



a place of mind



MISSION STATEMENT

GOAL

Optimum health for the women of BC and their offspring.

VALUES

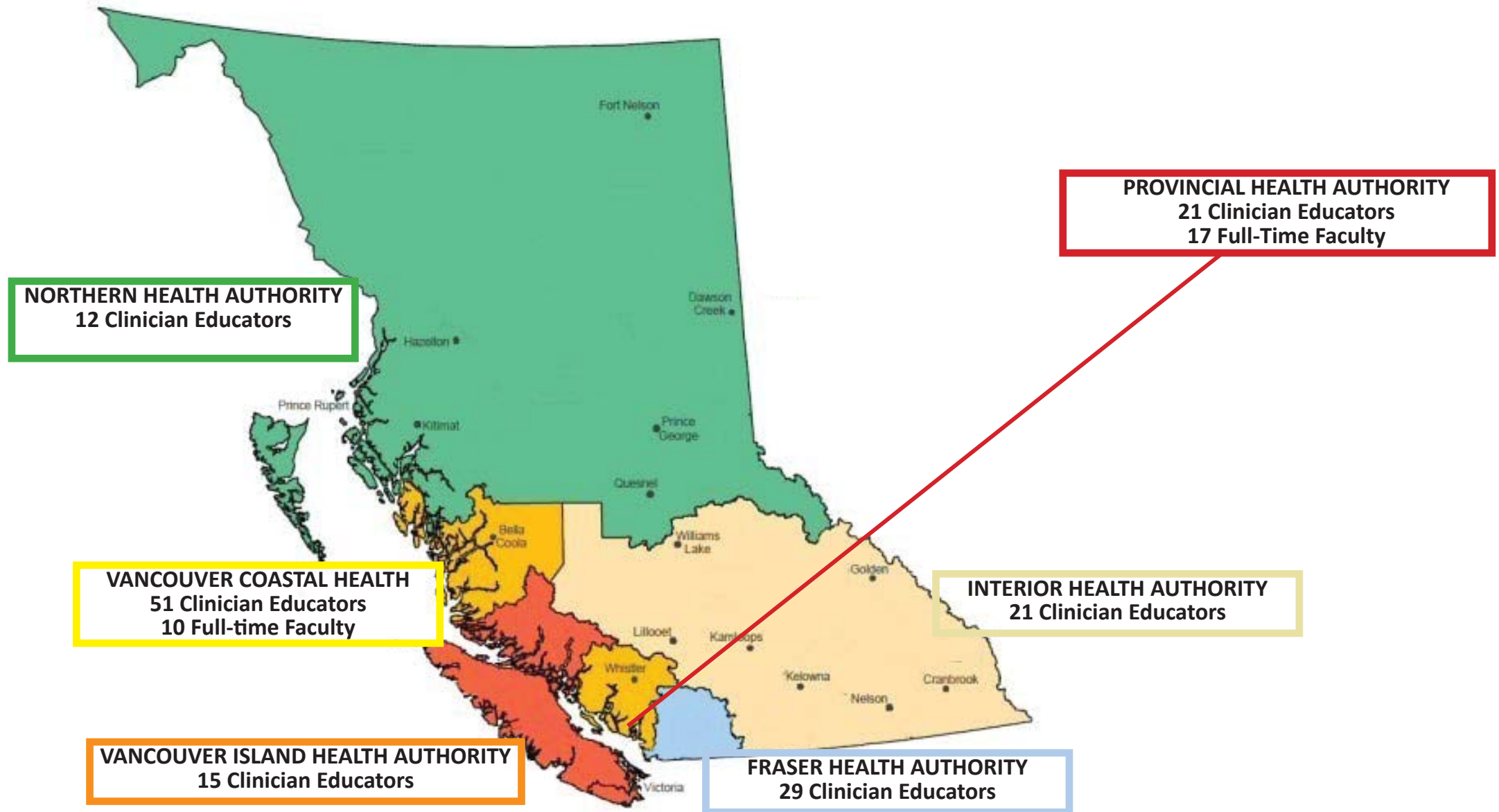
To achieve our vision, we will be guided by the principle . . .

... everyone's a teacher, everyone's a learner.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DISTRIBUTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS	2
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT	3
RESEARCH ACTIVITY REPORT	4
EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORTS	
Undergraduate Program.....	6
Residency Program.....	7
The Reproductive & Developmental Sciences Graduate Program	8
FELLOWSHIPS	
Maternal Fetal Medicine	9
Pelvic Pain Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery	9
Endometriosis, Pelvic Pain & Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery	10
Gynaecologic Oncology.....	10
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	11
BUSINESS & FINANCIAL REPORT	12
DIVISION REPORTS	
General Obstetrics & Gynaecology	14
Gynaecologic Oncology	15
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	16
Maternal Fetal Medicine	18
Gynaecologic Specialties	20
SITE REPORTS	
BC Women's Hospital	22
St Paul's Hospital	23
Vancouver General Hospital	24
REGIONAL REPORTS	
Vancouver Island Health Authority	25
Northern Medical Program & Northern Health Authority	26

DISTRIBUTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY





Maintaining your bearing while navigating the hazards inherent in your course requires a clear understanding of your destination.

This knowledge of the intended target can be challenging for an academic department that ends up with a nexus of clinical and academic objectives that cross divisions, hospitals, programs, and Health Authorities. Successful navigation demands a clear idea of how the goals of the constituent segments coalesce to define the goals of the department. More than a mere summation, the Department's goals must provide a sustainable foundation and unified direction, the "true north" for all of the departmental segments. This is especially true if the Department is to successfully pilot to the Faculty of Medicine's vision of a provincially distributed program.

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology's true north is well stated in the Faculty of Medicine's vision, "Through knowledge, creating health". The knowledge base of health care has never been static but is now evolving at an ever-increasing rate. Two important concepts spring from this recognition. Firstly, that not all of this information is of equal utility to the enhancement of health, and secondly, that the sheer volume of information demands more efficient methods to teach learners as well as maintain the competence of existing providers. Ultimately then our goals are to pursue meaningful investigation that creates useful knowledge, to ensure that our clinical and educational programs are sufficiently broad and effective in scope to translate knowledge to health, and to insure good governance that will sustain our efforts.

The Department's research efforts span the full spectrum of investigation. We insure the relevance of our work through broad based research platforms, investigating research questions from synergistic perspectives. I encourage you to read the Divisional reports for a broader view of our research efforts. Happily, our investigators continue to find success in seeking funding for their work. Increasing research funding in the present financial climate is verification of the importance of their work. Embracing innovation and tirelessly pursuing excellence, devoted to the compassionate care of women across their lifespan, is what our Department is all about.

Expanding our vision in lean times is a challenge, and to meet this challenge, the Department has sought new funding, and strives to do more with our existing funding through better financial stewardship. A University department blessed with such talented teachers, scientists, clinicians and administrators, is well positioned for success, but must ensure an academic environment that is supportive and sustainable to best pursue our mission, vision and goals. Our faculty members are our greatest asset, so we are pursuing a development campaign to support faculty positions. So far we have raised money to support a professorship in the name of Dr. Victor Gomel, who provided the academic foundation for the department during his term as Department Head. We plan to establish the Victor Gomel Professorship this fall. We have also secured a commitment of four million dollars towards a new professorship in Gynaecologic Oncology. Ultimately, these endowments are the best way to insure the yield of innovative excellence in investigation and education and will continue to be a priority for the department in years to come

Geoffrey W. Cundiff, MD, F.A.C.O.G., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S.C.
Professor and Head
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
University of British Columbia



SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH DR. JESSICA McALPINE

On October 16, 2012 - Jessica McAlpine, OVCARE surgeon-scientist, won the top research prize at the 14th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) held in Vancouver, Canada.

Dr. McAlpine won for her work on “Intratumoural heterogeneity in high-grade serous cancers: defining evolution of the somatic mutational landscape across spatially and temporally selected samples”. She is a co-Principal investigator with Dr. Sohrab Shah (OVCARE cancer genomics expert and bioinformatician) on this Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - funded research programme in which she has also been awarded a five-year CIHR New Investigator Award to conduct this research.



Dr. McAlpine also published the largest study of a particular ovarian cancer subtype in the Journal of Pathology. Her paper highlights the importance of international collaboration for the study of rare carcinomas.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY



Ariadna Fernandez,
Research Program, Manager

Research in our Department is multifaceted and multidisciplinary.

Whether advancing scientific knowledge and practice, promoting maternal health, or training global health leaders, the Department is at the forefront of efforts to benefit the health of women both in British Columbia and internationally.

Our research programs bridge basic research to clinical trials, to epidemiology. Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, sexuality and sexual function, international women’s health, reproductive infectious disease, genomics of ovarian cancer, cancer prevention, gynaecologic oncology, human papilloma virus, fetal diagnosis and therapy, pelvic pain and pelvic floor disorders are all areas of focus within the Department. The Department has also developed a focus in education, working towards competency-based approaches.

The Department fosters an environment for research to flourish. This includes enhancing the research skills of our faculty members through the Fred Bryans Faculty Research Forum, providing a venue and expertise for researchers pursuing multidisciplinary and multi-centered investigations. We also strive to cultivate new investigators; providing mentorship, seed grants and venues for presenting the investigations of learners. This year we hosted our 12th Annual Academic Day where the Division of General Obstetrics & Gynaecology led the gathering featuring speaker and judge, Dr. Paul Blumethal. Congratulations to Bo Peng - Best Poster Presentation, Magdalene Payne - Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation, Dr. Flora Teng - Honourable Mention Trainee Oral Presentation, Dr. Vreni Kuret - Best Clinical Trainee Oral Presentation, and Dr. Claudine Storness-Bliss - Best Publication by a Resident.

More than...

\$6,785,189

In Total Research Revenue for 2012-13

198

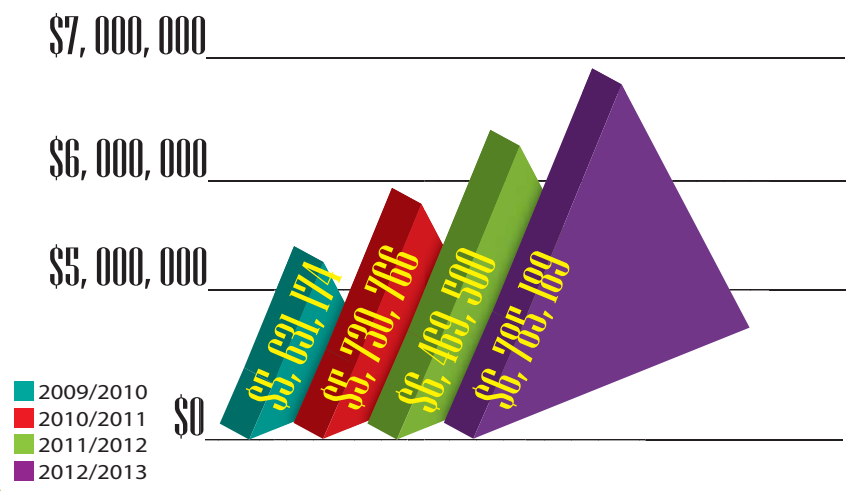
Publications
in the Academic Year

31 (28 Graduate Students
1 Research Associate
2 Postdoctoral Fellows)
Trainees





TOTAL FUNDING BY YEAR

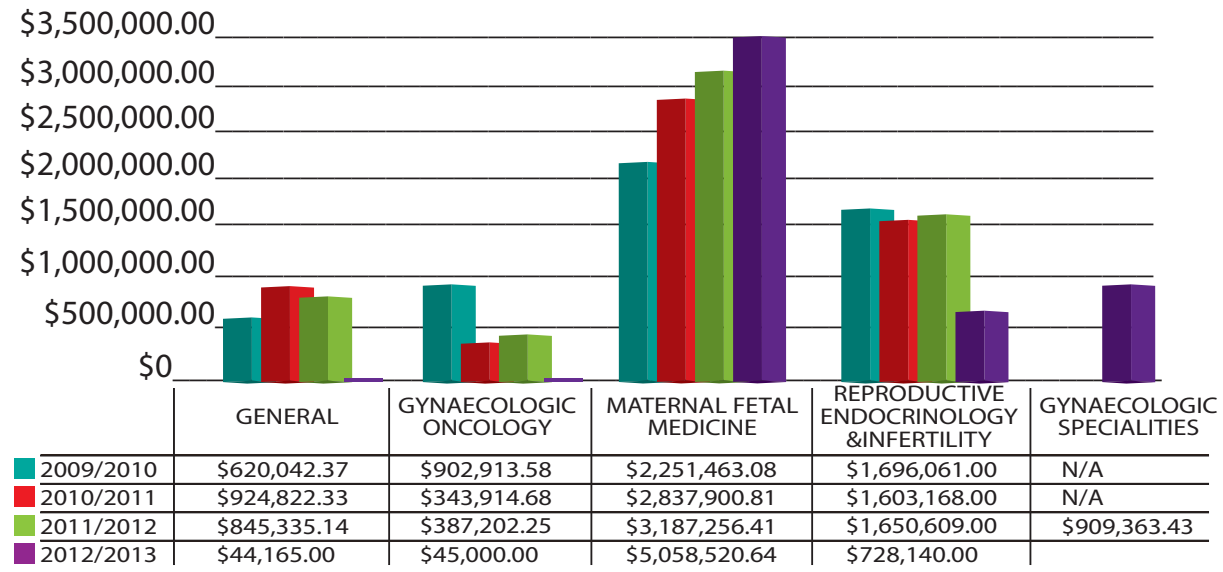


This was a very successful year in the research program; we saw an overall increase in funding. These funds arise from multiple sources including granting agencies, charitable foundations, hospital/university, industry, and government con-

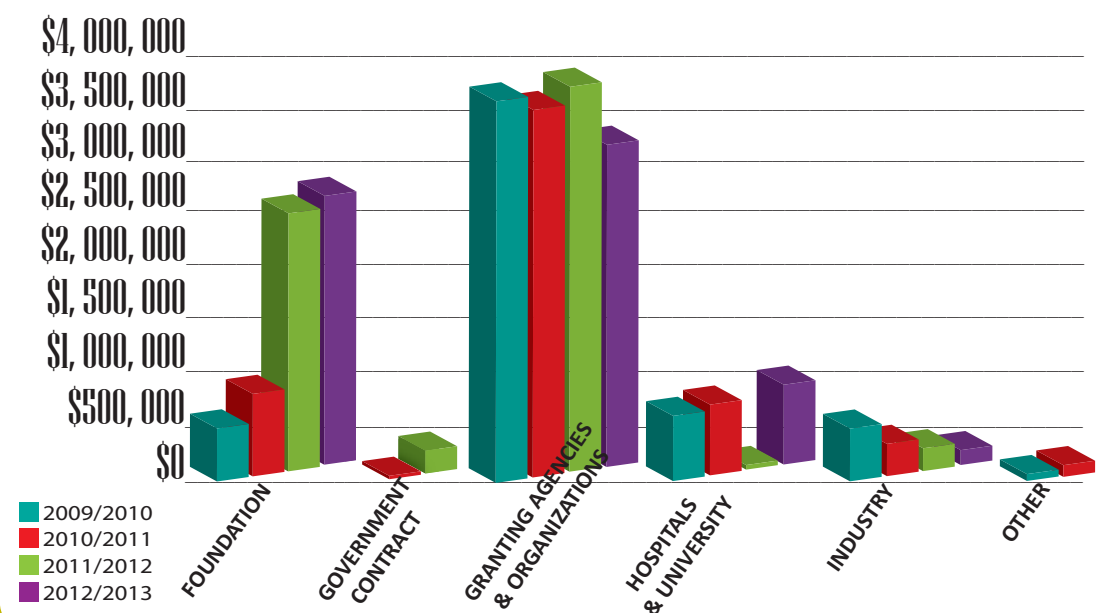
25
Investigators with external research funding

39
Research Staff

FUNDING BY DIVISION



FUNDING SOURCES BY YEAR



Investigators with external research funding

Research Staff



Sydney Thomson, MD, FRCSC

Director, Undergraduate Education Program

A busy year, with much success.

Dr. Tracy Pressey continues to lead the Reproduction Block in the Year II curriculum. Drs. Jason Hitkari, Sarah Finlayson and Sydney Thomson also contribute as week chairs. Overall, our faculty continues to provide excellent lectures through the block.

The clinical clerkship year continues to provide an outstanding six-week rotation for Year III medical students. Dr. Jag Ubhi provided leadership through the province for this huge undertaking. He recently stepped down from this role to become the Director of the Postgraduate Residency Program. The Department thanks Dr. Ubhi for his contribution to the Undergraduate Program. He brings an unrelenting spirit to the education of our medical students. His passion for teaching and mentoring drives the students to learn and strengthens their desire to pursue this discipline. Dr. Sydney Thomson, as Director of Undergraduate Education, has stepped into the role as interim Year III Lead.

The program has enjoyed many successes due to the work of the site directors at the provincial sites. Dr Jill Kowalczyk continues to direct at Richmond General Hospital, Dr. Ciaran Goojha has recently assumed the role at Lion's Gate Hospital, and Dr. Kellie Whitehill continues to lead at BC Women's and Vancouver General Hospitals. Dr. Marijo Odulio continues to provide excellent direction in the Northern Program, as does Dr. Joelle Dennie in the Island Program.

The recent introduction of the Southern Medical Program provides a complete rotation for Year III students in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Drs. Glenn Benoit in Kelowna and Mark Treissman in Kamloops have taken the lead in this significant challenge. They are supported by local faculty members and have had great success to date.

Another huge part of the success within the Year III program comes from the contribution of our faculty in the preceptor weeks, clinic opportunities, didactic lectures, labour and delivery suite, operative rooms, and on the wards. These are vital components of the rotation, and the Department continues to have educational success because of your efforts.

Dr. Francine Tessier has taken on the role of Year IV Lead. This year relies on the contribution of our faculty throughout the province to provide elective opportunities for our students. The students rely on these electives to advance their knowledge as well as provide a chance for outstanding students to demonstrate their skills as they pursue residencies in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

An Undergraduate Education retreat was held this past January. It allowed local and distributed education leaders to discuss the pursuit of excellence in the many educational programs. One of the key topics addressed was the UBC Medical School Curriculum Renewal process presently underway. Dr. Jason Ford, part of the UBC team leading the Renewal process, presented to the attendees. The Department appears to be well-positioned in the Renewal process, which will ensure our discipline continues to hold an important place in medical education. This will be an area of focus for the Education team as implementation of the new curriculum is planned for September 2014.





Jag Ubhi, MD, FRCSC

Director, Postgraduate Education Program

Over the years our residents and faculty have developed and established professional relationships all over the globe.

This year was no exception. Our current residents have been busy with research and health advocacy around the world, with Dr. Flora Tang representing the Department at the Women’s Hospital at Zhejiang in Hangzhou China, conducting a qualitative study in Uganda for ASPIRE, and completing her MPH at Yale University. Dr. Sheona Mitchell completed an MPH at John Hopkins School of Public Health, and returned to Uganda in September 2011 to complete her work on the pilot feasibility study for ASPIRE. We are excited about their respective careers in global clinical research.

We welcomed Drs Carla Pajak, Claudine Storness-Bliss, Deirdre O’Conner, Mary Masotti, Paula Espino, Sawyer Huget-Penner, Shaina Lee and Vanessa Han. Dr. Megan Thwaties joined us from General Surgery.

Our residents continue to make the most of their Health Advocacy Roles, and we said goodbye to our graduating residents: Drs. Grace Park, Janet Lyons, Cheryl Wilson and Andrea Massey, and Andora Jackson in 2012, and in 2013 bid farewell to Drs. Nicole Todd, Nadia Branco, Mina Wesa, Vanessa Nicolau, Sheona Mitchell, Caitlin Dunne, Jennifer Kozic and Tin Yen all of who were successful in passing the Royal College Exam. Well done!



carry forward into practices.

This is just a brief glimpse into all the wonderful work that our residents are doing. We look forward to another successful year in 2013-14.

As with any successful program we continually evolve, looking for new opportunities to improve and this year the “No Slate Left Behind” Program championed by our very own Dr. Ulrike Deheak, introduced a novel approach allowing our program to utilize social media to further resident awareness of interesting surgical cases, clinic and learning opportunities - in real time. We are very supportive of developing independent learners, and providing skill-sets for our graduates to

ASPIRE

The Advances in Screening and Prevention in Reproductive Cancers (ASPIRE) program is an international women’s health initiative that aims to implement sustainable approaches to cervical cancer screening in low-resource settings starting in the impoverished urban community of Kisenyi in Kampala, Uganda. Despite cervical cancer being the most preventable of the gynecologic cancers with a vaccine available and proven screening methods, Uganda has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the world largely due to lack of screening due to poor infrastructure and competing health priorities. ASPIRE’s focus is on integrating HPV self collection for cervical cancer screening as part of existing reproductive health programs at the Kisenyi Health Unit.



ASPIRE began in 2006 under the lead of Dr. Gina Ogilvie as a collaboration between the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, the University of British Columbia Family Medicine Department, the BC Center for Disease Control, the BC Cancer Agency and BC Women’s Hospital.



The ASPIRE team, with Dr. Sheona Mitchell

In recent years two Ob/Gyn residents have had the privilege of participating in ASPIRE, Dr. Sheona Mitchell implemented an acceptability survey and participated in the HPV self collection feasibility study and Dr. Flora Teng looked at the role of embarrassment as a barrier to cervical cancer screening.



REPRODUCTIVE & DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCES



Dan Rurak, BSc (honours), MSc, DPhil
Professor, UBC Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Director, Reproductive and Developmental Sciences (RDS) Program

Reproductive and Developmental Sciences (RDS) provides Graduate Program students with in-depth expertise in research.

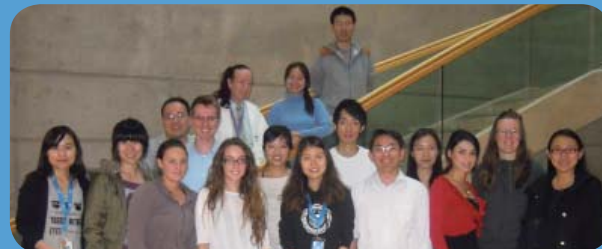
This research includes reproductive and molecular endocrinology, reproductive cancers, chronic pelvic pain, placentation, and basic and/or clinical perinatal physiology and pathophysiology. RDS also provides a broad knowledge of mammalian reproductive and developmental biology.

Ten of the PhD students and one MSc student have received salary awards for their studies from agencies that include The Child & Family Research Institute, The Women's Health Research Institute and The China Scholarship Council. We congratulate the winners of these awards and thank the funding agencies for their support.

In addition to conducting their thesis research, all RDS MSc, and some PhD students take graduate courses relevant to their research. All RDS students are required to attend a weekly seminar series and present one seminar a year. Dr. Tony Perks is the long serving moderator of these seminars and he does a fine job. RDS students also attend bi-weekly journal clubs organized and run by the trainees. Samantha Benton and Magda Price are the two trainees that currently organize the sessions.

This year the RDS program, and the Reproduction and Healthy Pregnancy [RHP] cluster of CFRI, co-sponsored a trainee-organized workshop. The workshop was organized by the trainee subcommittee of the RHP cluster, which includes Samantha Benton and Magda Price. The first workshop was focused on Stress and Development and Drs. Clyde Hertzman, Lisa Galea and Joanne Weinberg were the invited speakers. This workshop was well attended by faculty and trainees. It is our aim to see such trainee-organized workshops become an annual and ongoing occurrence.

Research trainees are often the major engines of productivity in any research program, doing much of the work that goes into papers published with their supervisors, and our current trainees are no exception; they have co-authored 29 published papers with their supervisors this year, and many have presented their results at national and international meetings. The Department is lucky to have such a group of gifted and energetic trainees. We wish them well in their future endeavors.



Top: Bo Peng; Third Row: Jordan Cheng, Warren Myers, Prof Tony Perks (OBST 506 moderator), Tuan Ahn Nguyen; Second Row: Lanlan Fang, Mya Zhang, Rebecca Vincent, Yan Li, Kevin Lau, Quinlan Cindy Fan, Magda Price; Front Row: Lesley Hill, Xin Qiu, William Chang; Mahroo Aghababaei, Hang Zhang; Missing students: Tsung-Shen Wu, Samantha Benton, Beth Payne, Haolong Li, Katie Chapman, Dalijeet Mahal, Maggie Payne, Yue Yu, Kaia Hookenson

REPRODUCTIVE & DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCES at a glance...

28 Students:

17 PhD Student

11 MSc Students

3 MSc students obtained their degrees in 2012

3 PhD students obtained their degree in 2012

16 full time faculty supervisors

5 Emeritus Professors (including members from Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Gynecologic Oncology and Maternal Fetal Medicine, and other UBC Departments, such as: Cellular and Physiological Sciences, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Medical Genetics, Pathology and Urology.)

In 2012, the RDS program welcomed Drs. Alex Beristain and Paul Yong to the Faculty:

Dr. Beristain is a graduate of the RDS Program and obtained a PhD on trophoblast differentiation under the supervision of the late Dr. Colin MacCalman. Following this he did post-doctoral work in Toronto on molecular and cellular mechanisms involved in cancer. In his current research, he is returning to studies on trophoblast differentiation and will make use of state of the art cell sorting techniques that he learned in Toronto.

Dr. Paul Yong is also a graduate of UBC. He completed MD-PhD training in Experimental Medicine. His PhD supervisor was Dr. Wendy Robinson, a faculty supervisor in the RDS program. He then did residency training in the department, followed by a 1 year fellowship in endometriosis, chronic pelvic pain and advanced laparoscopy. His research and research supervision will be in these areas.





Nancy Kent, MD, FRCS

Director, Sub-specialty Training in Maternal Fetal Medicine

It's been a year of successes and academic excellence for the MFM Fellowship Program at BC Women's Hospital.

Dr. Carmen Young passed the RCPSC MFM Fellowship exam in September after completing her fellowship in August 2011. She was recruited to a position with the University of Alberta MFM Division at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women on the Royal Alexandra Hospital site.

Academic achievement was the byword for our senior fellows. Dr. Genevieve Eastabrook completed her Clinical Fellowship while working on her PhD with the Reproductive and Developmental Science Program under the supervision of Dr. Peter von Dadelszen. During her two year fellowship she managed to author one book chapter, publish two papers in peer-reviewed journals and three refereed abstracts, present two posters at international meetings and present at both Departmental Academic Days. To round out her fellowship, she was the recipient of the Child & Family Research Institute's Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Clinical Subspecialty Resident or Fellow, an award recognizing research initiatives pursued in a "conscientious, original and competent manner" given to a trainee who "has the potential for academic excellence in their future career". Genevieve began as a Clinician Scientist with the Division of MFM at Western Ontario University in July. Dr. Yasser Sabr began work on his MHS in Clinical Epidemiology with the School of Population and Public Health in September 2011. By spring he had successfully made the transfer into the PhD program under the supervision of Dr. KS Joseph while completing his Clinical Fellowship. Dr. Vreni Kuret rounded out the Fellowship as our junior fellow. She had a busy year completing the bulk of the core rotations before embarking on a maternity leave to enjoy her second child, Clive.

They say time flies when you are having fun – and thanks to our dynamic fellows, the members of the Division of MFM, the sonographers and clinic staff with whom we work, the year just flew by! Thank you too to Ms. Roshni Nair who manages to keep our graduate studies commitments and MFM fellowship requirements on her radar screen.



Catherine Allaire, MDCM, FRCS

Director, Fellowship in Endometriosis, Pelvic Pain and Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery

This year saw our launch of The BC Women's Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis.

This is a provincial referral centre providing care for women whose quality of life is affected by persistent pelvic pain and/or endometriosis. The goals of the Centre are to provide compassionate care that promotes healing and improves quality of life through an interdisciplinary approach, to offer leadership and education in pelvic pain/endometriosis for physicians and other health care providers locally and provincially, and to conduct research to increase our understanding and improve the management of pelvic pain and endometriosis.

This UBC Fellowship saw the graduation of its first Fellow, Dr. Paul Yong in June of 2012. Dr. Yong was then promptly recruited and appointed to the UBC Division of Gynaecologic Specialties. He joined his mentors Drs. Catherine Allaire and Christina Williams at the BC Women's Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis to pursue his clinical and research interests in this field.

Our recent Fellow was Dr. Innie Chen, a graduate of University of Alberta's Ob/Gyn program. Dr. Chen is currently completing her Masters in Public Health in conjunction with her Fellowship and her particular interests are population databases and outcomes analysis. Dr. Sonya Bodmer-Roy recently started this fellowship program.



FELLOWSHIP IN FEMALE PELVIC MEDICINE &
RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY



Roxana Geoffrion, MD, FRCSC

Co-Director, Fellowship Program in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

It's been an exciting year for the Fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery.

Our first Canadian-trained fellow has joined us from the University of Alberta and will be working with us until 2014. Dr Momoe Hyakutake is a valued member of our team and brings important contributions to our clinical and research endeavours. She is currently receiving multi-disciplinary clinical training that includes diagnostic evaluation and treatment of functional and support disorders of the lower urinary tract, reproductive tract, and lower intestinal tract. Specifically, subspecialty clinics include those related to urinary incontinence, neurogenic bladder, pelvic organ prolapse, fistulae, painful bladder disorders, rectal prolapse, fecal disorders and, for the first time, sexual dysfunction.

Despite a challenging clinical schedule, Dr Hyakutake is also pursuing a Masters in Educational Technologies through UBC. Her fellow research project, the PREPARED trial commenced patient recruitment in spring 2013. The trial aims to investigate whether a workshop on pelvic floor health during pregnancy enhances women's knowledge of pelvic floor dysfunction preventative behaviours. Dr Hyakutake is also actively involved in teaching and supervision during the resident Urogynecology core rotation and is a participant in our ongoing trial of competency-based modular surgical education for residents [the PROMOTE trial, pg. 22].

GYNAECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



Janice Kwon, MD, FRCSC

Director, Fellowship Program in Gynaecologic Oncology

The Gynaecologic Oncology fellowship is a competitive program, with numerous applicants from Canada and around the world.

The Fellowship offers the benefits of large clinical volume, as UBC/BCCA provides specialized gynecologic oncology services to the entire province. British Columbia has a population-based cancer control organization, and cancer care is standardized across the province. Patients residing in the most remote communities are entitled to the same treatment as those residing in urban municipalities. Our provincial cancer program provides the ideal platform upon which to conduct teaching and research.

The teaching curriculum for the Fellowship program includes weekly academic half-day sessions, multidisciplinary tumour board meetings, pathology, monthly academic, and quarterly journal club rounds. Our multidisciplinary affiliations with pathology, medical and radiation oncology, urology, general surgery, plastic surgery, and the BCCA hereditary cancer program, have provided a wealth of clinical and research experience.

Dr. Shannon Salvador recently completed her two years of clinical training after a Masters degree in Population Health from Stanford University. Our current fellows, Dr. Trevor Cohen (2nd year) and Dr. Leah Jutzi (1st year), have made significant academic contributions to various events and organizations, such as the annual DA Boyes Society meeting, and the BC Cancer Agency, and they have provided leadership to the next generation of health care providers, including medical students and residents. They are both involved in population-based studies relating to endometrial cancer treatment and outcomes in British Columbia.





Jon Havelock, MD, FRCSC

Director, Fellowship Program in Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

A year of change. A year of opportunity.

Clinical assisted reproductive technology procedures have transitioned from the BC Women's site to the freestanding private GREI clinics. This has been an opportunity for the subspecialty residents to participate in training in additional distributed sites for clinical experience, and has increased their clinical exposure to assisted reproductive technology (ART) treatment. Additional changes to the program have included a city-wide GREI journal club that has created a more connected and cohesive environment between the GREI physicians involved in clinical care and education. As well, a formal GREI lecture series has been developed for the GREI subspecialty residents and rotating obstetrics and gynaecology residents to meet the requirements of training in GREI.

Our two graduating subspecialty residents, Drs. Niamh Tallon and Ghadeer Akbar, are getting prepared to complete their subspecialty exams in the coming months. Dr. Tallon has chosen to continue her clinical practice in the lower mainland and will be an asset to the division in both education and research, as she continues to participate in the completion of a national, multicentre randomized clinical trial on endometrial biopsy. Dr. Akbar is planning on returning to Kuwait to develop an ART program back home, and we wish her well in her future endeavours. Our new subspecialty resident is Dr. Caitlin Dunne, who completed her residency at UBC, and has already embarked on starting her clinical research. The fellowship program and residents are especially grateful for the support of the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI), which is an invaluable organization for women's research within the department and has been a great asset in supporting subspecialty resident assistance.

Finally, the fellowship program would like to welcome our new Division director, Dr. Mohamed Bedaiwy. Dr. Bedaiwy is a clinician scientist, with a PhD on ovarian tissue cryopreservation, and fellowship trained in minimally invasive surgery as well as GREI. He will be a great asset to the GREI training program and will provide immeasurable value in surgical training, research and clinical care.

CFWH GRANTS AWARDED TO DR. MOMOE HYAKUTAKE AND DR. PAUL YONG



Dr. Hyakutake (left), Fellow in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, and Dr. Paul Yong (right), won research grants from the Canadian Federation of Women's Health. Dr. Hyakutake was awarded the CFWH Urogynaecology Award for the PREPARED trial. Dr. Paul Yong was awarded the Canadian Federation of Women's Health General Research Grant for Genomic determinants of local invasion and malignant transformation in endometriosis.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

DR. DAVID HUNTSMAN



Our Department has funded studies in reproductive endocrinology, placental physiology, gynaecologic oncology, genomics, and endometriosis. These scientists are embedded within the clinical divisions, and linked across labs to encourage collaboration across disciplines.

An example is the work of Dr. David Huntsman, the Chew Wei Professor in Gynaecologic Oncology. His work in the genomics of ovarian cancers has redefined the disease, but he has also worked with our newest surgeon scientist, Dr. Paul Yong to develop a tissue bank of endometriosis that will ultimately better define this disease.

Dr. Huntsman has active research programs which are focused on hereditary gastric cancer and the development of predictive and prognostic tissue-based cancer biomarkers for a wide variety of tumour types. His gastric cancer research has resulted in the discovery of over half of known CDH1 (a hereditary diffuse gastric cancer susceptibility gene) mutations. In addition, his pathologic study of specimens from prophylactic gastrectomies uncovered the common presence of occult gastric carcinomas; this alerted the medical community to the lack of sensitivity of standard endoscopic screening for diffuse gastric cancer detection. Dr. Huntsman was also a member of the research team that discovered EMSY, a BRCA2 interacting protein. The amplification of the EMSY gene is clinically significant in breast and possibly ovarian cancers and overexpression of a truncated form of EMSY results in dramatic chromosomal instability. Through the development of CTAG and GPEC Dr. Huntsman has combined a unique business opportunity for therapeutic and diagnostic research. As collaboration is critical for effective translational research, Dr. Huntsman is happily engaged with a number of multidisciplinary research groups, including the Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital.



BUSINESS & FINANCIAL REPORT



Andi Martin
Administrative Manager

Jennifer Rosen, BComm, CA
Finance Manager



Challenges, changes, and opportunities

were encountered in the past year, resulting in a stronger Department and a positive outlook for the future.

At the end of the last calendar year, the Department faced a significant challenge: to investigate and contain an act of internal fraud. We immediately alerted the internal audit units at both UBC and Vancouver Coastal Health, as well as the RCMP, and requested an investigation to determine the extent of the fraud and to fully define the loss. Although unfortunate, this incident provided us with an opportunity to critically examine, redesign and improve administrative and financial processes, controls and structure. In early 2013, the Department received insurance proceeds to compensate for the financial loss. Following this, the Department is now on sound financial footing.

Helen Davies continues to provide expert guidance and support for the Department IT systems. Her position was recently reclassified to Senior Application Developer. Our custom web applications have been migrated to a new secure UBC IT web server, benefiting the Department through centralized IT support and direction. Helen has expanded the scope of the Education Database to record the total physician experience, including committees, meetings, rounds and all teaching activities. We report these academic activities on an annual basis to financially compensate clinical faculty, as well as to provide information for physician report card statistics.

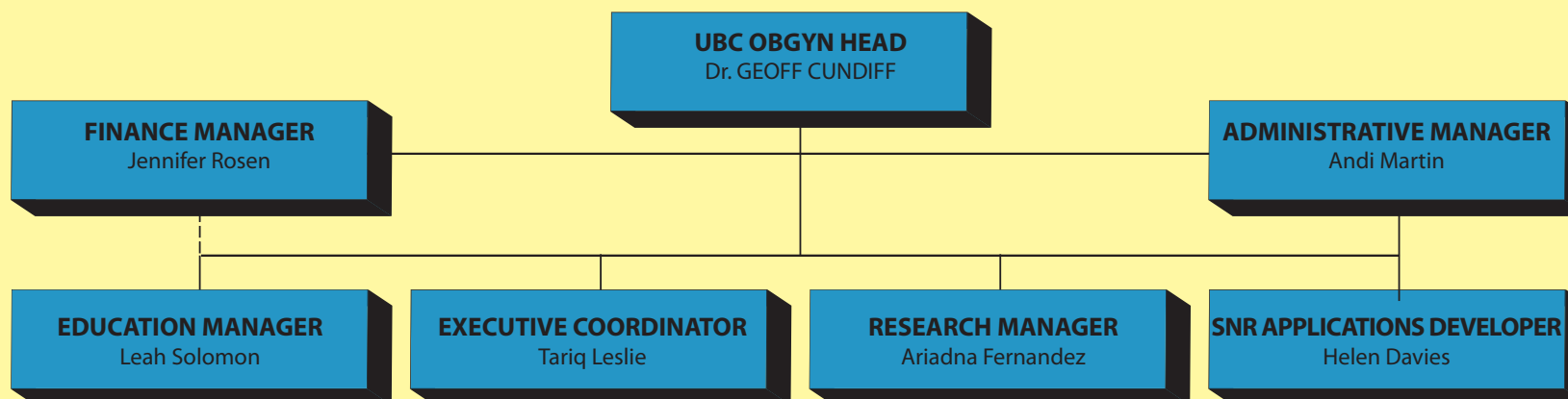
In response to administrative staffing changes, Tariq Leslie was promoted to Executive Coordinator, providing support to the Executive Office for the Department Head, Dr. Geoffrey Cundiff. We also welcomed Umberto Lombos as the Office Supervisor at the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) site, located at the Diamond Health Care Centre. In addition, Umberto provides support to Dr. Mark Heywood, Site Head of VCH Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Dr. Geoffrey Cundiff in his concurrent role as the VCH Regional Head of Vancouver Acute.

Within the last year, Maureen Conlon resigned from her position as the UBC Director of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, but is still active in her role as PHSA Director of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at BC Women's Hospital. The UBC Department is very grateful to Maureen for her years of service and the excellent support she provided. Her devotion and depth of knowledge will be difficult to replace.

We are fortunate to have a wealth of talented administrative staff working at the various sites. The Department would be unable to function effectively without the hard work and commitment of the staff. They continue to provide support to our education programs, research activities, divisions, and faculty in the Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

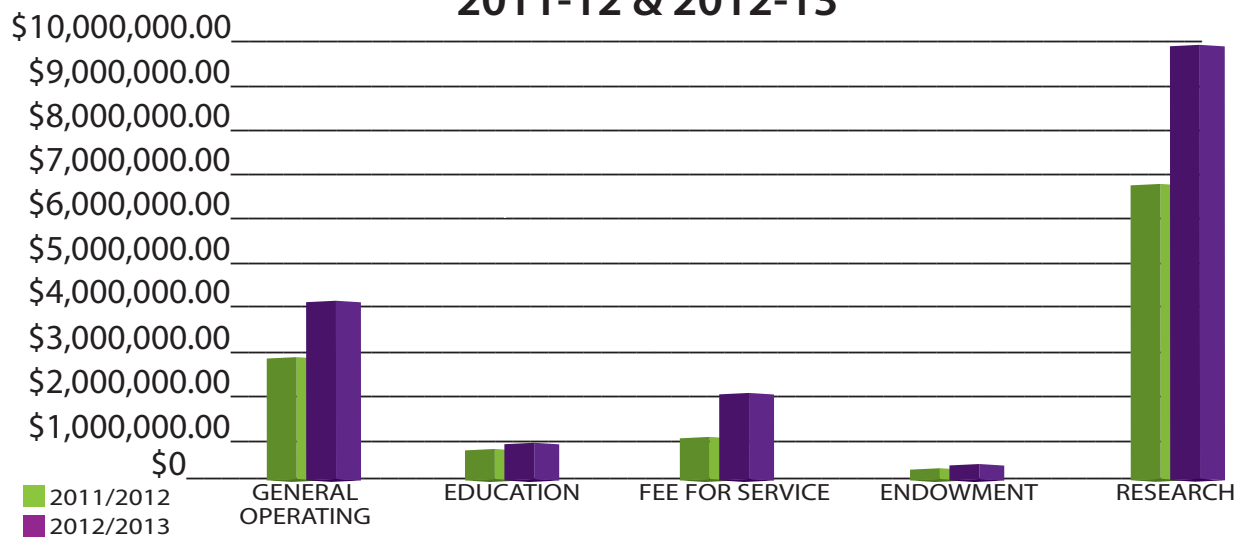
We recently adopted an administrative structure that reflects the Department's new governance structure. The Department now has two senior managers: Andi Martin, Administrative Manager, providing oversight and support for general administration and human resources, and Jennifer Rosen, Finance Manager, providing oversight and support for finance.



Administrative Manager Andi Martin

Andi Martin joined the Department in April 2013, replacing Colleen Egli who left to pursue other interests. Andi has taken on the oversight role for human resources and has been instrumental in providing support and consistency for departmental processes and workflow, increasing efficiency and effectiveness, and the level of service provided to Department members. 2013 will see her focus on communications within the Department, including a revamp of the website.

DEPARTMENT FUNDS Revenue & Carryforward Comparison 2011-12 & 2012-13



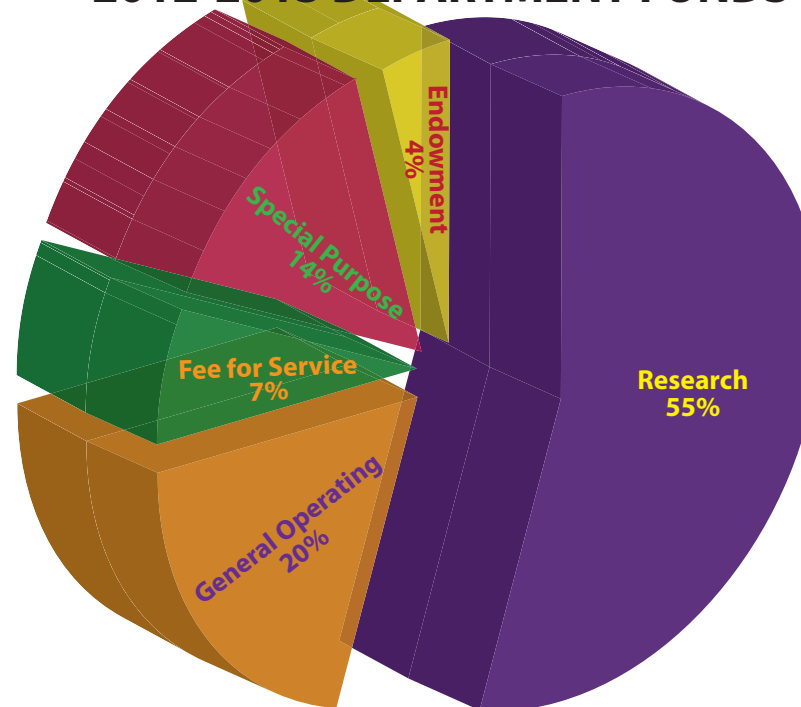
Finance Manager Jennifer Rosen

Jennifer Rosen, CA, joined the team in April 2012 as Finance Manager. Jennifer designed and implemented new financial processes to improve financial transparency within the Department. These processes include providing monthly financial reports to the Department Executive, facilitating open access to Financial Management System for project/grant managers and principal investigators, and implementing budgets for educational and clinical programs. Her focus for 2013 will include further roll-out of budgeting by Division and developing and implementing standardized procedures for the purchase card program.

Education Manager Leah Solomon

Leah Solomon was recruited into the new Education Manager position in early 2013. Leah manages the Undergraduate, Graduate and Postgraduate programs by overseeing and assuming responsibility for the education programs, including planning and implementation of educational curricula; ensuring program quality; developing, implementing and facilitating evaluation of the programs; and finance, communication and committee activities. This position is critical to the strategic and operational activities of the education programs.

2012-2013 DEPARTMENT FUNDS





Nicole Racette, MD, FRCSC
Head, Division of General Gynaecology and Obstetrics

We've redefined the mandate of our Division to focus on faculty development, education and quality assurance.

We have embraced this new focus and worked to reach Division members across the Province. Towards this end, all our educational rounds are now accessible at distributed sites by videoconferencing. This helps in sharing knowledge across the sites and to our distributed sites without the added burden of commuting.

Within the Quality Assurance mandate, we are actively working on reducing rates of hysterectomies done by laparotomy (open procedures). To follow progress we use data analysis and direct physician feedback. This quality assurance indicator is included in the Personal Quality Index our members receive at their annual reappointment review. The Continuing Surgical Education Program, helps to drive change through a mentorship initiative to help practicing gynaecologists add new surgical skills. Drs. Stephanie Fisher, Stephanie Rhone and Ken Seethram are all new additions to the list of surgical mentors at VGH.

Our recruiting efforts have paid off and we are delighted to announce that Dr. Hanna Ezzat joined our division in April 2012. She will be participating in many educational initiatives, including supervising the Chief residents' clinic at VGH. Hanna is well known in our department from her residency training years with us. We are also excited to have Dr Neeraj Mehra joining us as an academic generalist obstetrician gynecologist. He comes to us with a fellowship in Simulation and Medical Education from the Academy for Innovation in Medical Education, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Health Professions Education from the Education Studies Program at the University of Ottawa. He has also completed a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the University of Ottawa following his residency training at Queen's University in Kingston. He will be working with other faculty members in further developing a competency based surgical education program for our residents and faculty.

The Division's Executive Committee is currently working with the Regional Heads across the province to add members from the distributed sites to our committee. This year we will work to add representation from Vancouver Island, Fraser Health and Interior Health Authorities. This representation will help to integrate all sites involved in education and will also ensure that our faculty development programs and quality assurance initiatives benefit all our members across the province.



DR. ELISABET JOA RECEIVES THE CARL NIMROD EDUCATOR AWARD

Dr. Elisabet Joa, recently received the Carl Nimrod Award - Educator Award from the APOG (Association of Professors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology). She continues to mentor the faculty in MIS, and is a member of the resident appeals board in the Faculty of Medicine. She is also a member of the Royal College Exam Board. She recently stepped down from her role as Post Graduate program director for the Obstetrics and Gynaecology program at UBC.

DR. DEBORAH MONEY REACHES ACADEMIC MILESTONE



Dr. Deborah Money reached an academic milestone with her 100th peer-reviewed publication. "Evaluation of HIV and HAART on the natural history of HPV infection and cervical cytopathology in HIV-positive and high risk HIV-negative women" was published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases this year, and the second author is one of our own residents, Dr. Joanna Baxter.

Congratulations also for Dr. Money's recent YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Award in Technology, Science & Research. She received this award in May of this year. The YWCA highlighted Deborah's significant contributions as a woman's health researcher, physician, leader and mentor:

"She is internationally recognized for her ground-breaking work in reproductive infectious diseases. She led BC's research to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission and through her leadership in patient care, transmission of HIV from the mother to newborn in BC has essentially been eradicated."

The Department congratulates Dr. Money on these acclaimed achievements.





Dianne Miller, MD, FRCSC
Head, Division of Gynaecologic Oncology

We provide leadership and excellence in gynaecologic cancer care for the women of British Columbia

such as the Cervical Cancer Screening Program Clear. We strive to be a provincial resource for the clinical and educational aspects of our specialty and to respond to the needs of the women in the community. Fostering a multidisciplinary, evidence based approach to the practice of oncology and encouraging research in the basic sciences, translational and clinical areas related to this subspecialty are also key to our mandate.

Divisional activities occur at the Vancouver General Hospital, the Victoria General Hospital and at the four sites of the BC Cancer Agency (Vancouver, Surrey, Kelowna and Victoria). Learners are present and welcome at all of the sites. The Division benefits from a broad based faculty that includes Gynaecologic Oncologists, clinical psychologist and gynaecologists. In addition to our clinical roles many division members have other service responsibilities.

Research Activities

The Division of Gynaecologic Oncology continues to be actively involved in basic, translational and clinical research and this has resulted in numerous peer reviewed publications. Our translational research has continues to be strong in ovarian cancer and we have now branched into endometrial cancer. Our Ovarian Cancer prevention strategy implementing salpingectomy with hysterectomy has garnered both national and international interest. Multiple division members have been invited to give CME throughout Canada and the USA. We anticipate the first evaluative data from this project to come available soon.

Education

Our members actively participate in teaching at all levels of education. In undergraduate education, Drs. Thomson and Finlayson serve as Block Chairs. Dr. Thomson is also the Co-Coordinator of this portion of the clinical skills that runs through the second year of medical school.

In postgraduate education, senior residents spend three months on the gynaecologic oncology service. Chief residents also have the opportunity to be further trained in colposcopy and treatment of the lower genital tract lesions. The division has a 4th year elective program which is always over subscribed. We have had students from UBC, national and international medical schools.

The Gynaecologic Oncology Fellowship Program is Royal College accredited. The program is a two year funded Clinical Fellowship, with the option of a third research year (which can be funded through various mechanisms, such as the UBC Clinical Investigator Program). Dr. Murette Lee our graduating fellow was successful at the Royal College exams. Dr. Janice Kwon is the current program director.

Division members are also active in continuing medical education. Dr. Sadownik is active in faculty development, both within our department and for the Faculty of Medicine. Members continue to be actively involved in the D.A. Boyes Society Meeting. The 37rd Annual Meeting was held in October 2011. The DA Boyes Society began in the division of Gynaecologic Oncology and we continue to honour the tradition of inducting residents successful in their Gynaecologic Oncology rotation into the Society. Dr. Sara Finlayson and Dr. Anna Tinker represent Gynaecologic Oncology on the DA Boyes Planning Committee. We also host scholars from other countries. Dr. Anthony Okoth joined us as a visiting Physician from Macarare University in Kampala Uganda.



REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY & INFERTILITY



Timothy C Rowe, MB, BS, FRCOG, FRCSC
Head, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Our Division strives for excellence in patient care, teaching and research.

Historically our Division has been a leader, nationally and internationally. This year has seen significant challenges and changes that have required the us to look at new ways to accomplish our goals.

The core clinical programs of the Division have been the In Vitro Fertilization Program, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Program and the Pelvic Pain Program. In March 2012, the In Vitro Fertilization Program at Women’s Hospital was temporarily closed during renovations in the area, only to be permanently closed later the same year. The Gyn-Endocrine Laboratory, established under the direction of Dr Basil Ho Yuen in 1978 and most recently directed by Dr Renison Chong Kit, was closed by the Department in February 2012. Following the closure of the In Vitro Fertilization Program, the Division’s clinical activities in reproductive endocrinology and infertility in the Centre for Reproductive Health were withdrawn over a six-month period, terminating in November 2012. IVF services are now provided by the remaining fertility clinics in the Lower Mainland: the Genesis Fertility Centre, Olive Fertility Centre, the Grace Fertility Centre, and the Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine, with Division members in each Centre.

The closure of the Division’s ambulatory clinical REI activities at the Women’s Hospital has raised challenges for Division members in carrying out the Division’s academic mandate. Clinical education in the subspecialty of reproductive endocrinology will henceforth be conducted in private clinics; but because this environment will be a reality for graduates, such education will reflect “real life” practice for trainees. The proximity of research foundations on the Women’s Hospital site for academics at the site provides continuing potential for translational research activities, particularly in genetic and molecular aspects of reproduction and in bioethics, which will expand the mandate of both existing Women’s Hospital and Research Centre research and the academic productivity of the Division.

Educational Activities

The division has maintained its core educational missions. The Division’s Fellowship Program is a two-year structured program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The Current Program Director is Dr Jon Havelock, who took over the position from Dr Anthony Cheung in January 2012. The Program underwent an internal accreditation review in February 2011, with the external accreditation review in 2013. The Fellows for the 2011-2013 program are Dr Ghadeer Akhbar from McGill and Dr Niamh Tallon from Saskatoon.

In addition to the Fellowship Programs, the Division provides educational activities for residents, undergraduates, and visiting trainees. Residents in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology spend three-month rotations within the Division, making regular presentations at the weekly Division Rounds, attending clinics in each of the ART programs in the Lower Mainland, and participating where possible in research activities. The current Director of Resident Training within the Division is Dr. Beth Taylor. Division members are actively involved in the UBC Undergraduate curriculum as well , especially in Phase 2 (preclinical) problem-based learning and in Phase 4 (clerkship) activities in ambulatory and hospital-based care

Divisional activities in Continuing Medical Education have been centred on the Division’s presentations at the DA Boyes Society Annual Meeting. Individual members have also participated in CME activities associated with the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Dr. Anthony Cheung chairs the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Committee of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Dr. Catherine Allaire and her Canadian organizing committee were successful in their bid to host the World Endometriosis Congress in 2017, to be held in Vancouver. Dr Allaire will be President of this large and influential Congress.

Research & Publication

The Division’s research activity encompasses basic and clinical research, in addition to collaborative multidisciplinary activities. Dr Sai Ma holds three CIHR grants. Dr. Peter McComb contributes increased responsibilities as a delegated reviewer and full member of the UBC Clinical Ethics Board. Division members generated 20 publications in peer-reviewed journals in the 2012 calendar year. Dr Rowe continues as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada. The Editorial Offices of JOGC are located within the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.



Dr. Mohamed Ali Bedaiwy , New Head, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI)



The Department welcomes Doctor Mohamed Ali Bedaiwy to the role of Head, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI). Dr. Bedaiwy underwent medical training at the Assiut School of Medicine in Egypt, completing a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery, followed by Master's and Ph.D. degrees. He has held the rank of Associate Professor there since 2009.

While pursuing his Ph.D., he was appointed as a research fellow at the Cleveland Clinic. He then pursued a second Ph.D. in Reproductive Biology in a joint program at the Cleveland Clinic and Maastricht University in the Netherlands. His introduction to North America convinced him to pursue additional clinical training here, including a clinical fellowship in REI at the University of Toronto and a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynecology and Laparoscopic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Bedaiwy enrolled in a residency program, and subsequently a fellowship in REI at Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Bedaiwy continued independent research during this clinical training and, in recognition of his scholarship, was appointed as an Associate Professor at Case Western Reserve University in 2011. Dr. Bedaiwy has a well-established international reputation as a scholar, with over 200 publications. His research has been funded by grants totaling more than \$600,000. He is best known for his work in endometriosis, ovarian transplantation, and minimally invasive surgery. Other interests include assisted reproduction, robotic surgery, and fertility preservation in cancer patients.

Dr Bedaiwy is taking over as Division Head from Dr. Tim Rowe, who provided service in this role for 13 years. He navigated the Division through significant challenges, supported his colleagues, maintained the integrity of the educational programs, and contributed to the scholarly productivity of the Division. Additionally, he oversaw the development of a unique and much needed program in pelvic pain and endometriosis. The Department is most grateful for his dedication to his colleagues and the Division.

DR. VICTOR GOMEL PROFESSORSHIP IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY



Dr. Victor Gomel

Over the course of more than 30 years, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has grown considerably in number and calibre of faculty and staff, resources, facilities and accomplishments, bringing prestige and international recognition to the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Victor Gomel's contributions to this success lie not only in the clear vision he had for a world- calibre centre of expertise and research, but also to the years of dedicated service that he invested to realize it. To acknowledge Dr. Gomel's formative contributions to the Department as a clinician, teacher, investigator, and Department Head, and to further his vision, the Faculty of Medicine plans to establish an endowment to support the Dr. Victor Gomel Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with generous support from donors.

As the Head of the Department, the professorship-holder will be responsible for creating the strategic direction of the Department and ensuring the clinical education and research programs coordinate and collaborate to successfully achieve the Department's ongoing ambitious goals. While fully utilizing and expanding the existing programs, facilities and human resources of the Department, the professorship-holder will inspire new directions and facilitate new collaborations with clinicians and facilities in BC to take full advantage of our province's wealth of talent and expertise. Clinicians and scientists will work together to identify and address critical gaps in our knowledge and practice. This will in turn attract and inspire new talent from around the world to BC to explore the cutting-edge of new advancements in women's health care and further assist the Department to continue to make truly meaningful contributions to the lives of women and families in BC and around the world.



DR. TENG AWARDED RESEARCH GRANT

Congratulations to Dr. Flora Teng (center), who won the GSK Educational Grant Research Awards for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Residents. The award was presented at the Foundation dinner during the Annual Clinical Meeting of the SOGC on June 22 in Ottawa. The award will provide funds for her project, *Survivorship in Ovarian Cancer: A Pilot Study to assess the diverse needs of ovarian cancer survivors*.



SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

DR. PETER von DADELSZEN



Dr. Peter von Dadelszen, Professor in the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, is one of our outstanding clinical research scientists. His research on pre-eclampsia spans all of diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, and prevention. His research, which has a direct impact on the lives of women and infants, garnered the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the tune of \$24.4 million. His success in translating that research into a standardized surveillance tool for detecting and managing pre-eclampsia in BC earned him the prestigious Knowledge Translation Award from the Canadian Institutes in Health Research. Fittingly, the prize money will be used to develop a similar type of clinical guideline for use in the developing world.

Dr. von Dadelszen’s work is a great example of the direct impact that research can have on the quality of life of women and children across the globe.

MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE



Amanda Skoll, MD, FRCSC
Head, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine

We’re proud of the richness and resource of expertise our members contribute.

In addition to providing cutting edge clinical care, our members have interests extending throughout the realm of academic medicine, including education, research, and administration, these and the collaborations of members through various national and international organizations assure that we have an impact throughout and beyond the boundaries of our province.

Regretably, Dr. Robert Liston has retired from clinical service in our Division, although he will continue in his position at UBC as Senior Executive Dean of Clinical Affairs. Dr. Liston originally came to UBC and to BC Women’s Hospital as the Site Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the hospital in 1998, and then became Chair of the University Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 2000 – 2010, a position from which he promoted collaboration across the province. His successes and achievements in that post were highlighted at the completion of his final term. However, it is the contribution to the division of MFM which we wish to particularly note at this time. As an administrator, Dr. Liston brought out the best in people, promoting collaboration and cooperation. As a teacher, he inspired learners at all levels. As a physician, he demonstrated compassion, empathy and respect for patients while providing the highest level of clinical care. His contributions to the team in MFM will be sorely missed by all his colleagues and patients. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for all his work.

Education

In the educational arena, members of the MFM division carry important portfolios at all levels. Dr. Tracy Pressey does a fabulous job as the Block Chair for the Reproduction Block in Year 2 of the MD undergraduate program. Her work has led to extremely positive feedback from the students, and an oversubscription to all of the senior electives that are offered in our division. All members participate in Problem Based Learning courses on a rotating basis. Dr. Blair Butler and Dr. Francine Tessier have collaborated to remodel the residency rotation in MFM to interdigitate with the rotation in ultrasound in order to give the trainees a more rich understanding of the way that ultrasound can be used to enhance the care of women with pregnancy complications. Our fellowship program continues to be one of the most popular programs in the country and attracts top-level applicants each year.

One of the most important aspects of our educational program is the wide breadth of trainees who are educated within the division. Not only do we train physicians at the undergraduate, postgraduate and sub-specialty levels, but we also participate in the training of midwives, genetic counselors and infant-transport paramedics. By the cross-disciplinary nature of the training and the trainees, we are able to model the communication and collaboration skills that are so important to the practice of our craft.



Provincial

The Division of MFM is proud to have expanded this year to increase its provision of service and education in the Fraser Health Authority. Dr. Keith Still had been providing MFM consultations at the Surrey Memorial site, and Dr. Duncan Farquharson had been doing the same at the Royal Columbian site for a number of years. Through collaboration and negotiation including the Ministry of Health, two new Fraser Health Maternal Fetal Medicine positions of 0.8 FTE each were created to be based primarily at Surrey Memorial Hospital and the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre. The two successful candidates for these positions were Drs. Jason Burrows and Kirsten Grabowska. Both were graduates from the UBC residency program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology who did fellowship training in Maternal Fetal Medicine at Dalhousie University and the University of Calgary respectively. They have brought back with them new ideas and fresh perspectives which are contributing to the expansion of a dynamic clinical and educational site in Surrey.

We were also fortunate to hire a new recruit at the BC Women's site. Dr. Julie Robertson completed her residency at McMaster University, followed by sub-specialty training at the University of Toronto. Her particular interest in maternal cardiac disease provides a new expertise for the division. She is also taking on a number of research projects around maternal morbidities.

Looking ahead

The division held a formal retreat at the end of November of 2012 to plan for the future. We anticipate a growing need for MFM services across the province and hope to find creative ways to provide those services as close to the patients' homes as possible. We also explored various models of care to facilitate the integration of research into our clinical work and to support one another in the provision of the highest level of care. We will continue to pursue some of the initiatives from the retreat as we go forward into 2013.

Dr. Rob Liston Awarded the Prix d'excellence



Dr. Robert Liston, Professor, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine was awarded the Prix d'excellence 2013 by The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This award recognizes Fellows of the Royal College who have made significant contributions to providing outstanding patient care and to the community in which they practice. The nominee must be a role model for excellence in patient care, and his nominators easily demonstrated how he meets this excellence, not only in patient care, but teaching, mentoring as an administrator and researcher:

"Dr. Liston is the epitome of professionalism and ethical practice....He approaches patients in a compassionate, informative and non-judgmental manner, and provides them with all the options available to them. He never pushes his own opinions, but works to support them in their own decisions."

"He is an excellent teacher, demanding excellence by his own example, but always in a manner respectful of others. He is supportive of his colleagues and very willing to share and give advice regarding his knowledge of administration."

"Rob Liston is an inspiring physician. He is a great resource and wise advisor to all the members of the division, and the greater department. His clinical acumen is enviable. His skills as a communicator and a collaborator are exemplary. He is beloved by the students and residents and fellows with whom he works."

"Professor Robert Liston deserves to be recognized for his exemplary service to patients, for his mentorship of physicians and colleagues and for his promotion of the health of populations in British Columbia, in Canada and elsewhere in the world. "

Dr. Liston is truly the epitome of the characteristics noted in the Prix d'excellence, and we congratulate him on this prestigious honour.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

DR. ALAIN GAGNON



Dr. Alain Gagnon, of the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine is recognized for his expertise

with complicated twin pregnancies. He spearheaded the program of laser therapy for twin gestations with vascular complications at BC Women's Hospital, and carries a huge administrative responsibility as Senior Medical Director for Ambulatory Programs, including the Diagnostic Ambulatory Program and the Women's Health Centre. His influence is even more widespread through his work as the BC representative on the North American Fetal Research Network and his appointment as Secretary on the executive board of the International Society for Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology. This highly regarded society promotes research and education worldwide in the field of ultrasound and fetal therapy.



GYNAECOLOGIC SPECIALTIES



Lori A. Brotto, PhD, RPsych
Head, Division of Gynaecologic Specialties

Recognizing the diversity of academic activities among our faculty the Faculty of Medicine approved the creation of The Division of Gynaecologic Specialties.

The goal in bringing these diverse academicians together is to capitalize on opportunities for mutual collaboration, shared academic motivation, and to create a social presence within the Department. Our Division mandate is evolving, based on the individual academic objectives of its members and collective vision of the group.

Members of our division are provided an opportunity to learn from each other, and contribute to the ongoing research excellence of the Department. A Communities of Practice (CoP) model will be woven into the division's framework as one means of achieving these goals and improving our individual and shared academic achievements. As synergies continue to develop, our mandate will evolve in support of our successes and further the mandate of the Faculty of Medicine to improve the health of individuals, particularly women, and in communities local, national, and international by fostering excellence in our academic activities. Integral to our mandate is raising the recognition and profile of our programs and activities.

As with the creation of any new community, Gynaecologic Specialties will face challenges; in the need for member engagement despite geographic dispersion, and there are great diversities across patient samples, methodologies, and academic expertise across Division members. We view these as a rich opportunity for mutual support, collaboration, and collegiality. Most importantly, in the years ahead we will strive to build a strong division, which will complement the tradition of academic excellence that this Department, and this University, have successfully attained.

SPECIALTIES SNAPSHOTS

By no means an exhaustive overview of the areas of excellence fostered by our Division members, the summaries on these two pages provide a snapshot of some of our members academic and related activities.

Pediatric & Adolescent Gynaecology

Gynaecologic Specialties Division members Drs. Debra Millar and Ellen Giesbrecht, offer a referral service for patients in pediatric and adolescent gynecology at B.C. Children's Hospital, Division member Dr. Joelle Dennie provides referral service in Victoria, B.C. To advance the academic objectives of this subspecialty, the group is hoping to recruit another team member in the near future.

Patients with gynaecologic concerns in adolescence and childhood often have complex concerns that benefit from multidisciplinary collaboration, and Drs. Millar and Giesbrecht participate on the Gender Assessment Committee at B.C. Children's Hospital, providing a forum for multidisciplinary input for patients with medical concerns involving medical genetics, paediatric endocrinology, paediatric urology and psychiatry. Owing to the unique nature of many conditions, Pediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology collaborates with surgical subspecialists across the country, and since 2010, Dr. Millar and Dr. Philippa Brain (University of Calgary) have been collaborating surgically on such cases. This ongoing surgical liaison between Vancouver and Calgary will build strength in both centers in the treatment of rare, complex cases.

The PROMOTE Trial

Currently, there is no nation-wide procedure-specific curriculum for standard training of gynecologic surgeons. Teaching and assessment of surgical skills continues to occur by random opportunity and subjective evaluation. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada has recently identified competency-based education as a priority and has awarded us a 3-year medical education research grant to apply competency-based principles in surgical education. The PROMOTE trial (Procedure-specific Resident Objective Modular Training and Evaluation) investigates whether procedure specific standardized training results in improved surgical skill in the operating room. Our team includes a principal investigator, Dr. Roxana Geoffrion, an enthusiastic research coordinator, Nikki Koenig, a tireless co-investigator, Dr. Nicole Todd, and several other residents and fellows, Drs. Michael Suen, Sheila With, and Momoe Hyakutake. We have recruited two other participating sites (University of Alberta and University of Calgary). The trial involves randomization of junior gynecology residents to intervention or control groups. The intervention residents progress through a series of didactic exercises with an online procedure-specific module and surgical skills training on a low-fidelity simulator to the real OR, where they are evaluated via performance scales and compared to controls. The six procedures taught to residents are anterior repair, posterior repair, anal sphincteroplasty, cystoscopy, vaginal hysterectomy and tension-free vaginal tape. We are hoping our pioneering work in competency-based surgical education will facilitate standard training for gynecologic surgeons across Canada in the near future.



Dr. Nicole Todd, OBGYN Resident, working with PROMOTE



The Vaginal Microbiome Research Group (VoGUE)

Funded by CIHR and Genome BC, this novel metagenomics study of microorganisms associated with health and disease for women is part of the new advances in personalized medicine. The findings from this study have implications for the development of novel diagnostics. The research group, under Dr. Money's leadership, and in conjunction with collaborators across a variety of disciplines and Canadian universities, produced 11 peer reviewed publications in 2012 and significant knowledge translation activities are expected to emerge in the year ahead. The Oak Tree Clinic research team hosted by the Women's Health Research Institute remains active, having recently concluded the first five years of the CARMA study on the clinical and molecular impacts of HIV and HAART on aging (led by Dr. Helene Cote).



The VoGUE Team

Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

The clinical practice in FPMRS has been focused at the Centre for Pelvic Floor Health at St. Paul's Hospital. It has recently expanded with recruitment of Dr. Darren Lazare, who completed fellowship training in Urogynaecology. Dr. Lazare has opened a clinical practice at Peace Arch Hospital that serves Fraser Health patients, as well as at Cross Roads Clinic which provides state-of-the-art diagnostic studies, including urodynamics. Dr. Lazare also has academic interests in the management of pelvic floor dysfunction and has been participating in the ongoing studies in FPMRS. These include several surgical comparison studies, such as the VAULT study, a multi-centered cohort study comparing two surgical approaches for apical pelvic organ prolapse, and the GEMS study, designed to define the best management approaches to surgical complications from transvaginally placed mesh. The FPMRS group also has studies focusing on non-surgical management of pelvic organ prolapse, patient education, and pelvic anatomy.



Dr. Darren Lazare

BC Women's Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis

Drs. Catherine Allaire, Christina Williams, and Paul Yong are actively engaged in research on endovaginal ultrasound for pain mapping, understanding provider needs around chronic pelvic pain, and evaluating health outcomes and predictors of outcomes following interdisciplinary treatment. This team benefits from collaborations with the BC OvCaRe group, which involves surgical endometriosis banking to study genomic determinants for the malignant transformation of endometriosis to ovarian cancer and deeply infiltrating endometriosis.

BC Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of Hepatitis B Research Group

Dr. Julie van Schalkwyk leads this research group, involving a multidisciplinary team investigating the current risk of transmission, prophylaxis failure, and definition of those who may benefit from antenatal antiviral therapy for Hepatitis B. She has been involved in collaborative research in HIV, HPV, GBS, and the vaginal microbiome in both health and disease.

UBC Sexual Health Laboratory

Dr. Lori Brotto and a team of fellows and junior researchers are actively involved in CIHR-funded research on mindfulness-based treatment of Provoked Vestibulodynia; online treatment of sexual dysfunction in cancer survivors; psychophysiological assessment of sexual response; ethnic minority issues in reproductive health; mood, stress, and androgens in sexual dysfunction; and asexuality. 2012 saw the publication of 13 manuscripts and a dozen conference presentations, invited talks, and workshops. This research group is also heavily involved in media outreach and knowledge translation activities aimed to improve the sexual well-being of Canadian women.

Multidisciplinary Vulvodynia Program (MVP)



Members of the MVP Program

A multidisciplinary group of clinicians from pelvic floor physiotherapy, clinical psychology, and research, work closely together to diagnose and manage symptoms of Provoked Vestibulodynia, a condition with prevalence ranging from 12-20%. The MVP has provided a model for the development of four new, similar programs across North America. National data suggest that the annual burden of chronic provoked genital pain is approximately \$17,000/patient and an analysis of the MVP suggests that effective multidisciplinary care can be provided for less than 10% of this cost. 2012 saw the publication of three papers for the MVP, 11 conference presentations, four CME events, seven works in public media, and a free public forum (see below). 2013 focused on publishing treatment outcomes, knowledge translation activities, and development of an online platform for women affected in geographically remote areas suffering in silence.

www.mvprogram.org

Reproductive Infectious Diseases Research Group

Dr. Deborah Money's study of qHPV vaccine in HIV positive girls and women across 13 Canadian sites reached enrolment of over 400. This CIHR and Canadian HIV Trials Network-supported study, is based at UBC and The Oak Tree Clinic, and involves the BC Cancer Agency, and the BC HPV research group. Now in the final analysis stages, this study has the potential to inform HPV vaccine policy for HIV positive persons in developed nations and in HIV endemic regions.



Dr. Deborah Money





Ellen Giesbrecht, MD, FRCSC
Site Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
BC Women's Hospital Human Resources/Clinical Service

The Department oversees a range of clinical services at BC Women's Hospital

including general obstetrics, ambulatory gynaecologic surgery, reproductive endocrinology, infertility, endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain. We also provide specialized services for high risk pregnancies extending from the diagnostic ambulatory program, through the fetal diagnosis and therapy team, to the CARE Program which offers family planning. The Women's Health Centre provides ambulatory care to women with early pregnancy complications and is expanding to include a complicated contraception clinic, an adolescent gynaecology transition service and the development of an early postpartum follow up clinic.

BC Women's Hospital is committed to working with Perinatal Services BC, perinatal epidemiologists and primary providers to identify an optimal caesarean section rate. There have been initiatives to decrease the primary caesarean section by the use of an oxytocin augmentation audit and an in depth audit of all emergency caesarean sections to identify modifiable factors. The Caesarean Section Task Force has identified VBAC as an area for improvement. The development of a VBAC bundle to address safety and increased utilization has been developed and implemented with engagement of our Department together with midwifery, family practise and nursing. As we try to optimize the caesarean section rate, a key project is to look at the safe delivery rate.

As we embark on new initiatives and protocols, we are committed to a PDSA (plan, do, study, assess) model where we evaluate the changes and the impact on outcomes, and then modify the protocols appropriately. Drs. Jennifer Hutcheon and Ellen Giesbrecht are reviewing the implementation of a protocol restricting elective caesarean section to over 39 completed weeks to look at the impact on both fetal and maternal outcomes. Ongoing work on the use of fetal scalp lactate for assessment of fetal well-being in labour is continuing with a new study looking at a new lactate point of care monitor.

The Department and the PHSA are committed to using the "improve" model, a form of lean management, to improve flow and efficiency in our operation rooms and admission processes in the upcoming year. This past year, we focused on refining and streamlining postpartum care for uncomplicated deliveries to ensure a smooth transition from birth to home.

As we look to the next five years, we will be taking action to expand our Department. We seek to recruit physicians who are interested in a busy intrapartum service, but also are interested in the academics and teaching. There are identified needs in pediatric and adolescent gynaecology as well as physicians interested in menopause.

Another challenge is the ability to provide evidence-based care in a consistent and safe manner. While there are understandable differences in styles of practise both within and across disciplines, we strive to develop consensus for management of complicated labour.

Education

The general obstetrics call group at BC Women's continues to play a significant role in the resident education. Engagement in the academic teaching sessions, research projects and bedside teaching is a strength of our program and department.

Research

During the past year, the Women's Health Research institute was brought within the corporate structure of BC Women's Hospital.

Dr. Deborah Money, was made VP, Research of BC Women's. This merger will allow a more efficient and expanded research program for our acute perinatal program. The closer alignment of research with program management leads to increased research opportunities.

Engagement & Service

Dr. Ellen Giesbrecht has assumed the role of Interim Senior Medical Director for the Acute Perinatal Program of BC Women's, overseeing, together with Pam O'Sullivan the VP for Acute Perinatal, labour and delivery programs, the operating room, antepartum and postpartum units, as well as the intermediate nursery and the neonatal intensive care program. Dr. Nicole Racette, Head of the General Division, has assumed the role of Assistant Department Head, BC Women's with a particular focus on Quality.





Elisabet Joa, MD, FRCSC

*Site Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Providence Health Care*

Our work in quality assurance continues through a year of transition.

Dr. Geoffrey Cundiff completed his term as Site Head, but remains Head for both Regional and UBC Departments. Dr. Matt Garrey was Acting Head for several months until Dr. Elisabet Joa took over as Department Head July 1, 2012. She has worked at St Paul's since 2002 and will use her administrative experience as the UBC Residency Director to guide her in her new role.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Marlies Wagner our administrative assistant. She was with the department for six years and has worked tirelessly with us through many moves and changes. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her retirement, even as we welcome her replacement, Gwen Dowell.

Academically there has been a lot of activity. Dr. Roxanna Geoffrion is spearheading the Procedure-specific Resident Objective Modular Training (PROMOTE) study, along with our research coordinator Nikki Koenig, and co-investigator Dr. Nicole Todd (chief resident). This is a multi-centered study, which is looking at if exposing residents to learning modules for specific surgical procedures allows them to perform better once they do these in the OR. As a group we are all participating in a research study with OvCare (Dr. Spehar is our local champion) looking at the effects of salpingectomies on ovarian function.

Our annual retreat focused on simulation team based training and we continue to work with anesthesia, maternity and nursing to develop drills. We are already running drills for shoulder dystocia and neonatal resuscitation and will be focusing next on CODE PINKs. This ties into the work being done by Dr. Spehar and our RN leadership team in maternity, Mary Radmanovic, Amy Cronmiller and Jacqueline Koufie. They have completed the Post Partum Hemorrhage Protocol (PPH), which will allow us to begin developing a module for simulation training. This would be a multidisciplinary training session that would be used to improve patient care.



We are now following our C-Section infection rates 30 days after discharge and our most recent data on rates indicate we continue to be below the expected rates. We are looking to expand this program to gynecologic procedures although we are monitoring these through the NSQIP program. We were leaders at Providence Health Care in addressing the pertussis outbreak this year, offering vaccinations to all our post partum patients.

It has been a great year with many accomplishments and we look forward to next year.





Mark Heywood, MD, FRCSC
*Site Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
 Vancouver General Hospital*

Vancouver Acute provides gynecological services to women throughout British Columbia.

We provide General Gynecology services through the ER at VGH, and Rapid Access clinic in the Diamond Health Care Centre. Elective general gynecology is mostly provided at UBC Hospital and some daycare surgeries at Ambulatory Surgical Centre Vancouver (ASCV). The Continuing Surgical Education Program for upgrading skill in laparoscopic assisted, and total hysterectomies continues with the goal of seeing the majority of hysterectomies for benign disease being performed by minimally invasive surgical techniques. We are not quite there yet, but the percentage of our surgeons credentialed for laparoscopic hysterectomies continues to increase.

Vancouver Acute also provides Gynecologic Oncology tertiary level care for the province, the majority at Vancouver General Hospital for surgical care, but including Diamond Health Care Centre for colposcopy and outpatients, and BC Cancer Agency also for outpatients and minor surgeries.

The Chronic Pelvic Pain Program sited at BC Women's Hospital provides a significant proportion of its surgical care both at UBC Hospital and Vancouver General. This busy group of Drs. Allaire and Williams look forward to a new partner in Dr. Paul Yong in July 2012.

Diamond Health Care Centre is also home to successful Multi Disciplinary Vulvodynia program, and Sexual Medicine Research. These programs are run by a dedicated team led by Drs. Brotto, Sadownik, and Thomsen.

The Balanced Score Card was developed with Dr. Cundiff and instituted for the first year during the annual reappointment process. The score card provides data on individual Obstetrical Indicators, Gynecologic Indicators and Professional Indicators compared with benchmark data. It offers a useful tool for discussion of quality performance during annual reappointment meetings.

Vancouver Acute joined the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP). The initial data for Gynecology at both UBCH and VGH showed morbidity, Urinary Tract Infection and Surgical Site Infection rates to be "as expected" with exemplary for SSI at VGH.

The Quality Committee chaired by Dr. Van Schalkwyk met quarterly. Thank you to the committee members Drs Allaire, Cohen, Ehlen, Lyons and Racette for their time and work. Morbidity data collected prospectively on the wards was reviewed as well as individual cases. Outcomes from this work included the placement of IPAS in the ER. This took a significant time to advance but is now available providing more timely, and better quality care to patients with miscarriage in the ER. Another significant issue identified and taken through to the Medical advisory Committee is the recognition that VGH does not have any Obstetrical services and the recommendation that pregnant patients with non obstetrical medical concerns requiring transfer for tertiary services should liaise with the Perinatal Transfer Team to determine if an alternate hospital may be more appropriate.

There were no retirements this year, but the General Division welcomed Dr Hannah Ezzat to the team! Dr. Yong will be joining us early in the new academic year.





Dr. Jerome Dansereau
Regional Head VIHA and Associate Head UBC

Vancouver Island is that rare place where the whole spectrum of care in obstetrics and gynecology is provided;

from primary care in rural medicine to community medicine, to regional and tertiary sub-specialty care. Forty midwives and a hundred family doctors are teaming up with twenty-seven obstetricians-gynecologists to provide complex care for a population of 750,000 (including 6000 births), supported by a group of sub-specialists representing maternal-fetal medicine, infertility & IVF, pediatric & adolescent gynecology, reproductive mental health, family planning, gyne-oncology as well as uro-gynecology & complex pelvic floor reconstructive surgery. The complex care of premature babies is supported by a level 2 nursery in Nanaimo and a NICU in Victoria with the support of sub-specialists in neonatology, pediatrics and pediatric surgery.

From a teaching perspective, we see the spectrum of teaching environments applied to a wide variety of trainees. Vancouver Island is the host of the Island Medical Program, a joint venture between UBC and UVIC, where medical students receive their medical training. UBC Residents in O&G also have the opportunity to do surgical rotations in various community settings of their choice. Vancouver Island physicians are also involved in the teaching of midwives and nurses along with various other allied health care professionals from regional colleges and BCIT.

After seeing the complete renovation of the Surgical and Maternity units in Nanaimo, the Vancouver Island Health Authority is now in the planning phase for the construction of two new hospitals to replace the aging ones in Campbell River and the Comox Valley. Several of our members are also involved in National Organizations and participate in world-wide efforts to improve the care of women in the developing world.

Dr. Hayley Bos is a new member of the O&G department in Victoria and the Maternal Fetal Medicine program on Vancouver Island. Trained in London, Ontario, she sits on the maternal-fetal medicine committee of the SOGC and is part of International ALARM group of instructors. In November, she participated in a "Train the Trainers" ALARM course in Bangladesh to teach local obstetricians the principles of the ALARM program. She was most impressed by the dedication of the local group of obstetricians. Together, they have contributed to a dramatic decrease in maternal and perinatal mortality of 50% in the last 10 years. More work needs to be done though and Dr. Bos is hoping to participate in more SOGC sponsored efforts to improve the care of those women.

"In Bangladesh, 50 to 80% of all births occur at home and only 50% of women have some prenatal care. In consequence, eclampsia is a daily event in most maternity hospitals. To address those concerns, with the help from the SOGC's International ALARM, the Bengali Obstetricians are developing their own program of primary care to mothers called the CSB (community skilled birth attendants)". Dr. Hayley Bos

Dr. David Quinlan was the recipient of the 2012 Walter C. MacKenzie in Surgery, from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He went to Ethiopia to visit various centers specializing in the care of obstetrical pelvic fistulas. He described his experience:

"I spent a memorable time at the Hamlin Fistula Hospital with Dr. Bitew Abebe and his staff. "





NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM & NORTHERN HEALTH AUTHORITY



Dr. William Kingston

Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology UHNBC

A new academic faculty position...

Recruitment and retention remains a challenge for UHNBC and through out most of northern British Columbia. We have made some progress and hope to have an academic obstetrician/ gynecologist join the staff at UNBC/UHNBC next year. We have had many excellent PGY3 obstetrics and gynecology residents come to the North to work with us during their rural attachments. It is hoped that this program can be extended and that we will have a resident with us throughout the year.

The More OB program continues to benefit practitioners in the northern interior as a useful educational, standardization of practice and quality control tool. With the implementation of More OB communities of practice we hope to further strengthen the inter-professional relationships for those involved in Obstetrics in the North.

The opening of the Cancer Care Center of the North in Prince George is strongly welcomed and promises the opportunity to deliver quality oncology services closer to home for cancer patients in northern British Columbia.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Brian Galliford received the Carl Nimrod award for clinical teaching in 2012 recognizing his contribution to teaching and to clinical practice at UHNBC since he first joined the staff in December 1975.



a place of mind

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