

Spring 2023

Department of Ophthalmology

Newsletter

Message from the Chair

Dr. John van der Zweep

Efforts Everywhere! Misericordia is seeing a tremendous effort to help Manitobans obtain the eye care they need. Our surgical volumes have increased beyond those seen before the pandemic. I have been inspired by the stakeholders involved with this effort: from our executive and managers, members of slating and the preop clinic, to homecare coordinators, nurses and physicians. I realize it has not been easy, but all are working hard toward a common goal. This effort is palpable and appreciated.

In the OR, some surgeons are enjoying the advancement in state-of-the-art technology in glaucoma management, surgical imaging, and other fields. In the clinics, patient satisfaction has continued to be high, exceeding expectations. And with the facility, planning continues with the departments of finance and maintenance in order to welcome the new Pediatric and Neuro-ophthalmology clinics later this summer.

Finally, in a special way, I would like to end this note in appreciation of the volunteers that work alongside us, improving care for our patients and long-term care residents. Your willingness to give your time and service is greatly appreciated. Your support at Misericordia allows us to continue to fulfill our mission and serve thousands of people in our community each year.

Hope you all stay well and enjoy the spring.

Message from the Program Director

Dr. Andre Jastrzebski

As the days get warmer and the evenings get longer I suspect that, like me, you are looking forward to a great Manitoba summer. Whether that means family time by a lake or a festival in the city I hope everyone is able to make the most of it. Before everyone starts to disconnect for a time I want to thank all our staff, residents, and faculty for your commitment to our residency program. I would also like to highlight some key developments from the last few months and others to expect in the near future.

We still have two important events in the coming weeks. First off, our annual Research Day is scheduled for May 11th and 12th. We have an excellent keynote speaker lined up and all our residents have been working all year on projects to present that day. After that, we can all look forward to one of the best days on the calendar for any residency program. June 26th will be our annual graduation dinner. I hope as many people as possible can attend to give a proper send-off to our graduating resident, Dr. Tina Tang, and our graduating retina fellow Dr. Mohit Chhabra.

We have recently welcomed two new faculty, Drs. Zuniga and Ruano after their successful completion of practice-ready assessments. Thank you to everyone that participated in that process. We also have some new faces working with us in the resident clinic and our offices. Our PGY1 residents, Dr. Katia Milovanova and Dr. Parsa Mehraban Far have completed their off-service rotations and are learning the ropes. Again, thank you to all the faculty that help to make this transition as painless as possible for them. They will soon leave for the Toric course in Toronto before returning to us full-time in July full of newly gained knowledge.

In the winter, we went through the annual CaRMS matching process and we are thrilled to have been able to match two new residents that will be starting their off-service rotations this summer. Dr. Amir Vosoughi is a University of Manitoba graduate who will be returning to us after some time in Toronto and Dr. Angela Cung is someone very familiar to many of us who spend time on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Misericordia. She has worked as a physician for the CRT team for several years and has decided to take the bold step of returning to residency to become an ophthalmologist (having previously completed a residency in Family Medicine).

As you may or may not know, we are about to enter a major period of change in terms of how we train and evaluate our residents. As of July 1, 2023, all our incoming residents will be trained under the Competence By Design framework of the Royal College (along with all future ophthalmology residents across the country). All faculty can expect ongoing education on the ins and outs of the new system next fall and winter so we are ready to hit the ground running when Drs. Vosoughi and Cung join us next spring. Until then, have a great spring and summer.

Staffing Information:

Meet Our New PGY1 residents

Dr. Amir Vosoughi

Amir Vosoughi was born in Tehran, Iran, and immigrated with his family to Canada at the age of 14. He pursued his education in Manitoba, completing his high school, undergraduate degree, and medical school here.

Dr. Vosoughi has a strong interest in clinical and basic science research. He has completed a research internship in Neuro-Ophthalmology with Drs. Micieli and Margolin in Toronto and published in journals such as the British Journal of Ophthalmology, Glia and Ophthalmology. He is currently completing a Master of Science in Epidemiology through the LSHTM. During his leisure time, Amir enjoys playing soccer, scuba diving, hiking amid the beautiful landscape of Manitoba, and spending time with his family and friends.

Ever since his first exposure to Ophthalmology in Manitoba, he knew that practicing in the same community was his ultimate goal. Amir eagerly looks forward to becoming a part of the Manitoba Ophthalmology community.



Dr. Angela Cung

Dr. Yen Minh (Angela) Cung is a Manitoban-trained family physician who is excited to bring years of northern remote and CRT experience to her studies in ophthalmology. She is grateful for the opportunity to learn how to provide care in a new context and looks forward to participating in vision-saving procedures for patients from all walks of life.



Message from the UGME Lead

Dr. Frank Stockl



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Aqua i Laser has just celebrated the first Anniversary of the opening of its Taylor Avenue location.

Aqua's dedicated and friendly team of doctors and staff serve high-quality care to a growing patient base from Manitoba, Ontario and the Northern regions.

Established in 2017, Aqua started with one doctor and a small number of staff. Today, Aqua has an amazing team of 20 support staff, including technicians, medical office assistants, management, and five providers. We are very proud of how far we've come in only a few short years.

We offer many private-pay services, such as TransPRK, Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) and Implantable Collamer Lens (ICL). Dry eye treatment services such as consultation and management, Lipiflow and soon to come; personalized Platelet-rich Plasma (PRP) therapy. Floater Laser Treatment (YAG vitreolysis) and Micro Pulse P3 (MP3) Cyclophotocoagulation are also available.

In addition to the many private-pay and clinical services provided at Aqua, we also are an accredited surgical centre, performing refractive surgery and recently completed 1500 cataract surgical cases.

Our providers:

Dr Kendra Mahon, OD, heads our dry eye clinic services, her practice is also refractive surgery and comprehensive ophthalmology based.

Dr Gdih is the founder and Medical Director of Aqua i Laser, his practice focuses on glaucoma, cataract surgery, and refractive vision correction.

Dr Alberto Aguayo joined Aqua in June of last year, his main clinical focus is glaucoma and cataract surgery.

Aqua welcomed Dr Will Turk last year in October. Dr Turk specializes in Oculoplastic, Orbit and cataract surgery.

We welcome Aqua's most recent addition, Dr Frank Stockl whose clinical practice is dedicated to vitreo-retinal diseases.

Being a multi-specialty clinic, our team of staff and providers collaborate and strive to provide the highest quality care to all those entering our facility.

Upcoming Dates

May 11

Visiting Professor

Dr. Christian Petropolis, MD, FRCSC

Qualico Family Centre (Tamarack Room)

May 12

Resident Research Day

Apotex Centre, Room 050 (Lower Level)

June 26

Graduation for Tina Tang

Winnipeg Art Gallery, Skylight Room

Grand Rounds - Wednesdays, 7:30 AM via Zoom

Retina Fellow Rounds – Last Friday of the month, 7:30 AM via Zoom

Staffing Information:

Program Administrators: Dana McMillan & Sandy Rossman

Education Lead: Cory Marquart

Dana & Sandy are located at the Misericordia Heath Centre on Monday, Tuesday & Friday weekly. Working remotely Wednesday and Thursday.

Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

We are available by email and phone while working remotely.

Please welcome Cory Marquart as the Education Lead for the Department of Ophthalmology. He can be reached at 204-789-3362 or 204-955-8876. Email: cory.marquart@umanitoba.ca

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