

UBC Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Departmental
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2014 at 3:30pm

Videoconferencing sites:

VGH - Taylor Fidler Auditorium
UBC – LSC Room 1312 CMR
Children’s and Women’s Hospital – CSB Room V2-222
St. Paul’s Hospital – Room 1413
Royal Columbian Hospital – Cam Coady Conference room
Fraser Valley Cancer Centre Fraser Valley Cancer Center (next to SMH) Room 3011

REPORTS:

Department Head – Dr. Mike Allard

- Financial structure of the department has changed and all clusters have an Associate Director of Finance, Pathology reports directly to Central University (CU). CU is in the process of reviewing our finances and is learning about Faculty of Medicine (FoM) and is in the process of discovering how CU is better able to assist.
- New collective agreement is being negotiated; 100% of our current budget goes to salary and benefits for Faculty and Staff. If it goes to an arbitrator, they may have a different perspective as only approximately 40% of UBC’s budget goes to salary.
- Appointments not previously mentioned in our newsletter: Dr. Martin Wale, was appointed Associate professor, and is located at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. Martin is the Executive Medical Director of Quality and Research and Safety with the Vancouver health authorities. Colby Zaph, was promoted to Associate professor at Biomedical Research Centre on Point Grey Campus.
- Program Residency Directors: Hematopathology - Susanne Vercauteren; Transfusion Medicine - Tanya Petraszko; the Associate Director Transfusion Medicine - Nicolas Ho; Medimicro Biology - Patrice Ho
- Retirements: Joseph Tai and Jacki Chantler
- Departures: Ru Tang and Jason Ford
- Reminder of Pathology Day on May 23, there are some great speakers this year and we hope you join us

PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MD Undergraduate Education Program – Dr. Jason Ford – No report at this time

Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science Program Report (BMLSc) – Dr. Amanda Bradley

Enrolment & Graduation

- 47 students enrolled in the BMLSc Program in the 2013-14 Winter Session; three are students with a Registered Technologist background
- The majority of students entered the program from Science; students are attracted to the program because it has a substantial practical “hands on” laboratory component and provides solid theoretical background in a variety of laboratory medicine disciplines
- Twenty two students will be graduating from the program this spring
- The Department will hold an Awards Tea in the Vassar Seminar Room the afternoon of Tuesday May 20 and students will receive their degrees at the convocation ceremony on May 21 at the Chan Centre

Recognition of Teaching

- Success of the program is due to the large number of dedicated departmental faculty members who participate in teaching in the program (83 lecturers, 15 courses)
- We are thankful for our instructors, many of whom have taught in the Program for years. We also welcome and thank the instructors who are new to the Program
- Recipients of the 2013/14 Students’ Choice Award for Teaching Excellence will be Drs. Mike Nimmo, Mark Scott and Morris Pudek
- Jennifer Xenakis will be receiving the Reid Memorial Cup for outstanding contributions to the BMLSc Program

Student Recruitment

- In addition to BMLSc, many Science students also apply to physiology and pharmacy: there is competition with these programs for applicants. Ongoing efforts to improve recruitment include the following:
- BMLSc graduates and current students speak to high school and first year Science students about the program and share their experience
- Applicants attended information sessions in small groups this year
- We will work with the FOM Communications group to reach more prospective students and further improve awareness of the Program

Pathology 438 Directed Studies Course

- We are very grateful to Dr. Dana Devine for her many years of leading and coordinating PATH 438
- PATH 438 is an optional Directed Studies course that provides BMLSc students in their graduating year with experience in research
- Projects are carried out in the laboratory of a faculty member of the Department who serves as a supervisor. The student is expected to participate in the design of the project as well as perform experimental manipulations and data analysis. Students present their results in the form of a written research paper and an oral presentation.
- Past graduates who have gone on to research careers have commented on the valuable experience they gained from this course
- Department members interested in supervising a student for the next academic year (starting in September 2014) should contact the BMLSc Program Assistant, Joanne Wouterse, or the new Course Coordinator for PATH 438, Dr. Chun Seow

Graduate Studies – Dr. Haydn Pritchard and Dr. H el ene C ot e

All is calm and stable with no critical challenges at present.

Good news:

1. We won the Peter Larkin award as the best graduate program out of the 222 GS programs at UBC. Aleya and I would like to thank all students and staff for making this happen and special thanks to the Departmental awards committee for nominating us (under the stewardship of Helene Cote) and to the those students who wrote letters of support describing their "student experience".
2. We continue to have a high caliber cohort of students who have been successful in competition for external support of their studies.

Examples include:

 - a. David Twa (supervisor Christian Steidl) who won the very prestigious Vanier award as well as a Killam doctoral fellowship – a truly remarkable achievement.
 - b. 4 new students won CIHR studentships a fabulous success rate since from the 6 we nominated.
 - c. We nominated only 1 NSERC student and he was also successful.
 - d. (Note: this is an excellent batting record for our awards committee (Ed Pryzdial, Helene Cote and Colby Zaph in identifying these students from those who applied).
3. Enrollment continues to be solid and will likely increase from last year's slightly smaller and is only limited by research support from supervisors.

With the Peter Larkin award in hand, applications will likely increase over the summer.

Challenges:

We need to enact a succession plan for my position that is complete on Aug 31st 2014. Mike will be corresponding formally soon on this matter but if anyone is interested in knowing more about what we do and how they can help, please contact me and we can chat.

1. Our PALM GS program enacts a simple and effective series of policies and procedures but many of these are becoming stale dated and it's time to review and renew them.

These include:

 - a. Determining a minimum stipend for our studies to be competitive to other programs.
 - b. Identifying sources of travel funds for students.
 - c. Establishing realistic commitments to students by supervisors that can survive changes in funding over the 5 years of a PhD program
 - d. Exploring ways to collaborate with the other 21 programs in the FOM to enhance efficiencies without impacting quality.
2. We are preparing for the Departmental Review. Getting all the data and documentation together for the Departmental self-study will need the support and input from all students and supervisors. This is not always so easy in a busy world!

Medical Biochemistry Residency Training Program – Dr. Andre Mattman, Dr. Daniel Holmes

- There are three active residents and a fourth who completed the fellowship and wrote his exams last week. The three active residents all graduate next year, one has a postdoctoral fellowship, 2 year research at C&W.
- Biochemistry is now a sub specialty, and internal medicine fellowship is a prerequisite. There is a site by site policy on whether or not this program is open to residents directly out of medical school.

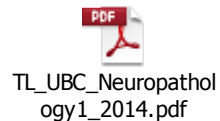
Medical Microbiology – Dr. Patrick Doyle

- Lisa Li, from McGill is a new Resident; Amanda Willmar is currently writing her exams.
- We have full accreditation.
- Attendance for PALS has recently decreased from approximately 50 Residents, Grad Students and Faculty, down to 12. Please encourage attendance, it is mandatory for Residents; video links are available. A suggestion to improve attendance is to alter the email delivery; the title of the session should be in the subject line. Include the information in the email instead of using an attachment. Also suggested was for the Chief Residents to record the session for those who are unable to attend. Residents will be required to confirm their attendance by responding via email. Radiology has requested to be included in the sessions and will be included in next year's planning.

Neuropathology Residency Program report – Dr. Chris Dunham

1. CARMS 2014:

- No match in 1st iteration.
- Numerous applications (~30-40) in 2nd iteration: no interviews offered.



2. Residents:

- Status quo: 3 PGY4s (Max Signaevski, Peter Schutz, Veronica Hirsch-Reinshagen; all VGH) and 1 PGY1 (Yazeed Alwelaie, St. Paul's).
- Current Chief resident, Veronica, to start maternity leave June 2014; shift to new chief Max, when she leaves.

3. November 2013 RC External Survey and Report (see attached).

- original verbal feedback from surveyor = 'full accreditation with Internal Review in 2 years'
- NP RTC found several errors (including blatant factual errors) with the formal survey report and RTC prepared a formal rebuttal. Requested the PGME challenge the survey conclusions at the next RC Accreditation Committee (AC) Meeting.
- AC, with input from NP Specialty Committee of RC, upheld ALL survey findings (including those that were factually inaccurate). Status unchanged and will have Internal Review in 2016.

CD: Apr. 27, 2014

Hematopathology – Monika Hudoba

- Through CARMS we didn't get any through first or second iteration
- Currently 7 residents, 5 Canadian; 2 Overseas; one of the Residents is sitting his exam and another at the end of June. One Fellow will finish at the end of June.
- Full accreditation through Royal College without the onsite survey
- Four Residents are taking part in the Pathology Day

Genomics and Bioinformatics – Dr. Sohrah Shah and Dr. Stephen Yip

The inaugural UBC Genomics course for pathology trainees was run on 6-10 January 2014. Its success was ensured by the active participation of the various program directors, speakers, and staff. The two lectures as well as BCCA grand rounds given by John lafrate, our inaugural guest speaker, were very well received. In fact, he wanted to start a similar course at MGH and will use our course as a template. Feedback from pathology trainees and graduate students was overwhelmingly positive. 88% of respondents to a post- course survey felt the course was good to excellent and 68% strongly agreed that the course had met its objectives. There were also numerous constructive comments from the participants that will help to shape the direction of this course. Comments ranged from new topics to future speakers. All speakers received positive and constructive feedback from the course participants. One idea that sprang from the course was the development of a genomic pathology journal club. This was held in March and three papers were discussed by the residents. The journal club will be held every 4-6 weeks and we have adopted the format of discussing a selection of "classical" as well as "state of the art" and possibly "controversial" papers in the area of genomics/pathology order to stimulate discussion. Plans are underway for the next year's course and we believe there should be a dedicated bioinformatics/hands-on lab component which should facilitate learning. There will be regular meetings starting now to plan for future iterations of the course.

Three pathology residents (Brendon Sheffield, Veronica Hirsch-Reinshagen, and Nouf Hijazi) doing their advanced molecular diagnostic electives had the chance to participate in the BCCA Personalized OncoGenomics (POG) project and attended the weekly meeting and participated in the presentations of pathology and panel sequencing results. Brendon has also taken the lead in writing up several POG cases for publication. POG presents a unique opportunity for pathology trainees to observe the integration of advanced genomics, pathology, and clinical medicine and also the chance to contribute to new knowledge.

PALS - Dr. Patrick Doyle and Dr. Maria Issa

PALS series, thanks to Dr. Doyle, continues and thrives: it has generated interest from other departments whose members may be joining us. There will be a meeting of the steering committee this month – we welcome your suggestions as to what you would like us to deliver (think CanMeds competencies). Contact Dr. Doyle or Kimberly Way with your suggestions. PALS attendance has been off. Please consider attending. Residents are required to attend, Faculty get CME credits, grad students get a certificate and everyone gets lunch. Yes, there is a video link to all the sites – just let us know. Grad students have been particularly scarce: please don't begrudge them the monthly 1 hour (OK: 3, with travel). For all of us, including the grad students, besides content, attending seminars creates community, contacts and research collaborators for the future. It is time well invested.

More good news: We are working on streamlining the peer assisted teaching development process so that when it is time for the Summative Peer Review of Teaching for promotion and tenure, you will have material for your teaching dossier. Finally, we have applied for a grant from UBC Equity to develop a survey to determine the department's workload baseline. More about that, if we get the money.

Transfusion Medicine – Dr Tanya Petraszko

Dr Gershon Growe retired as PD Dec 31 2013 and was succeeded by Dr Tanya Petraszko. Dr Maha Badawi, a fellow from Saudi Arabia completed her portfolio for the AFC program in Transfusion Medicine in December 2013 and has successfully submitted it to the RC for review and has returned to Saudi where she has entered practice. There are no candidates for the 2014-15 academic year with one applicant declining the offer of acceptance. We have an applicant interested for the 2015 academic year.

No Program and Committee reports for the May 5, 2014 meeting for:

Anatomical Pathology - Dr. Diana Ionescu

Residency Program and General pathology – Dr. Mike Nimmo

Course Leadership & Instruction

Student Recruitment

Pathology 438 Directed Studies Course

SITE REPORTS

C&W – Dr. Chris Dunham – Anatomic pathology has moved into a new lab, challenges getting everything up and running but are fully operational. Thanks to Deborah McFadden and Susan Blaine.

St. Paul's Hospital – Dr. Dan ? Clinical Chemistry has a mass spectrometer that is entirely dedicated to teaching. This will enable Residents in General Pathology or in Clinical Biochemistry the opportunity to develop hands on development.

Royal Columbian Hospital – Dr. Arun Garg

This report is a composite for the whole department of lab med and pathology in Fraser. Organizationally Fraser program is part of lower mainland pathology and lab medicine integrated service program.

1. Service Delivery - As part of lower mainland integrated program (VP John Andruschak; Acting ED: Edward Ratnarajah), we have been very active in several areas

An Integration of Medical Microbiology within Fraser. Few years ago the analytical testing was done at 8 months, over the years and gradually have consolidated in 4 places. Since Jan 2013, a blue print plan is in place to integrated analytical service at newly built Clinical Lab in the new tower. The service will be integrated in 3 phases. First phase was to consolidate BGH work at RCH, Now 2nd phase is in progress, which will integrated analytical work from ARH to SMH. It is expected to be completed by June 2014. Planning is underway for phase 3 to integrated analytical service from RCH to SMH. Each phase is carefully evaluated. Happy to provide information, if required. Division head Dr Dale Purych is medical lead and Dr Ben Mack is medical lead at the SMH. They both are supported by all medical microbiologists in the

department. It is truly a major and complex project; want to recognize all the hard work, leadership support and major commitment and participation of all staff members.

Surrey Memorial Hospital opened a major new build for ER and in June will open a new tower. The new tower will see clinical lab medicine will move to new site. AP service is not scheduled to move at this time. There will be some expansion and update for AP service, within the present site. This project is a major new development and has provided us with the opportunity to meet much needed capacity gap in Fraser and especially for South component of the department. There will be additional medical human resources added and we are actively pursuing planning, recruitment to meet the need. Once again a project of this magnitude requires strong team work and recognition of great work done by Surrey based team. Dr Sam Krikler is site head at SMH and division leadership is provided by Richard Cleve, Ben Mack, and John O'Connell and supported by regional leadership group. Some very innovative service and projects are being implemented, If of interest will organize tour and visits by colleagues and members of the academic department.

Several new technologies and equipment is being introduced in the department, such as Maldi TOF at SMH and RCH; Cellavision, automated digital cell morphology for blood smears and body fluids. Ongoing tele pathology for case studies and education. Planned LC/MS for comprehensive drug analysis and other analytes.

Lower mainland governance is providing an opportunity to standardize several process used in the department across lower mainland. This is particularly helpful in logistics, infra-structure, and Pre and Post comment of the service. Quality oversight, reporting and follow up are done through a lower mainland support and have given added strength to the FH service. Another area being actively pursued is frontier is Analytic Information to better understand day to day process, especially in utilization and lean process. Due to program management structure in FH, it is getting easier and becoming possible to do joint quality studies between programs using whole FH as a base. Current projects include ER patient flow; Urinalysis in ER- can we reduce microscopic examinations by 90% of 2013 base line (we are on our way), antibiotics stewardship, transfusion medicine –blood utilization; major effort in measles outbreak, new method for carbapenem resistant Enterobacteriaceae detection, to name just few of many currently progressing projects.

Like any active service, constant update and introduction of analytical methods keeps the service busy.

The department completed DAP accreditation and has received full accreditation at most of its site. The major area is newly introduced medical staff peer review requirements. Discussion is underway provincially what these standards should be and full accreditation will require completion of those discussions.

Above is just a snap shot high lights of the service work in the department, and is not a comprehensive report.

2. The department continues to support academic teaching requirements of the UBC and BCIT. Major commitment is being made by department members to participate in undergraduate teaching as, requested through UBC program. Our ongoing commitment to residency training, which is mainly on elective basis. The frequency and numbers are increasing considerably and in some service the rotation is on regular basis.
3. We are developing infra-structure for clinical research in the department both to support externally driven studies and more significantly increasing number of internal studies. Recent recognition by Fraser of South Asian population as part of diversified and high risk area has provided significant opportunity for collaborative studies which are population based and provide community engagement. Very interesting opportunity to be involved in.
4. Several members will be retiring or leaving the department. Dr.s Reich and Cooney will be retiring after long and exemplary service, our sincere thanks to them and Dr.s Quinten Nakonechny and Scott Henwick are leaving the service and our sincere thanks to them for their contribution. Dr David Ferguson also retired last year and want to recognize his contribution and wish him well. We also welcomed Dr Tadros to the department in medical microbiology, since my last report.

On personal note, my sincere thanks to all members of the department and to Dr Allard for engaging FH site in a meaningful and active way for the UBC academic component. June will be very busy on a personal basis, as Chair of CINI 2014, organized by Canada India Network society and cohosted by Fraser health and SFU (www.thecins.org); we will be hosting over 150 delegates to a 3 day conference. UBC is playing a major and very active role in all session of the conference .and is an active partner and supporter of the initiative. Though we are fully subscribed for the conference, if any members were interested, visit the web site for registration update.

Surrey Memorial Hospital – Lawrence ? Surrey will be moving into the new tower by the end of May.

No Site reports for the May 5, 2014 meeting for:

VCH – Dr. Monica Hudoba

BCCA – Dr. Amir Rahemtulla

BC Centre for Disease Control – Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton

Kelowna – Dr. Robert Coupland

Victoria – Dr. Martin Wale

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Doyle - The Next PALS session is May 30, Guest speaker is Simon Bates who will be speaking on, "What life is like in the flipped classroom (and how it produces greater engagement and enhanced learning)

Dr. Michael Allard adjourned the meeting, Dr. Hardwick seconded, everyone moved to accept.