

Spring 2024

# Department of Ophthalmology

Newsletter

## Message from the Chair

**Dr. John van der Zweep**

The Department of Ophthalmology will again undergo some changes in 2024. It is with mixed emotions we will see the official retirement of Dr. Lorne Bellan. I wish Lorne well on his next opportunities and know that he looks forward to the extra time he will devote to his family and activities that he loves. As a hallmark leader in our department and the creator of our residency program, his major contributions will be missed by all. His retirement is in conjunction with the recruitment of Dr Paulo Scollo in late August. Dr. Scollo is an oculoplastic surgeon who will situate his practice at the Green Desk of MHC.

Also expected to retire in full from practice this summer or fall is Dr. Mathen Mathen. Our department is also grateful for the sacrifices and dedication Mathen gave to our group as the Lead for countless years. He will leave a void at MHC that will be hard to fill. I hope to update you on our next letter on this and other ophthalmology recruitment initiatives currently underway for Winnipeg and Brandon.

The department is working closely with EPSOM and MHC executives to promote the merits and importance of the Sherbrook Development Initiative. Provincial Government, WRHA, and Shared Health Services are aware of this advanced proposal put forward which shows a clear path to sustainable world-class eye care through infrastructure and human resource investment. It is a significant commitment asked of Manitoba Health, and so discussions are ongoing in attempts to seek support.

I hope this spring and summer brings you all good health and happiness. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you all and recognize that our individual efforts have come together to provide a respectful and productive work environment we can be proud of. Thank you!

# Message from the Program Director

**Dr. Andre Jastrzebski**

Spring is definitely in the air. The days are getting longer, the snow has melted, and I've given over my heart and probably a few years of my life to the dream of a deep Jets playoff run. Before everyone attempts to disconnect a bit for the summer I wanted to update you all on progress within our residency program and a few important upcoming events before the academic year is done.

Just like last year, we are lucky to be welcoming two new residents to our program this summer. Dr. Sloane Kowal will be joining us from Queens University and Dr. Sterling King will be joining us from the University of Alberta. I want to thank everyone involved in the selection process for their time and effort. It is truly worth it to be able to welcome such great new people into our program. We are also now getting to work directly with last year's new residents, Drs. Cung and Vosoughi, have completed their off-service rotations and have joined us in the resident clinic over the last few weeks. They will briefly leave us for the TORIC course in Toronto after the May long weekend before they settle into their PGY2 years with us in July. As I've mentioned in previous updates, it's important to note that they are trailblazers in our program as they are our first trainees to be trained under the new Competency-Based framework of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Don't be surprised to see an abundance of learners filling our department in the second half of 2024. In addition to welcoming many out-of-province medical students interested in exploring what our residency program has to offer we will be evaluating several new faculty members as part of the practice-ready assessment program. This not only makes for a stimulating work environment now, it also pays off for us as a department down the line as it ensures the recruitment of top talent to our training program and increases the number of qualified ophthalmologists in Manitoba to care for our growing and aging population.

Lastly, there are a few important events to keep in mind before things "slow down" for the summer. First is our annual Research Day taking place on May 9th and 10th. All of our residents and fellows have been working hard to get their projects completed in time and the quality of talks always reflects the hard work they put in. Additionally, we are welcoming our first overseas keynote speaker as part of research day this year as Dr. Ester Carreno will be joining us all the way from Madrid, Spain. The second big event at the end of the academic year is our annual graduation ceremony. This year we will be honouring the accomplishments of our final-year resident, Dr. Dara Onasanya, and our outgoing retina fellow Dr. Charbel Wahab. I am hoping for a big turnout at all these events.

Have a great summer everyone.

# Message from the UGME Lead:

## Dr. Frankl Stockl

The Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Manitoba continues to play an integral role in undergraduate medical school education. Our department provides a robust curriculum through the Undergraduate Department of Medical Education. The Department of Ophthalmology provides the following course content:

- **Acute and chronic vision loss I, II, III** – 3 self-study sessions, 1 hour each, Ocular Trauma – self-study session, 1 hour, Red-eye I – self-study session, 1 hour, Amblyopia and Strabismus, self-study session, 1 hour
- **Acute and chronic vision loss IV** – small group session, 1 hour, Red-eye II – small group session, 1 hour
- **Neuro-ophthalmology** – lecture, 2 hours
- **Ophthalmology review** – lecture, 1 hour
- **Final exam**

There are some changes to the course content that I am confident will enhance the ophthalmology educational experience:

- The UGME ophthalmology program has adopted the COS consensus objectives for Undergraduate Medical Education. These objectives can be reviewed at: [www.cosprc.ca/canadian-ophthalmology-curriculum-topics-objectives-resources/](http://www.cosprc.ca/canadian-ophthalmology-curriculum-topics-objectives-resources/)
- The assigned study course is undergoing a revamp with some planned enhancements: Reformat assigned study course material, add an improved approach to various presentation scripts like red eye, gradual vision loss, sudden vision loss, and box and highlight “key learning points”
- The small group sessions will also receive a reformat with more case-based examples and videos of real physical exam findings
- The ophthalmology clinical skills website now has links to Queens University's “how to” video which can be reviewed at: <https://ophthalmology.queensu.ca/academics/undergraduate/education>

Faculty participation is strongly encouraged to help ensure that our teaching program remains engaging and robust. There is a multitude of ways faculty can volunteer their time to help educate the next generation of healthcare providers: mentor medical students for their early exposure experience, mentor elective medical students, volunteer for the ophthalmology physical exam session, or supervise the small group teaching sessions.

# Staffing Information:

## Meet Our New PGY1 residents

### Dr. Sloane Kowal

Sloane Kowal is originally from Toronto. She did her undergraduate degree in Integrated Sciences at McMaster University and then went to Queen's for medical school.

Dr. Kowal's passion for accessibility, interdisciplinary care, and knowledge translation drove her toward ophthalmology.

Outside of the hospital, Dr. Kowal enjoys exploring and getting to know her city, frequenting local cafes, volunteering with community organizations, and spending time with friends in nature.



### Dr. Sterling King

Dr. Sterling King is from Prince George, B.C. His background includes an undergraduate in KNES and a Masters in Occupational Therapy.

Dr. King's interests include board games, swimming, and reading! People know him for his work ethic, enthusiasm, and sincere friendships.



# Upcoming Dates

**June 19**

**Graduation for Dr. Dara Onasanya & Dr. Charbel Wahab  
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Skylight Room**

**NS2 Dates: (volunteers required) Dates to be determined**

**Clinical Skills Dates: (volunteers required) Dates to be determined**

**October 16**

**InVision at the RBC Convention Centre**

**Mock Exams**

**November 29 – Part 1**

**February 28, 2025 – Part 2**

**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 (on leave May 7 – July 1)**

**Education Lead: pending**

Dana & Sandy are located at the Misericordia Heath Centre.

Dana is in the office on Monday, Tuesday & Friday weekly. Working remotely Wednesday and Thursday. Sandy is in the office Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Working remotely Monday and Tuesday

Office hours are 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

We are available by email and phone while working remotely.

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## Staff Contacts:

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