

APRIL 2022

# Department of Ophthalmology

Newsletter

## Message from the Chair

### Dr. John van der Zweep

I do not remember ever feeling so ready for spring. I know I should live in the moment and not try to wish for the future, but more and more I do long all the wonderful things spring has to offer. I love living in Winnipeg and experiencing the change in seasons. But I write this update on the April long weekend after quite the snow storm, I can say I am more than ready!

I am sure that a lot of you took advantage of this snowy spring long weekend to relax and spend time with family. Others may not have, choosing to remain cautious after years of COVID precautions. We have seen the uncertainties of COVID and changes in recommendations continue to have a direct impact on each one of us. Differences in opinion surround how scientists', citizens and government react to this pandemic. As members of the Misericordia Health Centre, specifically in regards to eye care, we continue providing excellence in eye care for Manitobans. We are leaders for the community adapting to changes in the science and recommendations. All the while, we have respected and listened to our staff and patients' individual needs. We continue to be a source of information and compassion for those who come through our doors, while ensuring safety and best practice for all. Thank you to all staff for continuing to be cautious and diligent to limit the spread and continue to keep our facilities open. For this I say "amazing work!"

Welcome back to all of our staff that were redeployed again over the winter. Our department has continued to show resilience this year. I am thankful to have us all together again after the fourth-wave shutdown. The Misericordia operating rooms are again operating at pre-pandemic capacities. Some staff have announced their retirement, and this news is bittersweet! We will miss having you here, and wish you the very best. With this comes recruitment, and we are also excited to welcome our new staff and we look forward to working with you!

In March, I moved my practice to MHC, in the second-floor eye clinic. The Green Desk now is a permanent home to Dr Bellan, Dr Mathen and myself. Looking forward, I work to see an increase in the number of ophthalmologists that call Misericordia their home. There are a lot of us who are working hard on this long-term goal, and to them I say thank you. It is exciting work promoting the MHC for improvement and expansion. We know this will improve eye care for Manitobans!

As I take time to be grateful for my family, my work and our community at Misericordia Health Centre, I think of all of those impacted by violence- like what is taking place in the Ukraine. I wish for peace and offer my support to those of us most directly affected.

Enjoy the spring and be well.

# Message from the Program Director

## Dr. Andre Jastrzebski

For the first time in the history of this newsletter, your message from the program director is not coming from Ian Clark. As with all aspects of the job, I have big shoes to fill here. Over the past few weeks, since assuming the role of program director, I have been figuring out all the requirements of the job. Please bear with me if we have any hiccups along the way. Thankfully Dr. Clark has promised not to shut down his email accounts, so expertise remains close at hand. I have also had the pleasure of getting to know the great staff that make up our administrative department. Sandy, Dana, and Kae are all committed to the success of the program and bring a wealth of experience to our department. As they gradually return to the office from working at home, please pop into their offices on the second floor so they can put faces and names together again.

I'd like to keep my message positive, so I'll avoid any discussion of our Manitoba spring weather. Instead, I would like to congratulate everyone, but especially Dr. Clark, on the success of our recent Royal College accreditation visit. It is a credit to you all that this process went so smoothly. Our reviewers really struggled to find any area of concern and even took some of our practices back to the Royal College as areas for potential practice improvement in other ophthalmology programs. This would not have gone so well without a committed, engaged, and happy department. As a fully accredited program we now have seven years before we have to repeat the process. While an interval review will likely be coming in a few years, and the work never stops, luckily, all we need to do is keep up the work we're already doing!

Finally, we've entered our annual period of transition amongst our residents which always seems to come so quickly. Already, Pavel Yarmak, has joined us in the resident clinic after completing his off-service rotations. Thank you all for providing some extra supervision and for your patience as he learns the ropes.

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## Upcoming Events:

**Visiting Professor – Dr. Yvonne Buys**

**May 12**

**Resident Research Day**

**May 13**

**Graduation – Dr. Jeremy Levi**

**June 20**

**Grand Rounds**

**Wednesdays, 7:30 AM via Zoom**

# Message from the Program Director, continued

This week we also learned the results of the CaRMS match. We will be welcoming two PGY1 residents for the second time in our program's history and we were lucky to match two outstanding candidates. Ekaterina Milovanova will be joining us from the University of Alberta and Parsa Mehraban Far will be joining us from Queen's. Hopefully everyone will get a chance to meet them soon as they start to attend our departmental events. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Jeremy Levi has already completed the written component of his Royal College examination and is just weeks away from completing his oral exam and his final rotation with us as a resident. I hope everyone is able to attend his graduation dinner in June and wish him well before he leaves us (for now at least) for the west coast and a year of corneal training.

Thanks to everyone for the words of encouragement as I take over the role as program director. I hope to keep our program on the trajectory we find ourselves on. I hope to keep the lines of communication open and keep everyone's best interests in mind as any future changes are considered. Have a great summer!

## Staffing Information:

### Program Administrators, Dana McMillan & Sandy Rossman

There have been a lot of changes within the Department recently. To help clarify your points of contact:

Dana is our Scheduling Master! She will be your point of contact for any concerns relating to resident, fellow, and Med Student scheduling. Dana also assists with the coordination of many of our CME events such as Grand Rounds, Journal Club, Sub-specialty Journal Club, and specialty rounds. Dana is responsible for any Grand Rounds visiting professors.

Sandy is the main contact point for inquiries relating to the Department of Ophthalmology and will be responsible for CaRMS, Accreditation, Academic Half Day, Resident Clinic Supervisors, travel and expense inquiries, and resident assessments in Entrada. She will also be responsible for any event planning including Resident Research Day and visiting professor when scheduled at the same time, resident Graduation & Faculty retirement.

Dana & Sandy are at Misericordia Heath Centre on Monday, Tuesday & Friday. They are available by email or phone when working remotely.

# Staffing Information:

## Meet Our New PGY1 residents

### Dr. Ekaterina Milovanova

I was born in Ukraine shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union. From there, I moved to Israel and then finally to Winnipeg. I'm Ekaterina, but please call me Katia.

I'm of Russo-Ukrainian descent, I was born in Abu-Dhabi, and I grew up in Calgary. I completed a B.Sc. in Biological Sciences and Psychology at the University of Calgary, and medical school brought me to the University of Alberta.

I'm very excited to be joining the team in Winnipeg for residency and I'm looking forward to getting to know the cross-country ski trails and off-leash dog parks in my free time.



### Dr. Parsa Mehraban Far

I completed my undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at McMaster University followed by my medical training at Queen's University. Immigrating to Canada when I was 14, where I have lived in a few different cities from the East Coast to Ontario and am looking forward to exploring Manitoba.

I have a keen interest in medical education and mentorship. In my free time I enjoys hiking, stargazing, and flying drones



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#### Staff Contacts:

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