



2023 Building the Future: Research Trainee Day and Lecture Series

Thursday, March 23, 2023 | 8:45 AM– 6:00 PM PST

Life Sciences Centre (LSC), UBC

8:45 - 9:30	REGISTRATION and BREAKFAST (West Atrium)		
9:30 - 10:15	WELCOME and KEYNOTE I (LSC 1003)		
9:30 - 9:45	Welcome and Opening Remarks Dr. Rob McMaster (Vice Dean, Research, FoM; Professor, Dept of Medical Genetics) Dr. Miriam Spering (Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, FoM; Associate Professor, Dept of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences)		
9:45 - 10:15	Keynote by 2022 FoM Distinguished Researcher - Foundational Dr. Megan Levings (Professor, Dept of Surgery and School of Biomedical Engineering) introduced by Dr. Bruce Verchere (Director, Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics)		
	Q&A Session Moderator: Dr. Rob McMaster		
10:15 - 11:15	TRAINEE POSTER SESSION I (West Atrium) COFFEE BREAK		
11:15 - 11:45	KEYNOTE II (LSC 1003)		
	Keynote by 2022 FoM Distinguished Researcher – Foundational Dr. Aslam Anis (Director and Professor, School of Population and Public Health, Director, Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences) introduced by Dr. Mieke Koehoorn (Professor, School of Population and Public Health; Associate Director, Research)		
	Q&A Session Moderator: Dr. Miriam Spering		
11:45 - 12:30	LUNCH and WELLBEING BOOTH (West Atrium)		
12:30 - 13:30	TRAINEE POSTER SESSION II (West Atrium)		
13:30 - 15:30	TRAINEE ORAL PRESENTATIONS		
	Session I (BIOMEDICAL) Room: LSC 1003 Moderator: Dr. Miriam Spering	Session II (BIOMEDICAL + POPULATION HEALTH) Room: LSC 1312 Moderator: Philipp Kreyenmeier, PhD candidate, Neuroscience	Session III (CLINICAL + HEALTH SERVICES) Room: LSC 1410 Moderator: Leigh Spanner
15:30 - 15:45	COFFEE BREAK (West Atrium)		



15:45 - 16:15	KEYNOTE III (LSC 1003)
	Keynote by 2022 FoM Distinguished Researcher - Clinical Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose (Co-Director, Centre for Hip Health & Mobility; Professor and CRC Dept of Physical Therapy) introduced by Dr. Janice Eng (Co-Director, Centre for Hip Health & Mobility; Professor and CRC Dept of Physical Therapy)
	Q&A Session Moderator: Dr. Miriam Spering
16:15 - 16:30	CLOSING: Award Presentations and Closing Remarks Dr. Miriam Spering
16:30 - 18:00	RECEPTION (West Atrium)

Need a break? Get to know the team dedicated to the trainees' well-being at the Faculty of Medicine. The Graduate and Postdoctoral Education (GPE) Team will be hosting a WELLBEING BOOTH during the event at the West Atrium. Join us and de-stress with calming activities, crafts, a raffle, and more!



PROGRAM DETAILS: POSTER SESSIONS I & II

10:15- 11:15		Poster Session I (West Atrium)
Larissa Melville <i>(MSc Student, Audiology and Speech Sciences)</i>	The role of speaker variability on Statistical Word Segmentation	
Franziska Mey <i>(PhD Candidate, Interdisciplinary Oncology)</i>	Modeling the hematopoietic stem cell niche with a bone-marrow like iPSC-derived organoid model	
Katharina Raschdorf <i>(PhD Candidate, Neuroscience)</i>	Monitoring spinal cord oxygenation and hemodynamics using an implantable biosensor based on near-infrared spectroscopy	
Nathalie Longakit <i>(PhD Candidate, Medical Genetics)</i>	Heterozygous Bap1 loss promotes uveal melanoma tumor progression	
Wai Hang Cheng <i>(Postdoctoral Fellow, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)</i>	Altered tau in rTg4510 mice after a single interfaced CHIMERA traumatic brain injury	
Evan Zhou <i>(MSc Student, CELL)</i>	Aurora kinase A promotes the leader cell phenotype necessary for breast cancer metastasis	
Tony Guo <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Airway Epithelial Repair and SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein Treatment	
Samin Abbasidezfouli <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Evaluating the antibacterial and wound healing promoting effects of PVP/PVP-I containing liquid scaffold in vitro and in vivo.	
Zora Brough <i>(BSc Student, Biochemistry and Forensic Science)</i>	A general approach to survey the membrane Proteome of healthy and fibrotic liver tissues via Mass Spectrometry	
Nina Huang <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Identification of predictive airway epithelial biomarkers for adverse outcomes of HIV-Associated chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	
Alyssa Chen <i>(MD Student)</i>	Impact of acute psychological stress on experimental pain: A systemic review	
Yu-Chi Chuang <i>MSc Student, Interdisciplinary Oncology)</i>	Characterizing SHPRH as a novel tumor suppressor gene in lung adenocarcinoma	
Jenna Langlois <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Characterizing Methamphetamine use among opioid agonist Therapy-Seeking adults with prescription-type opioid use disorder in Canada	
Emma Goodwin <i>(MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)</i>	The association between endometriosis treatments and depression and/or anxiety in a population-based pathologically confirmed cohort of people with endometriosis	
Bryn Stagg <i>(MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)</i>	Sleep difficulties as a risk factor for postpartum obsessive-compulsive disorder	
Ryu Lien <i>(MSc Student, Rehabilitation Sciences)</i>	The effect of computerized cognitive training and exercise on white matter integrity	



Mona Alkhudair (<i>PhD Candidate, Rehabilitation Sciences</i>)	Autoethnography study: How learned to do 3D printing as a rehabilitation professional
Venessa Thorsen (<i>MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences</i>)	Knowledge to Action: Developing a knowledge translation strategy to improve Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Familial Hypercholesterolemia in British Columbia based on the New 2022 Canadian Pediatric Lipid Guidelines
Yasmine Lau (<i>BSc Student, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology</i>)	Novel diagnostic method for focal segmental glomerulosclerosis using quantitative ultrasound

12:30 - 13:30 POSTER SESSION II (West Atrium)	
Yiu Wing Sunny Cheung (<i>PhD Candidate, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology</i>)	Investigating the interactions of the human autophagy factor EPG5
Tetiana Poliakova (<i>PhD Candidate, Neuroscience</i>)	Understanding how reconstitution of cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) expression affects amyloid and cerebrovascular pathologies in mouse models of Alzheimer's Disease
Sarah Hanstock (<i>MSc Student, Experimental Medicine</i>)	The role of gut microbiome-derived butyrate in calcium oxalate nephrolithiasis
Cristina Goes Schaurich (<i>PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine</i>)	Developmental anatomy of the pediatric skull based on Three-Dimensional computed tomography
Sanya Grover (<i>MD Student</i>)	Place-based Child and Youth Rights Literacy: A Multi-Partner approach to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Kevin Salim (<i>PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine</i>)	Making an unlimited source of regulatory T cells for cell therapy
Zeren Sun (<i>PhD Candidate, Pharmacology</i>)	Dyslipidemia in muscular dystrophy: a systematic review and meta-analysis
Benjamin Brakel (<i>MD Student</i>)	Genetic screening reveals dependency on FEN1 to resist temozolomide in treatment-resistant glioblastoma stem cells
Victoria Cirone (<i>MSc Student, Rehabilitation Sciences</i>)	Perimenopause: A critical window to intervene to reduce the risk of cognitive impairment in females
Heather Baker (<i>PhD Candidate, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology</i>)	Co-chaperones regulate the quality control of cytosolic proteins with missense mutations
Rocky Shi (<i>PhD Candidate, Interdisciplinary Oncology</i>)	Integrin-linked kinase is important for epithelial-mesenchymal transition and osimertinib resistance in EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinoma
Lok In Josephine Ma (<i>BSc Student, Interdisciplinary Oncology</i>)	MEK inhibitor resistance in lung adenocarcinoma is associated with addiction to sustained ERK suppression, representing a novel, potentially therapeutically relevant vulnerability



Mohammad Ghodsi <i>(MSc Student, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)</i>	Exploring the utility of Neurological Blood-Based Biomarkers to improve diagnosis of acute brain Injury due to intimate partner violence
Kiran Toor <i>(MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)</i>	Renal outcomes in pediatric Anti-Neutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibody (ANCA) associated vasculitis
Jalisa Karim <i>(PhD Candidate, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)</i>	Associations between oxytocin administration during labor and risk of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the child
Jammy Zou <i>(MSc Student, Rehabilitation Sciences)</i>	Are changes in muscular strength following head-down bed rest independently associated with improved cognitive function in older adults?
Simran Gill <i>(MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)</i>	Physical activity behaviors and determinants thereof in children with type 1 diabetes in the Interior of BC: a mixed methods feasibility study
Jane Kim <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	A rapid review on the impact of new synthetic opioids on standard treatment approaches
Naomi Phagau <i>(MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)</i>	Investigating Long-term Impacts of Maternal Depression and Anxiety on Early Child Development
Monique Sandhu <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Re-making selves and social worlds in residential adolescent substance use treatment
Hannah Shariati <i>(MSc Student, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)</i>	Investigating the effects of Vici syndrome mutations on the human autophagy factor EPG5
Vy Manohara <i>(BSc Student, Biology)</i>	Prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and cortisol levels among women living with and without HIV in British Columbia



ORAL PRESENTATIONS I, II, & III

13:30- 15:30		Session I (BIOMEDICAL) Room: LSC 1003 Moderator: Dr. Miriam Spring
Jennifer Cooper <i>(PhD Candidate, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)</i>	Reference intervals for plasma biomarkers of neurodegeneration	
Ana Luque <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Evaluating different methods for kidney recellularization	
Nicolas Pereyra <i>(PhD Candidate, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)</i>	Modified Platelet Storage Devices to Improve Quality During Storage	
Dalia Othman <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	The role of the urinary microbiome in determining response to intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) in high-risk non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC)	
Vriti Bhagat <i>(PhD Candidate, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)</i>	In vitro determination of the function of prohormone convertase 2 on human pro-islet amyloid polypeptide processing	
Hanwei Sudderuddin <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Infrequent detection of emergent HIV drug resistance in low viral load specimens in British Columbia, Canada	
Mehwish Anwer <i>(Postdoctoral Fellow, Neuroscience)</i>	Understanding the relationship between impact direction and TBI-related neuropathology using clinically relevant blood biomarkers and neuroimaging	
Tali Romero <i>(MSc Student, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)</i>	Association of neurological blood-based biomarkers with baseline neuroimaging and cognitive assessments in adults with moderate-severe congenital heart disease	
Meredith Clark <i>(MSc Student, Interdisciplinary Oncology)</i>	Investigating the role of immune suppressive cells in the tumor microenvironment during glucose-restricted adoptive T cell therapy	
Michael Hall <i>(MSc Student, Interdisciplinary Oncology)</i>	Low oxygen impairs CD8 T cell proliferation but promotes glycolytic metabolism and granzyme B expression	
Nicole Robinson <i>(MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Screening selectivity of PSMA targeting agents on murine xenografts	
Dorothy Lin <i>(MSc Student, Medical Genetics)</i>	Associations between prenatal bisphenol exposure and gestational epigenetic age acceleration in Australian infants	
Moones Yadegari <i>(MSc Student, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)</i>	Investigation of proteolytic proteoform-specific protein interaction	
Saif Dababneh <i>(MD/PhD Candidate, CELL)</i>	Using Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Cardiomyocytes (hiPSC-CMs) to Investigate Loss-of-Function RyR2 variants	
Kiersten Thomas <i>(PhD Candidate, Interdisciplinary Oncology)</i>	Angiotensin receptor blockade with telmisartan as a method to enhance anti-tumor immune responses	



13:30- 15:30	
Session II (BIOMEDICAL + POPULATION HEALTH)	
Room: LSC 1312	
Moderator: Philipp Kreyenmeier, PhD candidate, Neuroscience	
Sarah Ebert <i>(PhD Candidate, Neuroscience)</i>	Transcriptional and spatial characterization of layer-specific and distinct populations of mesenchymal cells in the meninges
Nikolai Lesack <i>(PhD Candidate, Medical Physics)</i>	Diffusion MRI of post-mortem human spinal cord injury demonstrates axonal swelling and degeneration
Printha Wijesinghe <i>(Postdoctoral Fellow, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences)</i>	MicroRNAs in tear fluids predict underlying molecular changes associated with Alzheimer's disease
Teesha Luehr <i>(PhD Candidate, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)</i>	Investigation of the immunopeptidome from multiple genetically different major histocompatibility (MHC) alleles by mild acid elution (MAE) for vaccine development
Martin Wong <i>(MSc Student, Medical Genetics)</i>	Role of UHRF1 binding to H3K9me3 for DNA methylation maintenance at imprint control regions in naive embryonic stem cells
Daniel Ramandi <i>(PhD Candidate, CELL)</i>	Activin A targets toxic extrasynaptic NMDA receptors to improve neuronal and behavioral deficits in a mouse model of Huntington disease
Neel Mehta <i>(Postdoctoral Fellow, Medical Genetics)</i>	Re-development of Glybera: A novel gene therapy for lipoprotein lipase deficiency
Sneha Sheth <i>(PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine)</i>	Experience sampling during fMRI reveals distinct dynamics in the stream of thought
Ahmad Samara <i>(PhD Candidate, Neuroscience)</i>	Cortical organization during movie-fMRI: a cross-sectional developmental study
Matt Noseworthy <i>(PhD Candidate, Neuroscience)</i>	Does biological sex moderate the association of nature exposure with brain volume? A cross-sectional analysis of the UK Biobank
Cameron Eekhoudt <i>(PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine)</i>	"What's Next?": Life after residential treatment among young people who use drugs
Sabine Halabi <i>(MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)</i>	Epidemiological risk modeling for endometrial cancer
Salima Kerai-Sayani <i>(PhD Candidate, SPPH)</i>	Out-of-School time use in Pakistan: A qualitative study featuring youth's voices
Nance Cunningham <i>(PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine)</i>	People who use drugs, Hepatitis C, and healthcare relationships



13:30- 15:30		Session III (CLINICAL + HEALTH SERVICES) Room: LSC 1410 Moderator: Leigh Spanner	
Brianna Tsui (MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)	Feasibility of qualitative geospatial methods to explore physical activity in children with developmental disabilities		
Rachel Woima (MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)	REStoRE – Risk Evaluation and Screening to Tailor prevention and Reduce the incidence of Endometrial Cancer		
Dollina Dodani (PhD Candidate, Bioinformatics)	Evaluating the clinical utility of vaginal microbiome for endometrial cancer screening		
Layan Bashi (MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)	Variability of HP-129Xe MRI Image Analysis in Children with Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (VAR-MRI PCD)		
Ryan Stein (PhD Candidate, Rehabilitation Sciences)	Physical activity attenuates the effect of poor sleep quality on cognitive function in adults with chronic stroke		
Gillian Smith (MSc Student, Rehabilitation Sciences)	Virtually supervised exercise for people with ovarian cancer: preliminary feasibility and physical function results		
Ramin Rezaeianzadeh (MSc Student, Experimental Medicine)	Investigating the association between aromatase inhibitors and ocular events among women with breast cancer		
Torin Halvorson (MD/PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine)	SARS-CoV-2 vaccination induces robust and durable T cell responses in immune-suppressed solid-organ transplant recipients		
Rebeca Hernández-Gamboa (PhD Candidate, Rehabilitation Sciences)	The contribution of leisure activities to cognitive health in adults with chronic stroke.		
Guilherme Moraes Balbim (Postdoctoral Fellow, Physical Therapy)	Exercise training mitigates the deleterious effects of experimental bed rest on intraindividual variability of executive functioning in older adults: A randomized controlled trial		
Jacob Hutton (PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine)	Incremental gains in survival from increased recognition of OHCA and implications for biosensor technologies		
Malak Ibrahim (MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)	Spot the Difference: recognizing risks for cancer in the experiences of normal aging		
Viorica Hrinco (PhD Candidate, Experimental Medicine)	The ethical use of social media for dementia prevention research: perspectives from diverse experts		
Sophie Simon (Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology)	Changes in obstetric intervention and perinatal outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic		
Genevieve Allaire-Stacey (MSc Student, Women+ and Children's Health Sciences)	eSense-Cancer: Patient engagement in the adaption of an online therapy treating sexual dysfunction in gynecologic cancer survivors		



2022 Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Researcher Awards

Every year, the Faculty of Medicine recognizes the significant contributions of our faculty to foundational science, clinical, and applied research. Candidates are nominated by fellow faculty members on the basis of a distinguished research career, recognition in the research community, contributions to student educational growth, and commitment to equity and diversity.

Distinguished Researcher — Foundational: Dr. Megan Levings

Dr. Megan Levings, a professor in the Department of Surgery and the School of Biomedical Engineering, has been recognized for her distinguished research career, contributions to trainee educational growth, and commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.



Dr. Levings leads an internationally recognized research team that has made pioneering discoveries into the role of immune regulatory (Treg) cells in transplantation and autoimmune diseases. She is a world leader in the field of human Treg cell biology, notably credited for the creation and translation of CAR Treg cells, a cell therapeutic of the great potential that is currently being tested in clinical trials for use in transplantation.

In addition to her outstanding and impactful research in human immunology, Dr. Levings has served in multiple leadership roles in the research community. She currently leads the Childhood Diseases Theme at BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, responsible for growing capacity in childhood diseases research, including programs in diabetes, rare diseases, cancer, and immunological diseases. She is the past chair of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) Centres of Excellence and has served in many advisory roles, as a journal editor, and on multiple grant panels.

Since joining UBC 19 years ago, Dr. Levings has received over \$50M in operating grant funding and contributed to over \$50M in successful team grants. Dr. Levings has been a superb mentor and role model to many undergraduate and graduate students, as well as junior colleagues, many of whom are women. She exemplifies the qualities of selflessness, respect, and consideration of others, and takes great interest in the well-being and success of her students and colleagues with advice and mentorship regarding challenges, especially relating to equity.



Distinguished Researcher — Foundational: Dr. Aslam Anis

Dr. Aslam Anis is the director of the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHEOS), the national director of the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network, and a professor and Director *pro term* of the School of Population and Public Health (SPPH). He has been recognized for his influential contributions to education and foundational science, including the fields of pharmacoeconomics, pharmaceutical industry regulation, and drug pricing.



Trained as an economist, Dr. Anis' body of work has been influential across a broad spectrum of health research domains, including HIV/AIDS, rheumatoid arthritis, and substance use. As an early champion of patient-oriented, evidence-based decision-making, he has informed debate and policy at the provincial, national and international levels.

Dr. Anis' translational research has resulted in lower costs and better health care for millions of people across Canada and beyond, including people living with HIV around the world. As a leading international scholar on the methodology used to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of new drugs, Dr. Anis was appointed by the Government of British Columbia in 1995 to serve as founding director of the Pharmacoeconomic Initiative of BC. In this role, he spearheaded the creation of a multidisciplinary, evidence-based review process that was the forerunner for the Canada-wide Common Drug Review program. Similar methodology has since been adopted internationally in multiple jurisdictions.

As an educator, Dr. Anis launched the unique, executive-style Master of Health Administration at SPPH, which has attained acclaim for training many prominent health administrators and leaders. Currently, he is focused on developing a new training program in global health at UBC.

Dr. Anis has an exceptional track record of mentorship of students and junior faculty. He is a true visionary with regards to prioritizing EDI as essential components defining leadership and research excellence. Dr. Anis's commitment and dedication to widely sharing his research findings and expert opinion is exemplified through his invited presentations, peer-reviewed manuscripts, and conference proceedings. The breadth of Dr. Anis' publication record is a testament to the diversity of his scholarly contributions and the wide impact they have achieved.

Dr. Anis' contributions as a researcher, administrator, mentor, and educator have helped shaped the current landscape and future direction of health research and education in Canada, and he has established himself as one of the pre-eminent health economists and health services and policy researchers of his time.



Distinguished Researcher — Clinical: Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose

Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose, professor and Canada Research Chair (CRC) in the department of physical therapy, has been recognized for her world-class research on healthy aging and her invaluable mentorship and commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

Dr. Liu-Ambrose serves in several major leadership roles, including as co-director of the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility; chair of the UBC Institutional Council Research Prizes and Awards, and director of the Falls Prevention Clinic at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. She co-leads the UBC Physical Activity for Precision Health research excellence cluster, which includes more than 50 investigators from UBC and 11 other institutions. At the national level, Dr. Liu-Ambrose co-leads the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) Healthy Brains, Healthy Aging Platform.



Dr. Liu-Ambrose’s research program focuses on healthy aging and promoting cognitive health and mobility into old age. Her research has been translated into community programs, clinical care and international guidelines that are helping transform the lives of patients around the globe. Specifically, Dr. Liu-Ambrose’s work has been influential in showing the role of resistance training in promoting cognitive and brain outcomes in older adults.

In collaboration with international experts, Dr. Liu-Ambrose has organized and delivered certified training workshops on falls prevention for health professionals across British Columbia. As an invited expert, she has contributed to global guidelines for falls prevention and recommendations for brain health in older adults. She has secured millions of dollars in individual and collaborative grants to fund this research and has been recognized with numerous local, provincial and national awards.

Dr. Liu-Ambrose has mentored and supervised over 100 students and is dedicated to inspiring students to become life-long, self-directed learners. She is deeply committed to advancing EDI, and as chair of the Institutional Council Research Prizes and Awards is leading changes to promote the celebration of EDI and implementation of EDI processes and metric tracking.