



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Dentistry



Summer Student Practitioner Program

Prepared for SSPP Mentors, September 2023

UBC Faculty of Dentistry is proud to offer incoming fourth year students the opportunity to participate in the Summer Student Practitioner Program (SSPP). There is no other program like this offered in Canadian dental schools, and it provides a unique experience for both students and mentors alike.

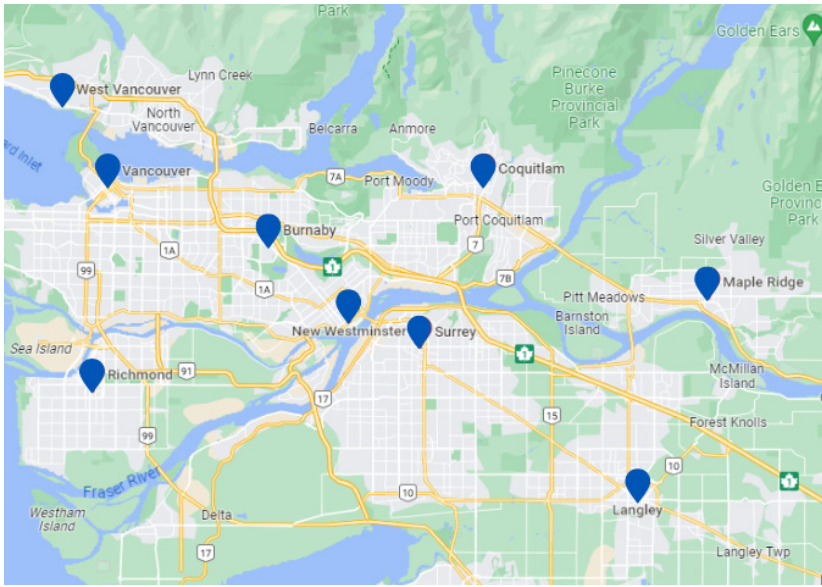
SSPP wouldn't be possible without the support of our mentors. Thanks to YOU, our incredible mentors, we are able to have students participate in rotations across British Columbia for up to seven weeks during the summer break.

We are pleased to share the following report highlighting the impact of your generosity of time, support, and leadership over the 2023 summer program.

Your Impact

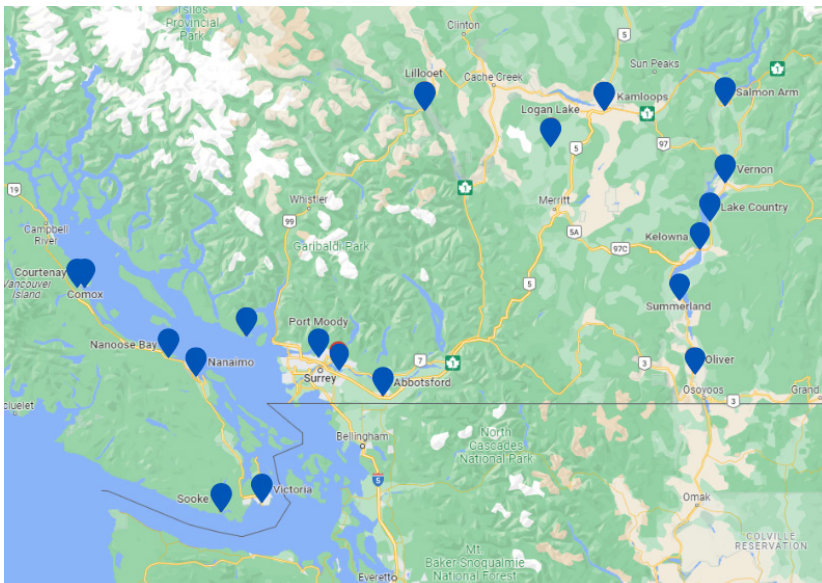
*This year, **49 students** participated in the SSPP—84 percent of incoming fourth year students! Those who did not partake were either fulfilling military obligations or confirmed previous personal commitments. Cumulatively, there were **98 placements** across British Columbia. There were **105 mentors**—nearly 50 percent of whom are UBC Dentistry alum—who gave students the opportunity to practice clinical skills and learn about the management of a dental practice.*

The maps below highlight where incoming fourth year students did placements, organized into three working zones.



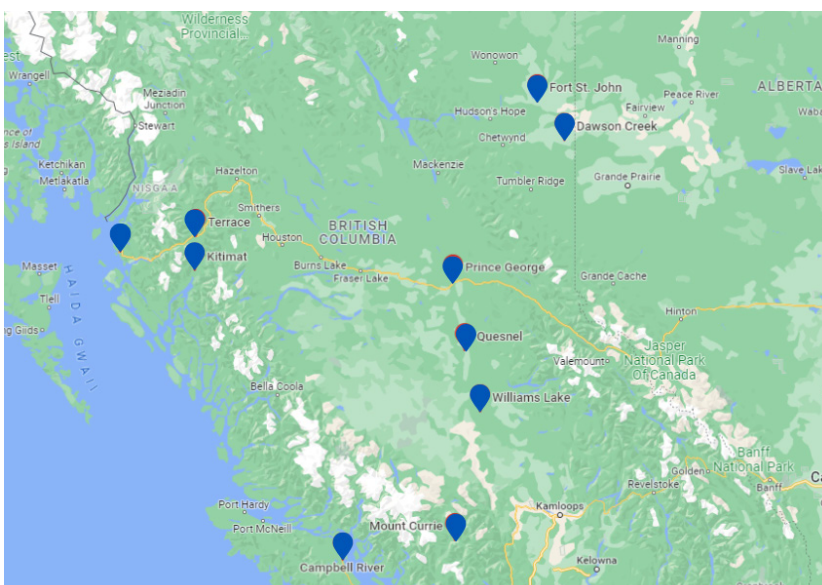
Zone One: 34 Placements

Burnaby
 Coquitlam
 Langley
 Maple Ridge
 New Westminster
 Richmond
 Surrey
 Vancouver
 West Vancouver



Zone Two: 32 Placements

Abbotsford	Nanoose Bay
Comox	Oliver
Courtenay	Pitt Meadows
Gibsons	Port Moody
Kamloops	Salmon Arm
Kelowna	Sooke
Lake Country	Summerland
Lillooet	Vernon
Logan Lake	Victoria
Nanaimo	



Zone Three: 32 Placements

Campbell River
 Dawson Creek
 Fort St. John
 Kitimat
 Mount Currie
 Prince George
 Prince Rupert
 Quesnel
 Terrace
 Williams Lake

SSPP Student Participants: UBC DMD Class of 2024

Ambika Agarwal	Joslyn Dosanjh	Tina Kadivar	Hannah Macartney	Landon Short
Grace Barlow	Rana Fahmy	Kang Kang	Nikhar Mankad	Becky Shum
Julia Burgess	Wade Gao	Dan Kim	Kristina Mistry	Jamie Toews
Maxwell Chan	Andrew Gee	Nahae Kim	Alex Mitchell	Elliott Vissia
Amy Chen	Harvir Grewal	Annika Koonar	Benjamin Oh	Joy Wang
Jennie Chen	Devon Hayek	Elvis Kuan	Ricky Park	Rebecca Wells
Sherry Chi	Sally Hong	Emme Lee	Foujan Pedari	Jason Wong
Kennedy Chow	Alex Hsu	Marissa Lee	Praakrut Purohit	Kyla Woo
Jacob Davis	Jasper Huang	Gareth Lee	Kiran Rashid	Danial Zamani
Bisman Dhaliwal	Ming Jin	Gavin Leung	Celina Sewlochan	

Total: 49 Students

SSPP Welcomes New Program Director

UBC Faculty of Dentistry warmly welcomes Dr. Lauren Milchman as the new Director of the Summer Student Practitioner Program. Dr. Milchman officially took over leadership of the program in early 2023, following in the footsteps of Dr. Ingrid Emanuels who led the program since 2018 and retired last year.

Over the summer, Dr. Milchman has watched incoming fourth year students develop confidence both on a professional and personal level thanks to their involvement in SSPP. Many students embraced the opportunity to explore rural and remote areas of BC as part of their placements—further supporting the overarching mission of the program.

“This program sets our students up for success in fourth year, and solidifies their passion for the dentistry profession,” says Dr. Milchman. “Working in a dental office is a much different experience than being in an academic environment, so seeing how a practice runs is very beneficial. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our corporate partners who give our students this experience of a lifetime. Many students would not be able to participate in this type of program without the funding provided by our four corporate sponsors, so you are truly making a difference.”



Prince George Summer Social

On July 21st, UBC Dentistry hosted the Prince George Summer Social! SSPP students, mentors and our SSPP Corporate Partners gathered at the Northern Lights Winery for an evening to connect and network over delicious food and drink, and to celebrate another successful year of the program.

L to R: Annika Koonar (DMD 2024 candidate), Dr. Mandeep Jawanda (DMD 1989 and mentor), and Jason Wong (DMD 2024 candidate)



Thank You to Our Mentors!

SSPP mentors span the province, and many are UBC Dentistry alum. We are grateful to all of our mentors who go above and beyond to make our students feel welcome in their practice, and who take the time to share their knowledge and expertise. After graduation, many students go on to accept associate positions in practices they visited during SSPP—a true win-win for students and mentors alike!

Mentor	Location	Mentor	Location
Dr. Rafia Ahmed	Vancouver	Dr. Kris Falk	Terrace
Dr. Zohreh Ansari*	West Vancouver	Dr. Emily Feldhoff	Kitimat
Dr. Rakesh Arya*	Abbotsford	Dr. Ryan Fraser	Prince George
Dr. Cyrus Bachus*	Courtenay	Dr. Michael Frew	Terrace
Dr. Kenny Bassit	Terrace	Dr. Kay Fung-Wang*	Vancouver
Dr. Chris Becir	Comox	Dr. Jordan Galpin*	Vancouver
Dr. Shahriar Behmanesh*	Kamloops	Dr. Cameron Garrett	Langley
Dr. Emery Bland*	Gibsons	Dr. Joel Gaudet	Surrey
Dr. Tim Bollans*	Salmon Arm	Dr. Kyle Gunter*	Terrace
Dr. Cody Bowtell	Kelowna	Dr. Shefali Gupta	Surrey
Dr. Gursimran Brar	Prince Rupert	Dr. Taylor Hache*	Kitimat
Dr. Chris Bryant*	Sooke	Dr. Bo-La (Bora) Han*	Vancouver
Dr. Jasvinder Singh Chahal*	Prince George	Dr. Shymaa Hashem	Langley
Dr. Jesse Chahal	Prince George	Dr. Greg Hein	Williams Lake
Dr. Jay Chan*	Langley	Dr. Justin Holder*	NanOOSE Bay
Dr. Jason Chan	Vancouver	Dr. Crispin Horng*	Burnaby
Dr. Daphne Chen*	Dawson Creek	Dr. Darren Huang*	Dawson Creek
Dr. Lisa Cho*	Surrey	Dr. Mehrdad Jamei-Fard	Gibsons
Dr. Caroline Choi	Vancouver	Dr. Mandeep Jawanda*	Quesnel
Dr. Joon Choi	Prince George	Dr. Amir Kadivar	New Westminster
Dr. Bruce Chou	Port Moody	Dr. Ally Kassam*	Port Moody
Dr. Michael Chow*	Pitt Meadows	Dr. Diane Kjørven*	Prince George
Dr. Serena Chow	Richmond	Dr. Scott Kollen*	Vancouver
Dr. Maro Ka Wing Chung	Richmond	Dr. Raymond Krumme*	Mount Currie
Dr. Ersilia Coccaro*	Kelowna	Dr. Wilson Kwong*	Vancouver
Dr. Payam Delijoui*	Burnaby	Dr. Amy Lambert	Terrace
Dr. Nathan Densmore	Terrace	Dr. Zachary Lim*	Terrace
Dr. Savita Dhingra	Surrey	Dr. Zack Lively	Prince George
Dr. Vince Drouin*	Terrace	Dr. Gaurav Mahar	Kamloops
Dr. Kris Falk	Terrace	Dr. Robert Myers*	Fort St. John

Dr. Sunil Mahorta*	Logan Lake	Dr. Erik Schien*	Prince George
Dr. Michael McEachern*	Abbotsford	Dr. Janis Schwab	Prince George
Dr. Jasdip (Jessey) Minhas	Prince George	Dr. Cory Seabach	Campbell River
Dr. Daniel Ng*	Oliver	Dr. David Song	Coquitlam
Dr. Cung Nguyen*	Dawson Creek	Dr. Jason Tao*	Prince George
Dr. Michele Nielsen	Richmond	Dr. Kelly Torres	Terrace
Dr. Marc Noderer*	Prince Rupert	Dr. William G. Vansickle*	Prince George
Dr. Janice Okamura	Vancouver	Dr. Tessa von der Steinen*	Prince George
Dr. Kerim Ozcan	Prince George	Dr. David Waller*	Prince George
Dr. Jas Pahal	Prince George	Dr. Yun Zhe Wang	Maple Ridge
Dr. Jingkal Pang	Terrace	Dr. Brennan Weaver*	Terrace
Dr. Kris Pastro*	Prince George	Dr. Richard Wilczek*	Prince George
Dr. Mirko Pellizzari*	Quesnel	Dr. Michelle Wilczek-Piekarska*	Prince George
Dr. Susan Peng*	Richmond	Dr. Paula Winsor Lee	Lake Country
Dr. Kyle Pritchard	Prince George	Dr. Robert Wolanski*	Nanaimo
Dr. Devon Quiton*	Summerland	Dr. Justin Wong	Prince George
Dr. Vikas Raj	Kelowna	Dr. Jane Wrinch*	Victoria
Dr. Anna Rankin*	Victoria	Dr. Bin Xie	Vancouver
Dr. Brydan Regerh	Vernon	Dr. Warrick Yu*	Vancouver
Dr. Mhairi Russell*	Salmon Arm	Dr. David Yuen	Richmond
Dr. Karan Saggarr	Campbell River		
Dr. Amarjot Sajan	Victoria		
Dr. Jaspal Sarao*	Kamloops		

Total: 105 Mentors

*Proud UBC Dentistry Alum



L to R: Maxwell Chan, Jason Wong, Jennie Chan, Jasper Huang, Annika Kooner, Kennedy Chow, Gareth Lee, and Jacob Davis (DMD 2024 candidates) with Dr. Jessey Minhas (DMD 2005).



Alex Mitchell (DMD 2024 candidate) at his placement at Dr. Chris Bryant's, (DMD 1991) dental practice in Sooke, BC.



L to R: Jason Wong and Gareth Lee, (DMD 2024 candidates) and Dr. Jason Tao, (DMD 2013).



The Summer Student Practitioner Program has been an enriching experience. One of the most valuable aspects of this program is the personalized guidance and support offered by seasoned professionals in the field. The mentors' dedication to nurturing the growth of aspiring dentists is evident in their willingness to share insights, provide hands-on training, and engage in thoughtful discussions. This level of mentorship not only enhances technical skills but also instills confidence and an understanding of patient and practice management. By working with the dental hygiene, front desk, and CDA staff, I have an appreciation of the collaboration that takes place to provide an optimal patient experience. I am grateful for these experiences and connections that I have made.

Ambika Agarwal



Participating in the SSPP was an incredibly enriching experience. It was a truly transformative journey that affirmed my aspiration to pursue dentistry. I enjoyed learning from my mentors and look forward to applying what I learned to my final year of dental school. Thank you for making this program possible!

Andrew Gee



My time during SSPP was an extremely beneficial time to learn exactly how a private practice dental office runs. My mentor and his team helped me through an array of procedures, which challenged me and pushed me to become a better clinician. The office environment was not only a tremendously positive learning experience but also fun! The office staff, CDAs, dental hygienists and my mentor highlighted the importance of a good work culture, which is something I want to ensure I bring into my future practice. SSPP allowed me to have one-on-one access to a clinician for eight hours a day and I learned each step about diagnosis and treatment planning in an insightful way that would not be possible at school. Overall, this was a wonderful experience and a highlight of my summer!

Joslyn Dosanjh



SSPP was one of the most valuable experiences I participated in during my time in the UBC DMD program. I was very fortunate to have amazing mentors and clinical teams who helped grow my skills and confidence in all aspects of patient care, ranging from technical procedures to patient management. Beyond providing treatment, it was also invaluable to see how dentistry operates in private practice outside of the academic setting for a more realistic idea of what to expect after graduation. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to learn and be mentored by great dental teams in rural BC as I prepare for the final year of my DMD education and life after graduation.

Kennedy Chow

Sharing the Excitement of SSPP

The following story was shared on our central UBC Give website, highlighting a 2023 DMD graduate who participated in SSPP during her third year.

Grace Moore always knew she wanted to work in healthcare, but it was an unexpected opportunity that got her interested in dentistry. While doing her undergraduate degree at UBCO, a friend asked her to help out volunteering at a dental clinic and within the week Grace was hooked—dentistry was the perfect combination of science, creativity and helping people. A native of Red Deer, Alberta, Grace was accepted into several dentistry programs and chose UBC largely because of its Summer Student Practitioner Program (SSPP).

Grace spent three weeks in Vernon followed by four weeks in Sparwood, a small town outside of Fernie. She also spent three days in Elkford working in an emergency room, doing dental work on pediatric patients and patients with complex medical needs.



"All of my placements gave me the opportunity to learn about time management and patient communication, as well as hands-on skills," says Grace. "Getting in the repetitions and having one-on-one mentorship is so beneficial. I gained so much confidence by participating in this program."

During her second placement, Grace was mentored by UBC dentistry alum Dr. Kenneth Choi at the Sparwood Dental Clinic. Dr. Choi also participated in the SSPP when he was in school and jumped at the chance to give back.

Growing up in Vancouver, Dr. Choi's SSPP placement in Prince George changed the course of his life. He always expected to stay in Vancouver, but found he loved the pace of being in a smaller city. He moved to Sparwood after graduating and has been practicing in this small community ever since.

Grace can relate. Her placements opened her eyes to the possibility of practicing in a more rural location.

"This experience wouldn't have been possible without the support of donors, and I can't say thank you enough to them," says Grace. "Starting my fourth year of school after my summer placements, I noticed such a huge difference in my confidence and approach. I feel a lot more confident in my judgement and skills thanks to the experience I got in the summer which was truly priceless."

Dr. Moore now practices full-time in Vernon, BC.

Thank You!

The Summer Student Practitioner Program would not be possible without the generous support from our talented mentors. We are truly grateful to have a network of such incredible individuals who are dedicated to teaching the next generation of dentists.



For more information, please contact:

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