Canadian OBGYN residency programs, members of the Specialty Committee and educators from the Royal College including support staff. The educational idea was to start with the end in mind. "What does a fully qualified OBGYN need to know in order to start clinical practice at the end of a 5-year program?" Those competencies were defined in a progressive fashion building on a scaffolding of the CanMEDS roles from the 2015 document. The key concept is that there should be a demonstrable progression of competence.

The second part involved curricular redesign. The plan was to use the residents who are adult learners to create a new curriculum where those identified competencies could be delivered. The curriculum includes teaching experiences and the academic curriculum including simulation experiences.



Working Together for the Curriculum



Teaching Experiences

Finally, the implementation of the new curriculum started in June 2019. The tools for the evaluation of residents were unveiled in June 2019. The first faculty development session took place at the end of June 2019. Resident orientation also took place in the first week of July. The implementation plan includes a rolling start with small group sessions for the faculty in their departments including a large session format at Grand Rounds and the D.A. Boyes meeting. Finally, the implementation of the new curriculum started in June 2019. The tools for the evaluation of residents were unveiled in June 2019. The first faculty development session took place at the end of June 2019. Resident orientation also took place in the first week of July. The implementation plan includes a rolling start with small group sessions for the faculty in their departments including a large session format at Grand Rounds and the D.A. Boyes meeting.

DIVISION OF GENERAL GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS

With 152 members, the Division of General Obstetrics and Gynaecology is our largest Division. The majority are clinician educators who provide crucial teaching for our undergraduate and postgraduate learners (we salute you!) It is also the Division that is the most widely distributed throughout the Province, which creates geographical challenges for members. In keeping with the concepts of Competency By Design, that recognizes the importance of lifelong learning, Dr. Mohtashmi has prioritized professional development. The Continuing Surgical Education Program offers surgical preceptorships to Department members, but now the Division is also providing hands-on Courses to develop and enhance surgical skills (see story, Advanced Workshop on Gynecologic Laparoscopic Anatomy and Surgical Treatment of Apical Prolapse). The Division is also building a surgical video library as another resource for professional development.

The members of the General Division are committed to excellence in clinical care, continuing professional development, teaching and research in all aspects of women's health. Our members are involved in patient safety initiatives, implementation of clinical guidelines and development of clinical pathways.



DIVISIONAL REVIEW

We invited Dr Joseph Huggens from Eastern Virginia Medical School to conduct the review.



WHAT IS GOING WELL WITH THE DIVISION?

The constant evolution of surgical practice in gynecology, highlights the importance of development of new motor skills as a priority for professional development. This is especially challenging in minimally invasive surgical techniques. The Division has identified increasing the proportion of minimally invasive surgeries, or technicity Index, as a priority for both individual surgeons and institutions. The main obstacle to maintain competency is the availability of mentors. The Continuing Surgical Education Program is a preceptor program for practicing physicians developed to meet this need. To ensure sustainability of CSEP, the Division Head is building capacity by developing a pool of trained faculty, who can travel and provide mentorship to champion surgeons in distributed regional centers. To address anatomical and motor skills, the Division has organized three UBC CPD accredited MOC Section 3 workshops with internationally recognised faculty. These hands-on simulation courses have been well attended and extremely well received with excellent evaluations by the attendees. Success can also be measured by the distances attendees have travelled to attend, many have travelled from the furthest reaches of BC.

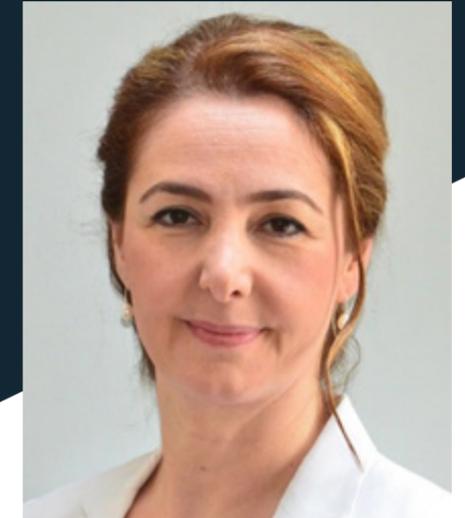


WHAT COULD WE BE DOING BETTER?

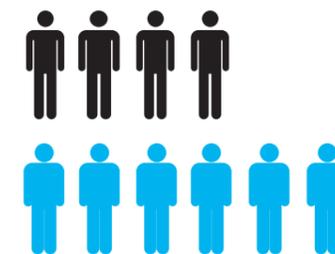
The distributed nature of the Department is the major challenge, especially in terms of communication and effective collaboration among the members. Only 49 out of 152 of General Division members work in academic hospitals in the immediate Vancouver vicinity. This has a tendency to limit access to rounds and other educational and research activities available through the Department. The majority of members practice mainly in small to average size community hospitals with a large geographic distribution across the Province.

THE DIVISION AT A GLANCE

Fariba Mohtashmi,
Division Head of General
Obstetrics & Gynaecology



NUMBER OF FACULTY MEMBERS	
» Professors	
» Clinical Professors	3
» Associate Professors	
» Clinical Associate Professors	31
» Assistant Professors	1
» Clinical Assistant Professors	44
» Instructors	99
FACULTY MEMBERS WITH SALARY GRANTS	1
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Continuing Surgical Education Program



Male 41%

Female 59%

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING WITH DIVISION MEMBERS?

✓ SARAH MUNRO – MICHAEL SMITH FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARD



Dr. Sarah Munro is a qualitative health services researcher in knowledge translation and implementation science. She completed her PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC) where her research focused on the development and evaluation of tools that support shared decision-making for patients and their care teams, and the investigation of factors that influence implementation of patient-centred practice and policy. She is the newest member of the Department and Division, since her appointment as an Assistant Professor in July. Clearly, she was a great recruit as she has already distinguished herself by winning this prestigious salary award.

✓ GISELLE BOURGEOIS-LAW - 2018 RECIPIENT FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN CME/CPD

We are pleased to announce that Dr Giselle Bourgeois-Law is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in CME/CPD.

This award recognizes exemplary and distinguished activities/service to the Faculty of Medicine in the areas of Continuing Professional Development/Continuing Medical Education (CME/CPD).



ADVANCED WORKSHOP ON GYNECOLOGIC LAPAROSCOPIC ANATOMY AND SURGICAL TREATMENT OF APICAL PROLAPSE



This two-day accredited workshop, organized and chaired by Dr. Fariba Mohtashami, brought together a cohort of local and highly selected international faculty. The course attracted gynecologists mostly from the lower mainland, but also from Alberta, Prince George, Okanagan, and Vancouver Island attended. Ample time in hands-on labs and the small groups designed to ensure adequate interaction with faculty, led to a highly successful workshop.



FARIBA MOHTASHAMI - 2019 CLINICAL FACULTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY PRACTICE TEACHING.

This award recognizes clinical faculty members throughout British Columbia who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and made an educational impact in a local community.



THE GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

We would like to welcome Drs Paul Yong and Alex Beristain as the new Co-Directors of the Graduate Program in Reproductive and Developmental Science Program (RDS). However, this program would not be what it is today without the tireless efforts of the outgoing Director, Dr Dan Rurak. Dr Rurak has been at the helm of the program for many years and under his leadership, it has grown to 37 graduate students (21 MSc, 16 PhD). He has an incredible fount of knowledge that we hope to still be able to tap on occasions.

Dr. Alex Beristain, along with Dr. Yong and RDS faculty, are particularly excited about the development and implementation of new graduate courses designed to address gaps in subjects related to statistics, women's mental health, women's obstetrical conditions, critical thinking and research design.

Drs. Beristain and Yong would also like to highlight notable national and prestigious local achievements of RDS graduate students during the 2018/2019 academic year.

GRADUATE STUDENT	AWARD	SUPERVISOR
Ms. Marina Giovannoni Dr. Caroline Lee Ms. Jenna Miller Mr. Jeremy Wang	2019 CIHR Canada Graduate MSc Scholarships	Dr. Sheona-Mitchell Foster Dr. Paul Yong Dr. Michael Anglesio Dr. Peter Leung
Ms. Natasha Orr	2019 Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Award	Dr. Paul Yong & Dr. Michael Anglesio
Ms. Lindsay Ritcher Ms. Maggie Woo Kinshella	Friedman Awards for Scholars in Health	Dr. Sarka Lisonkova & Dr Joseph Ting Dr. Rajavel Elango
Dr. Faten Ahmed	Healthy Starts and BCCHRI Graduate studentships	Dr. Peter Leung Dr. Alexander Beristain

We would like to congratulate all the recent RDS alumni who successfully defended their MSc and PhD thesis examinations during this academic year. Congratulations to our MSc graduates Lobna Abdellatif (Mohamed Bedaiwy), Sukainah Alfaraj (Mohamed Bedaiwy), Najla Alsowayan (Mohamed Bedaiwy), Nimisha Arora (Gillian Hanley), Jennet Baltayeva (Alexander Beristain), Lindsay Richter (Sarka Lisonkova & Joseph Ting), Jenna Treissman (Alexander Beristain), and Katherine Watt (Alexander Beristain). Congratulations to our PhD graduates Ahn Rhi Lee (Xuesen Dong), Dylan Cutler (Anthony Cheung & Mohamed Bedaiwy), Yinan Li (Xuesen Dong), and Hongjin Zhao (Peter Leung).

DAN RURAK

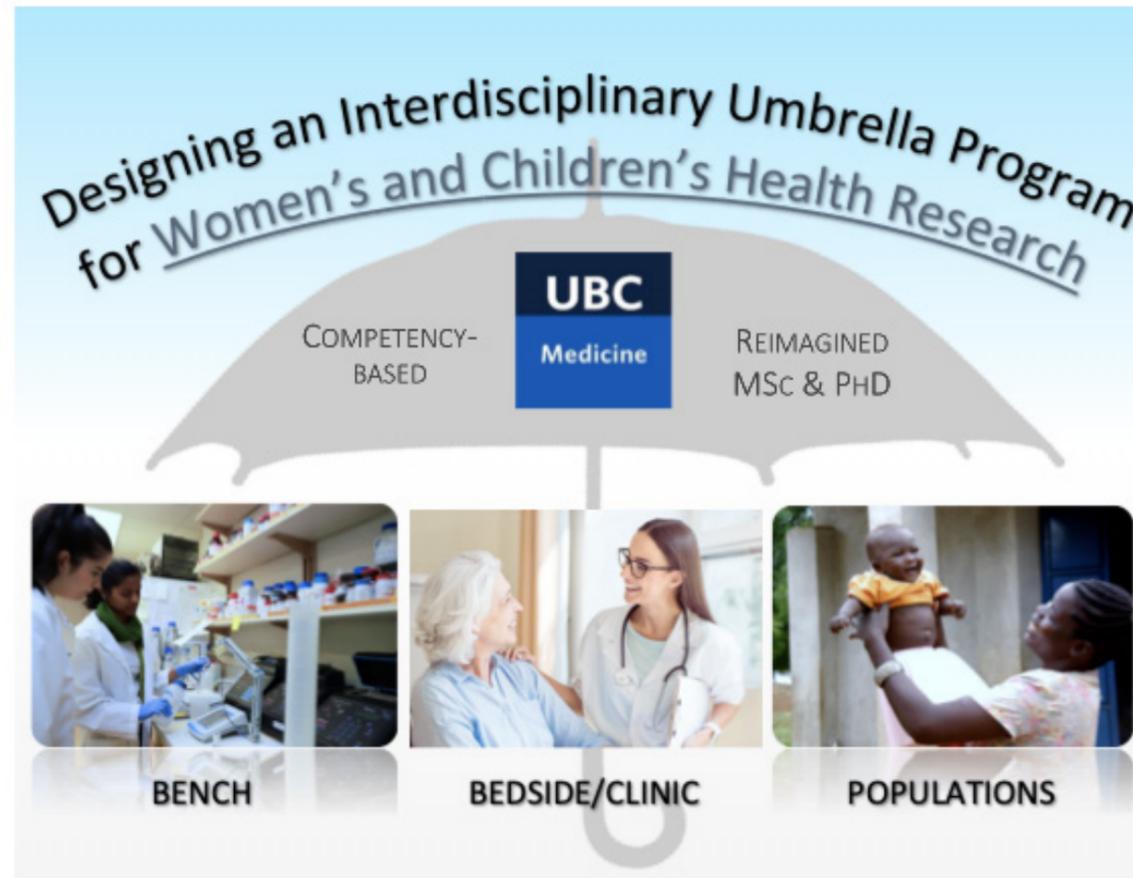


Dan – we cannot thank you enough for all the help you've given to the program and to the learners over the years.

PAUL YONG & ALEXANDER BERISTAIN Program Directors



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE..... GRADUATE PROGRAM IN WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH RESEARCH



The Departments of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Pediatrics are collaborating on the development of an umbrella program for graduate student training in Women's and Children's Health Research with streams in Reproductive and Developmental Sciences (RDS), Pediatric Health and Disease, and Global Health. Although still in the discovery phase we are working towards this program being ready for admissions in 2021.

Our overarching educational goal is in keeping with the Faculty of Medicine's Strategic Initiative Goal for Education, "teaching, development, and mentoring of practitioners and scientists who can work together effectively in an evolving system." Towards that end, we identified six different competencies that contribute to the scientific expert, and we are designing the new curriculum to incorporate them. There will also be a focus on career preparation



The program and training will be interdisciplinary, building on the strengths of our Biomedical and Clinician Scientists, whose research encompasses biomedical, clinical, health services, and population health in multiple disciplines that include translational and precision medicine. We also believe that it is essential to create and integrate other professional disciplines such as social sciences, data science, implementation science, computer science, economics, and business, while rethinking pedagogy and curriculum structure.

The program will encourage better integration across departments and schools at UBC and facilitate experiences that creatively bridge bench to bedside to communities/populations by sharing a core curriculum. We will encourage professional development across all disciplines by providing access to courses outside of the program. We will also be implementing a mentorship program for all learners to utilize.

We will embrace the new part-time PhD program and encourage new academic training opportunities for future Clinician-scientists including allied health care professionals and will create meaningful clinically-based learning experiences for our biomedical trainees. Together, these initiatives will train practitioners and scientists to work together effectively to meet their changing career requirements. Drs. Beristain and Yong encourage all current students and faculty in RDS to initiate dialogue amongst each other about the nearing establishment of a new graduate program to be jointly administered by Obstetrics/Gynaecology and Pediatrics. This new Program will share the foundation that RDS currently has, but will expand to support learning and research in global, women's, and child health.

DIVISION OF REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY

The Division of Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility strives to achieve excellence in patient care, teaching and research, as these relate to the subspecialty. Historically, it has been a leader nationally and internationally.



DIVISIONAL REVIEW

The Department invited Dr. William H Kutteh from Vanderbilt University Medical Centre to review the Division



WHAT DOES THE DIVISION DO WELL?

The Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Program has the potential to become one of the leading clinic research sites in North America and the industrialised world.

The Division has contributed significantly in the pilot phase and the establishment of the outpatient hysteroscopy services at BC Women's Hospital.

The trajectory of the research program is strong with increasing and continual funding from multiple outside sources.

The development of a Master's Program in Clinical Embryology is visionary and timely.



WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

Feedback of the fellowship program should be routine.

Provision of basic fertility services should be included in the program not only for appropriate patient care, but to enhance the education of learners at all levels.

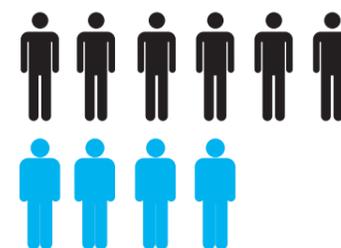
Recruitment of a mid-career scientist to boost the division academic mandate and ensure adequate succession as senior researchers in the division are close to the age of retirement.

THE DIVISION AT A GLANCE

Mohamed Bedaiwy,
Division Head
of Reproductive
Endocrinology & Infertility



NUMBER OF FACULTY MEMBERS	
» Professors	2
» Clinical Professors	4
» Associate Professors	2
» Clinical Associate Professors	6
» Assistant Professors	
» Clinical Assistant Professors	7
» Instructors	1
FACULTY MEMBERS WITH SALARY GRANTS	1
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Fellowship In Reproductive Endocrinology And Infertility



Male 59%

Female 41%

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING WITH DIVISION MEMBERS?

✓ NEW REI PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dr Tallon was raised in Dublin, Ireland and completed her undergraduate training at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and moved to Canada in 2005, for residency in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the University of Saskatchewan. She accepted a position into the UBC fellowship program in 2011 and has been a division member since. She is a fellow of the Royal College of physicians in Canada and has subspecialty accreditation in Gynaecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

Dr Tallon practices infertility management at the Olive Fertility Center in Vancouver, where is a Co-Director. Her areas of expertise include egg freezing, the evaluations and treatment of infertility, recurrent implantation/pregnancy loss and in the application of advanced fertility care. She has co-authored a number of publications in the field of infertility and actively participates in the ongoing education of trainees at all levels and in providing inter-disciplinary education. She has been actively involved in fellowship training for a number of years.

✓ ANNUAL UBC GREAT SUPERVISOR WEEK

Each year in May, the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at UBC organizes 'Great Supervisor Week' during which graduate students are encouraged to give kudos to their supervisors through social media and our website. The annual UBC Great Supervisor Week was first held on Nov 1st 2018 to celebrate outstanding mentors.

This year Dr. Mohamed Bedaiwy, Professor and Division Head of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and Dr. Paul Yong, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology were recognized.



✓ DR. PETER LEUNG - DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

We are pleased to announce that Dr Peter Leung is the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award for overall excellence – senior faculty. This award recognizes outstanding contributions of a senior academic faculty member in the areas of research, education and service



✓ THE BETTY POLAND LECTURESHIP



The Dr. Betty Poland endowment provides funds to support the development of embryopathology. This endowment is focused on supporting a visiting professor who can speak to the multidisciplinary topic.

This year OBGYN brought in as guest speaker, Dr. William Kutteh, who on March 21 presented: 'New Algorithm for the Evaluation of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss'. As a visiting professor, Dr Kutteh also attended the Division of REI research rounds discussed possible future research collaborations with our centre.

Dr. Kutteh is an expert in RPL, Director of Fertility Associates of Memphis and board-certified in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Dr. Kutteh is also Laboratory Director for Memphis Fertility Laboratory, Inc. and Reproductive Laboratory, Inc.

✓ DR. CAITLIN DUNNE - NAMED TO CANADA'S TOP 40 UNDER 40 LIST FOR 2019

Dr. Dunne is a clinical assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynaecology and a partner and co-director at the Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine (PCRM). She specializes in fertility and egg freezing and is a widely published health advocate in the media. She serves as a director of Fertile Future, which provides fertility preservation for young people with cancer.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The UBC OBGYN Faculty Mentoring Program is a pilot initiative developed as part of the Faculty Wellness Program. The goal for the pilot is to build a mentorship program that will accommodate the needs of all faculty members in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

The intentions of the program are to:

- I. Support the career goals of UBC OBGYN faculty in the areas of administration, clinical, teaching and research
- II. Enhance overall engagement within the UBC Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

This structured peer mentoring program is designed to support and assist faculty navigate new departmental roles by pairing faculty (mentees) with senior faculty (mentors) who have expertise in the mentees area of interest, such as teaching, research, clinical care, and administration. Mentors and mentees engage in learner driven professional development sessions over the 12-month duration of the program. Participants in this program also have the opportunity to form practical and meaningful professional relationships.

Our goal for participants at the end of the mentoring program, is that they will be able to: Demonstrate growth as faculty in the following ways:

- I. Attain new professional and personal skills
- II. Realize greater confidence in being a faculty for the UBC Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- III. Feel supported and connected in their role as UBC OBGYN faculty members

Mentee Testimonials



Aline Talhouk, Assistant Professor

I am very thankful for my mentor and for the mentorship program. Not only did my mentor share their experience and provide specific guidance, they also facilitated my professional socialization in the department by exposing me to different opportunities for collaboration and inviting me to give seminars to showcase my expertise. I am looking forward to my continued participation in this program



Mentee Testimonials

Alex Beristain, Assistant Professor



The ability to connect with a senior and knowledgeable mentor that has the necessary experience and track-record in a related field of research is crucial. Receiving objective assessments of your productivity, successes, failures, and challenges, combined with genuine back-and-forth discussion as to how best to strategize for the next research project or collaboration was for me something that was meaningful and highly valuable. This exercise is valuable not only for young and new investigators, but for investigators at any stage of their career



DIVISION OF GYNAECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

The Division of Gynaecologic Oncology provides gynaecologic cancer consultation services and treatment to the women of British Columbia. The Division is known for Leadership in cervical cancer screening, as well as diagnosis and treatment of all gynecologic cancers. Aside from this clinical mandate, the Division has a leading Fellowship Program in Gynaecologic Oncology that draws applicants from across Canada. The Division also has worldwide recognition as innovators in gynaecologic oncology research. The research program bridges all research piers from genomics to health services research, and includes all gynaecological cancers, including neoplasms of the ovary, uterus, cervix and vulva. This broad expertise has been the basis for the Gynaecologic Cancer Initiative, a cross disciplinary program to build capacity in translational research related to gynaecologic cancer.



DIVISIONAL REVIEW

The Department invited Dr Robert Coleman from Department of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine, Division of Surgery, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston to review the Division in July 2019.



WHAT DOES THE DIVISION DO WELL?

An undisputed global leader – particularly in the setting of endometriosis and endometriosis-associated cancers, low-grade serous ovarian carcinoma and endometrial cancer.

OvCare and its leadership and personnel are uniquely situated and resourced to continue to drive global discovery of biologic processes of disease.



WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

The current faculty complement is providing care outside of standard metrics acceptable for safe clinical care and attention to training and research. There is a need for two more full time faculty members.

Despite its success, OvCare's scientific discoveries have far outpaced clinical research endeavors or programs to take advantage of these findings. Programmatic investment and development of a clinical trials program is necessary to complement the research lines of discovery.

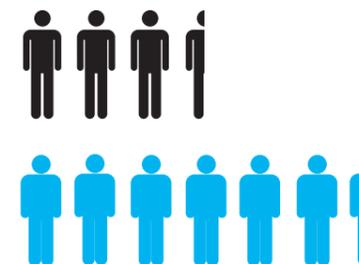
With respect to the Fellowship program, clinical exposure to coordinate post-operative medical oncology care is variable by faculty and missing prospective, clinical research opportunities. Exposure

THE DIVISION AT A GLANCE

Dianne Miller, Division Head of Gynaecologic Oncology



NUMBER OF FACULTY MEMBERS	
» Professors	2
» Clinical Professors	1
» Associate Professors	4
» Clinical Associate Professors	1
» Assistant Professors	3
» Clinical Assistant Professors	5
» Instructors	2
FACULTY MEMBERS WITH SALARY GRANTS	5
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Fellowship In Gynaecologic Oncology



Male 34%

Female 66%

BC GYNAECOLOGIC CANCER INITIATIVE

Over the last year, the GCI has focused on two key activities to develop a framework to aggregate the exceptional talent and incredible assets in British Columbia in a shared provincial vision: Research with tangible benefits for women at risk for, diagnosed with, and survivors of gynecologic cancers.

1. DEVELOPING A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Working in close partnership with academic faculty across UBC and clinician partners in the province, the GCI Steering Committee has developed a five-year Strategic Plan with 11 key interdisciplinary research initiatives: Cervical Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, Uterine Cancer, Vaginal/Vulva Cancer, Indigenous Women's Gynecologic Health, Clinical Trials, Survivorship, Immunotherapy, Digital Health Solutions and Analysis, Translational Digital Pathology, and Translational Medicine. The strategic plan aligns with the five priorities identified in the refreshed Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (2019-2029): decrease risk, improve diagnosis, delivery of high-quality care, eliminate barriers to access, and improve support. It also builds upon the global model of cancer control that is used to include prevention, early detection, treatment and supportive care. The regional diversity of patient populations in the province make BC an ideal "living laboratory" to study women's health and address health disparities. The Strategic Plan forms the basis for the goal of raising \$100M to support and enabling this initiative over the next 5 years.

2. CREATING A UNIFIED PLATFORM TO ACCELERATE DISCOVERY

In January 2019, the GCI led by Dr. Gavin Stuart successfully applied for and received funding from the UBC Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters competition. The funding does not directly support research but is intended to help build capacity and foster interdisciplinary research across the provincial gynaecologic cancer research community. Here are some of the key deliverables that are either completed or will be by the end of the year that will support the GCI's research priorities moving forward:

- A. Establish a minimal core set of baseline indicators for gynecologic cancer in BC including survival, incidence rates and uptake into practice of preventative measures
- B. Develop an integrated gynecologic cancer database platform (tissue bank, outcomes data, 'omics data)
- C. Enhance patient engagement through establishment of a Patient and Family Advisory Council
- D. Convene two focused international gynaecological cancer meetings to expand global partnerships. This includes one applied science meeting focused on the origins of ovarian cancer and the other focused on developing biologically and socio-culturally informed survivorship strategies for gynecological cancers.
- E. Convene and collaborate with key personnel in the Province to establish standard operating procedures for clinical trials and implementation of two new gynecological cancer trials across BC.

The Gynaecologic Cancer Initiative is continuing to develop an evaluation framework to assess progress including performance metrics. The true measure of success will be having an impact on the incidence, mortality and quality of life of women.

If you are interested in participating in the GCI, please contact us at communications@gynecancerinitiative.ca.

◇ What is the Gynaecologic Cancer Initiative?

In 2018, the Gynecologic Cancer Initiative (GCI) was formed to promote synergies and facilitate the integration between research scientists and clinicians across the province, with the goal of accelerating the pace of change in improving patient outcomes in British Columbia.

◇ Vision

To reduce the incidence, death and suffering from gynaecologic cancers by 50% by 2034.



WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING WITH DIVISION MEMBERS?

ALINE TALHOUK - Precision medicine to drive prevention and management strategies for women with endometrial cancer

Dr. Aline Talhouk is a data scientist focused on applying statistics and machine learning to bring individualized care to patients with gynecological cancers. By integrating data that accounts for the genetic characteristics of tumours, as well as environmental and other traditional risk factors, her research will develop predictive algorithms to determine which patients are at high risk of getting the cancer and for those patients who have the disease, which are likely to progress. Since her recruitment last year, she has successfully been awarded a MSFHR Scholar Award and is a co-investigator on a number of endometrial cancer grants. She is also the Director of Health Informatics and Outcomes Research with OVCARE overseeing the integration and development of innovative approaches to integrate data from multiple sources to facilitate data sharing and large scale analytics.



GILLIAN HANLEY: MSFHR scholar award recipient for her health services project "Population-based 'big data' research to improve women's health".



Dr. Gillian Hanley, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Gynaecology was one of 17 Scholars funded for her Health Services Research project "Population-based 'big data' research to improve women's health". Gillian continues to build upon her PhD and Postdoctoral work, also funded by MSFHR via trainee awards.

Gillian is a member of the Multi-disciplinary Ovarian Cancer Outcomes Group, an international consortium of ovarian cancer care researchers. Dr. Hanley also holds a CIHR New Investigator Salary Award (July 2017) and a CCSRI capacity development award (July 2014-July 2018). She is a co-PI on a CCSRI/CIHR Cancer Prevention Grant and a co-applicant on a CIHR operating grant. Gillian also holds an adjunct scientist appointment at Women's College Hospital Research Institute in Toronto

MICHAEL ANGLÉSIO - Rethink Endometriosis: Genomics and Microenvironment Influence on Biology and Malignant Potential

Dr. Michael Anglesio is a molecular biologist specializing in the genomics and biomarker based classification ovarian cancers and their non-malignant precursors, such as endometriosis. He is a graduate of UBC's Childhood Cancer Research Program where he completed his PhD before transitioning to gynecological cancer research during a post-doctoral fellowship at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia. He has been a member of BC's Gynecologic Cancer Research Team (OVCARE) since mid-2010 and was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the department in 2017. Since establishing his research group Dr. Anglesio has published breakthroughs on somatic cancer mutations found in non-malignant tissues. This initial discovery focused on endometriosis, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, and is recognized as the most impactful paper on breast and gynecological disease of 2017 by the Columbia Hospital for Women Research Foundation. In 2018, he was awarded CIHR early career investigator grant to explore the microenvironment of endometriosis, funding to lead the development of a genetically modified model of endometriosis, as a co-PA with Dr. Paul Yong (NPA; UBC), and funding to explore transcriptional and epigenomic networks across ovarian carcinoma types, as a co-applicant (UBC lead) on a 5-year NIH R37 Merit award with Dr. Hui Shen (PA; Van Andel Institute). This Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar award will facilitate Dr. Anglesio's research and enable better understanding of the interface between chronic and malignant gynecologic disease.



JANICE KWON - Costs And Benefits Of Tumour Testing To Improve Cancer Prevention And Survival



Up to 10% of ovarian and breast cancers occur in women who have unknowingly inherited a BRCA gene mutation. Women with this BRCA mutation are at high risk of developing high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma (HGSC), the most lethal gynecologic cancer. Any woman with HGSC has a 20% chance of carrying a BRCA mutation and is eligible for genetic testing. This testing is critical because: (1) she may have relatives (daughters, sisters) who have inherited the same BRCA mutation, and can undergo life-saving cancer prevention strategies; and (2) she can receive new treatment (PARP inhibitor) that can improve her survival.

The problem is that only 30% of women with HGSC undergo genetic testing for BRCA mutations. This means many lost opportunities for effective cancer treatment and cancer prevention in their family members.

Tumour testing is one potential strategy to improve identification of BRCA mutations. Women with HGSC have their tumour tissue tested first for BRCA mutations. About 25% will have a mutation in the tissue. They can be treated with a PARP inhibitor. In addition, 80% of these women have an inherited BRCA mutation, which can be confirmed by genetic (blood) testing.

The objective of this proposal is to conduct a pilot study of tumour testing in HGSC patients to identify BRCA mutations, assess its costs and effectiveness in influencing ovarian cancer survival, and subsequent genetic testing and cancer prevention in their family members.

STAFF AWARDS

NATALIE TWOHEY CUPE 2950

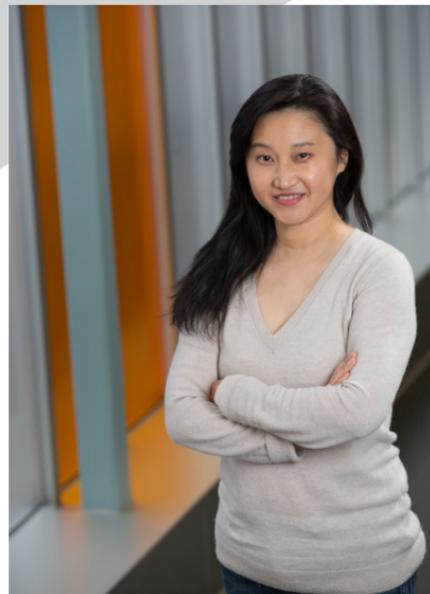


Natalie joined the Department quite recently in late 2017. Although she hasn't been with the department long she has already made her mark and is thought of very highly by both learners and program directors. She is the Senior Program Assistant for the Reproductive and Developmental Sciences graduate program, the Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship, and the Advanced Training in Family Planning program. She loves working on a wide variety of tasks to support these awesome programs, their directors and learners. She sensibly moved to Vancouver 8 years ago from Ontario. When she's not keeping the programs in order she loves to run, hike, read and bake. Not content with the challenges of her day to day work she is learning how to program in Python, and play hockey.

ELLEN ZHU Non-Union Tech

Before that, she had been working as an OBGYN specialist in a top general hospital in Beijing. Combined with her post education training in molecular biology, Ellen has been working for the Department of OBGYN for 16 years ever since she immigrated to Canada. Ellen is dedicated to fostering a learning environment for the trainees in Dr Leung's lab. To date she has helped more than 20 learners and visitors realise their research potential.

Besides work, Ellen enjoys family time. She likes is skiing and classic music. Those contribute to her 14-year-old son, Johnny, who is a young violist and ski lover. Ellen's 7-year-old daughter likes ballet dancing.



MICHELLE WOO Management & Professional

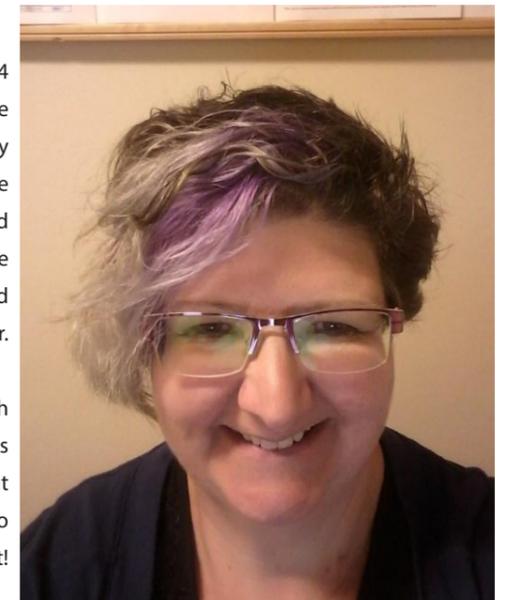


Michelle Woo is the Program Manager with the OVCARE program. She provides strategic and organizational support to the OVCARE team. She plays a key role as the primary liaison with philanthropic partners both provincially and nationally. Over the past year, she has been working closely with leadership in the Gynecologic Cancer Initiative supporting their efforts in this new province-wide initiative aimed at accelerating transformative research to significantly impact outcomes for women with gynecologic cancers. Michelle is a home grown talent as she received her Ph.D. in our Reproductive Developmental Sciences Program. She studied under the tutelage of Dr. Nelly Auersperg. Prior to joining OVCARE, she managed the CIHR STIHR Program in Women's Health at UBC to implement curriculum for graduate trainees and worked closely with Program Directors of the Maternal and Child Health Program in SPPH to help build the foundation for and launch the first such program in Canada.

KERRIE GLOVER Non UBC

Kerrie's working life mainly revolves around keeping 4 very busy perinatologists scheduled and organized. She is also responsible for organising the multi disciplinary Grand Rounds from the BCWH location. She is the authority on the best practice around these and frequently guides her colleagues. Kerrie is also the administrative support for our Annual Academic Day and is the main reason it is a huge success year after year.

When she is not working, she keeps busy volunteering with the Girl Guides of Canada (26 years), and chairing committees in the housing co-op where she lives. Kerrie likes to get out on my bike when the weather cooperates. She loves to travel, and is always looking ahead to where she can go next!



FACULTY AWARDS AND NEWS STORIES

2019 GOWN AND EMERITI RECOGNITION CEREMONY



At this event, Academic gowns were presented to faculty members who were promoted in 2018 to the rank of Professor or Clinical Professor or Professor of Teaching. The gowns were presented by Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Dean of Medicine, Dr. Deborah Money, Executive Vice Dean, and Dr. Cundiff. Also honoured, but unable to attend, were Dr. Jerome Dansereau who was promoted to Clinical Professor and Dr. Amanda Skoll who was promoted to Associate Professor Emeritus.

DR. GINA OGILVIE AWARDED YWCA'S WOMAN OF DISTINCTION, RESEARCH AND SCIENCES



Recognized nationally, the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards honours extraordinary women leaders in the community. Dr Ogilvie was the recipient of Vancouver's 2018 YWCA Woman of Distinction, Research and Sciences award. The award in this category goes to a woman who has made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver through her dedicated pursuit of scientific and/or research based discoveries.

RENEWED MOU WITH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY PROMISES CONTINUED COLLABORATION



Professors Geoff Cundiff and Peter Leung recently travelled to Hangzhou China to renew our Department's Memorandum of Understanding with the Women's Hospital Zhejiang University. The formal MOU signing ceremony took place on September 11, 2018, renewing our commitment to shared educational and research goals. The prior MOU was signed in 2014. Dr. Cundiff also provided a scientific lecture, and spent a morning demonstrating clinical education strategies and a morning doing live surgery.

With more than 30 years of collaboration, both of our departments have benefited tremendously. Just in the past 10 years, 6 graduate students have participated in research projects and one professor from ZHU spent a year on study leave in our department. This has resulted in 10 joint publications and two China/Canada Health Research Initiative grants. Faculty members from our department that have visited Women's Hospital include Professors Liston, Hammond, Bedaiwy, Joseph, and of course, Professors Leung and Cundiff. These visits have helped to build personal relationships that catalyze research and educational collaboration.

Professor Leung deserves special recognition for his ongoing role in building and sustaining this relationship.

DR MARY STEPHENSON – RECEIVES ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS AWARD



We would like to congratulate Dr Mary Stephenson, who is an adjunct faculty member with our Department, who has been awarded Fellow ad eundem by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

The Royal Society bestows this on individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement in the field.

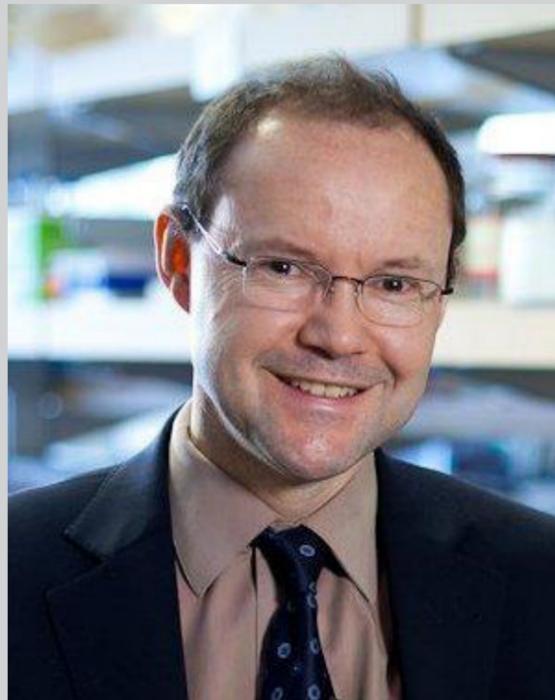
Please read more on this here.

<https://today.uic.edu/ended-professor-honored-by-international-medical-society>

GIVING

The UBC Department has a broad mandate that spans providing excellent clinical care, teaching future generations, and creating new evidence that will optimize the care of women. Parts of this mission are funded through University and Provincial resources, while the majority of our research agenda is funded by competitive grants. However, these sources are inadequate to create truly innovative clinical, educational, and investigational programs. Below are some examples of the good work that is done through our endowments.

CHEW WEI PROFESSORSHIP



The Chew Wei Professorship has enabled me to prosecute my own research successfully but more importantly has enabled me to successfully mentor and create opportunities for junior investigators Gillian Hanley, Aline Talhouk, Michael Anglesio, Paul Yong and Jessica McAlpine as well as a large number of trainees.

The chair also gave me the latitude to do the groundwork to create a network of excellence for the study of gynaecological cancers in Vancouver. This initiative has now obtained UBC research cluster support and endorsement from UBC as well as the major hospital foundations.

In terms of my own research I published >20 papers have retooled my laboratory to address the major question of how mutations, specific cell types and microenvironments interact in the development of cancer. Our hope is that such insights will lead to novel prevention and treatment strategies

CHEW WEI MEMORIAL CHAIR IN GYNAECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

The Chew Wei Memorial Chair in Gynecologic Oncology has been transformational for our division. This endowment has enabled our division to continue to lead the nation academically. This year's expenditures include support the Genova Hereditary Gynecologic cancer initiative, and to support a laboratory assistant for Dr. Mark Carey's work on low grade serous cancer lines.

In addition, we will fund a program assistant for the Gynecologic cancer initiative. As the faculty is aware this is an exciting \$100,000,000.00 program we are putting forward to decrease mortality and suffering from gynecologic cancers by 50% by 2030. Fortunately we just found out that the cluster grant supporting this initiative was funded so these funds will be available to spend next year.



I have also committed funds to two small pilot projects which I believe will lead to much bigger grants. The first is looking at a novel treatment for dVIN (10,000) and a second pilot project examining the efficacy of performing genetic testing on Liquid based cytology specimens. In summary this endowment has allowed our team to be both creative and innovative in the battle against Gynecologic Cancers.

DR. VICTOR GOMEL PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

The Dr. Victor Gomel Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology was endowed to support the Department Head in both academic pursuits and administrative responsibilities. With respect to administrative impact, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has continued to build its educational and academic notoriety, with continued recruitment of new faculty, and increases in grant funding and publications. We now have five Canada Research Chairs and two Michael Smith Foundation Researchers. Importantly, we have accomplished this with a surplus budget through careful stewardship and continued success in development. The professorship has also supported me academically, with six peer reviewed publications and 1 new grant, including co-investigator on the first CIHR grant in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery. I have also visited internationally recognized centres as a visiting professor, and have given key note lectures at international meetings.



HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

If you would like to celebrate and support any of our Department's wide variety of programs dedicated to education and discovery, I encourage you to visit our Web page where you can pick among many options. <https://obgyn.ubc.ca/giving/>

Not all donations need to be paid now. If you are not in a position to give now, there are ways for you to consider the Department in the future. "Legacy giving", also known as "Planned giving" is a means to support charities that enables donors to make significant gifts either in their lifetime or at death, as part of their overall financial and estate planning. We can facilitate gifts through legacy giving through a variety of mechanisms, including bequests, gifts of securities, RRSPs, or RRIFs, charitable remainder trusts, and many others that may offer tax advantages.

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