



Department of Urologic Sciences

2007 Spring Newsletter

On July 1, 2006 the Department of Urologic Sciences became a reality in the UBC Faculty of Medicine.

This milestone represents an opportunity: to develop programmes of excellence in key areas of urology with collaborations across departments, faculties, schools and industrial partners which, in conjunction with translational initiatives, will promote congruent progress on both the academic and clinical care delivery trajectories.

The UBC Department of Urologic Sciences has 3 full professors, a UBC Distinguished University Scholar, a BC Leadership Chair in prostate research (to support the research of Dr. Martin Gleave), 13 PhD research scientists and 8 members who are actively, and successfully, pursuing careers as surgeon-scientists. Our expertise ranges from molecular biology to

psycho-social research, pharmacokinetics, cell signaling, genomics, proteomics, laser energy, infrared diagnostics and MRI physics.

Our educational programs are strong and comprehensive. The 15 residents in the UBC urology program come from medical schools across the country. They routinely score very well on annual Urology In-Service exams (always above the North American average, and often above the 90th percentile) and our graduates have a superb pass rate on the Royal College exam. The Prostate Centre is also a funded National Cancer Institute of Canada training centre and our faculty have supervised, or co-supervised, Masters and PhD students from around the world. We plan to develop a significant Graduate training curriculum to provide state of the art education of PhD and Masters students within the construct of a

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Our Mission

To achieve and maintain excellence in urologic patient care, research and teaching.

Our Goals

The Department of Urologic Sciences will strive to:

- Provide state of the art, evidence-based healthcare delivery to the regional, provincial, national and international communities through an integrated, interprofessional team.
- Support and strengthen the pillars of UBC's vision: people, learning, community service, research and internationalization.
- Provide a provincial hub for health research and education and policy making; focus on health as well as illness.
- Identify, design, conduct, analyze and report research relevant to the diseases of the genitourinary tract (prostate, kidneys, bladder, genitals).
- Translate basic science research evidence directly to clinical research and eventually improve clinical care, elevating these functions to an internationally superior level.
- Implement multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary partnerships within UBC, other universities, hospitals and all levels of government, to facilitate the mission.
- Become a sought-after destination for clinical and research trainees and scientists committed to the study and management of genitourinary diseases.
- Provide comprehensive undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate and continuing health education.
- Strengthen the entire Faculty of Medicine through its overall mission.

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formal Faculty of Medicine Translational Sciences Graduate Program.

A highlight in the development of our pediatrics program as well as our postgraduate education, was the recruitment of Dr. Andrew MacNeily. He has assembled and leads a first class team at Children's Hospital, including Drs. Kourosh Afshar and John Masterson. Collectively, they are as strong a teaching unit as any urology group in the country.

We recently opened the doors of a sophisticated Bladder Care Centre, under the academic guidance of Dr. Lynn Stothers whose team has had exciting success in their study of cranberry in the prevention and treatment of bladder disorders, non-invasive new technologies (Near Infra Red Spectroscopy or NIRS) to study bladder function and voiding dysfunction in diabetics. The Department is developing several more foci of special interest. Recent recruitments of Ryan Paterson, Joel Teichman, Ben Chew and Chris Nguan offer us the opportunity to reach the highest standards in laparoscopy/robotics/transplantation and stones/biophotonics/laser science/nanotechnology.

Our strong clinical faculty (26 members) has facilitated the development of a successful clinical and translational research unit, the foundation of the recently acquired Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and Research Hospital Fund (RHF) grants which total nearly \$40 million. Our clinical faculty members are proud to be a part of these great accomplishments, and this inclusiveness has strengthened our group, congruent with Osler's fondest dream: "Clinical Faculty working in harmony as equals alongside their colleagues dedicated to research, each contributing ideas to the other's task"

Philanthropy Profile - Mr. Syd Belzberg

Mr. Belzberg is a generous and "quiet" philanthropist with a keen interest in advancing world-class health care in British Columbia.



Syd Belzberg and Joanne Tymkiw

His first gift to the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation was in 2004 and in the course of the last few years has given over \$2.5 million dollars in support of the Department of Urologic Sciences, the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre, and to OvCare. Of that, \$2 million has been designated specifically towards Urology Development.

He has also donated \$500,000.00 to the C.H.I.L.D Foundation, which established The Syd Belzberg Children with Intestinal and Liver Disorders Foundation Research Fund, in support of an endowed Chair for Pediatric Gastroenterology at the University of British Columbia.

Syd is also a very active member of the Jewish community. In recognition of the Belzberg family's commitment to health-care the atrium in the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre has been named in Syd and Joanne Belzberg's honour.

Mr. Belzberg is President of Budget Rent A Car and Truck.

Faculty Profile ○ Dr. Colleen Nelson



Since the inception of the Prostate Centre Dr. Colleen Nelson has shown her commitment to its success. She has tirelessly poured her energy into its development and expansion even while commuting from Victoria, BC for two years, including through her 6th pregnancy! This drive and dedication to develop a new model for multidisciplinary and collaborative translational research was crucial in establishing what we now know as the Prostate Centre at VGH.

An Associate Professor and senior scientist at the Prostate Centre, Colleen is Head of the Microarray Facility and Director of the Genome BC Microarray Platform. Her research is centered on understanding the role of genes that are aberrantly expressed during the progression of prostate cancer. In particular, she and her team are comparing normal tissue to malignant tissue, and to tumors that have undergone treatment, to determine which genes are associated with tumour development and therapeutic resistance. By identifying how genes are turned on and off as the cancer progresses, they hope to be able to predict when prostate cancer will occur, prevent its onset and develop new treatments that target the cancer-causing genes. Dr. Nelson has also investigated the effects that environmental contaminants and dietary factors may have on the development and progression of prostate cancer.

In 2004, Colleen and Dr. Martin Gleave (Director of the Prostate Centre) were awarded over \$40 million in funding for PC-TRIADD: The Prostate Centre's Translational Research Initiative for Accelerated Discovery and Development. This program will help us expand the Prostate Centre's physical space, provide much-needed funding for state-of-the-art equipment and, more importantly, will help us recruit additional world-class scientists and clinicians to help us in our mission to more rapidly translate discovery science into clinical applications.

Colleen has a true feel for the fabric and process of a vibrant laboratory. With her depth of experience and natural leadership skills, she has recently taken on a new challenge: in January 2007, she began a sabbatical to help prostate researchers in Queensland develop a similar prostate program in Australia. The commute from the Island Continent is a bit further than her previous Island home but she reminds us that the globe is shrinking and collaboration is only the distance between thoughts, not miles. Colleen will continue to oversee her research programs here at the Prostate Centre while helping to foster collaborations with our Australian colleagues. We wish Colleen the very best and are looking forward to global alliances in translational prostate cancer research.



New Faculty ○ Dr. Ben Chew

We are pleased to announce the recruitment of Dr. Ben Chew. Ben was born and raised in Duncan, BC, completed his Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees at Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario before attending medical school at UBC and graduating in 1998. He undertook his urology residency at the University of Toronto and fellowship in endourology and laparoscopy at the University of Western Ontario. His research during fellowship focused on two aspects: urinary biomaterials and improving urinary stents to reduce stent-related infection, encrustation, and bothersome symptoms; and his second research interest is in the role that oxalate plays in kidney stone disease. By genetically cloning a gene that degrades oxalate into bacteria commonly used to make yoghurt, oxalate can be degraded in the gut before being absorbed into the body. This work was awarded the Best Abstract Prize in the category of stone disease at the annual American Urological Association meeting in 2005. His interest in ureteral stents includes new drug-eluting technology and his work on an antimicrobial eluting ureteral stent was awarded the Best Scientific Paper at the World Congress of Endourology in 2005. Currently, he is investigating how the gut absorbs and handles oxalate. Further stent research includes assessment and development of new technologies to improve ureteral stents.



Ben has taken a position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Urologic Sciences and spends half of his time furthering his research into biomaterials and the role of oxalate in kidney stones. Clinically, he is interested in both medical and surgical (ureteroscopy, shockwave lithotripsy, and percutaneous nephrolithotomy) management of stones. His laparoscopic training has included the area of kidney disease including both benign (pyeloplasties) and malignant disorders (renal cell carcinoma). His fellowship also included certification in use of the daVinci Robot for pyeloplasties, partial cystectomies, and radical prostatectomy.

Ben is very excited to be joining the Department of Urologic Sciences and return home to both his and his wife's family. With the recent addition of an 11-month old baby girl, they find it terrific to be close to cousins and grandparents.



New Faculty ○ Dr. Christopher Nguan

We are pleased to announce the recruitment of Dr. Christopher Nguan. Dr. Christopher Nguan completed his medical school training in Dalhousie University in 1999 and proceeded to complete a Urology residency at the University of British Columbia, completing this degree in 2004. With an interest in Renal Transplantation, Dr. Nguan traveled to London, Ontario where he undertook a 2 year ASTS accredited fellowship in Renal Transplantation consisting of 1 year of clinical and 1 year of basic science training. We are happy to announce the recruitment of Dr. Nguan's accumulated expertise as a Transplant surgeon-scientist to both the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority / Vancouver General Hospital and Providence Health Care / St Paul's Hospital locales. Dr. Nguan will be establishing a Transplantation Research Center under the auspices of the newly minted Department of Urologic Sciences at the University of British Columbia.



In addition, Dr. Nguan has been trained in advanced MIS techniques and holds daVinci robot certification. During the course of his fellowship under the supervision of Dr. Patrick Luke, he performed a world's first: preclinical telesurgery using a

telesurgical-enabled daVinci prototype. He continues to actively pursue engineering level and clinical research in the fields of medical imaging, robotics and telepresence.

Student Profile ○ Chris Zappavigna

After growing up in Vancouver and completing his undergraduate studies at UBC, Chris was accepted to UBC's medical school. He is now in his second year of the MD program. Under the supervision of Dr. Goldenberg, Chris started his involvement in clinical research in the Division of Urology just before and during his first year of medical school.



This past summer, Chris was awarded the UBC Faculty of Medicine Florence E Heighway Summer Research Award to continue his research at the Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital and within the Department of Urologic

Sciences. Prior to entrance to medical school, Chris was awarded the "Outstanding Student Award" by the UBC Alumni Association and other academic and leadership awards. Chris has been President of his medical class for both of the first two years of the program.

He presented his first project, titled "Intermittent Androgen Suppression in the Treatment of Prostate Cancer: An Update of the Vancouver Experience," at the Canadian Urological Association meeting in Halifax, June 2006. This project will also be presented at a medical student conference in Carmel, California, January 2007 and earned Chris an honourable mention award at the annual UBC Medical Undergraduate Society Research Forum. He is currently working on a project with Drs. Chew, Paterson and Teichman investigating the effects of patient obesity on ureteroscopy stone removal. He is looking forward to continuing his research in the Department of Urologic Sciences over the summer

Department of Urologic Sciences

Honours and Awards 2006 ○ Faculty

	Ben Chew Assistant Professor	Sponsor/Donor	Name of Award/Prize	Category
		Canadian Urological Association	CUA Scholarship	Research
		Society of Endourology	Fellowship Essay Contest 3rd Prize (Clinical)	Research
	Martin Gleave Professor	BC Biotech	Winner – Innovation and Achievement	Lifetime Achievement
	Larry Goldenberg Professor	Provincial Government	Order of British Columbia	Lifetime Achievement
		CAHS(Canadian Academy of Health Sciences)	Fellow	Lifetime Achievement
		American Urologic Meeting	Grand Prize for Best Poster	Research
	Andrew MacNeily Associate Professor	Department of Surgery, Division of Urology	Outstanding Resident Teacher	Education
	John Masterson Clinical Professor	Faculty of Medicine	FoM Career Award in Clinical Teaching	Education
	Colleen Nelson Associate Professor	Dept. of Surgery, Division of Urology	Research Merit Award Special Citation, for leadership and commitment to program development	Research
	Chris Ngan Assistant Professor	Canadian Urological Association	CUA Scholarship	Research
	Joel Teichman Associate Professor	Northwest Urological Society	Northwest Urological Society Best Paper-2006	Research
	Yuzhuo Wang Adjunct Professor	Prostate Cancer Foundation (formerly CaPCURE)	PCF Competitive Award	Research

Bio-sketches ○ Staff



Helen Wong

Helen is the Administrative Manager in the Department of Urologic Sciences. She spent the past 12 years in the Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine coordinating Faculty appointment, reappointment, promotion, tenure and recruitment. Helen manages the administrative operations in the Department. She works closely with all faculty, staff and supporters throughout the VGH and UBC governing and operational structures.

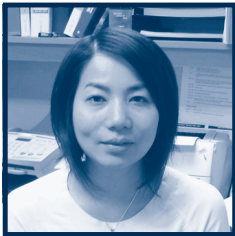
Helen's email is helen.wong@vch.ca and her phone number is 604-875-5473.



Mae Locke, CA

Mae has enjoyed working at Vancouver Coastal Health for the past 11 years in various financial capacities and with different departments – Financial & Capital planning, Finance, Prostate Centre, and VCHRI. Prior to this, she worked in public accounting in Burnaby and Calgary, where she received her CA after graduating from the B.Comm program at UBC. She looks forward to her new responsibilities of developing and managing the finances of the department. Next to her professional enthusiasm, she enjoys theatre and music.

Mae's email is mae.locke@vch.ca and her phone number is 604-875-4111 ext. 62459.
Her fax is 604-875-5024



Keiko Matsushita

Keiko graduated from Kagoshima University in Japan with a BA degree in English and American Literature. She had been working as a marketer/counselor at a language school in Vancouver when she was recruited to the newly created Department of Urologic Sciences in 2006. Keiko is responsible for providing support to assist the administrative team in the day-to-day operations of the academic office as well as assisting the faculty members with the scheduling of their academic activities.

Keiko's email is keiko.matsushita@vch.ca and her phone number is 604-875-4301.



Brenda Prieur

Brenda is employee #1 – the first person hired by the Prostate Centre in 1998. She is the Administrative Coordinator for the Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, and is responsible for overseeing the human resources, communications, marketing, financial, and office support services for the Centre.

Brenda's email is brenda.prieur@vch.ca and her phone number is 604-875-5404.
Her fax is 604-875-5654.



Fern Rushton

Born in Victoria and raised in the Vancouver lower mainland, Fern attended Douglas College for post-secondary education and received two certificates. She has been employed by the Faculty of Medicine at UBC since 1983. During this time, Fern enjoyed working as the Divisional Secretary for a number of Heads in the Division of General Surgery, as well as in the Department of Surgery Faculty Research & Resource Centre. These positions provided an excellent background for her to join Urology as Divisional Secretary in 1999. With the Division of Urology's success in receiving departmental status in 2006, Fern will now focus on providing academic administrative support in the Department of Urologic Sciences Office of Education working with faculty, fellows, residents and medical students.

Fern's email is fern.rushton@vch.ca and her phone number is 604-875-4111 ext. 67932.

Department of Urologic Sciences

Faculty Listing

Goldenberg, Larry	Professor and Head
Afshar, Kourosh	Assistant Professor
Carter, Michael	Clinical Instructor
Chew, Ben	Assistant Professor
Chow, Victor	Clinical Assistant Professor
Cox, Michael	Assistant Professor
Davison, Joyce B.	Assistant Professor
Fenster, Howard	Clinical Professor
Gleave, Martin	Professor
Goodman, Saul	Clinical Instructor
Gourlay, William	Assistant Professor
Gout, Peter	Honorary Associate Professor
Guns, Emma	Assistant Professor
Jamieson, Clark	Clinical Instructor
Johnson, Hjalmar	Honorary Professor
Kinahan, Thomas	Clinical Assistant Professor
Krahn, Corrie	Clinical Assistant Professor
Leone, Ercole	Clinical Assistant Professor
MacNeily, Andrew	Associate Professor
Masterson, John	Clinical Professor
McLoughlin, Martin	Professor
Moore, Andrew	Clinical Associate Professor

Morrison, Kevin	Clinical Instructor
Nelson, Colleen	Associate Professor
Nguan, Christopher	Assistant Professor
Nigro, Mark	Clinical Professor
Palmer, Geoffrey	Clinical Instructor
Paterson, Ryan	Assistant Professor
Pommerville, Peter	Clinical Assistant Professor
Poon, Christina	Clinical Instructor
Poon, Kenneth	Clinical Instructor
Prestage, Keith T.	Clinical Instructor
Rennie, Paul S.	Honorary Professor
Sadar, Marianne	Honorary Associate Professor
Skepasts, Peter	Clinical Instructor
So, Alan	Assistant Professor
Steinhoff, Gary	Clinical Assistant Professor
Stothers, Lynn	Associate Professor
Taylor, William	Clinical Associate Professor
Teichman, Joel	Associate Professor
Truong, Vu	Clinical Instructor
Wang, Yuzhuo	Adjunct Professor
Wright, Jamie	Clinical Professor

Event Announcements

- Balfour Scholarship Application Deadline March 23, 2007
- Department of Urologic Sciences Reception May 2007
- Sullivan Research Day June 12, 2007
- Annual Wind-Up Dinner June 12, 2007
- New Residents join the Department of Urologic Sciences July 1, 2007

Visiting Professors 2006 - 2007

Dr. John P. Mulhall	Cornell University	October 3-4, 2006
Dr. A. Karim Kader	University of Texas	October 10-13, 2006
Dr. Fred E. Govier	Virginia Mason Medical School	November 21-22, 2006
Dr. David G. Bostwick	Bostwick Laboratories	January 9-10, 2007
Dr. Kevin V. Carlson	University of Calgary	February 1, 2007
Dr. Anthony J. Costello	The Royal Melbourne Hospital	April 1, 2007
Dr. J. L. Pippi Salle	University of Toronto	June 1, 2007

Contact information

Please send your comments or suggestions to:

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