



# Department of **UROLOGIC SCIENCES** UBC

*2010 Summer Newsletter*

## **REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD**

During the beautiful summer days of Vancouver, one cannot help but think of how fortunate we are to live in this part of the world and to be part of a work environment that promotes success and progress. We are entering our fifth year as a formal UBC Department - time flies! - and with that, of course, comes an obligatory external academic review which I am confident will present us with an opportunity to look in the mirror and ponder our strengths and weaknesses. The review team will likely make both positive and critical suggestions which we will seriously consider incorporating into our next five year strategic vision. Your hardworking administration is already preparing the documentation, including a self-study report for which I will invite ideas and comments. I hope that many of you will provide the reviewers with your opinions - good and bad!



This past spring we celebrated the graduation of our two chief residents, **Dr. Laura Chang-Kit** and **Dr. Abhi Seth**, who have gone off to fellowships in Nashville (female urology) and Boston (pediatrics), respectively. We had a well-attended year end dinner at which our guest speaker, **Dr. Gerald Jordan** proved to be a fascinating individual sharing his thoughts on the surgical checklist from the point of view of a man who spent much of his life in the military and aviation world. The evening also represented the final time that **Dr. Andrew MacNeily** roasted the grads as the postgraduate director. After ten amazing years, he will be replaced by **Dr. William Gourlay**. We wish them both great success as their career paths take a new turn.

In this issue of the Department newsletter, we feature one of our new scientists, **Dr. Amina Zoubeidi**. She has joined the Prostate Centre as a principal investigator and is already winning awards for her work. In addition, we recognize **Caitlin Schneider** who is a second year Masters student in the Electrical Engineering Department working in collaboration with **Dr. Chris Nguan** on a number of research projects, as we move our STELLAR facility forward.

### **Individual Highlights:**

Upcoming Events

Postgrad Director Report

Awards

Artem Cherkasov

Promotion to Associate

Professor

During my annual "first meeting" with the new residents, I always encourage hard work and dedication, but also to strive for a balance in their lives. In that spirit, I have decided (after 27 years) to take a six month clinical sabbatical. I hope this will provide me the time to "clean up my office" and to focus on the ongoing development of the programs of excellence in our department. I am pleased that the Men's Health Initiative is gaining traction with a growing network of individuals who have an interest in the various domains of male health, from the general public up to the decision makers in governments. I hope that over the next few years we will successfully advocate and fund the health care facilities, educational programs, research projects and government policies we require for a strong Men's Health Initiative of BC.

Unfortunately the past few months did not only represent happy news, as on June 15 we lost **Dr. Charles Beer** who died peacefully at his senior living home and on August 22 our great friend and alumnus, **Dr. David Stewart** passed suddenly from among us. Dr. Beer dedicated his life to cancer research and in fact was the discoverer of vinblastine – a drug that remains useful in the therapy of a variety of cancers. Dr. Beer was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and became a member of the Order of Canada in 2003. I recall Dr. Beer for his wit and intelligence and his availability to discuss our research and science. Dr. David Stewart graduated from our residency program in 1985 and went on to dedicate his surgical talents, passion for honest patient care and great sense of humour to the community of Kamloops. We will miss them both.

We also bid so long to **Dr. Joyce Davison** who has taken a position at the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, a short drive from where she was born and raised. She will remain on our faculty in an associate position and continue to work with our teams on her clinical research protocols. Best of luck, Joyce.

So I hope that we all enjoy the last days of this summer and look forward to having another highly successful, fulfilling and healthy academic year.



**Faculty of Medicine Quarter Century Celebration—March 2010**



Left to Right:  
Dr. Goldenberg, Dr. Perler, Dr. Masterson, Dr. Stuart

Left to Right:  
Dr. Goldenberg, Dr. Perler, Dr. Stuart

*Post-Graduate Report by Dr. MacNeily*

**We were fortunate to match 3 very talented and eager students to our PGY-1 positions in the CARMS competition in March of this year: Paul Gustafson, Reza Hamidizadeh and Mike Metcalfe.**

This is my final postgraduate report, after serving as the UBC Residency Director for the last 10 years. During this time I am proud to have presided over the successful development and graduation of 25 capable Urologists from our program. This would not have been possible without the team work of all our faculty members. However, special mention should be made of the unconditional support I received from Dr Goldenberg in his capacity as Chairman of our Department. Without his trust in me to steer the program we would not have become a residency that is sought after by students from around the country. In addition, recognition is due for the 15 highly talented individuals who are currently in the pipeline of our program for whom I feel an affinity and a responsibility. I have no doubt that these current Residents will continue the tradition of sustained focused attention, culminating in excellence, which has been the hallmark of UBC Urology for many decades. It is with mixed feelings that I hand over the reigns to the capable hands of Dr Bill Gourlay as part of the never ending cycle of renewal. However, I am confident that he has the energy and talent to take our postgraduate program to the next level. Over to you Bill!



AEM



 *Merci*

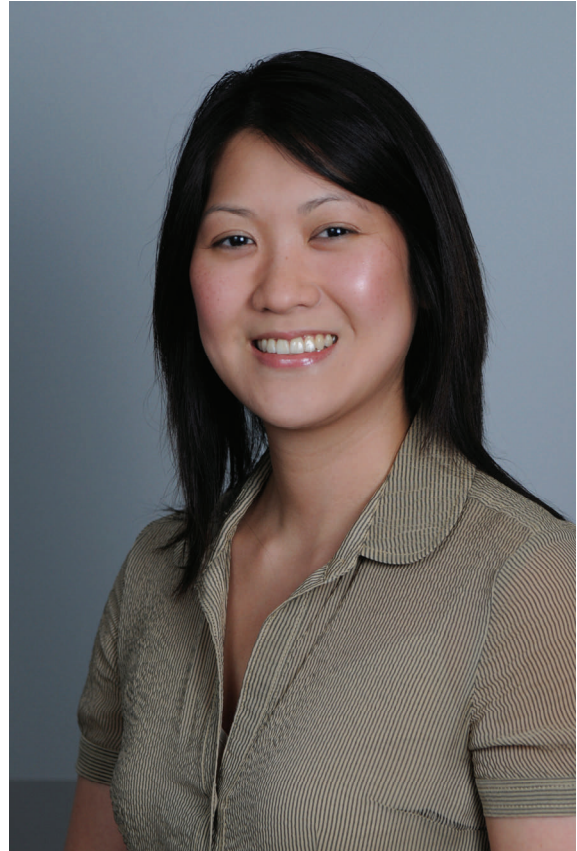
**Postgraduate Director Report from Dr. Andrew MacNeily**

To nobody's surprise, **Dr. Abhi Seth** and **Dr. Laura Chang-Kit** successfully completed their Royal College certifying examinations and graduated from the UBC Urology Residency program this past June. We thank them for their hard work, and for continuing on with the proud tradition of our department. Both of our 2010 graduates have moved on to positions in highly sought after fellowship programs, and we wish them the best success in their new challenges ahead.



**Dr. Abhishek Seth:**

Abhi has moved on to Boston where he has begun his first year of a three year fellowship program in Pediatric Urology at Boston Children's Hospital. This fellowship will entail a combination of clinical and basic research efforts. Rumors have it that in his spare time Abhi has been busy taking elocution lessons to improve his New England accent. He has also been spotted shopping for bow ties, blue blazers and tortoise shell glasses!



**Dr. Laura Chang-Kit:**

Laura has accepted a position in female reconstructive urology at Vanderbilt University. This adds another leg to Laura's life journey which to date has taken her from Trinidad to Ottawa, Vancouver and now Nashville, Tennessee. This popular fellowship will be two years in length; plenty of time for Laura to work on her Southern twang!

*Post-Graduate Report by Dr. MacNeily***Paul Gustafson, Reza Hamidizadeh and Mike Metcalfe were matched to PG-1 positions in the CARMS competition, March 2010****Paul Gustafson**

Paul Gustafson

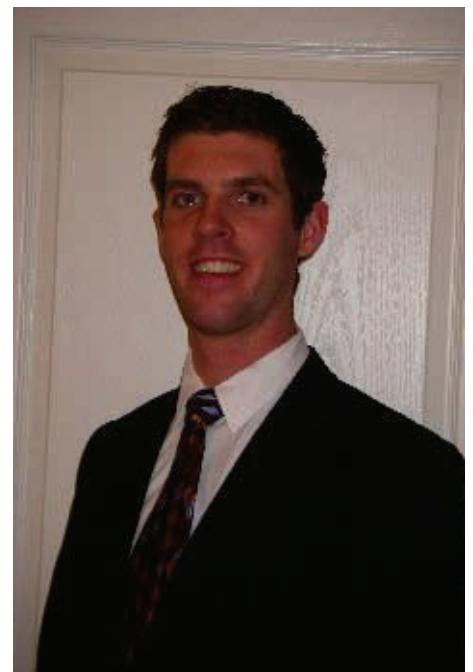
Paul is a native of Vancouver BC. After an undergraduate degree in Chemistry at the University of Victoria he attended Queens University for his MD degree. Paul now returns home for his Urology Residency with us at UBC. (By the way, his father and two brothers are all lawyers, should you need any advice in this regard!)

Welcome home Paul!

**Reza Hamidizadeh**

Reza Hamidizadeh

Reza and his family immigrated to North Vancouver from Iran when he was a teenager. He quickly established himself academically, ultimately graduating from UBC's undergraduate program with a BSc. in Genetics followed by his MD. When he is not working and studying, Reza enjoys martial arts (Karate) for which he holds a black belt. In a previous life he competed at the National level, which should put him in good stead in any wrestling bouts that may arise with Dr Gleave!

**Mike Metcalfe**

Mike Metcalfe

Mike is from Edmonton Alberta originally, which is apparently a requirement for any urologist with that last name! Prior to embarking on his MD degree from the University of Alberta, Mike was a math and physics major at the same institution. While studying he competed on the Alberta Freestyle ski team, ranking second in Canada. His older brother Chuck, currently a PGY-3 in our program, assures us that Mike is much smarter and more handsome than the average member of the Metcalfe clan!

Welcome aboard to the team Paul, Reza and Mike!

**New Faculty Profile—Dr. Amina Zoubeidi**

**Dr. Amina Zoubeidi**  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of  
Urologic Sciences  
University of British Columbia  
Research Scientist  
Vancouver Prostate Centre

**Education/Training:**

B.Sc. University Mohamed V,  
Rabat, Morocco  
M.Sc. Université du Québec a  
Montréal

**Research interests**

**Dr. Amina Zoubeidi's** ongoing research efforts focus on signal transduction mediated regulation of prostate cancer progression, with emphasis on the importance of heat shock proteins and kinases and applying that research to develop and investigate novel therapeutic strategies to fight advanced prostate cancer.

During her post-doctoral training with Dr. Martin Gleave at the Vancouver Prostate Centre, Dr. Zoubeidi added to her knowledge of how to translate scientific discovery from the bench to the bed-side. She went on to identify mechanisms by which Hsp27 regulates androgen receptors in both an androgen-dependent and androgen-independent fashion and identified PSA as a surrogate pharmacodynamic endpoint of Hsp27 knockdown using antisense (OGX-427), now in phase 1 clinical trials.

In collaboration with Dr. Gleave, Dr. Zoubeidi is involved in Hsp27 crystallography, and the discovery and development of small molecule inhibitors of Hsp27.

Currently, Dr. Zoubeidi is investigating the role of Hsp27 in prostate cancer metastasis and dissecting underlying mechanisms by which Hsp27 causes epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT).

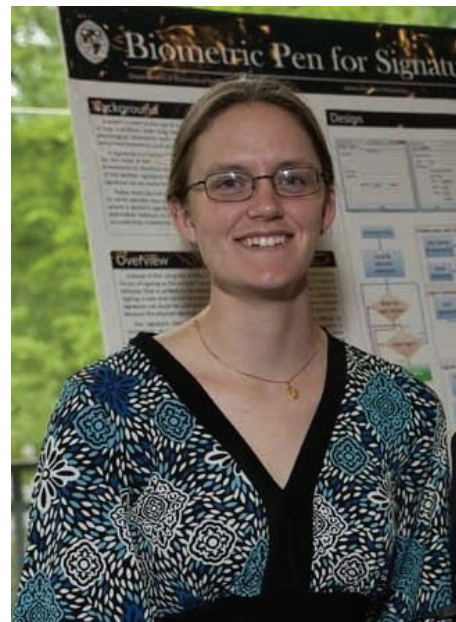
Another aspect of Dr. Zoubeidi's research focus is the evaluation of the importance of tyrosine kinases in androgen-independent activation of the androgen receptor.

Dr. Zoubeidi has received several international awards including the Best Abstract Prize for Basic Science at the American Urological Association Annual Meeting, Best Oral Presentation at the Northwest Urological Society meeting, and travel awards from AACR-Women in Cancer Research, and the International Conference on Second Messengers and Phosphoproteins. In 2010, she was awarded a prestigious Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award.

**New Student Profile—Caitlin Schneider**

**Caitlin Schneider** is currently beginning her second year as a Masters Student in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at UBC under the supervision of Professors Tim Salcudean and Rob Rohling at UBC and collaborates closely with Dr. Christopher Nguan at VGH on a number of research projects. A graduate of Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins, she continues to work in applied technologies benefitting the medical field and her current work focuses on the integration of pre- and intra- operative data into the surgical flow. Leveraging the presence of the da Vinci robot at VGH, and the resources of the Department of Urologic Sciences Surgical Technology Experimental Laboratory and Advanced Robotics (STELLAR) facility has allowed her to advance the use intraoperative ultrasound and augmented reality to improve vessel and tumour visualization during robotic partial nephrectomy surgery.

As an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins, Caitlin also pursued work related to ultrasound and robotic surgery. Her work experience includes a stint working as a research intern with Intuitive Surgical in Sunnyvale, CA, improving aspects of human-machine interface of the da Vinci robot. Outside of school, she is very involved in the Varsity Outdoors Club at UBC, has recently returned from an overseas journey hiking along the peaks of France, and enjoys learning how to walk on the glaciers of BC.

**Caitlin Schneider**

### ***Uro-Oncology Fellows—Dr. Casey & Dr. Corcoran***



**Dr. Rowan Casey** will be in the prostate centre for one year as a Uro-oncology clinical Fellow. He is here with his partner Dr. Helen Stunell who is one of the Abdominal Radiology Fellows in VGH. Prior to this Rowan completed his residency training in Ireland and was in a consultant urologist post for six months. He spent the last four months in Leipzig, Germany learning the skills of laparoscopic radical prostatectomy under Professor Jens-Uwe Stolzenburg. His interests include hiking, swimming, golfing and skiing so Vancouver is the perfect location for him! Following this year in Vancouver he will be interviewing for a Consultant Urologist post in either the UK or Ireland.

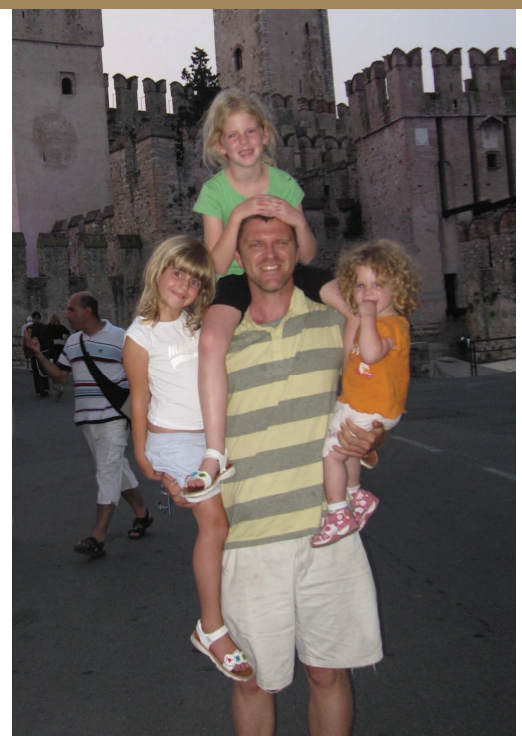
**Dr. Niall Corcoran** graduated from University College Dublin medical school 1998, and completed his internship and early surgical residency in Dublin, Ireland. To escape the miserable weather he moved to Melbourne, Australia in 2001 where he completed a PhD in cancer biology at University of Melbourne. He commenced urology training in 2006, rotating through various hospitals in Victoria and passed the Fellowship exam in 2009. He is married to Sophie, and has three children Caoimhin (6), Iseult (3) and Saoirse (6 months). His main aim this year is to avoid having any more children.



### ***Uro-Gynecology Fellow—Dr. Boris Friedman***

**Dr. Boris Friedman** was born in Kiev, Ukraine to a family of urologists. His grandfather as well as his father practice the profession. When only three years old he immigrated to Israel with his family. He studied medicine at Ben-Gurion University, and did his urology residency at Lady Davis Carmel Hospital in northern Israel. As a resident he was involved in medical education in urologic rounds as well as in research. He presented papers mainly in the field of prostate cancer diagnosis and female urinary incontinence. Dr. Friedman will start a clinical fellowship in female urology (Uro-gynecology) in our department. He recently arrived in Vancouver with his wife Bat-Chen and three daughters: Yarden, Carmel and Michal (8, 6 and 3 years old).

Bat-Chen is a pediatrician and will be doing a research fellowship in the Emergency Department of the Children's Hospital. They both are looking forward to combining fruitful professional and academic progress with exploration of beautiful Vancouver and BC .



### Dr Charles Beer

On June 15<sup>th</sup> **Dr. Charles Beer** died peacefully at his Sunrise Senior Living Home in Vancouver. He was born in Leigh, Dorset (England) on November 18, 1915. At an early age he became interested in science and in 1948 received a D. Phil. in Chemistry from Oxford University. In 1951 he moved to North America, accepting research fellowships and positions at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in New York City (1951-54), the University of Western Ontario (1954-55, 1957-60), McGill-Montreal General Hospital Research Institute (1955-56) and the University of British Columbia (1960-81) where he became Professor in the Department of Biochemistry in 1967. He was also an Honorary Senior Scientist in the Department of Cancer Endocrinology at the British Columbia Cancer Agency. Dr. Beer's major contribution to medicine was the isolation of the anti-cancer drug "vinblastine" from the leaves of the Madagascar periwinkle plant (*vinca rosea*) at the University of Western Ontario in 1958 where he worked closely with Dr. Robert L. Noble. His biochemical expertise was crucial to the isolation and purification of vinblastine – a drug that is still used in the clinic for therapy of a variety of cancers. The discovery of vinblastine is generally considered a milestone in the development of chemotherapy. In 1997 Dr. Beer was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, together with Dr. Noble; he became a Member of the Order of Canada in 2003. Highly intelligent, articulate and witty, he delighted in conversation and was always keen to talk about science. In his heyday he was an ardent mountaineer and thoroughly enjoyed his association with the Alpine Club of Canada where he formed lifelong friendships. The last of a family whose lineage stretches back hundreds of years, Dr. Beer will be sincerely missed by colleagues and friends.

A memorial lecture honouring Dr. Beer was held at 11 am on Thursday, July 15, 2010, at the Diamond Lecture Theatre, BC Cancer Research Centre, 675 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue followed by a reception.



***Down in Devon, down in Devon,  
There's a village by the sea,  
It's a little piece of heaven***

### Dr. David Stewart



Our colleague, dear friend and alumnus **Dr. David Stewart** died on August 22, 2010.

David was predeceased by his father Frank Stewart and is survived by his wife Nancy (nee Davies), daughters Allison and Lindsay, his mother Doreen Stewart, sister Fran (George) Campbell, and brothers George (Lori) and Keith (Jennifer). His sisters-in-law Lori Davies and Carolyn

Gavriel and mother-in-law Faye Davies also grieve his loss as does one of his favorite companions, his dog Lindo. Nieces and nephews Andrew and Giora Campbell, Frank, George and Wilson Stewart and Alexei Gavriel will also greatly miss "Uncle David", as will his surviving aunts and uncles.

David was born on June 17, 1955 in Kamloops and graduated from Kamloops Secondary School in 1973. He attended UBC for his undergraduate and medical degrees, returning home to Kamloops with his wife Nancy to practice Urology in 1985. David was a dedicated professional who gave his all for the patients in his care. Long hours left little time for leisure, but David savoured every minute of his free time, developing exceptional skills as a wildlife photographer. Cooking was another passion and many benefited from his culinary expertise. David was passionate about many topics, with a special interest in the history of Kamloops, and displayed an astonishing memory for detail. He cared deeply for his family and some of his favourite memories included a trip to Scotland with his mother Doreen and niece Giora in 2006, followed by a subsequent trip last year to Scotland with his wife and daughters. David loved to share his delights and interests with others, frequently phoning friends and family members with a joke or humorous anecdote. Doctors and nurses in the O.R. will also remember him for his humour and his professional intensity.

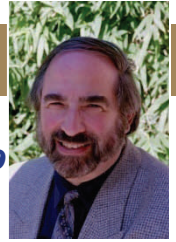
The family extends their sincere thank-you to the nurses and doctors in Emergency and 7 North for their excellent care and extraordinary efforts during David's last hours. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Kamloops Foundation, P.O. Box 15, Kamloops B.C., V2C 5K3 in David's name where a legacy fund will be established to support R.I.H. Foundation and Ducks Unlimited. David will be laid to rest in a private family service. A Celebration of David's Life will be held on **Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Calvary Community Church** with Hospital Chaplain Viktor Gundel officiating. For those interested in participating in this Celebration, more information will be forthcoming.

Arrangements entrusted to  
Kamloops Funeral Home  
250-554-2577

Condolences may be emailed to the family from  
[www.kamloopsfuneralhome.com](http://www.kamloopsfuneralhome.com)



**Great Moments in Urological History...Were You There?  
Dr. Howard Fenster, Editor**



**Northwest Urological Meeting, Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, BC, December 1989  
Guest speaker Dr. Tom Stamey Stanford University California**



L to R: Dr. Robert Litin, Dr. Howard Fenster, Dr. Thomas Stamey, Dr. Robert Gibbons

**Service Recognition**

**UBC Faculty of Medicine-Quarter Century Celebration**

Faculty	Years of Service
Larry Goldenberg	25 years
John Masterson	25 years
<b>Special Milestones Recognition</b>	
Zelick Perler	40 years

**Vancouver Coastal Health – Vancouver Acute Long Service Recognition**

Active Staff	Years of Service
Howard Fenster	30 years

## Awards &amp; Recognition

Student / Faculty	Name	Academic Rank	Sponsor/Donor	Year of Award	Name of Award/Prize
<b>Faculty</b>					
	Kourosh Afshar	Assistant Professor	Department of Urologic Sciences	2010	Undergraduate Teacher of the Year
	Peter Black	Assistant Professor	Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute	2010	Research Grant
	Peter Black	Assistant Professor	VCHRI Team Grant	2010	Research Grant
	John Masterson	Clinical Professor	BCCH - OPSEI	2010	Excellence in Education Award with Distinction
	Christopher Nguan	Assistant Professor	Department of Urologic Sciences	2010	Postgraduate Teacher of the Year
	Jamie Wright	Clinical Professor	Vancouver Coastal Health	2010	Clinical Excellence Award
	Amina Zoubeidi	Assistant Professor	Prostate Cancer Foundation	2010	Young Investigator Award
<b>Students (Residents/Fellows/ PhD)</b>					
	Zeid AbuGhosh	Clinical Fellow	Department of Urologic Sciences	2010	Best Clinical Research Paper
	Nathan Lack	PhD candidate	Department of Urologic Sciences	2010	Best Basic Science Presentation
<b>MD Undergrad Student</b>					
	Hilary Nelson	MD Undergrad 2nd year	Department of Urologic Sciences	2010	Balfour Scholarship

## UPCOMING 2010 MEETINGS

WSAUA will be held at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, Waikoloa, Hawaii – October 23-29

NWUS will be held at the Fairmont Hotel, Vancouver, BC – December 3 & 4

*Congratulations!*

2010 Balfour Scholarship Recipient Hilary Nelson

Hilary will be taking an elective in the Department of Urologic Sciences in January 2011.



**UBC Urology Graduates of 2010**



Dr. Laura Chang-Kit



Dr. Abhishek Seth



Dr. Nick Buchan



Dr. Zeid AbuGhosh



Dr. Anthony Koupparis



Dr. BK Poh



**Urology Wind-Up Dinner, June 8th 2010—Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club**



Resident graduates with Dr. Goldenberg & Dr. MacNeily



Fellow graduates with Dr. Gleave



Undergraduate Teacher Award, Dr. Kourosh Afshar



Doctors Goldenberg, AbuGhosh, Koupparis, Gleave



Postgraduate Teacher Award, Dr. Chris Nguan



Dr. William Gourlay, New Postgrad Program Director



10-year contribution as Postgraduate Program Director Dr. Andrew MacNeily



Visiting Professor Dr. Gerald Jordan and Dean Gavin Stuart

*Urology Wind-Up Dinner, June 8th 2010—Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club*



2010 Wind-Up Dinner Group - Residents and Doctors Goldenberg and MacNeily



2010 Wind-Up Dinner Group

**Families & New Additions**



**The Nguan Boys, Patrick & Harrison.  
Patrick Sze Ming Nguan born on April 21, 2010  
to parents Angela and Chris Nguan.**



**Tate Ivar Mickelson in the Stanley Cup!  
Born on June 7, 2010 at 7 lb, 15 oz to parents  
Jennie Mickelson and Ken Poon.**



**Maya Matsushita Duffell, born on May 4, 2010 to  
parents Keiko Matsushita and Ben Duffell.**



Please send your comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter to:  
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Gordon & Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre  
Level 6, 2775 Laurel Street, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9

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