Welcome

Message from the Head

I’m inspired by and proud of the accomplishments of the Department of Psychology over this past, tumultuous year. Our department remained resilient in the face of the upheaval created by moving our teaching and research online during the global pandemic. Our success has been driven by our outstanding community of researchers, students and staff, all of whom share a commitment to delivering exceptional research, teaching, and community collaborations—as this report highlights.

In the wake of troubling events both in Canada and internationally, our department has taken a strong stand against racism, and we have made a commitment to be more inclusive and equitable in all of our operations. This year, our Equity Committee established a Diversity Mentorship Program to prepare students from diverse, under-represented, and marginalized backgrounds for graduate admissions in psychology. The program welcomed over 100 psychology undergraduate students from around the world and paired them with 34 dedicated graduate student mentors. In addition, we created a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force that has worked diligently to develop a series of initiatives to increase diversity in faculty hiring and to foster a sense of inclusion for everyone in our department.

This year, two new tenure-track Assistant Professors, Dr. Lauren Emberson and Dr. Friedrich Götz, joined our department. Their innovative research programs will enrich our developmental and social/personality areas, respectively. In addition, renovations in the Douglas Kenny Building have added new offices, labs, and meeting rooms—as well as much-needed seismic upgrades.

Once again, I am grateful for the efforts of our faculty, students and staff, and I thank everyone in our community for their dedication and support.

Dr. D. Geoffrey Hall
Head, UBC Department of Psychology
Research and Innovation

2020-2021 Highlights
$10,411,749 in research grants awarded
  $6,080,807 Tri-council
  $1,623,535 Other government
  $1,858,928 Industry & non-profit
  $847,479 Canada Research Chairs
251 peer-reviewed articles published
5 books and edited volumes

Research Excellence
Dr. Luke Clark (Killam Research Prize; Applied Science, Medicine, Sciences), Dr. Christiane Hoppmann (Killam Research Fellowship), Dr. David Klonsky, and Dr. Jiaying Zhao (Killam Research Prizes; Arts) were recipients of UBC’s 2020 Faculty Research Awards.

Dr. Anita DeLongis, Patrick Klaiber, Dr. Nancy Sin, and Jin Wen were award co-recipients of the Innovative Research on Aging Award (bronze award).

Dr. Liisa Galea and Dr. Jason Snyder received funding from the Canadian Institute of Health Research’s Project Grant Spring 2020 competition.

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research named Dr. Eric Kim and Dr. Nancy Sin 2020 Scholar award recipients.

Dr. Eric Kim received the Springer Early Career Achievement Award in Research on Adult Development and Aging from Division 20 of the American Psychology Association.

Dr. Steven Heine, Dr. Kristin Laurin, Dr. Alan Kingstone, Dr. Daniela Palombo, Dr. Jason Rights, and Dr. Toni Schmader received funding from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) 2019-20 Insight Development Grant competition.

Dr. Jeremy Biesanz and Dr. Mark Schaller also received SSHRC Insight Grants for their research.

Dr. Darko Odic received a Jacobs Research Foundation Fellowship.

Natalie Brown, Dr. Christiane Hoppmann, Dr. Alan Kingstone, and Dr. Wolfgang Linden received new funding from UBC Health through its inaugural Health Innovation Funding Investment Awards.

Dr. Janet Werker and Language Sciences collaborators received Canada Foundation for Innovation’s John R. Evans Leaders Fund to support the specialized infrastructure needed for language research.
2020-2021 Highlights

21,307 seats filled by undergraduate students
8,591 undergraduate students
2,886 BA psychology majors
268 BSc behavioural neuroscience majors
163 honours & directed studies students
19 co-op students
$4,200 in psychology undergraduate awards

Teaching Excellence

Dr. Steven Barnes, Dr. Benjamin Cheung, Dr. Simon Lolliot, and Dr. Mark Schaller were recognized with an OER Champion Award for their significant contribution to the use of open educational resources (OER) at UBC.

In response to the sudden shift to online learning due to COVID-19, Dr. Steven Barnes and Dr. Catherine Rawn established and lead a teaching taskforce of Graduate Academic Assistants including Alyssa Ash, Rachel Benjamin, Lucy De Souza, Nicole Jenni, and Spencer Murch.

Student Awards and News

The Faculty of Arts recognized UBC Psychology students Helena Almeida, Calvin Jacob Cruz, Priyam Joshi, Manjot Kaur Sekhon, Ramneet Sidhu, and Charlotte Stewardson as outstanding student leaders.

UBC Psychology student Vanessa Kim was honoured as the 2020 Arts Co-op Undergraduate Student of the Year.

Led by Dr. Nancy Sin, and with support from Lucy De Souza and Lillian May, UBC Psychology launched a Diversity Mentorship Program to prepare and mentor students from diverse, under-resourced, underrepresented, and/or marginalized backgrounds for graduate admissions in psychology.

A student-led journal club, Intersectional Perspectives in Psychology (IPP), was launched by Leor Elizur and Victoria Wardell. The IPP focuses on intersectionality in psychology and provides a space for the exploration of psychological research with a social justice driven lens.

The Undergraduate Program in Neuroscience was approved by the UBC Senate and Board of Governors.
2020-2021 Highlights

391 graduate student applications
118 graduate students
  41 MA students
  77 PhD students
33 post-doctoral fellows
$37,488 median support provided to graduate students
61% of graduate students held fellowships
$1,041,168 in new graduate student fellowships
14 MA degrees awarded
18 PhD degrees awarded

Scholarly Excellence

Clinical Psychology PhD student Kate Kysow was named a UBC Public Scholar.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow Katerina Rnic received a UBC Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.
MA students Matthew Billet, Maria Bleier, Brandon Forys, Persephone Larkin, Sonia Milani, Elise Ng-Cordell, Hongyuan Qi, and Jason Zheng received Tri-Council Fellowships/UBC Affiliated Awards to support their Masters research.
PhD students Sumeet Jaswal, Ellen Jopling, Ariel Ko, Raymond MacNeil, Joey Manaligod, Mikayla Pachkowski, Brent Stewart, Jessica Stewart, and Bita Zareian received Tri-Council Fellowships to support their Doctoral research.

Dr. Katerina Rnic
Recipient, UBC Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
Leadership and Community

2020-2021 Highlights
Ranked 1st in Canada and 13th globally
265 conference presentations by faculty
136 invited addresses by psychology faculty
17 journal editorships & associate editorships held by faculty
2 society presidents

Public Engagement
Dr. Ted Beauchaine, Dr. Michele Gelfand, Dr. Tom Griffiths, and Dr. Eric Landrum, shared their research and ideas as part of the department’s 2020-21 Colloquia Series.

With funding from the UBC Healthy Workplace Initiatives Program, a team of psychology staff planted the Peas of Mind Community Garden to bring our community together to experience the rewards of gardening, fresh produce, personal connections, and beautification to our campus neighbourhood.

Leadership
Dr. Liisa Galea was appointed as Health Advisor to UBC’s Office of the VP, Research & Innovation in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Dr. Galea also received funding from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research’s 2020 Reach Competition.

Dr. Connor Kerns was named a member of the Autism Evidence Based Working Group by the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Dr. Ara Norenzayan was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) and Dr. Catharine Winstanley was named a Member of the RSC’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Dr. Daniela Palombo was elected as a member of the Memory Disorders Research Society.

Dr. Catherine Rawn was appointed the Provost Office Fellow, Faculty in Online Learning.

Dr. Kiran Soma received a Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

Dr. Janet Werker received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant to launch the project, ‘Ensuring Full Literacy in a Multicultural and Digital World’.

Dr. Kiran Soma
Recipient, Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring
## People

### 2020-2021 Highlights

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### New faculty members

- **Dr. Lauren Emberson**
  Assistant Professor, Developmental Area

- **Dr. Friedrich Götz**
  Assistant Professor, Social/Personality Area

### Promotion and tenure

- **Dr. Andrew Baron**
  Professor, Developmental Area

- **Dr. Connor Kerns**
  Associate Professor, Clinical Area

### Retirement

- **Dr. Delroy Paulhus**
  Professor Emeritus, Social/Personality Area

- **Dr. Ronald Rensink**
  Professor Emeritus, Cognitive Science Area

### In Memoriam

- **Dr. Tannis MacBeth**
  Professor Emerita
2020-2021 Highlights


Popular Stories in the News

A study by psychology graduate students Patrick Klaiber and Jin Wen, and Dr. Anita DeLongis and Dr. Nancy Sin, found adults aged 60 and up fared better emotionally compared to younger adults (18–39) and middle-aged adults (40–59) amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nearly 78 per cent of children with autism have at least one mental health condition and nearly half have two mental health conditions or more, according to research by Dr. Connor Kerns. The study also found mental health conditions present in 44.8 per cent of pre-school age children with autism.

Dr. Liisa Galea and neuroscience PhD student Shunya Yagi explored sex differences in neurogenesis and found there is a difference in the regulation of neurogenesis in the hippocampus between male and female rats.

Research by Dr. Nancy Sin showed that after a night of shorter sleep, people react more emotionally to stressful events the next day—and they didn’t find as much joy in the good things.

Research by Dr. Elizabeth Blundon and Dr. Lawrence Ward was the first to investigate hearing in humans when they are close to death. The research showed that some people may still be able to hear while in an unresponsive state at the end of their life.

A collaboration between Dr. Jiaying Zhao and Foundations for Social Change found that after giving money directly to homeless individuals, the recipients found housing faster, boosted food security and reduced spending on substances.