

Endometriosis &
Pelvic Pain Laboratory

Impact Report 2020

MISSION

The Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Laboratory will improve understanding, care and awareness of endometriosis through cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and knowledge translation.

VISION

We envision a world where people with endometriosis receive a timely diagnosis and personalized, effective treatment.

Conduct innovative research that progresses from the bench to the bedside and community

Collaborate with researchers, health professionals, patients and community groups across disciplines

Communicate findings to the right stakeholders in the right format

Train the next generation of clinicians and researchers

VALUES

Inclusivity

We aim to exemplify a culture of inclusivity by fostering a welcoming, collaborative work environment and considering the diverse needs and experiences of people with endometriosis.

Integrity

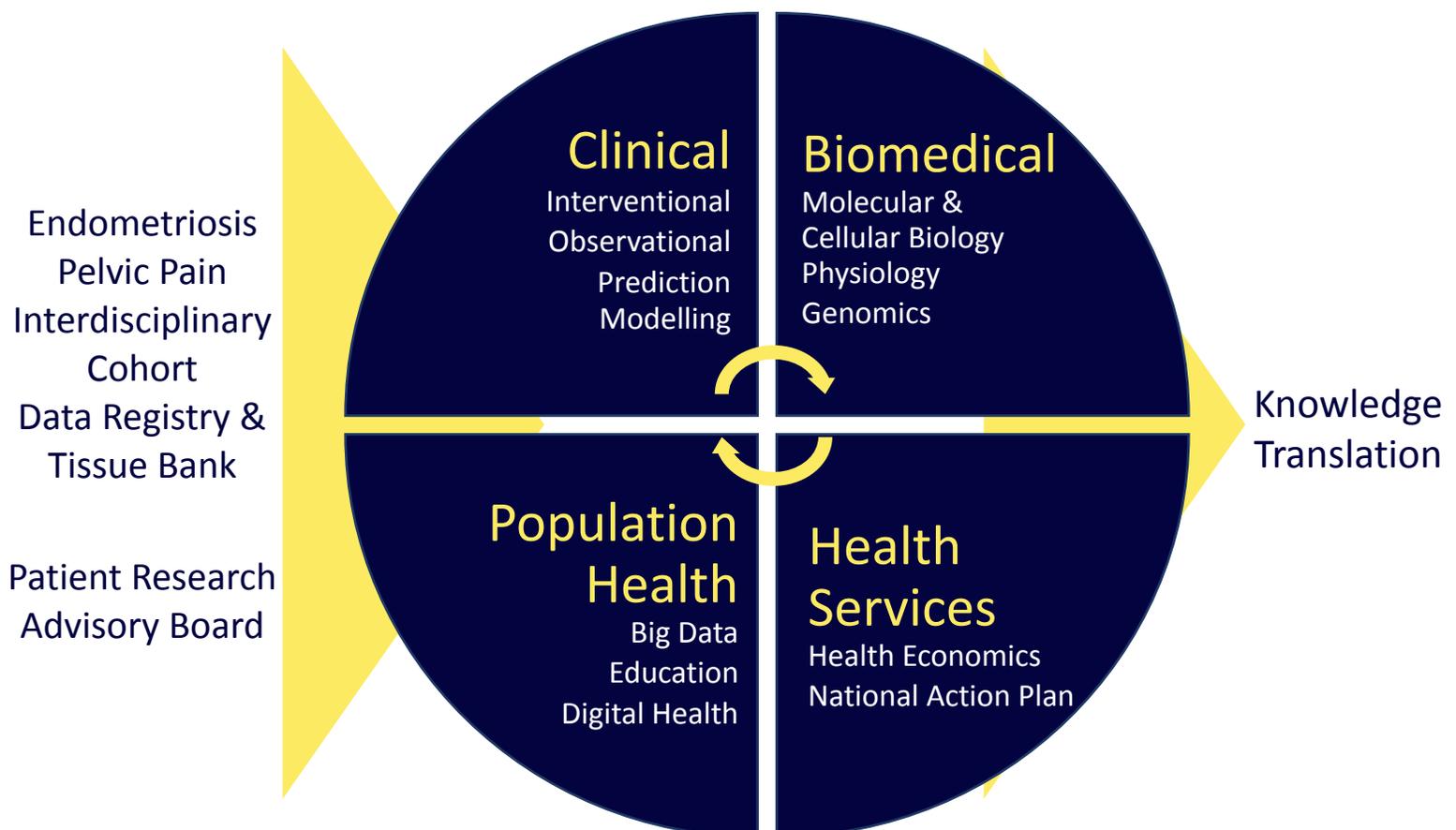
We strive to undertake high quality rigorous scientific inquiry that is honest, transparent, consistent, accountable and patient-centred.

Scholarship & Innovation

We seek to challenge assumptions, collaborate across disciplines and strive for novel, useful and meaningful outcomes.

Mentorship

We are committed to supporting our trainees, patient partners and team members to maximize their potential, develop new skills and follow their passions.



12

publications

11

active studies

20

presentations

\$240k

raised

13

trainees

13

public events or
media appearances

Scholarship & Innovation

Is endometriosis metastasizing?
Shared somatic alterations suggest
common origins across lesions

[Peng/ Apr 2020](#)

We came one step closer to understanding the biology of painful sex in endometriosis. Post-doctoral fellow Dr. Bo Peng and now graduated PhD candidate Dr. Fahad Alotaibi found that an inflammatory molecule (IL-1beta) induced nerve growth around endometriosis. This nerve growth was associated with worse sexual pain. Therefore, IL-1beta and associated pathways to increased nerve growth may serve as a future non-hormonal drug targets to treat endometriosis.



Collaboration

Endometriosis in Canada: It Is Time
for Collaboration to Advance
Patient-Oriented, Evidence-Based
Policy, Care, and Research

[Wahl/June 2020](#)

People with endometriosis not only struggle with debilitating complex chronic pain but are also plagued by unnecessary diagnostic delays, societal stigma, gender discrimination and ineffective treatments. As the first step in a call to action for policy change we formed EndoAct Canada, an independent pan-Canadian collaboration between patients, clinicians and researchers.

Communication

Sex, Pain & Endometriosis

endopain.endometriosis.org

The year 2020 concluded with the launch of a brand new website dedicated to raising awareness about endometriosis-associated painful sex. The first of its kind, this resource was funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research Project Grant and is a collaboration between health professionals, researchers, community organizations and people with endometriosis. It provides evidence-based information, interactive resources and a safe space that validates those who experience painful sex.

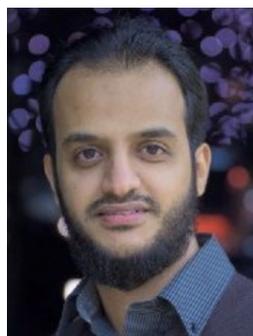
The next generation



Dr. Caroline Lee
MD, MSc, FRCSC
Gynaecologist

In 2020 Dr. Lee completed our training program in endometriosis, pelvic pain and advanced laparoscopic surgery and was awarded an MSc in Reproductive and Developmental Sciences. Her research focuses on better understanding surgical management for people with endometriosis and the impact of surgery on pelvic pain. Upon graduation she was invited to stay on as a staff gynaecologist at the BC Women's Centre for Pelvic Pain & Endometriosis. We are very excited to continue working with her for years to come!

Dr. Alotaibi joined the Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Laboratory in 2015 completing both an MSc and PhD in Reproductive and Developmental Sciences. His work on the role of interleukin 1-beta, plasminogen activator system and nerve growth factor in endometriosis-associated deep dyspareunia uncovered important insights into endometriosis pain mechanisms and has laid the foundation for discoveries to come. We are grateful to have worked with Dr. Alotaibi and excited to see what he can accomplish as an Assistant Professor.



Dr. Fahad Alotaibi PhD
Assistant Professor
Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University



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yonglab.med.ubc.ca