Welcome

Message from the Head

As I reflect on the past year, the upheaval we have faced in the recent months weighs heavily. The 2019-2020 academic year will always be remembered as an extraordinary time and I’m proud of the resiliency our faculty, students, and staff have shown.

Despite these circumstances, the psychology department has enjoyed another outstanding year, marked by our successes in teaching and learning, our research excellence, and our collaborations and community connections.

We continue to be recognized as a world-leading psychology department and this is a testament to the commitment and hard work that goes into our research, teaching, and service. We attract the best and brightest. This year we welcomed three new tenure-track Assistant Professors, Dr. Samantha Dawson, Dr. Eric Kim, and Dr. Noah Silverberg. Their strong research programs add to our exceptional level of expertise.

This report highlights just some of our accomplishments in teaching, research, and community engagement. I would like to once again thank our dedicated faculty, students, and staff for their continued support.

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

2019-2020 Highlights
$7,810,116 in research grants awarded
$4,645,029 Tri-council
$1,085,974 Other government
$1,262,446 Industry & non-profit
$816,667 Canada Research Chairs
229 peer-reviewed articles published

Research Excellence
Dr. Frances Chen and Dr. Kristin Laurin each earned a 2019 UBC Killam Research Prize.
Dr. Kenneth Craig was named a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.
Dr. StanFloresco was awarded the 2019 Daniel H. Efron Research Award by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.
Dr. Liisa Galea received the Convening and Collaborating Award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.
Dr. Kiley Hamlin’s developmental research is featured in Babies, a new Netflix docuseries.
Dr. Alan Kingstone received the 2020 Donald O. Hebb Distinguished Contribution Award from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science.
Dr. Eric Kim and Dr. Darko Odic were named 2019 Rising Stars by the Association for Psychological Science.
Dr. Toni Schmader received the Theory-Innovation Award from the European Association of Social Psychology.
Teaching and Learning

2019-2020 Highlights

18,474 seats filled by undergraduate students  
8,445 undergraduate students  
2,683 BA psychology majors  
235 BSc behavioural neuroscience majors  
152 honours & directed studies students  
30 co-op students  
$4,200 in psychology undergraduate awards

Teaching Excellence

Dr. Andrew Baron and Dr. David King each earned a 2019 Robert E. Knox Teaching Award. These awards recognize and celebrate psychology faculty whose teaching practice is both exemplary and inspiring.

Dr. Stan Floresco received the 2019-2020 Killam Teaching Prize, a top teaching prize at UBC. This award reflects excellence in distinguished teaching at all levels of instruction.

Student Awards and News

The officer team of the UBC Chapter of Psi Chi received the 2020 Kay Wilson Officer Team Leadership Award.

Maggie Coval and Ava Ivkov were finalists at UBC’s Undergraduate 3-Minute Thesis Competition.
2019-2020 Highlights

338 graduate student applications
116 graduate students
   29 MA students
   87 PhD students
31 post-doctoral fellows
$33,320 median support provided to graduate students
86% of graduate students held fellowships
$1,053,598 in new graduate student fellowships
15 MA degrees awarded
9 PhD degrees awarded

Scholarly Excellence

Neuroscience PhD student Jill Dosso received the 2019-20 UBC Killam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award for her teaching and learning in the psychology department.

Psychology PhD student Ellen Jopling was awarded the prestigious 2020 Governor General’s Academic Gold Medal for her graduate studies and research accomplishments.

Neuroscience PhD student Alex Yu received the 2019 Demetri Papageorgis Teaching Assistant Award for his contributions to student education in the psychology department.
Leadership and Community

2019-2020 Highlights

Ranked 1st in Canada and 10th globally
281 conference presentations by faculty
141 invited addresses by psychology faculty
19 journal editorships and associate editorships held by faculty
1 society president

Public Engagement

Dr. Niall Bolger, Dr. Kathleen Gates, Dr. Carey Morewedge, Dr. Jenny Saffran, and Dr. Zachary Walsh shared their research and ideas as part of the department’s 2019-20 Colloquia Series.

Dr. Frances Chen and Dr. Christiane Hoppmann’s labs hosted a health psychology booth at UBC’s Homecoming event.

Leadership

Dr. Kalina Christoff and the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies launched the Ways of Knowing podcast.

Dr. Peter Suedfeld was officially invested as Officer of the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada.

Dr. Janet Werker was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in recognition of her distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Dr. Jiaying Zhao received funding from UBC’s Research Excellence Clusters program to form the Decision Insights for Business & Society (DIBS) research cluster.
People in 2019-2020

**New faculty members**

- **Dr. Samantha Dawson**, Assistant Professor, Clinical Area
- **Dr. Eric Kim**, Assistant Professor, Health Area
- **Dr. Noah Silverberg**, Assistant Professor, Clinical Area

**Promotion and tenure**

- **Dr. Sunaina Assanand**, Professor of Teaching, Learning Enhancement Area
- **Dr. Kiley Hamlin**, Professor, Developmental Area
- **Dr. Darko Odic**, Associate Professor, Developmental Area
- **Dr. Jason Snyder**, Associate Professor, Behavioural Neuroscience Area
Media Coverage

2019-2020 Highlights


Popular Stories in the News

A study by postdoctoral fellow Dr. Christine Aderl and Dr. Frances Chen showed women who used oral contraceptives during adolescence are more likely to develop depression as adults.

Research from PhD student Marlise Hofer and Dr. Frances Chen showed smelling your partner’s worn clothing may improve your sleep and reduce stress.

Dr. Anita DeLongis and Dr. Nancy Sin launched a global study to examine how people are coping with the COVID-19 outbreak.

Research from PhD student Iris Lok and Dr. Elizabeth Dunn showed realistic images can be more effective than statistical data in persuading people to support seismic upgrades to schools in case of a major earthquake. Photo above.

Biological siblings of people with a gambling disorder also display markers of increased impulsivity and risk-taking, according to a study by Dr. Eve Limbrick-Oldfield, a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Gambling Research at UBC.

Research by Dr. Toni Schmader found that hiring committees that don’t believe in gender bias promote fewer women.