

****Sent on behalf of Dr. Steven Miller, Head, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, UBC****



Michelle Demos MD, FRCPC
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia
Clinician, Pediatric Neurogenetics, BC Children's Hospital
Head (Interim), Division of Neurology, Department of Pediatrics, UBC & BCCH
Investigator, BC Children's Hospital

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Dr. Michelle Demos, Clinical Assistant Professor with the Department of Pediatrics has been appointed as the Interim Head for the Division of Neurology effective June 1st, 2023.

Dr. Demos is a Pediatric Neurologist and Neurogeneticist who has been with the department since 2007. In her new position, she brings a wealth of leadership experience stemming from her various roles as the Clinical Genomics Director for the Division of Neurology, and as an active member of the T6 Quality Care Committee, the Biobank Committee, the Pediatric Neurology Residency Training Committee, and the Medical Genetics Residency Training Committee.

Dr. Demos is also a researcher at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute. Her collaborative clinical research focuses on improving the diagnostic yield of genetic causes of epilepsy with genome-wide technologies, and on precision medicine to improve outcomes.

She was the Co-Lead on the Epilepsy Genomics (EpGen) Study, which involved whole exome sequencing in children with early onset epilepsy of unknown cause. This collaborative work helped demonstrate the potential treatment impact of a genetic diagnosis and led to new gene discoveries.

Under her leadership to date, she has helped to expand the number of neurologists on staff and widen the expertise within the group. Dr. Demos has also continued to nurture the division's research activity and help to promote clinical advances in diagnosis and management of pediatric neurological disorders to improve patient outcomes. **MORE:** <https://bcchr.ca/mdemos>



Mary Connolly MB BCh FRCPC(C), FRCP(I), FRCP(Edin)
Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia
Director, Epilepsy Program, BC Children's Hospital
Co-Director, Epilepsy Surgery Program, BC Children's Hospital
President, Canadian League Against Epilepsy
Investigator, BC Children's Hospital

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Mary Connolly for leading the Division of Neurology from 2004 to June 2023.

Under her leadership, Dr. Connolly helped to grow the core team to eighteen neurologists, two PhD imaging scientists and a research team of six research assistants and a director of research.

The Division of Neurology grew exponentially under Dr. Connolly's guidance and members are recognized nationally and internationally for their expertise in epilepsy, neuromuscular diseases, neonatal neurology, neurogenetic disorders and brain mapping.

She is the Director of the Epilepsy Program and Co-Director of the Epilepsy Surgery Program. Together with Dr. Demos, they jointly led the EpGen study sponsored by BC Children's Hospital Foundation (BCCHF) and the Alva Foundation.

Recently, a two-year Fellowship in Epilepsy was established at BCCHF in honor of Dr. Connolly's work, by a family whose child was under her attentive medical care.

Although, she is stepping down as Division Head, Dr. Connolly will continue to lead the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program (CEP) which provides state of the art care and clinical trials offering novel gene therapy for children and youth with different types of epilepsy in BC.

More about her work as an epileptologist and her ongoing clinical trials which look to improve outcomes for children with Dravet syndrome, other rare epilepsies, and tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) can be found at <https://bcchr.ca/mbconnolly>.

Staff updates:



Thiviya Selvanathan, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Staff Physician, Division of Neurology,
BC Children's Hospital

Effective Jan 1, 2024, Dr. Thiviya Selvanathan joined the division as a pediatric neurologist with additional subspecialty training in Neonatal Neurology. She completed her residency and fellowship training at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Dr. Selvanathan is also a PhD Candidate at the Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Toronto and she is completing her training under the supervision of Dr. Steven Miller. Dr. Selvanathan is passionate about studying early fetal, neonatal and childhood brain development using advanced neuroimaging techniques.

Her research focuses on understanding how brain injury, clinical factors, and social determinants impact early brain development in infants at high risk for developmental disabilities, such as those born preterm or with congenital heart disease, with an aim to improve child health outcomes.

Recent Publication:

Journal name: Neurology

Title: Major Surgery, Brain Injury, and Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Very Preterm Infants

Link to article: <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.000000000207848>

Lastly, we would like to thank Dr. Paul Webb, who will be covering for Dr. Jonny Smith until July and Dr. Djurdja Djurdjevic will locum for Dr. Shafina Sachedina until the end of the year.

With Thanks,

Steven

Dr. Steven Paul Miller MDCM FRCPC FRSC (He, Him, His)
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Department of Pediatrics  

I respectfully acknowledge and thank the x̱məθkwəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Salilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations on whose unceded and traditional territories I am privileged to live, learn, teach and practice upon.