Influential research, excellence in teaching, a high standard of health care delivery, comprehensive program development and collaborative growth remain the key attributes of our Department of Urologic Sciences as we begin another academic year. Our research has not only been productive in the laboratories and clinics, but our long awaited expansion, the Robert N. Ho Research building, has begun construction next door to the Jack Bell Research Centre. This ultramodern facility will almost double the capacity of our Vancouver Prostate Centre and substantially augment the state of the art facilities available to our growing team of research scientists and collaborators. We have recently learned that CFI has funded our robotics research team under the direction of Chris Nguan and Tim Salcudean, and we will soon be the first centre in Canada with a dedicated research robot! I congratulate our teachers for another year of excellence at all levels of professional education. In particular, join me in acknowledging the Killam Teaching Prize awarded to Andrew MacNeily this year. (See the special article on Andrew in this newsletter). In clinical care, the stone centre was successful in receiving LMIIF dollars from the Provincial government and has become a strong regional effort; the robotics program continues to develop with the first robotic cystectomy and increasing numbers of partial nephrectomies; the transplanteers at VGH and St. Paul's Hospital have done record numbers of LRDs and participated in national paired kidney exchanges; our pediatric urologists continue to be recognized for outstanding consultant services to BC pediatricians and the Bladder Care Centre is leading the world in development of NIRS technology. I am pleased to report that this past six months has seen positive growth in the development of the Men's Health Initiative. Marcel Labbe has been hired as project consultant and the program will be officially “rolled out” this coming November with the initiation of dedicated bone, testosterone, and sexual health clinics, an interactive website, a public educational forum and many more exciting social marketing and networking initiatives. Finally, our collaborations are growing in multiple subspecialty areas, but none more than with the Faculty of Applied Science where we have co-hired another scientist and the number of projects is increasing rapidly in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering.
This past June we graduated three strong individuals who have gone onto stellar fellowship positions. Dr. Geoff Gotto has begun his oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering, Dr. Andrew Marks began a pediatrics fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago and Dr. Blayne Welk has moved to Toronto for two or three years of advanced reconstructive urology and neurourology at U of T. We welcomed three new residents to our program: Nathan Hoag from the Island Medical program, Megan Melnyk from U of Ottawa and Mike Robinson from the Northern Medical Program. We certainly look forward to working with these fine young people over the coming years. This year we have recruited two oncology robotics fellows, Dr. Nicholas Buchan from Australia and Dr. Anthony Koupparis from the UK, and a stone/endourology fellow, Dr. B.K. Poh, from Singapore. These three gentlemen are exceptional and will add an interesting ingredient to our training program.

I would like to welcome our new faculty to the Department of Urologic Sciences. Dr. Danny Rapoport has returned from his fellowship in Duke University and has taken a clinical position at Richmond Hospital and the UBCH Bladder Care Centre. His expertise includes complex reconstructive urology and prosthetics. Dr. Mike Eng has completed fellowships in MIS/robotics and transplantation and will bring his talent and skills to Providence Healthcare. Dr. Xuesen Dong have joined our made great impact with her androgen receptor and several Dr. Amina Zoubeidi and Prostate research team. Amina has studies of the interactions between the chaperone proteins and Dong’s novel findings linking gene transcription initiation and RNA splicing have opened up a new area of investigation in androgen receptor signaling during the progression of advanced prostate cancer. We welcome Dr. Purang Abolmaesumi who is a PhD in electrical engineering and an expert in image registration and segmentation, ultrasound image processing and medical robotics.

Unfortunately we also have had some sadness in our urology family with the passing of Dr. Hjalmar Johnson. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Lorna, daughters Lynn and Karen, son Jeff and two grandsons. Hjalmar brought joy, laughter, kindness, caring and wonderful mentoring to the Division of Urology and Department of Surgery for 38 years! Please read more about his life and career in this publication.

It continues to be my sincere honour to lead the UBC Department of Urologic Sciences. I anticipate another year of great academic and clinical accomplishment as we move towards 2010.
“It’s all about work. Three things: autonomy, complexity and a relationship between effort and reward are the qualities that work has to have if it is to be satisfying……”

Malcolm Gladwell, Outliers 2008

And work they did, for five years. To nobody’s surprise, Geoff Gotto, Andrew Marks and Blayne Welk 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. All three of our 2009 graduates have moved on to new and exciting challenges.

Geoff has relocated to Manhattan New York, where he is embarking on a prestigious two year fellowship program in Urological Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute. When he is not splicing genes and cutting out cancer, Geoff is enjoying Broadway plays, New York restaurants, and jogging in central park! We are all jealous.

Dr. Geoff Gotto

AJ has moved on to a two year fellowship position in Pediatric Urology at NorthWestern University, Chicago, Illinois. He is the third UBC Urologist to pass through these hallowed halls, so we must be doing something right! At the time of this writing, Andrew isn’t sure what he wants to do when he grows up, but rumors have it that he is deciding between becoming a Pediatric Urologist or the bass player for a garage band in his ancestral home of Brownsville, Texas! Keep your eye on YouTube for updates….

Blayne has emerged from the moving van and boxes in Toronto where he is enrolled in a 1-2 year fellowship in reconstructive Urology at Sunnybrook hospital. So far the reports have been positive except that he finds that the cross-fit classes in Toronto are pretty lame, the air quality is poor, and he misses all you can eat sushi! On a positive note however, Blayne and his fiancée Alex are scheduled to be married in September prior to an Italian honeymoon. Alexis a pediatrician enrolled in a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Sick Kids Hospital, so once the honeymoon is over, life will get very busy for both of them!

Dr. Blayne Welk

Dr. Andrew Marks

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As part of the never-ending cycle of renewal we were fortunate to match three very talented and eager students to our PGY-1 positions in the CaRMS competition:

**Dr. Nathan Hoag**

Nathan is a native of Duncan, BC. During his undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria, Nathan was an Academic All-Canadian athlete while on the varsity field hockey team. Subsequently, he enrolled in the island program of the UBC Faculty of Medicine where he was class president in 2009. Nathan got the bug for Urology while working with the urologists in Victoria and he has never looked back.

**Dr. Megan Melnyk**

Megan originally hails from Thunder Bay Ontario. After a circuitous route involving undergraduate studies at Lakehead University, a Masters degree at the University of Toronto, and an MD from the University of Ottawa, she has found herself on the West coast for the next five years. In addition to her strong skills in surgery, Megan brings expertise in equestrian riding. She is a former National Champion so look out Dr. Wright; you are no longer the only one who knows something about horses!

**Dr. Mike Robinson**

Mike is from Christina Lake in the Kootenay region of BC. He attended undergraduate university at UBC where he distinguished himself as a Wesbrook scholar and a three-time academic All-Canadian student-athlete while playing varsity rugby. He then chose to enroll in the UBC Northern program as part of the distributed model of our Faculty of Medicine. Thanks to the mentoring skills of Dr. Rahul Hampole in Prince George, Mike became interested in urology as a career, and the rest is history. Mike and his wife Kim recently had a son Hugh, in May, so if Mike seems a little tired these days you can guess why!

**Welcome aboard to the team Nathan, Megan and Mike!**

**DR. ANDREW MacNEILY RECEIVED THE 2009 KILLAM TEACHING AWARD AND THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**
Dr. Andrew Eaton MacNeily is currently Associate Professor and Head of the Division of Pediatric Urology. He grew up (after a fashion) in Toronto and graduated from Queen’s University with his MD in 1986. After two years of General Surgery Residency in the McGill system he saw the light at the end of the cystoscope and completed his Urology Residency here at UBC in 1991. Subsequently he completed a two year fellowship in Pediatric Urology at NorthWestern University in Chicago, Illinois, and an additional six months of fellowship training in Reconstructive Urology at the Institute of Urology, London, UK. Andrew then returned to Queen’s to commence clinical practice and within one year was thrust into the role of Residency Program Director, a promotion which has significantly shaped the direction of his career.

In 2000 Andrew was recruited back to Vancouver to the dual roles of head of Pediatric Urology, and Postgraduate Director of the UBC Urology Residency Program. He has served as a nucleus member for the Royal College Principles of Surgery examination as well as the Royal College Exam committee for Urology, and he is Past-President of the Pediatric Urologists of Canada. His most notable achievements include the development of a national bilingual preparatory examination for all final-year Canadian Urology residents, now in its 14th year of running, and the implementation of a relational database for the quantification of Urology Resident experiences throughout their training (T-Res).

Dr. MacNeily has published over 60 peer reviewed manuscripts related to clinical urology and surgical education. He has won numerous awards for teaching including the 2005 Association for Surgical Education Outstanding Teacher award for international recognition of his abilities as a teacher of surgery, and a 2009 UBC Killam prize for sustained scholarly achievement in teaching over a period of at least ten years. In 2009, Dr. MacNeily was one of two faculty members who received the Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Education and was a finalist for the Royal College Program Director of the Year. Clinically his efforts have been recognized with the 2008 BC Pediatric Society Parminder Singh award for outstanding consultant service to BC Pediatricians. Academically his research on health related quality of life following lower urinary tract reconstruction was recognized with the first prize in clinical research by the American Academy of Pediatrics section on urology in October 2008.

When he is not working, Andrew plays Dad to his daughter Jenna (11 ½) and Colin (8 ½), and pretends that he can cycle and run like he could 25 years ago! Recently, this summer he completed a stage of the Tour de France from Montelimar to Mont Ventoux without sustaining any serious urological injuries!

Melanie Lehman is a PhD candidate at UBC in the Faculty of Medicine’s Experimental Medicine Program under the supervision of Dr. Colleen Nelson of the Vancouver Prostate Centre. Melanie attained her undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta specializing in cell biotechnology in 1998. Her interests in computer programming lead her to pursue further training in software engineering at Carleton University. Subsequent employment at the Institute of Biological Sciences at the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa combined her interests in biology and computer programming. Her NRC project focused on developing methods for storing, visualizing, and analyzing data from microarray experiments which at the time was still an emerging technology. Since joining The Vancouver Prostate Centre in 2002 as a bioinformatician in our Microarray Facility, she has been involved in a number of high-throughput research projects including analysis of gene expression profiles from patients after neoadjuvant hormone therapy. Melanie’s enthusiasm for using computers to answer biological questions prompted her in 2006 to pursue a PhD at UBC in a multidisciplinary program that has included training in medical research and statistics. The focus of her thesis is to identify androgen regulated non-protein coding RNA expressed from previously overlooked ‘junk DNA’ using microarray and next-generation sequencing data. RNA is now seen to be a key regulatory player in cellular function that far surpasses its established role as messenger between DNA and protein described in Francis Crick’s Central Dogma. Melanie’s work has already identified several androgen regulated non-coding RNAs that are expressed near or overlap genes that have been previously implicated in prostate cancer including the androgen receptor and apoptosis signaling genes. She proposes that these androgen regulated non-coding RNAs are providing protection from apoptosis and promoting cell survival and may therefore be a missing link in understanding the progression to recurrent prostate cancer. Due to their tissue- and condition-specific nature, non-coding RNAs may provide novel therapeutic targets for prostate cancer. Melanie’s ambition is to utilize computational approaches to facilitate translational medical research.
**Upcoming Abstract Deadlines**

AUA (May 30-Jun 3, 2010) and the 1st World Congress on Pediatric Urology (May 28-30, 2010), to be held jointly in San Francisco, CA. Abstract deadlines are Nov 9, 2009 for videos and Nov 16, 2009 for papers.


**Balfour Scholarship**

2009 Balfour Scholarship Recipient Chris Wallis. Chris will be taking an elective in Urologic Sciences in September 2009 at the VGH site.

**New Additions to Families**

Hugh Robinson, (born May 10, 2009)
First baby of Mike & Kim Robinson

Zaina AbuGhosh (born August 10, 2009),
Second daughter of Zeid and Suzan

**Upcoming Visiting Professors**

Sep 29-30/09: Dr. Anil Kapoor, Associate Professor of Surgery (Urology), McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

Nov 3-4/09: Dr. Karl Dietrich Sievert, Vice Chair & Professor of Urology, Department of Urology, University of Tuebingen, Germany

Jan 19-20/10: Dr. Marshall Stoller, Professor & Vice Chair, Department of Urology, University of California, San Francisco, CA

Feb 2-3/10: Dr. Gerald L. Andriole, Professor and Chief of Urologic Surgery, Siteman Cancer Center, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

Feb 16-17/10: Dr. Roger R. Dmochowski, Professor & Director, Vanderbilt Continence Center Director, Vanderbilt Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery, Fellowship, Nashville, TN

May 4-5/10: Dr. Martin A. Koyle, Professor & Chair, Department of Pediatric Urology, The Children’s Hospital, Department of Surgery, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO

Jun 8/10: Dr. Gerald H. Jordan, Professor and Fellowship Director, Adult and Pediatric Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgery Program, Department of Urology, Eastern Virginia Medical School, VA

**Upcoming Events**

WSAUA, Las Vegas, NV – Oct 25-29, 2009
NorthWest Urological Society – Dec 4-5, 2009
Get to Know Urology Day – February 13, 2010
AUA and the 4th World Congress of Pediatric Urology, San Francisco, CA – May 28-June 3, 2010
Lorne D. Sullivan Annual Lectureship and Research Day – June 8, 2010
Max and Margaret Fugman Wind-up Dinner – June 8, 2010
CUA, Charlottetown, PEI – June 27-30, 2010

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**Uro-Oncology Fellows**

Dr. Nick Buchan was born and raised in Christchurch, New Zealand. He graduated with an MBChB from Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand in 1999. Nick then worked at Christchurch Public Hospital as a “House Officer” and “Registrar” until moving to Brisbane, Australia at the beginning of 2005 to take up urology training. He completed the FRACS examination in Urology in 2007. He then completed a further year as a Senior Registrar in Urology in 2008. Nick and his family moved to Vancouver in March 2009 to undertake the Uro-oncology and Robotics Fellowship under the supervision of Drs. Gleave and Goldenberg.

Nick, wife Kate and young son Hugo are excited about the impending arrival of their second son, due early December. They want to explore as much of North America as they can while they are here and make long lasting new friendships.

At end of the fellowship they plan to return to Australasia.

Dr. Beow Kiong Poh graduated from the National University of Singapore with an MBBS in 1998. He subsequently completed his internship and was enrolled into the armed forces for two years. He then began his three year junior residency program in Surgery in General. After completing his four year advanced residency program in urology, he joined Changi General Hospital as a staff member. His interests are in Endourology and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Dr. Poh used to swim competitively and plays water polo for his college and his armed forces unit. Now he runs and roller-blades for recreation.

**Endo-Urology Fellow**

Dr. Beow Kiong Poh graduated from the National University of Singapore with an MBBS in 1998. He subsequently completed his internship and was enrolled into the armed forces for two years. He then began his three year junior residency program in Surgery in General. After completing his four year advanced residency program in urology, he joined Changi General Hospital as a staff member. His interests are in Endourology and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Dr. Poh used to swim competitively and plays water polo for his college and his armed forces unit. Now he runs and roller-blades for recreation.

Dr. Anthony Koupparis started the Uro-Oncology fellowship in July. He graduated from the University of Bristol Medical School, England, in 1999 and did basic surgical training at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. He then completed a medical doctorate at the Heart Institute. For the past five years he has been on the South-West of England registrar rotation in Urology. Anthony, wife Amelia and six month old boy, Leo, are really enjoying being in Vancouver, discovering all the sights of British Columbia and are really looking forward to a great year.

Dr. Poh is married to his architect wife, Sharon, and has two children. Yiren is seven years old and he will start school in Vancouver this coming fall. He swims like his father and also enjoys drawing, playing the piano, roller-blading and messing up the house with his younger sister, Wen Ee. Wen Ee is four years old and has very good 3-D/spatial appreciation of objects. She draws very well and also enjoys cycling and picking up sea shells from the beach. She is currently learning how to swim. She will be taking up piano lessons soon.

Sharon was trained in Pratt Institute, New York and qualified as an architect in 1998. She spent most of her efforts and time developing public housing projects in Singapore. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and for recreation, she swims and roller-blades.

Dr. Poh and his family moved to Vancouver on June 16, 2009. In this one year in Vancouver, he hopes to pick up new surgical skills, make new friends and get to know this wonderful city better.
Tribute to Dr. Hjalmar Johnson
by Dr. Larry Goldenberg

Witty. Clever. Caring. Kind. Prankster. Shy. Honest. Mentor. Collegial. Devoted. Respected. How often does one have the privilege to know an individual with all of these attributes? In our Division/Department we were blessed with such a man, Dr. Hjalmar W. Johnson, who sadly passed from this world on May 13, 2009, at the age of 78.

Hjalmar was born October 18, 1930 in the Icelandic community of Riverton/Gimli on Lake Winnipeg, the youngest of a family of five. He was very proud of his Icelandic heritage, always reminding us of his special genetic composition. He graduated from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine in 1956 and became a family doctor on SaltSpring Island where he began a lifetime friendship with Dr. John Ankenman. It was John who eventually convinced Hjalmar to pursue a career in urology and he joined the residency program at UBC under the Chairmanship of John Balfour. After completing his residency in 1964 he was one of the first pioneers in Canada to pursue additional fellowship training in Pediatric Urology at both Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, London UK.

Dr. Johnson was appointed as Clinical Instructor in 1968 and he was the first Head of the Division of Pediatric Urology for UBC, establishing the care of childhood urological diseases as a distinct subspecialty within the province of BC. He served dutifully as the UBC Department of Surgery Director of Research and Director of the MSc program as well as interim chairman of Urology during two periods in the history of our Division. Dr. Johnson retired from active clinical practice in 1996, but continued to contribute as mentor and teacher to students and residents, and always attended our social and academic functions. From 1998 to 2008, he served as Contributing Editor of The Surgical Times, and he continued a vital role in clinical teaching in second year Urology until 2003 and taught third year students in the Surgical Skills Program until 2003.

Dr. Johnson’s dedication to his profession went beyond UBC. He was a founding member of PUC (Pediatric Urologists of Canada) and of PRIAPUS (Pacific Rim Association of Pediatric Urologists). He was actively involved in the CUA, Western Section AUA and the Northwest Urological Associations. However, first and foremost, Hjalmar loved his family – wife Lorna, daughters Lynn and Karen, son Jeff and his two grandsons, Kris and Jorgen. He was a true friend and was always sincere when offering to help in any way he could. When he was not busy in medicine he loved to follow his beloved Canucks hockey team, found peace at his summer place in Woodlands and he spent as much time as possible pursuing his love of golf at Shaughnessy Golf Club.

Many of us will remember Hjalmar as a joker! John Ankenman wrote the following to me after the memorial service: “His pranks were legend and some I could tell you privately but not put on paper! I will never forget the rainy day when John Balfour walked out of the hospital with the Director of Nursing, put up his umbrella and showered her with condoms. Like the Queen she was not amused. I was always late for my office and many times I would rush into the change room to find several safety pins closing both pant legs. Once he had a party at Woodlands and I was out on his boat with him. People were on the dock and I was in the stern helping to land, when he gunned the boat and into the water I went. I was able to dry out my wallet but my Gruen watch was finished. When I complained about it later he sent me a toy watch for Christmas.”

Hjalmar, thanks for the memories. You will be deeply missed by your family, friends, colleagues and so many former patients who benefited from your skills and caring.
Great Moments in Urological History . . . .Were You There ?
Dr. Howard Fenster, Editor

Dr. Hjalmar Johnson, Acting Head, Division of Urology 1988
Front: Dr. Andrew MacNelly, Dr. Tom Kinahan, Dr. Hjalmar Johnson, Dr. Martin Gleave, Dr. Lynn Stothers, Dr. Mike Carter
Middle: Dr. John Ankenman, Dr. Andy Moore, Dr. Lorne Sullivan, Dr. Jamie Wright, Dr. David Manson, Dr. Larry Goldenberg, Dr. Mark Nigro, Dr. Zeke Perler, Dr. Paul Crofts, Dr. Howard Fenster
Back: Visitor to Urology, Dr. John Masterson, Dr. Laurie Lee, Dr. Seck Chan

Please consider a gift donation in memory of Hjalmar by contributing to the "Dr. Hjalmar Johnson Memorial Education Fund".

THE UROLOGY FOUNDATION
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### Awards and Recognition

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### Promotions / Appointments

- Dr. Victor Chow: Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
- Dr. Emma Guns: Promotion to Associate Professor
- Dr. Michael Eng: Appointment to Clinical Instructor
- Dr. Jennie Mickelson: Appointment to Assistant Professor
- Dr. Dan Rapoport: Appointment to Clinical Instructor

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CFI Leading Edge Fund: 5-year grant of $5.177 million awarded to the team of investigators from Applied Science and Medicine

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Urology Wind-Up Dinner, June 9, 2009 – Shaugnessy Golf & Country Club

Visiting Professor, Dr. Peter Scardino with Dr. Larry Goldenberg and Dr. Andrew MacNeily

Graduating Residents with the Program Director and Department Head (Drs. Gotto, MacNeily, Welk, Marks, Goldenberg)

Happy and casual graduating residents!!

By the way, a final bit of advice …

The 2008-2009 urology resident group with Program Director and Department Head (Back-Seth, Hennessy, Longpre, Jonat, Metcalfe, Kavanagh, Samarasekera, Sea; Front-Mayson, Faddegon, Chang-Kit, Goldenberg, MacNeily, Gotto, Marks, Welk)

Dr. Andrew Marks, winner of the Sullivan Research Day Best Overall Paper, with Director of Research, Dr. Martin Gleave, and Head of Department, Dr. Larry Goldenberg.
Urology Faculty and Residents June 9, 2009:
BACK ROW: Steve Faddegon, Michael Cox, Paul Rennie, William Taylor, Corrie Krahn, Omar Nazif, Abhi Seth, Laura Chang-Kit, Kiara Hennessey, Michelle Longpre, Lee Jonat, Chuck Metcalfe, Alex Kavanagh, Dinesh Samarasekera, Gary Steinhoff, Chris Nguan, Peter Black, Jason Sea, Ercole Leone, Zeke Perler, Ken Poon, Lorne Sullivan, Nick Bruchovsky, Roger Sutton, Ted Jones,
FRONT ROW: Ryan Paterson, John Masterson, Edmund Paulus, Ben Chew, Alan So, Brian Mayson, Dean Gavin Stuart, Visiting Professor Peter Scardino, Larry Goldenberg, Andrew MacNeil, Geoff Gotto, Andrew Marks, Blayne Welk, Martin Gleave, Bill Gourlay, John Ankenman, Kourosh Afshar, Caigun Du

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

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