



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY,
PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS**

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



Table Of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Message From The Department Head..... | 4 |
| Anesthesia Residency..... | 6 |
| Family Practice Residency..... | 8 |
| Pain Medicine Residency..... | 10 |
| Graduate Pharmacology..... | 12 |
| Undergraduate Education Committee..... | 14 |
| MD Undergraduate Program..... | 17 |
| Research..... | 18 |
| Therapeutics Initiative..... | 24 |
| Dr. Jean Templeton Hugill Chair In Anesthesia..... | 28 |
| Patient Safety Chair Report..... | 30 |
| Department Highlights..... | 32 |
| In Memoriam..... | 35 |
| Promotions 2023..... | 36 |
| Faculty Teaching Awards..... | 37 |
| Education/Training Awards..... | 38 |

Department Faculty & Staff Numbers - 2023

Full-time faculty - 26
Clinical Faculty - 547
Clinical Fellows - 25
Residents - 96
Medical Students - 332
Pharmacology Graduate Program - 23 students
Pharmacology Undergraduate Program - 38 students
Postdoctoral Research Fellows - 7
Research Associates - 6

Message From The Head of Department

The 2023 calendar year was one of transition in our Department with Dr. Roanne Preston stepping down as the Department Head after eleven years of leadership and service. While an active search for a new Department Head takes place, Dean Dermot Kelleher has appointed me to carry on Roanne's legacy as interim head as of July 1, 2023. As with any change, this transition came with new opportunities and challenges.

Human Resources

Within our Department, we have had changes to our administrative support. Katharine Garcia, the executive assistant, retired after many years of service in our Department. To address the changing needs of our Department, we have replaced the department head executive assistant position with an assistant manager of HR, Ana Sial, and an executive coordinator, Angelo Hernandez, for our Department. Our postgraduate education team continues to expand to support our growing residency programs. April Dolap and Michele Luk joined the team in 2023 as senior program assistants. We are fortunate to have all these new members.

The largest human resource issue for us is the shortage of anesthesia care providers. While the response to this crisis has been led primarily by our clinical department heads, the academic department has been working with the Ministry of Health to increase the number of anesthesiology trainees at UBC (see the report from the anesthesiology and family practice anesthesiology residency programs), trying to engage the CPSBC and Royal College as they implement new pathways for credentialing and licensing of international medical graduates, and reaching out to other academic departments of anesthesiology to share strategies to increase the number of anesthesia care providers in Canada. This remains a work in progress and I am cautiously optimistic about these changes.

Education

Our education programs continue to be excellent and highly desirable to learners and I encourage you to read the reports for more details. To highlight a couple of our successes, our anesthesiology residency program continues its excellence in preparing our residents for practice with all of our final-year residents achieving certification in 2023. Our pain medicine residency program remains highly desirable with a record number of applicants for our residency positions. Our Vancouver Summer Program courses remain highly successful in attracting undergraduate students to explore pharmacology and critical appraisal.

Success also brings new challenges. Our pharmacology B.Sc. program attracts the most applicants out of all of the undergraduate life sciences programs at UBC. The external review of our Department strongly recommended expansion of our program and we are strongly in favour of this opportunity. The availability of appropriate learning space has been an obstacle to our expansion. Roanne Preston initiated a proposal the university to address our need and I have continued this effort. In addition, under the leadership of [Dr. Andrew Horne](#), Vice-Chair Education, we are beginning to renew the undergraduate curriculum in terms of its content and the teaching faculty.

Research

Our faculty and students continue to be successful in obtaining millions of dollars of research funding and I encourage you to read the research report for more details. Our junior faculty were particularly successful in 2023 with [Drs. Khaled Abdelrahman, Anshula Ambasta, and Wade Thompson](#) receiving Health Investigator Awards from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Congratulations to them! [Dr. Tillie Hackett](#), Vice-Chair Research, and the Research Advisory Committee continue to work on raising the online profile of our researchers, whose work you can see at <https://apt.med.ubc.ca/research/>.

Final Thanks

As we enter 2024, I thank Dr. Roanne Preston for setting our Department on a course of growth and expansion. Together with Allison Rintoul, our Department Administrative Manager, Roanne has steered our Department through some stormy fiscal and human resource challenges over the past decade. She has navigated us into a period of relative calm and we look forward to new opportunities on the horizon. While Roanne remains part of the crew, she is taking a well-deserved administrative leave and our



Dr. Peter Choi

Department looks forward to her return in other leadership roles. Transition in leadership has resulted in some hiccups as we discovered gaps missed in the handover of institutional knowledge. I have been grateful for the patience of staff, learners, and faculty as the administrative team and I got up to speed. In addition to the ongoing activities that I've highlighted above and described in this 2023 report, we will be working hard to provide more documentation and better communication of administrative and operational processes in our Department in 2024. While we search for a new Department Head, we shall continue the vision of inspiring and transforming patient care in anesthesiology, pharmacology, and therapeutics through collaboration, leadership in patient safety, innovative research, and excellence in education.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background, appearing to read 'Peter Choi'.

Peter Choi

Professor & Interim Head



Anesthesia Residency

DR. ZOË BROWN
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Training Positions

As of December 2023, a total of 86 residents were registered in the 5-year Royal College Physicians and Surgeons program. We welcomed twenty new PGY1 residents and one program transfer. Fourteen residents are scheduled to complete their residency during the 2023/2024 academic year and will be taking their RCPSC examinations in Anesthesiology in the spring of 2024. The number of CARMS positions will remain at 20 for 2023/2024. We continued to have a large applicant pool of over 180 well qualified students with a large contingent of UBC students applying.

New Graduates

All the PGY5 residents were successful in the 2023 Royal College specialty examinations in Anesthesiology. Our Exam Seminar Series, led by Dr Katarina Kojic and Dr Nav Chima, and supported by many faculty, continues to be successful and a model for Royal College exam preparation. The vast majority of 2023's graduates have faculty positions at UBC academic hospitals, with many seeking fellowships internationally.

Resident Selection Committee

A robust and active sub-committee of the Residency Program Committee (RPC) reviewed all applicants. The Selection Committee was chaired by the outgoing Associate Program Director, Dr Sadiq Abdulla, with twenty-five committee members representing all the major BC teaching hospitals. Resident members are also well-represented on the committee. The selection committee continues to focus on improving equity, diversity and inclusion of the selection process.

We have welcomed April Dolap and Michelle Luk to the office administration team at the end of 2023

we are sadly saying goodbye to Dr. Sadiq Abdulla as Associate Program Director. The work that Dr. Abdulla has put in to running CARMS and improving the CARMS process has only benefitted the program with all the amazing residents we have in our program.

Academic Program

- Academic Day - The full day academic program involving active participation from each of the teaching hospitals has been very successful. Sessions returned to in-person with an online option for those unable to attend as our program sends residents to all corners of British Columbia. The return to in-person is seen as an important way of maintaining contact between the academic years, particularly with the significant expansion.
- Residency Program Committee continues to support the autonomy of each participating UBC teaching hospital in delivering their contribution to the residents' educational program.
- Simulation - Led by Dr. John Veall and assisted by Dr Taren Roughead. Simulation continues to be a mainstay of our residency program with 4 R3s taking part as simulation leads. The Royal College CanNASc scenarios, required by the new curriculum, continue to be delivered successfully, recognizing that these sessions demand a large portion of our simulation human resources. Please refer to the simulation report for specific details
- Journal Club - an integral part of the academic program. The research resident leads, alongside Dr Don Griesdale and Dr Lynn Correll have revamped the research component, including an education piece which has been widely welcomed.

Clinical Program

The clinical program continues to be a strong element of the UBC Anesthesiology training program. Training in both core anesthesiology as well as subspecialty anesthesiology is distributed between the primary teaching sites, as well as many secondary teaching sites. Thoracics and regional have devolved from being taught solely at VGH and SPH, to include Victoria, Kelowna, and Surrey. Residents continue to travel far afield with experiences in places like Prince George, Comox, Kamloops. Residents are being more creative with trips abroad – India, South Africa, Rwanda. Often electives, but some are connected to global missions or CASIEF.

Residency Program Committee (RPC)

This committee met 5 times in 2023 and has representation from all main sites, and all the resident years. The RPC is the backbone to the program where all major decisions are made. It is guiding the program through the expansion to ensure that residents are receiving the training experiences that they need to be successful anesthesiologists.

Summary

2023 was yet another highly successful year for the UBC Anesthesiology Residency Training Program. With the program expanding, community is so important. Faculty are not getting to know the residents as well as in previous years and this can impact engagement with the program which is fully acknowledged and recognized. The teaching and support that our clinical faculty provide to our residents is key to our success whether it is taking part in the academic program, helping senior residents prepare for the oral exam or mentoring residents in and out of the OR. The goodwill and high level of commitment to residency training is a credit to this department and as PD, I would like to thank everyone.

Family Practice Anesthesia

The UBC FPA Enhanced Skills program has further expanded to 6 residents this current academic year. We have received significant support to increase our capacity to meet the needs of our surgical programs around the province. Our clear mandate is to produce highly competent FPA practitioners committed to working in rural British Columbia. It is a challenging and demanding 12-month program with a blend of tertiary center rotations in the lower mainland (adult, pediatric, obstetrical anesthesia, and critical care) for exposure to high volume and complexity and rural community rotations (including Whitehorse, Terrace or Campbell River, and an elective block) for exposure to the unique and specific challenges associated with rural FPA clinical practice.

Although the FPA program is an Enhanced Skills program within the Dept of Family Practice, it naturally has a very close relationship with the Royal College anesthesia program and some shared administration. It benefits greatly from this relationship with shared participation in a number of educational opportunities including full academic days, simulation, journal club, transfusion medicine bootcamp, and focused workshops on airway techniques and regional anesthesia to name a few. Additionally, every year the FPA residents attend the NOSM FPA Bootcamp which is a highly valued intensive and innovative simulation training.

We also run a specific FPA seminar series over the year that incorporates the unique challenges associated with rural anesthesia practice in hospitals with limited resources.

We are in our second year of implementation of our CBD curriculum with corresponding evolution of our competency committee structure and process. The program benefits greatly from its highly engaged CC and RPC members for the continued review and evolution of the FPA curriculum. These committees have balanced representation from both our rural and urban sites.

Each November the annual UBC FPA Refresher Course is held with strong attendance from the BC FPA community and increasing attendance from other regions of the country. This conference receives tremendous support from the UBC Anesthesia faculty towards the academic content of lectures and workshops and is of great educational benefit to the BC FPA physicians. It also serves to introduce and integrate the FPA residents into this broader FPA community.

The enormous depth of our UBC anesthesia faculty committed to teaching our residents in a broad range of clinical environments is certainly our greatest asset and key to the success of our training programs.



Pain Medicine Residency Program



The program has again successfully matched both residency positions this year and we had the second highest number of applicants since the program started in 2016. We continue to lead the country in training residents from diverse primary specialties and UBC will be the first program in Canada to train an orthopaedic surgeon in pain medicine, Dr. Casey Wang. We are very much looking forward to adding his unique skill set and expertise to the program. We also are very excited to have Dr. Shyama Das join our program. She is originally from the Lower Mainland, completed her undergraduate medical training at UBC and will be finishing her anesthesiology residency program at UofT before starting our program in July 2024.

Dr. Jeremy Murray-Guenther successfully passed his Pain Medicine Royal College Examination in the fall of 2023 and formally graduated from the program in February 2024. He has returned to Vancouver Island to start his pain medicine career. He will be primarily working at the Helmcken Pain Clinic in Victoria. He has been an integral part of the program for the last 2 years and we wish him the best of luck in the future!

The UBC Pain Medicine Program successfully transitioned to the Competency by Design (CBD) model in July 2023. We have had faculty development seminars and information sessions to make this process as seamless as possible. Fortunately, the two residents that started in this model, Dr. Sam Brophy and Dr. Noah Alexander, have been very proactive and diligent in the implementation of CBD and have provided significant support to our faculty as well. With the institution to CBD, we have been able to successfully expedite certain resident's training duration to between 12-16 months due to the flexibility of this model. We hope to continue to be able to modify and tailor our program to each resident's specific learning needs.



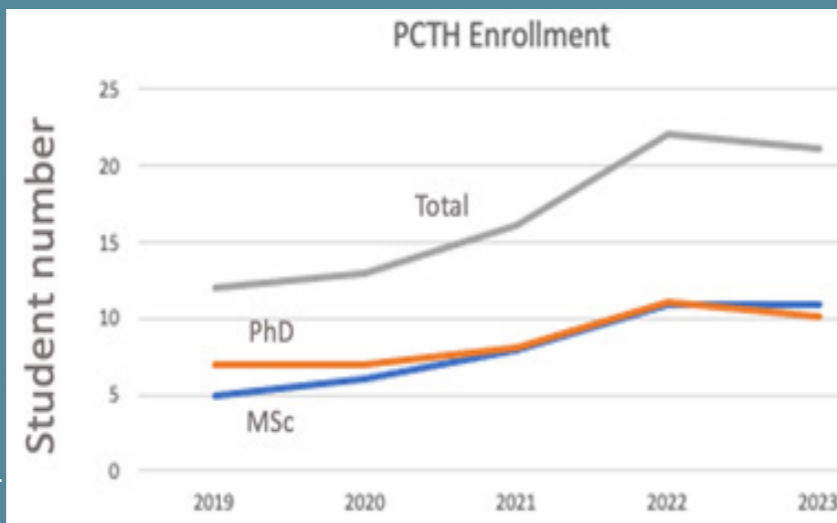
Our program continues to provide educational opportunities to residents in various settings across the province depending on the individual resident's educational goals. Our residents have travelled to clinical training sites on Vancouver Island, the Interior Health Authority, and various locations in the Lower Mainland. Our residents also have been actively engaged in various forms of advocacy at the provincial level for the pain medicine specialists.

We sadly said good-bye to Bridget Begin in January of 2024, after 9 years as the sole program administrative assistant. She has been the pillar of this program having been with the program since its inception and through multiple accreditations, COVID, and CBD implementation. This program would not be where it is today without her hard work and dedication. She will be sorely and truly missed, and we wish her all the best in her new full-time position with the Department of Family Medicine.

Overall, the UBC Pain Medicine Program continues to change, grow, and be successful in multiple aspects. The key to the success of this program has been the dedication of our clinical faculty to provide teaching and support to our residents in multiple ways. This high level of commitment from the faculty to this program is truly commendable and we are extremely grateful to all people involved in this program.

Graduate Pharmacology

The Department of APT is honored to continue hosting the pharmacology and therapeutics (PCTH) training programs at both Ph.D. and M.Sc. levels, and delighted by our graduate trainees' outstanding contribution to our Department's considerable research output. The 2023 student enrollment to the graduate PCTH program is close to a 5-year high, thanks to the relentless efforts by new and seasoned Faculty to secure the necessary operating funds to offer our trainees a stimulating environment. Some of the key highlights from 2023:



- Six (6) new MSc students and 3 new PhD students joined our graduate program, for a total of 21 graduate students.
- 2 students graduated with a PCTH MSc degree. Our most sincere congratulations!
- 2 MSc students transferred to our PhD program
- We have increased the annual minimal stipend of PCTH grad students to \$25,000/year – above the FoGS recommendation – due to continuous changes to student reality in Vancouver.
- PCTH graduate students have been supported by a range of local, national and international awards including a UBC-sponsored 4-year fellowship, a Cmolik Alumni award, CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship Master's and Doctoral awards, a Canadian Lung Association Research award, a Matrix-N Cluster 23/24 Junior Scholars award, awards from Mitacs Canada and a China Graduate Scholarship award.



Undergraduate Pharmacology

In 2023, we received Senate approval to implement several curricular changes as outlined in last year's Annual report, specifically:

- Modification of 2nd year BSc Pharmacology requirements (Majors and Honours) to reflect updates in course offerings provided by other departments and better address student needs, including addition of PCTH 201 as a requirement for the specialization (though it will continue to be an elective course widely available to students in other programs).
- Creation of PCTH 301 and PCTH 303, two 3-credit courses that together cover the same curricular previously offered in PCTH 300/305; both PCTH 300 and PCTH 305 will no longer be offered going forward, in lieu of these new course alternatives.

These changes were implemented starting September 2023, with students advised of these incoming changes throughout the summer months.

In addition to these curricular changes, we are in the depths of a dramatic change in how administrative tasks related to teaching will be carried out, with the phased transition to Workday Student as part of UBC's Integrative Renewal Program. The aim of this project is to replace archaic software that is struggling to meet the modern-day demands of UBC faculty, staff, and students. Based on the phased nature of software replacement, targeted training of faculty and staff occurred throughout the summer and fall months, and will continue into 2024 with the goal of complete transition to this new system by October 2024. For more information on this process, including departmental support, please contact one of your two Local Transition Leads (LTLs): Andrew Horne (Faculty LTL), and Wynne Leung (Staff LTL).

Beyond these behind-the-scenes updates, the Undergraduate Education portfolio for 2023 can be best summarized through discussion of each of the three 4-month academic terms:

2022W, Term 2 (January to April, 2023)

Below is a summary table of courses offered in Term 2, along with course director and enrolment:

| Course | Title | Course Director | 2022W Enrolment |
|----------|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| MIDW 125 | Pharmacology for Maternity Care Providers | Joanne Leung | 21 |
| PCTH 300 | Introduction to Pharmacology | Catherine Pang | 19 |
| PCTH 305 | Basic Human Pharmacology | Catherine Pang | 16 |
| PCTH 302 | Introductory Pharmacology Laboratory | Catherine Pang | 19 |
| PCTH 400 | Systematic Pharmacology | Sastry Bhagavatula | 26 |
| PCTH 402 | Systematic Pharmacology Laboratory | Joanne Leung | 0* |
| PCTH 404 | Drug Assay and Pharmacometrics | Andrew Horne | 16 |

BSc Graduation (May 2023)

May 2023 saw 17 of our students graduate with their Bachelor of Science degree in Majors Pharmacology. Fardad Asghari Zadeh was awarded the Prakash Gill Memorial Prize in Pharmacology and Therapeutics as the Majors Pharmacology student with the highest graduating average. Daniel Shirvani, also of the class of '23, was also announced as a recipient of the prestigious Wesbrook Scholarship, as well as the Carl Bradford Robertson Scholarship. Congratulations to Fardad, Daniel, and our entire graduating class of 2023!

2023S (May to August, 2023)

After cancelling our Vancouver Summer Program offering in 2022 due to insufficient enrolment, we were thrilled to be able to once again run our departmental program in 2023. This two-course package was open to students attending international universities, and is a very popular program amongst students from southeast Asia. This year, we were thrilled to be able to welcome 34 students to Canada to participate in our course package titled Pharmacology and Literature Analysis in Science and Medicine.

| Course | Title | Course Director | 2023S Enrolment |
|--------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| VSP 1 | Primary Literature Analysis in Science and Medicine | Andrew Horne | 34 |
| VSP 2 | Pharmacology Through Case Studies | Joanne Leung | 34 |

Many thanks to faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students who participated in instructional activities in support of this educational program!

2023W, Term 1 (September to December, 2023)

In September 2023, we welcomed 14 students into the third year BSc Pharmacology program, and 25 students into the fourth and final year of the program; the latter is a combination of students advancing directly to fourth year from 2022W and those returning from 12-16 months of optional co-operative work experience. The balance of enrolment in our 400-level core courses were from students taking these courses as an elective or as part of their requirement for alternate BSc degrees (most commonly Integrated Sciences). As previously mentioned, the course numbering for the 300-level courses has changed as of September 2023, with PCTH 301 (Term 1) and PCTH 303 (Term 2) replacing the co-listed PCTH 300/305 courses.

PCTH 201, which for the first time in 2023 became a requirement of the BSc Pharmacology specialization, saw an all-time enrolment high of 125 students. This cohort was composed of both 2nd year BSc Pharmacology students, and other students ranging from 1st year to 5th year in various programs of study. PCTH 325, open as an elective course for students throughout their upper years of degree study, continued to see high enrolment in line with historical averages.

The following table summarizes the PCTH courses offered in Term 1 of 2023W, along with course directors and student enrolment:

| Course | Title (Credits) | Course Director | 2023W Enrolment |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| PCTH 201 | Drugs and Society | Andrew Horne | 125 |
| PCTH 301 | Introduction to Pharmacology | Catherine Pang | 29 |
| PCTH 302 | Introductory Pharmacology Laboratory | Catherine Pang | 14 |
| PCTH 325 | Rational Basis of Drug Therapy | Alasdair Barr | 204 |
| PCTH 400 | Systematic Pharmacology | Sastry Bhagavatula | 28 |
| PCTH 402 | Systematic Pharmacology Laboratory | Joanne Leung | 0* |
| PCTH 404 | Drug Assay and Pharmacometrics | Andrew Horne | 31 |

DR. JENNIFER SHABBITS
CHAIR, MEDICAL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

MD Undergraduate Pharmacology (Yrs 1&2)

In the MD Undergraduate program, pharmacology is taught primarily through lectures and case-based learning scenarios in years 1 and 2. More contextual learning occurs through clinical rotations in years 3 and 4. The UBC MDUP Drug Formulary App has been developed with content completed for years 1 and 2. A Quality Improvement study and the addition of year 3 content is planned for spring/summer 2024



Research

The Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics' 2023 Annual Research Report is a snapshot of our dedication of research efforts that advance healthcare and biomedical research to enhance patient care. At the core of this report are our people—our faculty, researchers, trainees, and support staff. Congratulations everyone to your successes over the last year, please see below for the highlights.



Dr. Tillie Hackett

Faculty Research Awards



Dr. Khaled Abdelrahman

Assistant Professor, Grant Tenure Track

**Michael Smith Health Research Foundation
Professional Investigator Award – 2023**

Dr. Abdelrahman's research is focussed on the contribution of metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 (mGluR5) to impaired control of brain blood flow in Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease is a major crisis and a huge burden on healthcare system.

It causes a decrease in memory and affects women more than men. The memory decline in Alzheimer's is linked to poor blood supply to the brain. The causes for poor supply are unknown but it starves brain cells of essential materials leading to improper function. I will study how a molecule present in the cells of the brain called metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 (mGluR5) contributes to the poor blood supply to the brain and the development of Alzheimer's symptoms. My group at UBC is interested in mGluR5 because it attaches to the "toxic molecules" commonly found in Alzheimer's brain. I will use mice sick with Alzheimer's and samples from Alzheimer's patients to study how the attachment of the "toxic molecules" to mGluR5 can lead to the short supply of blood to the brain and memory loss. I will also study if the role of mGluR5 in Alzheimer's is different between males and females. In addition, I will test if the drugs that act on mGluR5 can help Alzheimer's patients by correcting blood supply to the brain and improving memory. I also will work with patient and community partners to help interpret and communicate my findings and guide future work.



Dr. Anshula Ambasta

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track

**Michael Smith Health Research Foundation
Professional Investigator Award – 2023**

Dr. Ambasta' research is focussed on Re-purposing the ordering of 'routine' laboratory tests in hospitalized medical patients (RePORT). Blood tests can help diagnose diseases and monitor health status. However, overuse of blood testing, particularly in

hospitals, leads to patient discomfort, loss of sleep, contributes to blood loss leading to blood transfusions, and wastes health care dollars. We previously developed and tested a multi-part healthcare provider (HCP) engagement strategy to safely reduce overuse of six target laboratory tests that make up 40 percent of costs on laboratory testing in hospitalized medical patients. In collaboration with a Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), we have co-designed a patient engagement strategy that includes an infographic, video and website. Our team, made up of clinicians, researchers, patient partners and policy makers, proposes to launch the HCP and patient engagement strategies across 16 hospitals in British Columbia and 14 hospitals in Alberta in a cluster randomized stepped-wedge design. We will evaluate the impact of this strategy on number of laboratory tests done, patient experience, patient safety, costs and HCP experience, using administrative data systems and patient and HCP interviews. We will work with the PFAC to design implementation evaluation, particularly of the patient engagement strategy.



Dr. Wade Thompson

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track

**Michael Smith Health Research Foundation
Professional Investigator Award – 2023**

Dr. Thompson's research is focused on Making medications fit for older adults: advancing the science and implementation of deprescribing guidelines. As people age, they can end up taking many medications. Certain medications might have made sense

when they were started. But as people get older, some medications may no longer be needed, or may be unsafe. It makes sense to consider stopping such medications. It can be tough for prescribers and patients to decide when and how to stop a medication. From 2014 to 2017, we developed guidelines and resources to help patients and prescribers make decisions about stopping medications. Our guidelines and resources are used in Canada and across the world. However, guidelines and resources need to be up to date with the most current evidence. There also needs to be ongoing strategies to ensure guidelines are used in the real world. This project, led from UBC Vancouver, will first survey patients and prescribers to assess needs and priorities for guidelines on stopping medications. We will then update our guidelines based on needs and current evidence. Finally, we will design knowledge translation materials together with patients and prescribers (called "co-design"), and spread the word about our updated resources. We strive to help patients/prescribers decide when and how to stop medications and improve well-being of older adults.



Fatemeh Aminazadeh

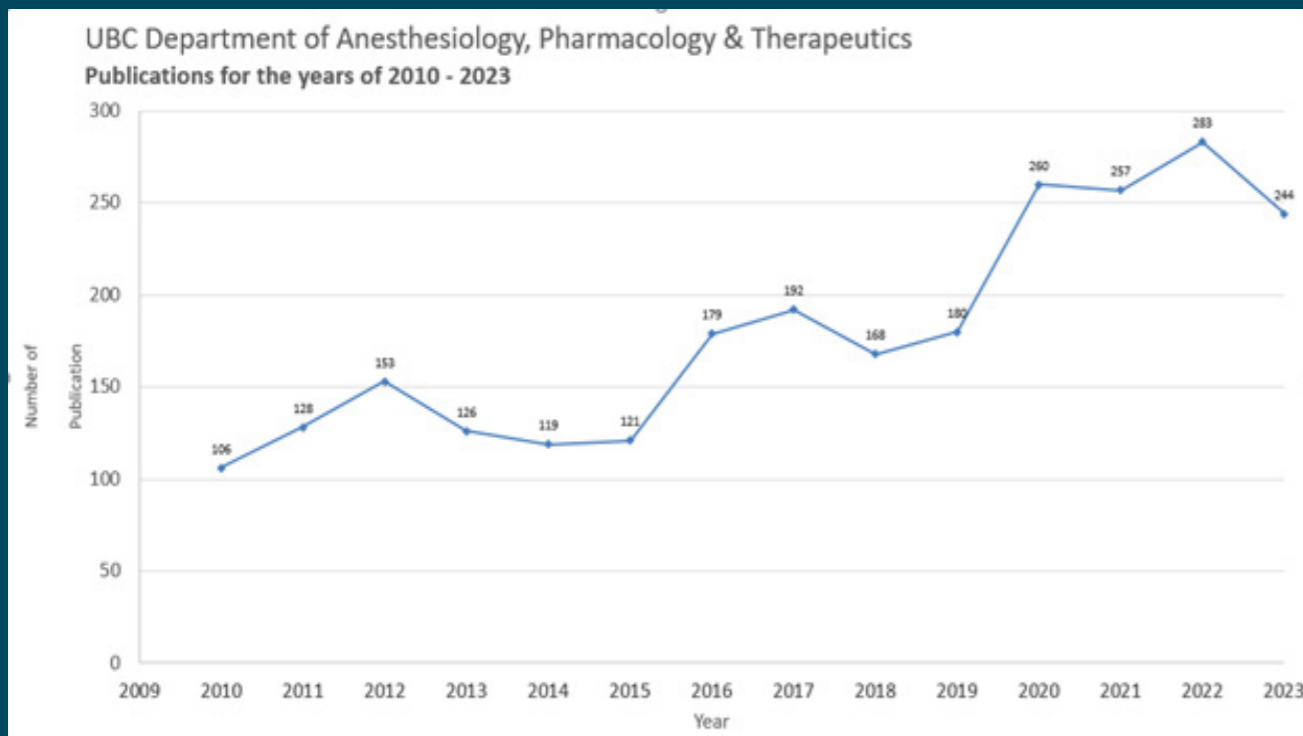
PhD candidate (Hackett Lab)

Canadian Lung Association / CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health Research Award – Jan-Dec 2023

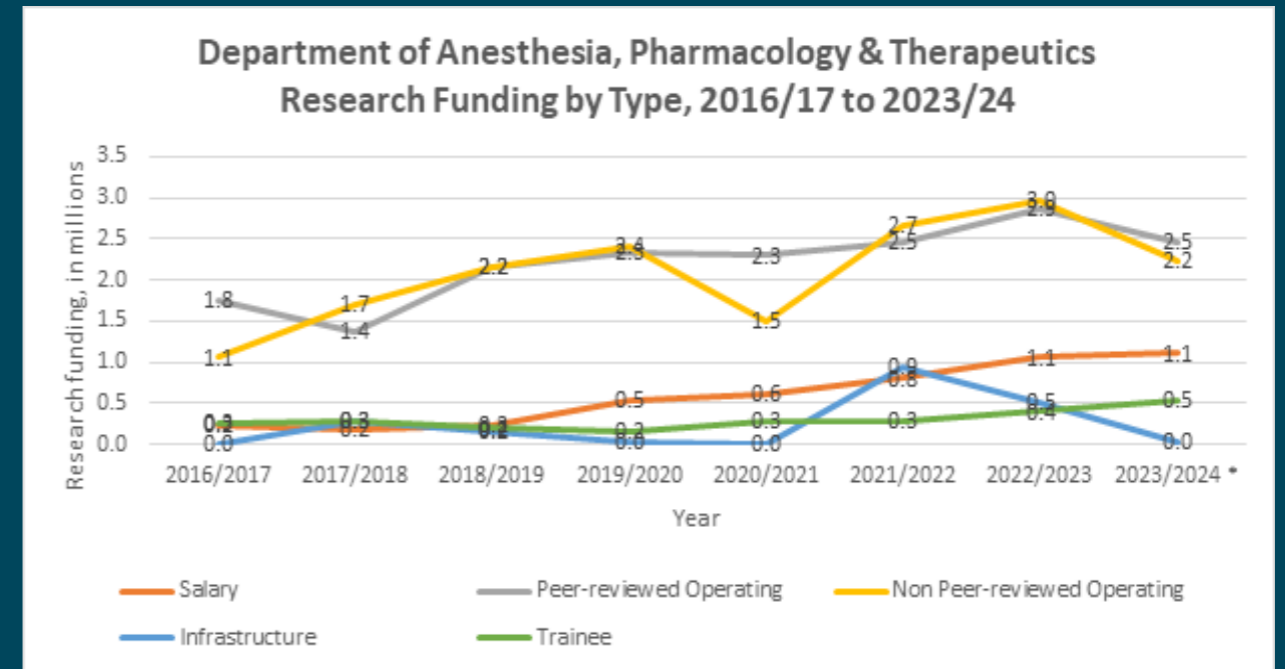
1-year Research Studentship to support her research project entitled “The contribution of sex differences to small airways disease in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)”.

APT Research Output

Our researchers, both seasoned faculty members and ambitious students, have undertaken projects that span the disciplines of anesthesiology, pharmacology, and therapeutics, resulting in 283 papers. This research only thrives through collaborative efforts, from partnerships with medical institutions, our faculty, trainees and engagements with patient groups.



Despite the ongoing global recession, our Department remains on track with operating grants, salary awards and clinical trials.



Annual Research Day

The APT Research Day is our annual event to showcase the Research excellence of fellows and trainees. This year marked the 17th Annual APT Research Day, held on May 30th 2023, at the BC Children’s Research Institute. The day was a great success thanks to the organizing committee led by Dr. Don Griesdale, Dr. John (Kip) Kramer, Dr. Alana Flexman, and Dr. Stephan Schwarz.



Trainee Research Presentations

Key note speakers

- Dr. Jean Templeton Hugill Memorial Lecture - **Dr Tillie-Louise Hackett** (Professor, UBC)
- Emerging Faculty Lecture - **Dr Amrit Singh** (Assistant Professor, UBC)

Paper Of The Year Awards

- **Dr. Tim Jen** - Development and internal validation of a multivariable risk prediction model for severe rebound pain after foot and ankle surgery involving single-shot popliteal sciatic nerve block.
- **Dr. Pascal Bernatchez** - Limb-girdle muscular dystrophy type 2B causes HDL-C abnormalities in patients and statin-resistant muscle wasting in dysferlin-deficient mice.

Lightning Talk Awards

- **Dr. John Lim** with Characterizing age-related changes in endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) localization and the caveolin-1-eNOS interaction in mouse pulmonary arteries.
- **Dr. Himali Bergeron Vitez** - Neuropathic pain-related pharmacotherapy and the multiple sclerosis prodrome: A population-based matched cohort study.
- **Dr. Eleen Yang** with Characterization of the neurophysiologic differences between phenotypes of traumatic brain injury: An historical cohort study
- **Dr Jacob Pelling** for Severe intraoperative hyperkalemia after low-dose mannitol in a healthy neurosurgical patient

ORAL - PCTH

**1ST PLACE - AILEEN HSIEH
(DOCTORAL STUDENT)**

Mucus Plugged Airways in
Asthma are Marked by
Prominent
Airway Remodeling

ORAL - PCTH

**RUNNER UP - KEITH WU
(UNDERGRADUATE)**

Resolving the Pathobiology
of Vascular Remodeling in
COPD using High-resolution
MicroCT Imaging

ORAL - ANAE

**1ST PLACE - KARIM NARSINGANI
(RESIDENT)**

From Garbage to Green: A Soft
Plastic Recycling Initiative in the
Anesthesia Department of Royal
Columbian Hospital

Therapeutics Initiative

The Therapeutics Initiative (TI) was established in 1994 at the University of British Columbia (UBC). The TI mission is to provide drug reviews, pharmacoepidemiological studies, as well as education and quality prescribing programs. It is supported by research grants, donations, an endowment and a shared cost agreement with the BC Ministry of Health (MoH) to the UBC.

Over the years, the TI has substantially enhanced its ability to assess the clinical evidence presented in published articles, meta-analyses by the Cochrane Collaboration and scientific material presented by the pharmaceutical industry. In pace with the extensive assessment of clinical evidence, the TI has also developed effective ways of knowledge translation and dissemination of this evidence to all active players involved in drug therapy: physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and drug policy at the MoH.

The TI is composed of 4 working groups that collaborate to prioritize topics, share in the assessment of evidence and disseminate findings. Activities of all TI working groups support priorities of the provincial Pharmaceutical Care Management Strategy and other health system objectives:

1. Drug Assessment Working Group (DAWG): assesses the clinical evidence of effectiveness and safety of new and existing drug therapies in the province and relate that evidence to the care of individual patients. This year the DAWG completed the following therapeutic reviews:

- ADHD medications in adults
- JAK inhibitors efficacy for psoriatic arthritis
- Direct oral anticoagulants for nonvalvular atrial fibrillation
- Systematic review of modifiable factors affecting virus transmissibility

The DAWG provides problem-based learning opportunities regarding critical appraisal of clinical trials. Medical and pharmacy student trainees have attended the DAWG meetings where they learn to critically appraise systematic reviews and discuss the findings with the rest of the team.

2. PharmacoEpidemiology Group (PEG): uses epidemiological methods to analyze linked administrative data to answer population-based questions which have not been adequately addressed in clinical trials. Projects include evaluation of drug policies and educational interventions, monitoring of drug utilization, and analysis of prescription drug safety and effectiveness. The PEG also help design, deliver, and evaluate the Portrait program to improve the quality of prescribing in BC. Portrait provides primary care prescribers with a concise evidence overview, a comparison of their prescribing to peers or evidence-based targets, and advice about possible improvements to their prescribing. In addition to family doctors and nurse practitioners, Portrait achieved a new milestone this year by offering a prescribing portrait to dentists in collaboration with the BC Centre for Disease Control and the BC College of Oral Health Professionals.

In 2023, the PEG completed the following pharmacoepidemiological studies:

- Paxlovid safety evaluation
- Paxlovid risk analysis
- Quetiapine for insomnia

The PEG developed and distributed two prescribing portraits to physicians, nurse practitioners, and dentists in BC:

- Diabetes management in elderly
- Dental antibiotics

3. Education Working Group (EWG): provides health professionals with up-to-date, evidence based, practical information about rational drug therapy. The EWG held 37 educational events attended by over four thousand healthcare professionals, highlights:

- Primary Care Clinical Pharmacists Education Sessions
- Nurse and Nurse Practitioners of BC – Clinical Corner Presentation Series
- Vancouver Coastal Health – Ophthalmology Rounds
- BC Division of Family Practice in Kootenay Boundary
- Island Health Pharmacy and Palliative Care Rounds
- Peace Arch Hospital Grand Rounds
- Bringing Best Evidence to Clinicians: Annual Therapeutics Initiative Course
- BC Provincial Deprescribing webinar series to address undesirable polypharmacy effectively through responsible deprescribing
- Best Evidence monthly webinar series on various clinical therapeutics issues
- Methods Speaker webinar series on topics related to systematic reviews, meta-analysis, methods and statistics in evidence synthesis.

The EWG also publishes the Therapeutics Letters that provide brief practical messages on how to deal with problematic therapeutic issues. All issues of the Therapeutics Letter are distributed to physician prescribers across BC and available on the TI website in English and Spanish. The EWG published 5 Therapeutics Letters in 2023:

| Issue Number / Publication Date | Course Director |
|---------------------------------|--|
| TL 141 / February 2023 | Paxlovid in British Columbia – Interim real-world analysis |
| TL 142 / May 2023 | Simple clinical pharmacology can improve prescribing |
| TL 143 / June 2023 | Reducing the adverse environmental impacts of prescribing |
| TL 144 / September 2023 | ADHD in adults |
| TL 145 / December 2023 | Minimizing inhaled corticosteroids for COPD |

Website and Social Media

In 2023 the TI website received close to one million visits, averaging 60,000 visits per month or a visit every 30 seconds, with over 25 million “impressions” (number of times any page was viewed). The TI maintains Facebook and LinkedIn pages as well as two active X/Twitter profiles: TI (@DrugEvidence) and Cochrane Hypertension Group (@CochraneHTN) with a combined total of 13,346 followers and over one million Tweet impressions (number of times our tweets were viewed). This year @DrugEvidence has the most followers among all members of the International Society of Drug Bulletins.

4. Cochrane Hypertension Group (CHG): prepares, maintains and promotes systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions for hypertension. The scope of CHG includes randomized controlled trials of interventions evaluating blood pressure and clinical outcomes for the prevention and treatment of essential hypertension. Part of the international Cochrane Collaboration, the CHG published the following Cochrane systematic reviews and protocols in 2023:

- Adams SP, Alaeiikhchi N, Tasnim S, Wright JM. Pravastatin for lowering lipids. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2023 Sep 18;9(9):CD013673. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD013673.pub2.
- Reinhart M, Puil L, Salzwedel DM, Wright JM. First-line diuretics versus other classes of antihypertensive drugs for hypertension. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2023 Jul 13;7(7):CD008161. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008161.pub3
- Adams SP, Alaeiikhchi N, Wright JM. Simvastatin for lowering lipids [Protocol]. Published 24/02/2023 in Issue 2, 2023. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD014857
- Adams SP, Alaeiikhchi N, Wright JM. Lovastatin for lowering lipids [Protocol]. Published 27/03/2023 in Issue 3, 2023. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD014858

Selected Ti Publications

- Dormuth CR, Kim JD, Fisher A, Piszczek J, Kuo IF. Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir and COVID-19 Mortality and Hospitalization Among Patients With Vulnerability to COVID-19 Complications. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2023 Oct 2;6(10):e2336678. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.36678. PMID: 37782496; PMCID: PMC10546233.
- Perry TL. Who really benefits from drug combinations and long titrations for pain? *Lancet.* 2023 Jan 21;401(10372):192. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(23)00003-X.
- Pan J, Tejani A, Logan A, Brodoway H, Shukla K, Son M, Khosla K, Moradi A, Drummond I, McCarthy LM, Lega IC, McCracken R, Thompson W. Rates of overtreatment and deprescribing of antihyperglycemics among long-term care residents in British Columbia. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2023 Aug;71(8):2657-2661. doi: 10.1111/jgs.18377. Epub 2023 Apr 18. PMID: 37070246.
- Pokharel S, Khawaja Z, Williams J, Mithwani AA, Strain K, Khanna P, Rychtera A, Kiryanova V, Tang K, Mathura P, Hylton C, Ambasta A. Patient perceptions of in-hospital laboratory blood testing: A patient-oriented and patient co-designed qualitative study. *Health Expect.* 2023 Sep 26;27(1):e13880. doi: 10.1111/hex.13880. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37751312; PMCID: PMC10726148.

- Kim JD, Fisher A, Dormuth CR. Trends in antihypertensive drug utilization in British Columbia, 2004-2019: a descriptive study. *CMAJ Open.* 2023 Aug 1;11(4):E662-E671. doi: 10.9778/cmajo.20220023. PMID: 37527901; PMCID: PMC10400081.
- Carney G, Maclure M, Patrick DM, Fisher A, Stanley D, Bassett K, Dormuth CR. A cluster randomized trial assessing the impact of personalized prescribing feedback on antibiotic prescribing for uncomplicated acute cystitis to family physicians. *PLoS One.* 2023 Jul 31;18(7):e0280096. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0280096. PMID: 37523381;PMCID: PMC10389722.
- Fisher A, Kim JD, Dormuth CR. Monitoring a Mandatory Nonmedical Switching Policy from Originator to Biosimilar Infliximab in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Diseases:A Population-Based Cohort Study. *Gastroenterol Res Pract.* 2023 Mar 1;2023:2794220. doi: 10.1155/2023/2794220. PMID: 36911254; PMCID: PMC9995207.
- Morrow RL, Mintzes B, Gray G, Law MR, Garrison S, Dormuth CR. Public reporting of clinical trial findings as an ethical responsibility to participants: a qualitative study. *BMJ Open.* 2023 Mar 21;13(3):e068221. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-068221. PMID: 36944466; PMCID: PMC10032397.
- Babatunde S, Ahmed S, Santana MJ, Nielssen I, Zelinsky S, Ambasta A. Working together in health research: a mixed-methods patient engagement evaluation. *Res Involv Engagem.* 2023 Aug 1;9(1):62. doi: 10.1186/s40900-023-00475-w. PMID: 37528438; PMCID: PMC10394768.
- Drummond I, Aeng ESY, Yeh P, Chen C, Tejani AM. Hiding in Plain Sight: Quantifying Salbutamol and Ipratropium Inhaler Wastage in Hospitals. *Can J Hosp Pharm.* 2023 Sep 1;76(4):314-316. doi: 10.4212/cjhp.3405. PMID: 37767385; PMCID:PMC10522357.
- McCracken RK, Narayan S, Maclure M, Cooper I, Cui Z, Cullen W, Dormuth C, Hamilton MA, Nolan S, Singer J, Socías ME, Wong S, Klimas J. Evaluation of audit and feedback to family physicians on prescribing of opioid analgesics to opioid-naïve patients: A pragmatic randomized delay trial. *Contemp Clin Trials.* 2023 Nov;134:107354. doi: 10.1016/j.cct.2023.107354. Epub 2023 Oct 5. PMID: 37802223.
- Adams SP, Alaeiikhchi N, Tasnim S, Wright JM. Pravastatin for lowering lipids. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2023 Sep 18;9(9):CD013673. DOI: 0.1002/14651858.CD013673. pub2.
- Reinhart M, Puil L, Salzwedel DM, Wright JM. First-line diuretics versus other classes of antihypertensive drugs for hypertension. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2023 Jul 13;7(7):CD008161. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008161.pub3

Dr. Jean Templeton Hugill Chair In Anesthesia



Welcome to the Dr. Jean Templeton Hugill Chair in Anesthesia section of the APT Annual Report! I am delighted to summarize some of the highlights and activities that took place in 2023 under the aegis of the Chairship.

In 2023, the Chairship supported two graduate students: in the domain of clinical and outcomes research, Jaycee Farmer (co-supervised by Dr. Alana Flexman and co-supported by the Department of Anesthesia at St. Paul's Hospital), pursued a project on the important topic of perioperative stroke. In the laboratory domain, Tony Zhou (co-supervised by Dr. Michael Walker) worked on a research project to assess the potential clinical utility and properties of quaternary amines as long-lasting local anesthetics. A highlight of 2023 was the successful defence on November 1 of Jaycee Farmer's MSc thesis, entitled "Outcomes Following Perioperative Stroke in Noncardiac and Cardiac Surgical Patients."

Another highlight of 2023, an article led my junior colleague and research mentee Dr. Tim Jen won the APT Anesthesiology Paper of the Year Award (after a similar recognition in 2022): "Development and internal validation of a multivariable risk prediction model for severe rebound pain after foot and ankle surgery involving single-shot popliteal sciatic nerve blockade" (Jen TTH et al. Br J Anaesth 2022, 129: 127-125; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bja.2022.03.030>). Dr. Tim Jen also was selected as the 2023 winner of the prestigious Dr James Beckstead Award by the Canadian Anesthesia Research Foundation.

Publication output in 2023 again was solid and included a total of eight articles, listed in the APT Annual Report's Publications section. A highlight, co-authored by graduate student Jaycee Farmer (cf. above) and led by co-supervisor Dr. Alana Flexman, was a comprehensive scoping review on current recommendations for perioperative brain health, (Wooding DJ et al. J Neurosurg Anesthesiol 2023, 35: 10-18; <https://doi.org/10.1097/ANA.0000000000000861>).

And speaking of Hugill Anesthesia Research Centre trainees, former medical student Stefanie Polderman (see <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12630-022-02272-7>), following acceptance, commenced her UBC anesthesiology residency as of July 1.

The year 2023 also was marked by being the third year of my tenure as the new Editor-in-Chief the Canadian Journal of Anesthesia/Journal canadien d'anesthésie, a national leadership position which I commenced effective January 1, 2021 and undoubtedly represents the greatest privilege of my career. I feel deeply honoured and humbled to be able to pursue this prestigious portfolio here at UBC as our Department's Dr. Jean Templeton Hugill Chair in Anesthesia and am immensely grateful to our university department and particularly also my clinical department at St. Paul's Hospital/Providence Health Care for their invaluable support. 2023 was particularly eventful with the fruitful completion of numerous extensive editorial priority projects, including the appearance of Special/Focus issues on Green Anesthesia (<https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-3>), seminal new Canadian guidelines on Defining and Determining Death (<https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-4>), Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Anesthesiology and Critical Care (co-led by Dr. Alana Flexman; <https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-6>), and Gastric Ultrasound (<https://link.springer.com/journal/12630/volumes-and-issues/70-8>).

Some of the other activities as Hugill Chair included service on numerous national committees and as invited presenter, panellist, and/or session chair at various meetings, including Euroanesthesia 2023 (Glasgow, UK; June 3-5, 2023) and the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Annual Meeting (Quebec City, QC; June 10-12, 2023).

It has been an immense privilege to again serve to honour and spread Dr. Jean Hugill's spirit and vision in 2023, and I look forward to exciting academic years moving forward!



Patient Safety Chair Report

The Chair is held by Professor Malcolm Maclure, ScD, a health services epidemiologist who uses BC's population healthcare databases to improve prescribing safety and surgical safety.

In 2023, Dr. Maclure conducted the initial evaluation of the impacts of prescribing portraits sent to BC family physicians on overprescribing of inhaled corticosteroids to patients with non-asthma chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He contributed to a similar evaluation of impacts of portraits on prescribing of antibiotics for urinary tract infections,¹ plus qualitative evaluation of the online educational component to the preceding opioid portrait initiative.²

He also led revisions to a grant proposal on "Safety Audit and Feedback via Electronic Records on (SAFER) Prescribing" resubmitted to Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

He revised and resubmitted a paper demonstrating use of population data for low-cost monitoring of surgery site infections after colorectal surgery.³

Collaborations continued with investigators evaluating walk-in clinic use in Ontario^{4,5} and comparing opioid agonists buprenorphine-naloxone versus methadone in BC.^{6,7}

As inventor of the case-crossover study design, Dr. Maclure continued to collaborate on applications^{8,9} and methodology developments of that design.¹⁰

Dr. Maclure continues as Co-Lead of the Patient Safety and Quality Theme in UBC Medical Undergraduate Program's curriculum, emphasizing handover to another Patient Voice who is leading BC's initiation of a restorative approach to healthcare, modeling on restorative justice.

He also continues as an Ex-Officio Member of the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council.

He is also active in initiatives to reduce UBC carbon emissions, and conducting a feasibility study of physician communities of practice centered on local climate action: "MD Climate Plan".

References

1. Carney G, Maclure M, Patrick DM, Fisher A, Stanley D, Bassett K, Dormuth CR. A cluster randomized trial assessing the impact of personalized prescribing feedback on antibiotic prescribing for uncomplicated acute cystitis to family physicians. *PLoS One*. 2023 Jul 31;18(7):e0280096. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0280096.
2. Narayan S, Brath H, Di Marco D, Maclure M, McCracken R, Klimas J. "I'm almost opioid-a-phobic": family medicine residents' perceptions of enhancing opioid analgesic and agonist treatment training in a Canadian setting. *Educ Prim Care*. 2023 May;34(3):161-167.

3. Maclure M, Kaur P, Ghuman A, Hutchinson JM, Fisher A, Cochrane DD, Preston P. Short-course antibiotics before hospitalization for colorectal surgery and risk of surgical site infection: a population-based historical cohort study to demonstrate low-cost surgical outcome monitoring.
4. Lapointe-Shaw L, Kiran T, Salahub C, Austin PC, Berthelot S, Desveaux L, Lofters A, Maclure M, Martin D, McBrien KA, McCracken RK, Rahman B, Schultz SE, Shuldiner J, Tadrous M, Bird C, Paterson JM, Bhatia RS, Thakkar NA, Na Y, Ivers NM. Walk-in clinic patient characteristics and utilization patterns in Ontario, Canada: a cross-sectional study. *CMAJ Open*. 2023 Apr 25;11(2):E345-E356. doi: 10.9778/cmajo.20220095. PMID: 37171909; PMCID: PMC10139081.
5. Lofters A, Salahub C, Austin PC, Bai L, Berthelot S, Bhatia RS, Desveaux L, Ivers NM, Kiran T, Maclure M, Martin D, McBrien KA, McCracken R, Paterson JM, Rahman B, Shuldiner J, Tadrous M, Thakkar N, Lapointe-Shaw L. Up-to-date on cancer screening among Ontario patients seen by walk-in clinic physicians: A retrospective cohort study. *Prev Med*. 2023 Jul;172:107537. doi: 10.1016/j.jpmed.2023.107537.
6. Guerra-Alejos BC, Kurz M, Min JE, Dale LM, Piske M, Bach P, Bruneau J, Gustafson P, Hu XJ, Kampman K, Korhuis PT, Loughin T, Maclure M, Platt RW, Siebert U, Socías ME, Wood E, Nosyk B. Comparative effectiveness of urine drug screening strategies alongside opioid agonist treatment in British Columbia, Canada: a population-based observational study protocol. *BMJ Open*. 2023 May 31;13(5):e068729. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-068729.
7. Homayra F, Enns B, Min JE, Kurz M, Bach P, Bruneau J, Greenland S, Gustafson P, Karim ME, Korhuis PT, Loughin T, Maclure M, McCandless L, Platt RW, Schnepel K, Shigeoka H, Siebert U, Socias E, Wood E, Nosyk B. Comparative Analysis of Instrumental Variables on the Assignment of Buprenorphine/Naloxone or Methadone for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder. *Epidemiology*. 2024 Mar 1;35(2):218-231. doi: 10.1097/EDE.0000000000001697. Epub 2023 Jan 30. PMID: 38290142; PMCID: PMC10833049.
8. Staples JA, Erdelyi S, Merchant K, Yip C, Khan M, Maclure KM, Redelmeier DA, Chan H, Brubacher JR. Syncope and Traffic Crash: A Population-Based Case-Crossover Analysis. *Can J Cardiol*. 2023 Jun 7:S0828-282X(23)00449-X. doi: 10.1016/j.cjca.2023.05.019.
9. Staples JA, Daly-Grafstein D, Robinson I, Khan M, Hawkins N, Chan H, Erdelyi S, Chakrabarti S, Maclure KM, Krahn AD, Brubacher JR. Motor vehicle crash risk after cardioverter-defibrillator implantation: A population-based case-crossover study (in draft)
10. Hallas J, Maclure M. Use of point-in-time or window approach in the case-crossover design, implications for pharmacoepidemiologic research using registers. (submitted)



Department Highlights

Department Leadership

Peter Choi – Interim Department

Academic Leadership

Alana Flexman – Vice-Chair, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Andrew Horne – Vice-Chair, Education

Bali Dhaliwal – Clinical Faculty Advisory Committee Representative

Colin Dormuth – Co-Managing Director, Therapeutics Initiatives

Don Griesdale – Clinical Research Director

Helen Parker – Faculty Development Chair

John McAlpine – Family Practice Anesthesia Residency Program Director

John Veall – Co-Director, Simulation Program

K Malcolm Maclure – BC Patient Safety Chair

Kalina Popova – Co-Director, Anesthesiology Undergraduate Education

Ken Bassett – Co-Managing Director, Therapeutics Initiatives

Michael Butterfield – Pain Medicine Residency Program Director

Navraj Chima – Co-Director, Anesthesiology Undergraduate Education

Pascal Bernatchez – Basic Science Research Director

Pascal Bernatchez – Director/Advisor, PCTH Graduate Program

Paula Meyler – Visiting Professor & Continuing Professional Development Program Director

Sadiq Abdulla – Anesthesia Residency Program Associate Director

Sadiq Abdulla – BC Anesthesia Clinical Fellowships Director

Stephan KW Schwarz – Dr. Jean Templeton Hugill Chair in Anesthesia

Su-Yin Macdonell and Sandra Kisilevsky – Whistler Anesthesia Conference co-chairs

Taren Roughead – Co-Director, Simulation Program

Tillie-Louise Hackett – Vice-Chair, Research

Zoe Brown – Anesthesia Residency Program Director

Site Chiefs:

Jens Lohser – Head, VGH/UBCH Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Care

Jim Kim – Head, St. Paul’s Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Simon Whyte – Head, BC Children’s Hospital Department of Anesthesia

James Brown – Head, BC Women’s Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Kenneth Ryan – Head, Royal Columbian Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Feisal Mohamedali – Regional Head, Fraser Health Authority

Magda Lipowska – Head, Lions Gate Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Glenn Dong – Head, Richmond General Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Liz Chuah – Head, Burnaby General Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Mahalaxmi Iyer/Alex Vesely/Laila Karwa – co-Heads, Surrey Memorial Hospital

Parisa Soltani – Head, Chilliwack General Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Catherina Mattheus – Head, Abbotsford Regional Hospital & Cancer Centre

Desmond Sweeney – Head, Victoria General/Royal Jubilee Hospitals Department of Anesthesia

Alistair Graham – Head, Kelowna General Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Adam van der Merwe – Medical Director Kelowna General Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Tom Cull – Head, Vernon Jubilee Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Mark Edge – Head, Royal Inland Hospital Kamloops Department of Anesthesia

Kenneth Harder – Head, Penticton Regional Hospital Department of Anesthesia

Pal Dhadly – Head, University Hospital of Northern BC Department of Anesthesia

Division Heads:

Alexander Wong – Division Heads, Regional Anesthesia

Juliet Atherstone – Division Co-Head, Cardiac Anesthesia

Anne-Marie Madden – Division Co-Head, Cardiac Anesthesia

Sandra Kisilevsky – Division Co-Head, Neuroanesthesia

William Rieley – Division Co-Head, Neuroanesthesia

James Brown – Division Head, Obstetric Anesthesia

Aaron MacInnes – Division Head, Pain Management

Simon Whyte – Division Head, Pediatric Anesthesia

Su-Yin Macdonell – Division Head, Perioperative Anesthesia

Chris Durkin – Division Co-Head, Thoracic Anesthesia

Travis Schisler – Division Co-Head, Thoracic Anesthesia

New clinical Faculty 2023

Aaron Sandler – Clinical Instructor
(Victoria General Hospital)

Alexander Paul Pretorius – Clinical
Assistant Professor
(Penticton Regional Hospital)

Andrew Munro – Clinical Instructor
(Victoria General Hospital)

Andy Lo – Clinical Instructor
(Burnaby Hospital)

Anine Yu – Clinical Instructor
(Kelowna General Hospital)

Annemarie Cornelia Senekal – Clinical
Instructor (Surrey Memorial Hospital)

Asim Iqbal – Clinical Instructor
(Vancouver General Hospital)

Barnaby Gavin Lindsey Rylah – Clinical
Instructor (Surrey Memorial Hospital)

Brendan Smith – Clinical Instructor
(BC Children’s Hospital)

Blair Douglas Goranson – Clinical Instructor
(Saanich Peninsula Hospital)

Chrison Wong – Clinical Instructor
(Kelowna General Hospital)

Cole Wong – Clinical Instructor
(St. Paul’s Hospital)

Danyela Lee – Clinical Instructor
(Surrey Memorial Hospital)

Duncan McLuckie – Clinical Assistant
Professor (Victoria General Hospital)

Hari Sankar Ankireddy – Clinical Instructor
(Kamloops Royal Inland Hospital)

Harleena Gulati – Clinical Instructor
(Victoria General Hospital)

Heather Cadenhead – Clinical Instructor
(St. Paul’s Hospital)

Helen Kate Parker – Clinical Instructor
(BC Women’s Hospital)

Igor Kwetny – Clinical Instructor
(Kelowna General Hospital)

Jordan Meyers – Clinical Instructor
(Surrey Memorial Hospital)

Jordan Lui – Clinical Instructor
(Royal Columbian Hospital)

Kathryn Clark – Clinical Instructor
(BC Women’s Hospital)

Kavin Bains – Clinical Instructor
(Surrey Memorial Hospital)

Kenneth Scott Bonneville – Clinical
Assistant Professor (Kamloops Royal Inland
Hospital)

Kollipara Sridhar – Clinical Assistant
Professor (Langley Memorial Hospital)

Lucille Haasbroek – Clinical Instructor
(Richmond Hospital)

Mark Ewanchuk – Clinical Associate
Professor (Kelowna General Hospital)

Mark German – Clinical Instructor
(Victoria General Hospital)

Mihaela Dana Van Idour – Clinical Instructor
(Surrey Memorial Hospital)

Peter Cole – Clinical Instructor
(Chilliwack General Hospital)

Pieter Smith – Clinical Instructor
(Penticton Regional Hospital)

Randa Ridgway – Clinical Assistant
Professor (BC Children’s Hospital)

Reza Faraji – Clinical Instructor
(Burnaby Hospital)

Reza Taghaddomi – Clinical Instructor
(Chilliwack General Hospital)

Richard Taggesell – Clinical Assistant
Professor (Saanich Peninsula Hospital)

Ryan Best – Clinical Instructor
(Royal Columbian Hospital)

Sean William Donald – Clinical Instructor
(Victoria General Hospital)

Sebastian Borowiec – Clinical Instructor
(Nanaimo Regional General Hospital)

Vincent Fruci – Clinical Instructor
(St. Paul’s Hospital)

Young-Don Brendon Chung – Clinical
Instructor (Vancouver General Hospital)

Zach Robbins – Clinical Instructor
(Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital)

In Memoriam

In fond remembrance of the cherished friends and colleagues we mourned in 2023



Dr. David Godin



Dr. David Stewart



Dr. Peter Swart



Dr. Richard Wall



Promotions 2023

Promotion From Clinical Instructor To Clinical Assistant Professor

1. **Dr. Adrian Vethanayagam** – Royal Jubilee Hospital
2. **Dr. Alison Read** – Royal Columbian Hospital
3. **Dr. Catherina Mattheus** – Abbotsford Regional Hospital
4. **Dr. Christopher Thomas Nixon Giles** – Vancouver General Hospital
5. **Dr. Dmitry Mebel** – St. Paul's Hospital
6. **Dr. Evan Shao** – Vancouver General Hospital
7. **Dr. Justendra Naidu** – St. Paul's Hospital
8. **Dr. Kalina Popova** – Vancouver General Hospital
9. **Dr. Kristen Kidson** – Vancouver General Hospital
10. **Dr. Laila Karwa** – Surrey Memorial Hospital
11. **Dr. Lauren Zolpys** – Victoria General Hospital
12. **Dr. Magdalena Lipowska** – Lion's Gate Hospital
13. **Dr. Mahalaxmi Iyer** – Surrey Memorial Hospital
14. **Dr. Marcus Tholin** – Vancouver General Hospital
15. **Dr. Mark Mathieson** – Vancouver General Hospital
16. **Dr. Matthew Harry Duncan Walker** – Vancouver General Hospital
17. **Dr. Navraj Chima** – Vancouver General Hospital
18. **Dr. Pooya Kazemi** – Royal Jubilee Hospital
19. **Dr. Rana Hamidzadeh** – Vancouver General Hospital
20. **Dr. Rassamee Ling** – Surrey Memorial Hospital
21. **Dr. Sara Waters** – Victoria General Hospital
22. **Dr. Simone Schulein** – Vancouver General Hospital
23. **Dr. Teresa Ripley** – Lion's Gate Hospital
24. **Dr. Vishal Varshney** – St. Paul's Hospital

Promotion from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

1. **Dr. Christopher Prabhakar** – St. Paul's Hospital
2. **Dr. Jagpaul Sahota** – BC Women's Hospital
3. **Dr. John McAlpine** – Lion's Gate Hospital
4. **Dr. John Veall** – Vancouver General Hospital
5. **Dr. Martin Roos** – Lion's Gate Hospital
6. **Dr. Nicholai Kuzak** – Kelowna General Hospital
7. **Dr. Peter Chan** – Vancouver General Hospital
8. **Dr. Zoe Brown** – BC Children's Hospital

Approved for Promotion from Clinical Associate Professor to Clinical Professor

1. **Dr. Thomas Perry** – Therapeutics Initiative

Faculty Teaching Awards

Master Teacher Awards

- **VGH** – Amber Galbraith; Travis Schisler
- **SPH** – Su-Yin MacDonell
- **RCH** – Shelley Tweedle
- **BCCH** – Zoe Brown
- **BCWH** – Sadiq Abdulla
- **Secondary Site: (Surrey) Christine Graf; (Victoria) Richard Alexander**
- **Rural/Community – (Nanaimo)- Sarah Hall**
- **Medicine – (Critical Care) – Kristen Kidson**
- **Dr. Dimitri Giannoulis Resident Appreciation Award** – Pieter Swart
- **FPA Master Teacher Award** – (Lions Gate) John McAlpine
- **FPA Master Teacher Award** – (Women's Hospital) Andrew Wang
- **FPA Master Teacher Award** – (Whitehorse) Adrienne Mayes

Education/ Training Awards

Anesthesiology Residents

- **Dr. Keith Mills Award for Excellence in Neuroanesthesia** to Émilie Chan
- **Dr. Keith Mills Bursary for Neuroanesthesia Studies** to Kimberly Li
- **Dr. Jone Chang Pain award** to Mario Kovacevic
- **Colin A. Sands Memorial Prize in Anesthesia for the most collaborative R1** to Ines Zuna
- **Derek Daniel Wolney Memorial Resident Prize in Anesthesia (Clinical Proficiency)** to Heather Cadenhead
- **Dr. J.A. McConnell Memorial prize in Anesthesia (Academic achievement)** to Michael Van Der Westhuizen
- **Dr. Jone Chang Memorial Award in Anesthesiology (most well-rounded in CanMEDs)** to Stephen Miazga
- **Dr Albert Pace Florida memorial Award in Anesthesiology (Performance, innovation, compassion)** to Colin Archer
- **VGH Kenny Wong Award** for Clinical Excellence and Collegiality – Émilie Chan
- **Giannoulis Regional award** to Jack Huang
- **Dr. Derek Daniel Wolney Prize** for Clinical Proficiency – Heather Cadenhead
- **Ken C.K. Wong Award for Clinical Teaching** to Hamish Bodnar
- **BCAS Resident Award for Physician Leadership** to Naima Kotadia and Stephen Miazga
- **Dr. Anthony Boulton Award for FPA Clinical Excellence** to Laurence Rioux
- **Dr. Paul Kliffer Golden Epidural Award** to Laurence Rioux and Alex Dotto
- **Dr. Michael Smith Award for Pediatric Anesthesia** to Michael van der Westhuizen

RCH Resident Award for Clinical Excellence

- **Jr. award:** Jessie Liu
- **Sr. award:** Kres Ukalovic
- **QI Leads:** Claire Moura, Karim Narsingani

Simulation awards

- Kimberly Li
- David Olmstead
- Robertson Venema
- Paul Yen

Pharmacology & Therapeutics Undergraduate Awards

- **Prakash Gill Memorial Prize** (highest graduating average in Majors Pharmacology) Mr. Fardad Asghari-Zadeh (May 2023)
- **Dr Thomas L. Perry Memorial prize in Medical Pharmacology** Ms. Vanessa Thomson (May 2023)

Pharmacology & Therapeutics Graduate Awards

- **Sacks Prize** (Best presentations) – May 2023
Ms. Himali Bergeron-Vitez (MSc) and Mr. Zeren Sun (PhD) shared the award
- **Leighton Pharmacology Graduate Award** - May 2023
Ms. Cassandra Choles (MSc) and Ms. Kauna Usman (PhD) shared the award
- **CIHR-CGSM 1-year award** (2023 Sept-24 August)
Jia-He Janet Zhang, MSc
- **CIHR-CGSD 3-year award**
Aileen Hsieh, PhD (2023 May-2026 April)
- **CIHR-Canadian Lung Association Research Studentship 1-year award**
Fatemeh Aminazadeh, PhD (2023 Jan-Dec)
- **The Cmolik Alumni Award (2022 Sept-2024-Aug)**
Rachel McLellan-Carich, MSc