It's hard to believe we are already in the second month of the spring term of 2022. Even though I have only been in the DCT position since July 2021, a lot has happened during my time on the job and since our last annual newsletter. First, I would like to say how pleased I am to have the privilege of serving as the “new” Director of Clinical Training and to work with such a great group of faculty, students, and staff.

Continued on Page 4
Having transitioned into this role in July 2021, I would like to take the time to thank Dr. Colette Smart for all of her efforts in this role for the last two years. Colette did a fantastic job and I appreciate the time that she has taken to help me get up to speed!

As Practicum Placement Coordinator, I am currently responsible for organizing student practicum experiences from start to finish.

Dr. Erica Woodin has taken over my previous role as Practicum Development Coordinator and is in charge of facilitating new practicum placements for our students.

As always, we are grateful for the hard work and commitment of all of our practicum supervisors. We appreciate that the pandemic has continued to present challenges and recognize your continued efforts to offer top-notch clinical training experiences to our students!
Recently our students have had opportunities to learn at 23 practicum sites in the Greater Victoria Area, across BC and beyond, including:

- UVic Student Counselling Services, Victoria, BC
- Saanich Child and Youth Mental Health, Victoria, BC
- Victoria Child and Youth Mental Health, Victoria, BC
- Neuropsychological Services at QACCH Health, Victoria, BC
- Inpatient & Outpatient Mental Health Services at QACCH Health, Victoria, BC
- Anxiety Disorder Clinic, Island Health, Adult Mental Health Services, Victoria, BC
- Neurorehabilitation Services at Victoria General Hospital, Victoria, BC
- Vancouver Island Psychological Services, Victoria, BC
- Homewood Ravensview, Victoria, BC
- Duff Psychological Services Inc., Victoria, BC
- Victoria Child & Family Psychological Services, Victoria, BC
- Forensic Psychiatric Services, Victoria, BC
- Inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, Nanaimo, BC
- BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, BC
- Wise Mind Centre, Vancouver, BC
- Bloom Psychology Clinic, Vancouver, BC
- Sand Story Psychology Services, Vancouver, BC
- Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, Vancouver, BC
- The Vancouver Anxiety Clinic, Vancouver, BC
- Timber Creek Care Facility, Surrey, BC
- UBC-Okanagan Psychology Clinic, Kelowna, BC
- Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, ON
- Goranson Wellbeing, Victoria, BC

Sincerest thanks to all of the practicum supervisors for your time, commitment and dedication to providing students with these wonderful opportunities for clinical training!
I especially want to extend my appreciation to Dr. Cathy Costigan who served as the DCT for the previous 9 years! This shows amazing dedication. Cathy expertly guided the program through many changes prior to and during the pandemic. I am very grateful for all that she has done to keep the program running smoothly during even the most difficult times and for all the preparatory work she did to ensure we would have a smooth transition between DCTs.

I also want to recognize the dedication and contributions to the program of our faculty, supervisors, and students. Despite the many challenges and disruptions we’ve encountered during the pandemic, I’m pleased with how well everyone has pulled together to support each other and to ensure that student training and services to our clients continue safely. I am especially grateful to our many practicum supervisors who went above and beyond to continue to provide our students with outstanding practicum opportunities and training. I also want to acknowledge the efforts and many successes of our practicum coordinators from the recent past (Dr. Colette Smart) and present (Drs. Jodie Gawryluk & Erica Woodin) who worked tirelessly to place students and to secure several new practicum sites to extend the opportunities for our students during restricted times.
I also want to recognize several people who graciously helped out in the clinic by serving terms as Acting Clinic Director – a big “thank you” to Drs. Audra Roemer and Theone Paterson for your guidance and leadership on the clinic over the past year. Similarly, we benefitted from the assistance of several faculty, sessional instructors, and clinical supervisors who taught clinical courses and/or provided clinical supervision in the clinic – thank you to Drs. Tanna Mellings, Karen Grant, and Kim Lane. We are also grateful to have Dr. Gina Harrison from the Faculty of Education join us as a 503 practicum supervision this spring term.

As many of you may know, we were joined last spring by Ms. Janice Bentley who is our “new” Clinic Secretary. Janice has fit in very well with the clinic and the program and both students and faculty alike have appreciated how quickly she has learned the ropes in the clinic. I want to acknowledge that starting a new job in the middle of a pandemic is no easy feat but Janice took it in stride. We are fortunate to have her in the clinic and we look forward to working with her for many years to come.

We are very pleased to have had Dr. Lara Robinson rejoin us in the fall term as she gradually returned to her role as Clinic Director. While we’ve been very happy to have her back, we are also sad to let you know that Lara has announced that after many years of service, she will be retiring at the end of June 2022. Lara’s contributions to the clinic and to the program has been immeasurable and she will be greatly missed. We look forward to giving her a great send-off in a few months’ time.
This fall the program had its’ long-awaited CPA reaccreditation site visit. I greatly appreciate the hard work Cathy put into preparing the very comprehensive reaccreditation self-study that paved the way for the site visit. On November 29-30th 2021, we welcomed the three experienced psychologists who conducted the virtual site visit. I can’t begin to express how pleased I am with the level of engagement of faculty, students, practicum supervisors, and others in the site visit meetings. It was also heartening to see so many people in attendance at the virtual closing meeting where we received verbal feedback from the site visitors.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and/or supported us in this process. Practicum supervisors, in particular, are essential partners in the training of our students, so your presence and engagement as representatives from several of our practicum sites highlighted your commitment to the quality of our students’ training. I’m pleased to say that we recently received the written report from the site visitors which had a very positive tone and we now await a decision from the CPA Accreditation panel which we expect to receive after the panel’s spring meeting. We will be sure to let everyone know the outcome.

During the past year, we’ve all had to be creative and think outside the box while learning new ways of doing things. Through interest and necessity, we delved further into the use of telehealth and discovered its great value and look forward to continuing to explore its’ use. Similarly, we are making good use of our digital A/V recording system (VALT) in the clinic and students and supervisors are finding it to be both user-friendly and a great improvement over our previous systems. We’ve also been working on a plan for a much-needed renovation in the clinic – our fingers are still crossed that our funding proposal will be successful.
Regarding future developments, the department and the clinical program have been involved in two exciting searches for new faculty members, both of whom will be Registered Psychologists. We are in the latter stages of searching for an Indigenous Mental Health Research Chair and an Assistant Teaching Professor (ACT) in the area of Mental Health and Well-Being. While the latter is primarily an undergraduate teaching position, we have sought a Registered/Registerable psychologist who may also provide some support in the clinic.

Finally, I am happy to report that three students completed the program in 2020-2021! Congratulations to our newest members of the profession: Drs. Jordan Ali, Chantel Mayo, and Vivien So! We know you will do us proud.

This year we also welcomed six new students in September 2021. Please welcome:

**Cian Dabrowski**
Clinical Neuropsychology, Supervisor: Dr. Theone Paterson

**Heba Elgharbawy**
Clinical Lifespan, Supervisor: Dr. Megan Ames

**Sunny Guo**
Clinical Neuropsychology, Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Macoun

**Cole Kennedy**
Clinical Neuropsychology, Supervisor: Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera

**Travis Menuz**
Clinical Lifespan, Supervisor: Dr. Megan Ames

**Baeleigh VanderZwaag**
Clinical Neuropsychology, Supervisor: Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera

We look forward to introducing the new students to our practicum supervisors at this year’s virtual reception on February 10th which will be held via Zoom.
Dr. Sarah Macoun

I am a Registered Psychologist and Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology (Pediatric Neuropsychology) at the University of Victoria (UVic). I was a graduate of the Clinical Neuropsychology Program at UVic and after completing my degree, I practiced clinically as a neuropsychologist in private practice, school and community settings for 10 years. Here, I developed a specialty practice in Autism diagnostic and complex needs assessments.

My professional expertise includes development/evaluation of cognitive/academic interventions, neuropsychological assessment, and program planning for children with medical conditions that impact brain function. My research program focuses broadly on pediatric cognitive rehabilitation, neuropsychological intervention/assessment, and neurodevelopmental disabilities. While I do have lines of research in motor systems in ADHD and FASD diagnostics, I have recently been focused on the development, validation, and community scaling of a novel cognitive intervention for attention and executive function difficulties in children called Dino Island.

Dino Island is a hybrid intervention that uses two validated neuroscientific approaches for driving brain plasticity. It combines the appeal of tablet-based gaming in a scaffolded and adaptive format (process specific approach) with the efficacy of an in person child-interventionist structure (compensatory approach). We are currently funded by Kids Brain Health Network (National Centres of Excellence Program) as part of their Cycle III of funding, which is focused on establishing clinical and implementation efficacy for innovations through industry/academic/community partnerships to improve quality of life for children and families with neurodevelopmental disabilities.
This work is heavily focused on technology transfer and facilitating the translation of academic innovations to the public domain. We also recently completed work on a project called the Panacea Gaming Project (PGP), a transnational research project that consisted of 6 partners across 5 countries and 3 continents (Canada, Belgium Turkey, Slovenia and South Korea). This project was focused on developing digital health tools for the clinical treatment of those with disabilities, was the first Canadian-led ITEA cluster project in history, and was the first successful ITEA project to span 3 continents.

I currently have active academic partnerships with Cummings Medical School (Calgary), the Mayo Clinic, BC Children’s Hospital, and Children’s Nationwide Hospital. I have industry/community partnerships with the Sooke/Surrey School Districts, HealthTech Connex Centre for Neurology Studies, The Centre for Child Development (Lower Mainland), Woodview Autism and Mental Health Services (Ontario), Quest School (Alberta) and The Uncomplicated Family/Kids Uncomplicated. I maintain an active research lab that currently consists of 4 PhD students, 1 Master’s Student, 1 Honours student and approximately 12 undergraduate students. I also maintain a small private practice focused on Autism diagnostic services for school-age children.

Representative publications include:


HIGHLIGHTS
Students on Internship 2021-2022

A big congratulations to the students who are currently on internship! They have worked hard during their programs and will no doubt continue to do so on internship and beyond. Our appreciation also goes out to the practicum supervisors and sites that have supported these students along their journey. We would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of both these students and their practicum supervisors!

Abbi Graves
Hamilton Health Sciences Hamilton, ON Neuropsychology

Hannah Mohun
Saskatoon, SK Saskatoon Area Psychology Residency Psychology Internship

Keara Rodd
Eastern Health St. John’s, NL Health Stream (Eating Disorders Focus)

Vanessa Scarapicchia
Ottawa Hospital – Clinical Ottawa, ON Neuropsychology

Ryan Wong
Kingston Internship Consortium Kingston, ON Psychology Internship

Congratulations
The UVic Student Wellness Centre (SWC) provides multidisciplinary, collaborative support for the emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of UVic students. Counselling, Health and Multifaith are the three units who have integrated in the SWC. Our specialty in Counselling is the provision of professional counselling and psychological services.

In the Advanced Practicum program, we welcome a cohort of 2-4 practicum students from graduate programs including Counselling Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Child and Youth Care. **We train and support our practicum students to provide individual and group counselling for a diverse university student population with a wide range of presenting concerns.** Counselling modes may include in-person, video and telephone, all from our site in the Health & Wellness Building. We provide weekly supervision (individual and group) and training seminars to our practicum cohort, with an emphasis on clinical skills, self-awareness and professionalism.

*Please note: UVic students who are accepted into the program are not eligible to receive counselling at the Student Wellness Centre for the duration of their practicum placement. Alternative options for support will be discussed during the selection process and orientation.*

The Health and Wellness Building (HWB) contains Counselling and Health which, together with Multifaith, make up the Student Wellness Centre. 
A Fond Farewell to Our Clinic Director

Dr. Lara Robinson, R. Psych

joined the clinical psychology faculty in 2004 as the director of the UVic Psychology Clinic, where all clinical graduate students have their first practicum experience. Dr. Robinson has supervised many students in their first adult therapy case, which is a formative experience for students as they learn how to actually “do therapy.” Her clinical practice has focused on adult psychotherapy and assessment in mental health and health psychology.

Her main therapy orientation is interpersonal, which also happens to be one of her favourite courses to teach, as she enjoys listening and being a part of students’ learning of the concepts. Either knowingly or otherwise, Dr. Robinson resides in the minds of many UVic clinical psychology graduate students through her Ethics course, a course that she notes being “really proud of.” Last but not least, Dr. Robinson has been instrumental in the development of our practicum program and has forged strong and lasting relationships with the supervisors who contribute to the clinical training of our students.

We are very sad to say that Dr. Robinson has announced her retirement at the end of June 2022. Dr. Robinson has been foundational in so many ways to the formation of the Psychology Clinic and to the clinical training of our students. She will leave a gaping hole in our program and in the clinic and we will miss her immensely. In addition to her top-notch clinical mentorship and stewardship of the clinic, she will be missed for her warmth, dedication to students, and ever ready availability of tea. We will be holding a retirement party closer to her departure, however, we want to take this moment to thank her for her years of dedication to our program. Our graduates are making a positive impact across Canada and beyond due in no small part to her guidance.
Current Clinical Psychology Faculty

Marsha Runtz Ph.D., R. Psych., Associate Professor & Director of Clinical Training

Lara Robinson Ph.D., R. Psych., Assistant Teaching Professor & Psychology Clinic Director

Janice Bentley Clinic Secretary

Megan Ames Ph.D., R. Psych., Assistant Professor

Catherine Costigan Ph.D., R. Psych., Professor

Laurie Fitzgerald M.Sc., Psychometry Instructor

Kimberly Kerns, Ph.D., R. Psych., Professor Emeritus

Maurico Garcia-Barrera, Ph.D., R. Psych., Associate Professor

Jodie Gawryluk Ph.D., R. Psych., Associate Professor & Practicum Placement Coordinator

Sarah Macoun Ph.D., R. Psych., Associate Professor

Catherine Mateer Ph.D., R. Psych., Professor Emeritus

Theone Paterson Ph.D., R. Psych., Assistant Professor

Colette Smart Ph.D., R. Psych., Associate Professor

Holly Tuokko Ph.D., R. Psych., Professor Emeritus

Brianna Turner Ph.D., R. Psych., Associate Professor

Natasha Wawrykow Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor & Indigenization Consultant

Erica Woodin Ph.D., R. Psych., Associate Professor & Practicum Development Coordinator
Clinical Psychology Students Sunny, Heba, Naz, and Pauline enjoying the winter sunshine at Dallas Road in Victoria