Message from the Research Director

Welcome to the first edition of the BC Women’s Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis Research Newsletter. We are actively involved in clinical and translational research to improve understanding, diagnosis and treatment of pelvic pain and endometriosis. The first paper from our clinical database has now been published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, which is one of the top journals in our field. In June 2016 we converted our clinical database into a patient data registry which currently includes over 2000 women! This newsletter is our way of sharing our research findings and saying thank you for your contributions.

Paul Yong, MD PhD FRCSC

What we learned about Chronic Pelvic Pain

Our recent findings from a sample of 656 women with chronic pelvic pain indicated that abdominal wall pain (trigger points), pelvic floor tenderness, painful bladder syndrome, history of sexual assault, higher body mass index, current smoking, and a family history of chronic pain were independently associated with higher severity of chronic pelvic pain.

We also found that chronic pelvic pain was similar between women with and without endometriosis, highlighting the importance of factors other than endometriosis (e.g. muscles and the nervous system) in the physiological processes associated with chronic pelvic pain.

In addition to the data registry all patients undergoing surgery at our clinic have the opportunity to donate their tissue to research!

Did you Know?

- Half of women with endometriosis have pelvic pain with sexual intercourse?
- By looking at tissue samples we found that women with endometriosis and pain with sexual intercourse (study group) had more nerve cells around the endometriosis than women with endometriosis but no pain (control group).
- For clinical practice and research this suggests that we should be looking into nerve cells as another treatment target to reduce pain with sexual intercourse.


Other Recent Publications

