It is my pleasure to present Year in Review: 2019–2020, a summary of the most significant accomplishments of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia (UBC). From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, we continued to demonstrate excellence in our four priority areas of focus: Education, Research, Practice, and People. We have also shown significant growth in our international reputation, rising two spots in the 2020 QS World Rankings, and an expansion in our academic and research programs, community outreach initiatives, and human resource complement with a number of new faculty and staff positions. This latter part of this year has been marked by the significant challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, however, I have no doubt that we will continue to succeed in our work to achieve the ambitious goals set out in our strategic plan (Catalyst for Change: 2017–2022). I look forward to reporting back to you at this time again next year, and take this opportunity to acknowledge the many and varied contributions of our amazing faculty, staff and students.

Michael Coughtrie  BSc(Hons) PhD FCAHS
Professor and Dean

EDUCATION

- **Students**: 863 Entry-to-Practice PharmD, 19 Flexible PharmD, 23 MSc and 35 PhD, 47 Canadian Pharmacy Practice Program and 2,087 registrants in 24 Continuing Education Programs
- **Experiential Education**: 756 Practice Educators, 461 Practice Sites in BC

RESEARCH

- **Research Income**: $7M
- **Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholars**: 6

PRACTICE

- **Pharmacists Clinic**: 171 Patients receiving care per month in 2019/20, 16,349 Patients care encounters since Clinic opened (Nov 12/13 – Jun 30/20)
- **Physician referrals**: 64%

The Clinic’s experience with virtual care has been and continues to be shared to help pharmacists and other healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic (2 national webinars, 1 newsletter article and 1 manuscript for publication).

The Clinic has continued its commitment to Indigenous health through collaborative partnerships with the First Nations Health Authority and BC First Nations communities.

PEOPLE AND PLACE

- **Total Faculty**: 72
- **Honorary Faculty**: 17
- **Total Staff**: 809
- **Postdoctoral Research Fellows**: 6
- **Research Associates**: 89
- **Student Workers**: 64%

200+ Publications
49 Grants
31 Awards
90 Media Hits

2020 QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: PHARMACY & PHARMACOLOGY

#18 Worldwide  #2 in Canada

UP 2 SPOTS

AT A GLANCE

232 New Alumni
6,893 Total Alumni


Entry-to-Practice PharmD program awarded Accreditation status by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs for a six-year term ending June 30, 2026.

Three Faculty research projects included in $37M awarded to UBC in CIHR Fall 2019 Project Grant Competition: Drs. Shyh-Dar Li, Brian Cairns, Abby Collier, Peter Loewen, Mohsen Sadatsafavi, Mary De Vera, Brian Rodrigues, Judith Soon.

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Alumni event hosted in September 2019 to celebrate the conclusion of the BPSc(Pharm) program.

Drs. Lynne Nakashima, BPSc(Pharm) ’88 and Ahmad Ghahary, BPSc(Pharm) ’08 were announced as the 2020 Alumni Agent of Change and Alumni Future Agent of Change, respectively. The annual event will be held at a future date.
UBC Pharm Sci assistant professor receives MSFHR Scholar Award
Dr. Brent Page, assistant professor, receives a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Scholar Award, which supports exceptional early career researchers from a range of health research disciplines.

Faculty launches Data Analytics, Statistics and Informatics (DASI) suite
DASI offers a wide variety of analytic services, including design and analysis of clinical trials and observational research, descriptive statistics, predictive modeling, implementation of Machine Learning algorithms, Markov models, time series models, Bayesian networks, and more.

UBC to launch new Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences program
The new UBC Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences program is formally approved by the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training on November 25, 2019. Graduates of the program will be highly sought for positions in the discovery, development, and production areas of the pharmaceutical, life sciences or biotechnology industries, regulatory authorities, and government.

Faculty publishes white paper on pharmacists and team-based primary health care in BC
Faculty publishes “A White Paper on Team-Based Primary Health Care in British Columbia – Context and Opportunities for Pharmacists” for practising pharmacists to bring them up to speed on the province-wide primary health care strategy being developed and implemented in BC by a large group of health stakeholders including the Ministry of Health and regional Health Authorities.

COVID-19 restrictions eased in some countries, but life not returning to normal
University of B.C. epidemiologist Mohsen Sadatsavafi said that he believes it’s premature to be thinking about lifting restrictions because the parameters of the disease’s spread aren’t fully understood. That includes not knowing how many people don’t show signs of being infected, and how contagious those people are.

‘I think we have a good shot’: UBC expert says COVID-19 vaccine possible in 12 to 18 months
According to UBC pharmaceutical sciences professor Dr. Fawzia Lalji, while it’s difficult to predict an exact timeline, if things go well with clinical trials, she anticipates we might be looking at a vaccine in 12 to 18 months.

Faculty members receive NSERC Discovery Grants
UBC researchers were awarded a total of $37.1m for 183 projects through the NSERC Discovery Grants, Research Tools and Instruments Grants, and Subatomic Particle Physics Grants programs, including Pharm Sci PIs Drs. Adam Frankel, Sarah Hedtrich, Karla Williams, and Abby Collier.