

Leah Lambert

Recent Alumni Award 2022

“Leah exemplifies exceptional professional activity in advancing nursing and improving our health system and is most deserving of the UBC Nursing - Recent Alumni Award.”

Dr. Leah Lambert is a registered nurse and alumna of our PhD class of 2019.

She is also, notably, the Executive Director and Senior Scientist of Nursing and Allied Health Research and Knowledge Translation at BC Cancer. Since January 2021, Leah has led the development of this new department, the first of its kind in Canada. She also holds a cross appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the UBC School of Nursing.

Leah had a somewhat unusual undergraduate and master’s level history, first obtaining a diploma in Business Administration from Capilano University, then a BSN from BCIT before entering the UBC Master’s program. Her progress within that program was so stellar that after her first year she was fast-tracked into the PhD program. This amazing individual also took three parental leaves while pursuing her PhD but ultimately, with three busy children in tow, completed her program in 2019.

While working toward her PhD at UBC, Leah was supported by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategic Training in Health Research Psychosocial Oncology Research Training Fellowship and a four-year UBC Doctoral Fellowship, as well as several distinction awards including two UBC Faculty of Applied Science Graduate Awards on the basis of outstanding scholarship.

Leah was the first embedded researcher at BC Cancer to hold a CIHR and Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Health System Impact Postdoctoral Fellowship.

In her current role, Leah and her team lead collaborative research and knowledge mobilization initiatives, taking an equity first approach to study the health service needs of people diagnosed with cancer, and expanding multidisciplinary approaches to problem solving within the cancer system.

It has been remarkable to witness just how much work and how much impact Dr. Lambert has been able to realise as Executive Director over just a short period of time.

In just one year, her efforts have made progress against seemingly insurmountable odds. Some examples include:

- Supported researchers and trainees in securing top-tier, provincial and national tri-agency funding
- Implemented two advanced practice Research Clinical Nurse Specialist roles
- Revised the department structure to create a first of its kind in BC Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist role
- Secured four academic cross-appointments at UBC and UBC-Okanagan for the staff
- Attracted a growing cadre of research trainees from the undergraduate to postdoctoral level
- Partnered with Providence Health Care and Vancouver Coastal Health to launch the inaugural Knowledge Translation Challenge at BC Cancer
- Launched a new cohort of BC Cancer Research Challenge teams to support practice-based research
- Catalyzed a Collaborating and Coordinating Initiative which will enable her to develop an equity-oriented research and knowledge mobilization agenda for the entire organization with an impressive network of research and health system collaborators

She exemplifies just how powerful a nursing vision can be, and we are so proud of our close ties with our 2022 Recent Alumni Awardee.

