



# Department of **UROLOGIC SCIENCES** UBC

## 2009 Winter Newsletter

### REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

As you read through our Winter Newsletter you will encounter many special individuals who have added prestige and recognition to our Department through their scientific and clinical achievements. I especially want to highlight the philanthropy of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wesenberg who generously donated the funds to build our new state of the art Acute Stone Centre facility at VGH. This facility is allowing us to provide the best of modern care to our emergent, urgent and chronic stone patients, in an efficient and comforting setting. Their generosity has leveraged further donations to fund an additional holmium laser and was at the core of the business plan which brought us two years of augmented funding from the VCH Lower Mainland Innovation and Integration Fund. This project will increase our number of urgent and emergent cases done in the Stone Centre by 250 per year and will provide for fast-tracked treatment and discharge of these individuals.

#### **Special Interest Articles:**

- Profile on benefactor Ray & Ruth Wesenberg
- Profiles faculty members
  - Dr. J. Teichman
  - Dr. Ben Chew

Great Moments in  
Urologic History!

Speaking of stones, two of our Department's experts in calculus disease are featured for their achievements. Dr. Joel Teichman has been promoted to full Professor in recognition of his excellence in research and education. And Dr. Ben Chew received an important Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Clinical Research.

Our Department continues to be highly supportive of students in many disciplines. This past summer we employed 47 young people in a variety of jobs and some of these individuals have applied for medical school or for urology. Our second annual Balfour Scholarship recipient is Jeffery Campbell who we hope will continue his interest in urology as he moves through his medical schooling. In this issue we recognize one of our brilliant young PhD students who has made a very significant discovery in the biology of castration-resistant prostate cancer. Jennifer Locke has published a landmark work on the 'backdoor pathway' of steroidogenesis which takes place within the prostate cell itself – the cancer has learned to make its own fuel! This work will be widely quoted as scientists around the world strive to control this deadly state of prostate cancer. Jennifer has also been involved in clinical research in the Prostate Centre and I am so pleased that she has applied to medical school as I know that her future contributions will be great as an MD, PhD.

#### **Individual Highlights:**

2008 BCIC award goes  
to Dr. L. Goldenberg  
Outstanding Student  
Balfour Scholarship  
Awards  
Upcoming Events  
Visiting Professors

Our Department of Urologic Sciences is characterized by its translational flavour, encouraging academic partnerships between our fulltime scientists and clinical faculty. Our team players are getting closer all the time as they discover shared interests. As Sir William Osler explained, "the differences between clinical faculty and scientists is one of temperament, not intellect, a disparity between those who find satisfaction in a scientific quest for new knowledge and those who find it in patient care". Our scientists value the expertise of our clinicians, and vice versa. Our clinical faculty members are proud to be a part our scientists' 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". I hope you are as proud as I am of the successful translational research programs which are thriving in the UBC Department of Urologic Sciences. Please remember to come and celebrate our successes on **June 8-9** when we present the best of our work at the **Lorne D. Sullivan Annual Lectureship and Research Day** and welcome our year end visiting professor, Dr. Peter Scardino, Chairman of Surgery at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre.

## Benefactor Profile – Ray and Ruth Wesenberg

Ray and Ruth Wesenberg have been generous donors to VGH for almost 20 years. As people who care about our community, they are acutely aware of today's healthcare needs and have done much to support our hospitals. Yet they remain humble when it comes to being recognized for their many contributions.



Newly renovated VGH Stone Centre adjacent to Lithotripter Unit.

Ray and Ruth recently helped establish the Acute Stone Centre at VGH. Their commitment to this initiative was inspired by their close friend Dr. Jamie Wright from the Department of Urologic Sciences at VGH.



Radiology workstation adjacent to Stone Centre interventional suite.

Dr. Wright spoke with Ray and Ruth about the need for the Acute Stone Centre and its implications for wait times, immediacy of treatment and cost savings to our society and the healthcare system. "As always they were extremely interested and were very pleased to be in a position to help provide patients and families in British Columbia with an amazing and impactful gift," said Dr. Wright.



Ceiling mounted digital fluoroscopic unit with multifunctional OR table.

Thanks to the Wesenbergs' vision and their extremely generous contribution, the Acute Stone Centre has been providing state-of-the-art patient care since October 2008. The Department of Urologic Sciences has benefited greatly from Ray and Ruth's leadership and philanthropic spirit. Their contributions continue to make a profound difference for British Columbians.

### **REMINDER!**

Deadline for abstracts for the  
Lorne D. Sullivan Lectureship and Research Day  
Is April 9, 2009.

Please visit the  
Department of Urologic Sciences website  
[urology.ubc.ca](http://urology.ubc.ca)  
(see Recent News beneath the calendar)  
and send your abstract via email.

**Faculty Profile – Dr. Joel Teichman**

**Dr Joel Teichman** was recently promoted to Full Professor. He grew up in Toronto, graduated with a S.B. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and obtained his medical degree from McGill University in Montreal. He completed his Urology residency training at the University of California, San Diego and an Endourology fellowship at the University of Minnesota. He then

spent nine years on faculty at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, TX. While there, he completed a Surgical Education Research fellowship through the Association for Surgical Education.

Dr. Teichman's primary research interests are in laser lithotripsy and interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome with clinical interests in kidney stone management and pelvic pain disorders. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles, mostly on laser lithotripsy. He continues to collaborate on laser lithotripsy research with the Biomedical Optics group at the University of Texas, Austin, on shock wave and ultrasound physics with the Applied Physics group at the University of Washington, Seattle, and on basic chemistry of kidney stones with the 4-D labs Chemistry group at Simon Fraser University. He is a former winner of the American Urological Association Ambrose Reed Socioeconomics Prize essay contest, and a former American Urological Association/European Association of Urology travelling fellow. He holds a patent filed jointly through the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington for work on a novel ultrasound probe to make ureteroscopy safer.

His current basic research projects involve holmium:YAG laser lithotripsy, laser fiber durability and safety, erbium:YAG laser lithotripsy, femtosecond laser lithotripsy, and basic chemistry of kidney stones. Current clinical research projects involve urine markers for interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome, characterization of pelvic pain presentation, and effective management of interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome with intravesical medications. He has served on Guidelines Committees for both the American Urological Association and Canadian Urological Association for laser use and interstitial cystitis. He sees patients and operates primarily at St. Paul's Hospital. The entire Department congratulates Joel on his recent promotion.

**Upcoming Events**

**AUA, Chicago, IL – April 25-30, 2009**

**Lorne D. Sullivan Annual Lectureship and Research Day – June 9, 2009**

**Max and Margaret Fugman Wind-up Dinner – June 9, 2009**

**CUA, Toronto, ON – June 28-July 1, 2009**

**Faculty Profile – Dr. Ben Chew**

Congratulations to **Dr. Ben Chew** who received a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research scholarship award and the Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Clinical Research.

Dr. Chew joined the Department of Urologic Sciences in July 2006 after finishing his Endourology and Laparoscopy Fellowship at the

University of Western Ontario. He continues to be involved in clinical research evaluating new technologies for ureteroscopy and percutaneous stone removal surgeries. His basic science research has focused on biomaterials and biodegradable ureteral stents. Currently, he has finished performing pre-clinical work on a novel biodegradable ureteral stent and is planning on a clinical trial in the future. He has partnered with Dirk Lange, PhD (microbiology) at the Stone Centre at Jack Bell Research Centre and together, they have evaluated the biomaterial properties of various stent materials and their ability to resist bacterial adhesion. This work garnered them a Best Abstract Prize at the American Urological Association Annual Meeting in 2008. Their work on developing a tissue culture model of ureteral stent-related inflammation and damage was also awarded the Second Prize at the AUA satellite meeting for the Society of Infection and Inflammation in 2008. Doctors Chew and Lange believe that "By improving urinary biomaterials, we will be able to reduce the three most common problems with ureteral stents: bothersome symptoms, infection, and encrustation." They continue to work with the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Pathology on a collaborative grant awarded from CIHR/NSERC to develop and implement natural peptides that are bactericidal. By developing novel ways of reducing bacterial adhesion, systemic antibiotic use should decline and reduce the potential for inducing drug-resistant bacteria.

Dr. Chew's other work involves examining the gut absorption of oxalate and attempting to understand this mechanism to exploit it as a treatment for those kidney stone patients with hyperoxaluria. Cell culture and electro-physiological experiments performed in his lab have demonstrated oxalate to not only be absorbed in the gut, but also secreted from the body. Potentially increasing this secretion of oxalate into the gut would help reduce the body's amount of oxalate and reduce a patient's chances of developing calcium oxalate stones. He continues to collaborate with Dr. Lange and Dr. Roger Sutton in this aspect.

Dr. Chew has been elected to a three year term as Chair of the Patient Information Committee of the CUA, responsible for managing the patient information brochures and their website ([www.uroinfo.ca](http://www.uroinfo.ca)). He has also been elected Secretary of the Canadian Endourology Group, affiliated with the CUA. He has been a Faculty Member giving courses at the AUA and World Congress of Endourology in this past year.

Lastly, but most importantly, his son Thatcher was born on March 18, 2008 and is adored by his big sister, Kennedy (three years) who both continue to make their daddy laugh.

### Upcoming Abstract Deadlines

**Lorne D. Sullivan Annual Lectureship and Research Day** – June 9, 2009. Abstract deadline is April 9, 2009.

**WSAUA**, Las Vegas, NV – Oct 25-29, 2009. Abstract deadline is June 14, 2009.

**NWUS**, Bellevue, WA – Dec 4-5, 2009. Abstract deadline is August 1, 2009.

### New Additions to Families



**Evan Charles Paterson** (born October 13/08)  
Third son of Ryan & Meredith



**Gareth Christopher Kwan** (born October 28/08),  
First son of Herman & Christine

### Upcoming Visiting Professors

**Feb 17-18/09:** Dr. Adam Kibel, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

**May 12-13/09:** Dr. Sender Herschorn, University of Toronto, Ontario

**Jun 8-9/09:** Dr. Peter Scardino, New York University, New York

### Student Profile – Jennifer Locke



After growing up in Tsawassen, Jennifer attained her honour's undergraduate degree in chemistry at UBC. She then journeyed to Australia to work on a project investigating steroid hormones metabolism by mass

spectrometry at the Australian National University. In September 2005 she returned to Vancouver to start her PhD under the supervision of Dr. Colleen Nelson and Dr. Emma Guns at the Prostate Centre. During this time she has been able to successfully combine her unique background in mass spectrometry and steroid hormone metabolism with a highly relevant biological question regarding prostate cancer progression. Androgens are known to control prostate cancer cell survival and growth. Upon androgen deprivation therapy prostate cancer cells die and the disease regresses. Unfortunately, over time, the cancer begins to grow again even under these androgen-deprived conditions in what is considered castration-resistant disease. The hypothesis underlying her PhD project is that prostate cancer cells are able to synthesize their own androgens in an androgen deprived environment and that this mechanism contributes significantly to castration-resistant disease. Using cellular radiotracing techniques coupled to mass spectrometry she has been able to demonstrate this mechanism as well as provide proof-of-principle for the development of new steroid synthesis inhibitors such as Abiraterone acetate in patients with castration-resistant disease. Furthermore, this work has led to seven publications and several poster and oral presentations at regional and international venues.

You may recognize Jennifer in the Department of Urologic Sciences as she has successfully integrated into both our research and clinical teams. Jennifer has also been volunteering at the Prostate Centre with Dr. Joyce Davison and Dr. Larry Goldenberg where she has eagerly been involved in a study evaluating the quality of life of patients undergoing radical prostatectomy with the new DaVinci Robot as compared to the traditional surgery techniques. So far she has been responsible for recruiting over 200 patients into the study and results are well anticipated.

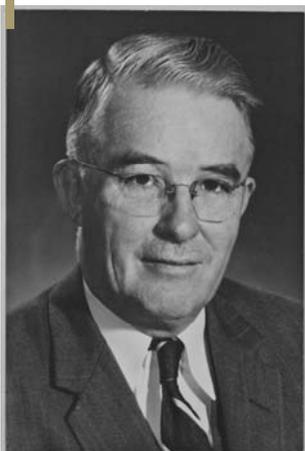
She has also been an avid soccer player at the university and professional levels over her time with us at the Prostate Centre. Upon defending her PhD thesis in June 2009 she plans to attend medical school and hopefully help foster the translation of prostate cancer research developments into the clinic.

### Balfour Scholarship



2009 Balfour Scholarship Recipient Jeffery Campbell. Jeff will be taking an elective in urologic sciences in August 2009 at the VGH site.

## Great Moments in Urological History . . . Were You There ? Dr. Harry Cooper's Retirement Party – July 1979



**DR.H.G. COOPER**

**DR. HARRY G. COOPER (from DR. G. JOHN ANKENMAN)**

Harry Cooper was born in Nanton, Alberta on June 3, 1909 and died of cancer on December 27, 1992. He received his early education in Nanton and subsequently went to boarding school at Brentwood on Vancouver Island. Following his graduation he returned to the University of Alberta, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology. He later entered the Faculty of Medicine, and following graduation, interned at St. Paul's Hospital in 1940-41. He then joined the Canadian Air Force, and following a course of Aviation Medicine, was stationed in Alaska as the Chief of the Allied Air Force. Following the war, he took his post-graduate training in Urology in Toronto and Montreal and began his Vancouver Practice in 1950.

He was on the Active Staff of St. Paul's Hospital. He was Chief of Staff there 1962-1964, and Head of the Division of Urology from 1964 until his retirement. He also headed the Division of Urology at Shaughnessy Hospital where he was actively involved in teaching urological residents.

He received many honours in his life-time. He was President of the B.C. Urological Association, the Northwest Urological Society and a President of the Western section of the American Urological Association. He was made an Emeritus Professor - UBC at time of his retirement. The developing Urological Library has been named in his honour.

He was a long standing member of the Shaughnessy Golf Club.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he married 50 years ago, and three children - Barry, Carol and Patricia, as well as many grandchildren.



Dr. H.N. Fenster  
Editor, DUS Newsletter



**A plaque was presented to Dr. H. Cooper at his retirement party in gratitude. Picture composite "The Chief and his Indians" taken in 1979 resides in the DUS.**

**Awards and Honours**

Student / Faculty	Last Name	First Name	Academic Rank	Sponsor/Donor	Name of Award/Prize
<b>Faculty</b>					
	Afshar	Kourosh	Assistant Professor	Section on Urology, American Academy of Pediatrics	First Clinical Prize (Presentation)
	Sadar	Marianne	Honourary Associate Professor	The Terry Fox Foundation	The Terry Fox Young Investigator Award
	Goldenberg	Larry	Professor	BC Innovation Council	BC Science & Technology Champion of the Year
	Pommerville	Peter	Clinical Associate Professor	Faculty of Medicine	2008 Careers in Action Awards
	MacNeily	Andrew	Associate Professor	British Columbia Pediatric Society	Dr. Parminder Singh award for outstanding consultant service to BC Pediatricians
<b>Student (Resident/fellow/PhD)</b>					
	Chang Kit	Laura		Northwest Urological Society	Uro-Quiz Prize
	Faddegon	Steve		Northwest Urological Society	Third Best Overall Resident Presentation

**DR. LARRY GOLDENBERG RECEIVES 2008 BCIC AWARD**

2008 BRITISH COLUMBIA INNOVATION COUNCIL AWARDS  
 September 29, 2008 | The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver | bcic.ca



Dr. Lorne Sullivan receiving the award on behalf of Dr. Larry Goldenberg

**BC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR**

**DR. LARRY GOLDENBERG**

Professor and Head, Department of Urologic Sciences, The University of British Columbia; Director, Clinical Research, The Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital

Dr. Larry Goldenberg is a clinical scientist, surgeon, and educator dedicated to improving quality of life for citizens in British Columbia and the world. He champions research by raising funds to create the infrastructure for the state of the art Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). As Co-Founder and Co-Director, Goldenberg has established the Centre's role as a leading national Centre for Excellence in prostate research, education and healthcare delivery programs. He also spearheaded the creation of the Department of Urologic Sciences at the University of British Columbia and pioneered the concept of intermittent hormone therapy for the management of prostate cancer—a treatment option now regarded as the standard worldwide. Goldenberg's vision and leadership continues to play a pivotal role in advancing British Columbia as a global leader in urology and prostate cancer research and treatment.



Please send your comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter to:  
 Helen Wong, Administrative Manager, Department of Urologic Sciences  
 Gordon & Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre  
 Level 6, 2775 Laurel Street, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9



**Editor**

Dr. Howard Fenster, Clinical Professor, Department of Urologic Sciences, UBC

**Design/Layout**

Fern Rushton