



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Collaboration for Outcomes Research and Evaluation**

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Annual Report

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**2020-2021**



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CORE at a Glance

The Collaboration for Outcomes Research and Evaluation is the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science’s multidisciplinary group of outcomes researchers specializing in epidemiology, health economics, health services research, and pharmacy practice research. Research conducted by CORE faculty members is directly aligned with the Faculty’s Epidemiology and Health Outcomes theme.

The mission of CORE is to improve health-care-related outcomes through the application of the best in research and practice enhancement strategies, as well as providing high-caliber training. Since its inception in 2000, CORE has evolved from generating evidence on the outcomes associated with drug therapies, to addressing broader issues related to clinical outcomes, quality of life, and economic benefits of health technologies in general. CORE faculty members apply their methodological expertise across a span of conditions and therapeutic areas including respiratory diseases, rheumatology, oncology, cardiovascular diseases, neurology, rare diseases, and infectious diseases. Moreover, CORE has established collaborations with pharmaceutical and health outcomes researchers; nationally these include nearly all of the Canadian pharmacy schools, and internationally, these include institutions in the US, France, Cambodia, Rwanda, New Zealand, and Brazil.



**FUNDING AWARDED**  
**\$5.8M**

New grants and contracts awarded to CORE Faculty as Principal Investigator/Applicant



**TRAINEES**  
**11 COMPLETED, 31 ACTIVE**

Masters, PhD, and Postdoctoral Fellows supervised by CORE Faculty



**PUBLICATIONS**  
**182**

Peer reviewed articles published



**TEACHING**  
**57**

Courses taught by CORE Faculty

## Recognitions and Highlights

### Welcome Drs. Ricky Turgeon and Kate Johnson



**Dr. Ricky Turgeon** received his BSc(Pharm) in 2012 from the Dalhousie University College of Pharmacy, his ACPR from the Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services Residency Program in 2013, and his PharmD in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC in 2015. He then completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship with Drs. Glen Pearson and Sheri Koshman at the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (Division of Cardiology) in 2018. Currently, Dr. Turgeon is assistant professor (tenure-track) at the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences; and clinical pharmacy specialist at St. Paul's Hospital.

Dr. Turgeon's research focuses on integrating high-quality observational studies and meta-analyses of clinical studies to guide the creation and evaluation of decision support tools and other knowledge translation strategies to ensure that pharmacotherapy for cardiovascular disease aligns with patient goals, preferences and values. His research is centered on implementation science, with a focus on antithrombotic agents, lipid-lowering therapies, pharmacotherapy for heart failure, and on the cardiovascular safety of medications.



**Dr. Kate Johnson** is an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Division of Respiratory Medicine, Department of Medicine. She completed her PhD in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in health economics at the Comparative Health Outcomes, Policy, and Economics (CHOICE) Institute at the University of Washington.

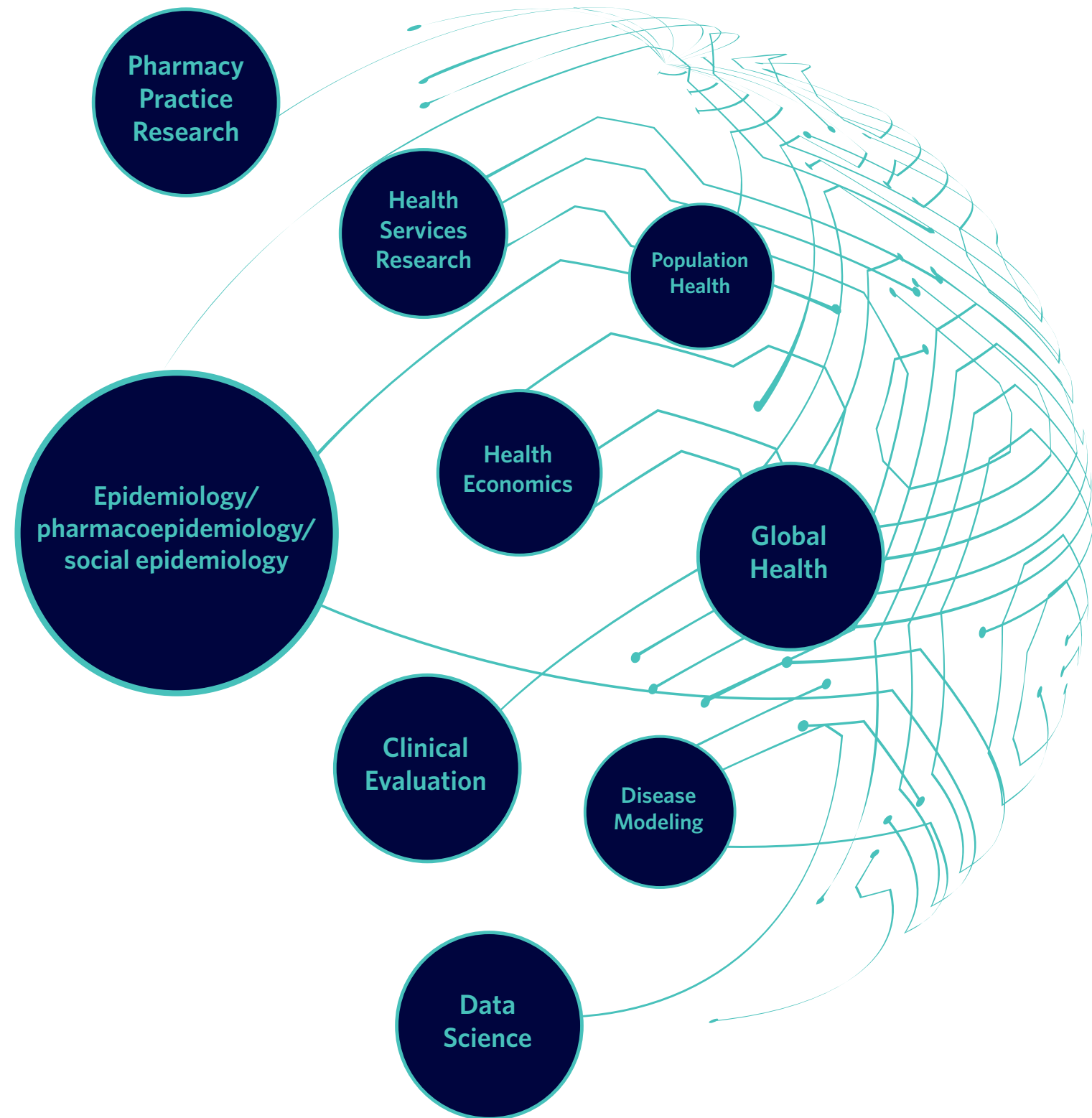
Dr. Johnson is a health outcomes researcher specializing in simulation modeling and comparative effectiveness evaluation with applications to respiratory disease. The overarching themes of her research are real-world evidence generation to understand disease trajectory and patterns of care, followed by simulation modeling to evaluate healthcare interventions for reducing the burden of disease on patients and the healthcare system. This work incorporates methods from epidemiology, health economics, and data science, applied to practical questions for improving the delivery of healthcare and effectiveness of interventions in respiratory medicine. Her current work is focused on the development of a whole disease model of asthma that will be used to evaluate a wide range of strategies for prevention and early intervention.

### Faculty Achievements

**Dr. Annalijn Conklin** received a 5-year salary award from Michael Smith Health Research BC and was appointed co-lead of Canada Health InfoWay's Social Determinants of Health Working Group in May 2021

In 2021, **Dr. Jacquelyn Cragg** received the Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar Award (\$450,000), the Young Alumni Award, UBC Alumni Achievement Awards, the National Canadian Society for Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CSEB) Early Career Award, the National Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS) Early Career Award and was featured in the Lancet Neurology - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(19\)30437-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(19)30437-5/fulltext)

## Our Research



Continued Growth and Success



Despite challenging times over the past two years, CORE has thrived with continued growth and accomplishments. The group has continued grant success, including Michael Smith Foundation Scholar awards, multiple CIHR grants, and the BC Ministry of Health, all highly competitive environments. With over 100 publications over the past two years, many of which were led by our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, CORE is meeting its mission of capacity building in epidemiology and health economics expertise. With 11 current faculty and 2 more imminent hires in health outcomes and data science, over 50 current staff, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and prior trainees in all sectors including government, academia, and industry, CORE has developed an international reputation in epidemiology and health outcomes research.

CORE research continues to be world-leading. CORE investigators received an unprecedented \$5.8M in research funds and contracts as Principal Investigators during the reporting period, demonstrating the growing success of CORE in attracting new funds and expanding the scope of their research. CORE investigators have a significant presence in national and international scientific networks, professional associations, and collaborative studies. Thanks to our collective success, and with support from the University, CORE has significantly expanded in recent years. In particular, during the reporting period, CORE has recruited Dr. Kate Johnson under a joint recruitment with UBC Department of Medicine to expand its involvement in respiratory outcomes research.

With respect to education, CORE's commitment to excellence in training of highly qualified personnel in health outcomes research was marked in September 2021 with the official launch of the FLIGHT (Future Leaders in Epidemiology and Health Outcomes) graduate training program. The development of FLIGHT is a direct response to the need for supporting evidence-based decision-making across our healthcare system with three-fold goals of: 1) increasing the output of skilled professionals into a variety of leadership and decision-making roles in the life sciences and healthcare sectors; 2) providing a forum for ongoing education and knowledge exchange between industry, government, and academia; and 3) supporting the creation of value-added opportunities such as collaborative research projects and graduate student internships.

Faculty



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Faculty - continued



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Graduate & Post Graduate Trainees **\*11 COMPLETED, 31 ACTIVE**



CORE offers graduate training primarily in Epidemiology and Health Outcomes research through the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences but also through other affiliated faculties across UBC. Trainees pursue thesis-based MSc and Ph.D. degrees across a range of areas such as pharmacoepidemiology, epidemiology, health economics, biostatistics, and health services research. CORE continues to develop graduate training opportunities that emphasize multidisciplinary, collaboration, and engagement as reflected in the launch of the Future Leaders in Epidemiology and Health Outcomes (FLIGHT) in 2021. Within FLIGHT, CORE trainees across UBC are unified through various forums including professional development seminars, monthly CORE meetings, research retreats, direct collaborations, and routine daily interactions. CORE trainees also have opportunities for exposure to numerous future career pathways including clinical, industry, and government/policy environments through CORE faculty members' extensive collaborative networks. CORE trainees are highly successful in receiving scholarships including Canada Graduate Masters and Doctoral Awards from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships. Finally, CORE graduates have gone on to prominent careers in academia, government, and industry.

GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE TRAINEE SUMMARY

	Completed	Active
Postdoctoral Fellows	3	11
PhD Students	5	11
Masters Students	3	9

## Graduate & Post Graduate Trainees - *continued*

### Postdoctoral Fellows

Completed	Active
Sara Kassani , Wenjia Chen, Zeinab Hosseini	Elisabet Rodriquez-Llorian, Freda Warner, James Crispo, Joseph Amegadzie, Logan Trenaman, Magda Aguiar, Manon Haverkate, Rebecca Metcalfe, Sara Kassani, Sharifa Nasreen , Stephanie Harvard

### PhD Students

Completed	Active
Celestin Hategekimana, Genevieve Breau, Kate Johnson, Nirma Vadlamudi, Shahrzad Salmasi	Alyssa Howren, Anh Khoa Vo, Ariana Saatchi, Glory Apantaku, Hadis Mozaffari, Jan Rosner, Megan Thomas , Nevena Rebic, Niki Oveisi, Norma Biln,Tae (Harry) Lee

### Masters Students

Completed	Active
Kexin Zhang, Nevena Rebic, Taraneh Bahremand	Adenike Adelakun, Alexander Tam, Alison McClean, Analisa Jia, Joseph Ho, Safa Ahmadian, Sammy Blair, Tri Minh Van, Vicki Cheng

Please note that all graduate students listed have a CORE PI supervisor.

## Clinical Trainees & Undergraduate Students



### TOTALS

PharmD/MD Students/ Residents	20
Undergraduate Students	17

PharmD/MD Students/ Residents	Undergraduate Students*
Alex Pai, Aliya Daulat, Amanda Driver, Amit Gupta, Annie Vo, Arielle Beauchesne, Arielle Beauchesne, Eric Wong, Harleen Chohan, Jenah Alibhai, Ricky Gill, Jonathon Naylor, Jun Kim, Lilian Shi, Liz Huang, Louise Araujo, Niyusha Zahedimazandarani, Ria Garg, Valerie Lee, Vivien Cao, Waleed Wali	Alicia Klassen, Anmol Dosanjh, Blair MacDonald, Bryan Ng, Caitlin Chew, Charmaine Wong, Emily Wong, Enav Zusman, Jamie Park, Kathleen Lau, Lauren Siemers, Lydia Feng, Myles Wee, Nardin Roshan-Moniri, Nevrose Mangat, Rebecca Lim, Simroop Ladhar

Please note that all graduate students listed have a CORE PI supervisor.

Funding

\*5.8 M TOTAL FUNDING



New grants, contracts and salary awards presented to CORE Faculty as Principal Investigator/Applicant

Source	Project Title	Total (Amount to CORE)
BC Academic Health Sciences Network	PRISM/PEER Simulation Models Scale-Up - Renewal	\$200,000
BC Ministry of Health	Pharmacists in PCN Program Evaluation	\$1,250,000
BC Ministry of Health - Covid-19 Research Priorities	Cost and burden of medication non-adherence according to prescribed drug spending and medication use rates (COMPUTE)	\$10,000
BC Support Unit - Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Patient-Oriented Research Award	Pathways to Patient Oriented Research: Surgical PREhabilitation for better Patient outcomes (PREP)	\$20,000
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	IMplementing Predictive Analytics towards efficient COPD Treatments (IMPACT)	\$1,986,406
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Evaluating the impact of a mandatory switching policy for biosimilars	\$298,350
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Predictive modeling in multiple sclerosis: using real world data to inform practice, policy, and research	\$470,475

Funding- continued

Source	Project Title	Total (Amount to CORE)
CIHR Indigenous Gender and Wellness Development Grants	Slanay skwalwin: Developing foraging walks with Squamish Nation to promote Indigenous women's heart health	\$59,300
GlycoNet Collaborative Team Cycle II	The EARLY study: Economic evAluation of a novel pRostate cancer gLYcan-based diagnostic tool	\$157,520
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)	The EARLY study: Economic evAluation of a novel pRostate cancer gLYcan-based diagnostic tool	\$99,720
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Scholar Award	A program of social epidemiology and metabolic outcomes research (SEMOR) to support healthy aging	\$450,000
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Scholar Award	SCI pharmacovigilance: A drug safety platform to improve neurologic outcomes in spinal cord injury	\$450,000
NanoMedicines Innovation Network (NMIN) Strategic Initiatives	An early Health Technology Assessment (eHTA) platform to inform nanomedicine development decisions and improve commercialization success	\$240,000
ReserTrac	An agent-based modeling approach to decision-analytic modeling for airway diseases	\$61,600
St. Paul's KT Challenge Program	Exploring Indigenous menu options at PHC	\$5,000
UBC Community Engagement	Partnership Recognition Fund for HeartLife.Academy Medication Module: A Patient & Pharmacist Co-Developed Heart Failure Medication Education Resource	\$1,500
UBC Vice-President of Research & Innovation, Community Partnerships Engagement Fund	Caring for Cedar Baskets and Caring for Drums	\$1,500
Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)	Knowledge translation: Use and effectiveness of combination preventive medical therapy in patients with non-obstructive coronary artery disease	\$3,000

Publications

\*182 TOTAL PUBLICATIONS

2021 (n=101)

In a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials, ARBs, ARNIs, SGLT2 inhibitors, ivabradine, hydralazine-nitrate, and intravenous iron improved health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) with high certainty of evidence. The effects of ACE inhibitors, beta-blockers, MRA, digoxin and oral iron on HRQoL were inconclusive. These findings can be incorporated into shared decision-making discussions with patients with HFrEF to select the medication regimen that best meets their goals and preferences.

IMPACT  
FACTOR  
15.534

Turgeon RD, Barry AR, Hawkins NH, Ellis UM. Pharmacotherapy for Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction and Health-Related Quality of Life: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Eur J Heart Fail* 2021;23(4):578-89. [PMID: 33634543]

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2. Ahmadian S, Sin DD, **Lynd LD, Harrison M, Sadatsafavi M**. A Benefit-Harm Analysis of Azithromycin for the Prevention of Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. *Thorax*. 2021 Accepted
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Publications- continued

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B

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- D**
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Publications- *continued*

## E

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## F

30. Falk J, Potter J, **Turgeon RD**. Sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors for heart failure with reduced ejection fraction. *Can Fam Physician* 2021;67:678. Available at: <https://www.cfp.ca/content/67/9/678>

## G

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33. Gershon AS, Lindenauer PK, Wilson KC, Rose L, Walkey AJ, **Sadatsafavi M**, Anstrom KJ, Au DH, Bender BG, Brookhart MA, Dweik RA, Han MK, Joo MJ, Lavergne V, Mehta AB, Miravittles M, Mularski RA, Roche N, Oren E, Riekert KA, Schoenberg NC, Stukel TA, Weiss CH, Wunsch H, Africk JJ, Krishnan JA. Informing Healthcare Decisions with Observational Research Assessing Causal Effect. An Official American Thoracic Society Research Statement *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2021 203(1):14-23

Publications- continued

There is heterogeneity among nonadherent patients in the rate and timing of decline in their medication taking. Clinical and demographic characteristics were found to be inadequate to predict patients' adherence trajectories. Insights from this study could be used to inform the design and timing of adherence interventions, and qualitative studies may be needed to better understand the psychosocial determinants and reasons for the behaviors reflected in the identified trajectories.

IMPACT  
FACTOR  
24.094

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Collaborations



1. CROSS APPOINTMENTS

**Annalijn Conklin**

- Center for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences
- UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems
- Women’s Health Research Institute

**Fawziah Lalji**

- UBC Faculty of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
- BC Center for Disease Control

**Jacquelyn Cragg**

- International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries

**Mary De Vera**

- Arthritis Research Canada

**Larry Lynd**

- UBC Faculty of Medicine , School of Population and Public Health
- Center for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences

**Mark Harrison**

- Center for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences
- Arthritis Research Canada
- Neuroethics Canada

**Peter Loewen**

- Vancouver General Hospital
- UBC Center for Cardiovascular Innovation

**Peter Zed**

- UBC Faculty of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Vancouver General Hospital

**Mohsen Sadatsafavi**

- Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation
- UBC Faculty of Medicine Division of Respiratory Medicine
- Center for Heart Lung Innovation Affiliate

**Ricky Turgeon**

- Center for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences
- UBC Center for Cardiovascular Innovation

Collaborations - continued

2. MAJOR COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**Fawziah Lalji**

- BC Ministry of Health Drug Benefits Committee, Drug Review and Resources Committee
- Do Bugs Need Drugs Program, BC Center for Disease Control

**Larry Lynd**

- BC Ministry of Health Expensive Drugs for Rare Diseases Advisory Committee
- Respiratory/Allergy Therapies - Health Canada Special Advisory Committee

**Mark Harrison**

- BC Health Technology Committee (Health Technology Assessment Committee)

**Mary De Vera**

- BC Ministry of Health Pharmanet Data Stewardship Committee

**Peter Zed**

- Vice Chair, Drug Benefits Council, BC Ministry of Health
- Chair, BC Ministry of Health - Drug Review and Resources Committee
- Non-Insured Health Benefits, Health Canada - Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Committee

**Peter Loewen**

- Vice-Chair, BC Ministry of Health Expensive Drugs for Rare Diseases Advisory Committee
- Vice-Chair, Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board Standards Committee
- Association of Faculties of Pharmacy Education Committee, Pharmacy Educational Outcomes Steering Committee
- BC Health Authorities Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

**Mohsen Sadatsafavi**

- Member of the Scientific Committee of The Canadian Respiratory Research Network Member of 2 American Thoracic Society Guideline Groups (COPD Pharmacotherapy, and Observational Studies)

3. PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATIONS



4. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

**Annalijn Conklin**

- Visiting Researcher, University of Cambridge MRC Epidemiology Unit, England

**Larry Lynd**

- Training, Support, & Mentorship Project, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Rwanda
- Family Farms for the Future, Cambodia

**Mohsen Sadatsafavi**

- Core Member, Respiratory Effectiveness Group, England
- International Severe Asthma Registry
- Member of the Scientific Committee of NOVELTY Study

**Mark Harrison**

- Senior Research Fellow, University of Manchester Honorary Appointment United Kingdom

Teaching

**\*57 TOTAL COURSES TAUGHT**



The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences has continued to grow in their academic programming with CORE PI contributing to leadership and teaching. During the reporting period CORE PI have been responsible for coordinating and teaching across the Faculty’s academic programs including:

PharmD

- Entry-to-Practice PharmD **required** courses in evidence appraisal and health outcomes (e.g., Study Design and Interpretation I [PHRM 131] and II [PHARM 231])
- Entry-to-Practice PharmD **required** therapeutics modules (e.g., Special Infectious Diseases [PHRM 312], Endocrinology [PHRM 212], and Cardiology [PHRM 211])
- Entry-to-Practice PharmD **elective** courses (e.g., Practical Applications of Pharmacoepidemiology & Health Economics [PHRM 332], Diabesity [PHARM 346])
- Flex PharmD **required** courses (e.g., Critical Appraisal of Pharmacotherapy Literature [PHRM 451], Pharmacotherapeutics Infectious Diseases [PHRM 464])

For list of Entry-to-Practice PharmD courses, please visit:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/courses.cfm?page=code&code=PHRM>

For list of Flex PharmD courses, please visit:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/courses.cfm?page=code&code=PHRM>

MSc/PhD

- Graduate **required** courses (e.g., Scholarly Integrity and Research Ethics [PHAR 591])
- Graduate **elective** courses (e.g., Advanced Economic Evaluation in Health Care [PHAR 560])

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