

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

February 2020

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Vol.18 No.2

Management Committee

President:

Herb Grubel
604-980-7922

Vice President:

Ron Wood
604-922-7646

Secretary:

Norm Alban
604-926-2343

Treasurer:

Gordon Adair
604-230-9122

Past-President:

Jim Grey
604-926-9248

Communications:

Darryl Stodalka
604-925-2570

House:

Gary Sutherland
604-926-2807

Membership:

Jeremy Marr
604-926-9368

Speakers:

Gordon Bird
604-988-8280

Special Events:

John Elliott
604-925-3535

Monthly Meeting at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

420 Southborough Drive, West Vancouver, 604-922-9331

Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am, Club Business and Speaker: 9:30 - 11:15 am

Monday, February 3rd

with speaker

Mr. Justice S. David Frankel, BC Court of Appeal

“The Court of Appeal for British Columbia: Who we are and What we do”



Mr. Justice S. David Frankel is a graduate of the University of British Columbia (B.Sc. (1970), LL.B. (1973)). After articling with Guild, Yule and Company in Vancouver, he joined what was then known as the Criminal Prosecutions Section of the Department of Justice on November 1, 1974, where he remained for 32 years. During that time he appeared before all levels of court.

Mr. Justice Frankel developed an appellate litigation practice, appearing regularly before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Court of Appeal for British Columbia, and the Court of Appeal of Yukon. He was appointed Queen's Counsel by the Attorney General of Canada in 1988, and was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2005.

He served as an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia Law School for 20 years, where he taught Advanced Criminal Procedure. Mr. Justice Frankel was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on March 2, 2007. On May 10, 2007, he was translated to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Court of Appeal of Yukon.



Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Meeting



Monday, March 9th at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

Speaker - Christopher Gaze, Founding Artistic Director, Bard on the Beach

- **Special Events - February 21st and March 5th, details page 2...**

President's Notes



The day of our January meeting at the Capilano Golf and Country Club the weather was dreadful. Masses of snow reached even down to the edge of the ocean and temperatures were well below freezing.

By tradition, I had to make the decisions whether or not to cancel our meeting. Advice came

from members of the management committee both for and against. We even discussed having a cancellation notice sent by email to every member of PROBUS.

What clinched the decision was an email from Dr. Bruce McManus, our speaker, who had travelled from downtown and reached the Club before 8 am. He told me that he had no trouble on the roads or with heavy traffic, not even getting up the West Vancouver hill. Who says that Vancouver gets paralyzed when snow hits the roads?

As it turned out, a few more than one half of the usual number of members made it to the meeting, some proud for having had the courage to tackle the conditions and shovelling snow off their driveways.

Chatter after the meeting suggested that they much liked the speaker's presentation, even if parts of it were over the heads of the non-doctors in the audience. It was good to learn of the massive efforts under way at UBC to improve medical care through the development of procedures that take advantage of the latest scientific developments in other fields. Some of us may benefit in the future, some sooner than later.

Jim Grey will preside over the February meeting while I tour Vietnam with a "Study Group" of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (without subsidies from anyone). Former members of the Reform Party will be in a distinct minority in this group. It should be interesting.

Herb Grubel

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca



Special Events

Visit to North Shore Rescue Base

RESCHEDULED TO NEW DATE

Friday, February 21st, at 10:00 to 11:30 AM

63 Bewicke Ave, North Vancouver



The visit has been rescheduled to February 21st from the previous date. We have room for a few more attendees to reach our maximum of 15 members.

The visit It will include a demonstration of the equipment and methods used by the North Shore Rescue team. In addition, Mike Danks, Team Leader, North Shore Rescue, will provide a presentation outlining the composition of the organization, the diverse membership, notable tasks and how the team fit into the community. A "no host" lunch will follow the visit at the Hearthstone Brewery restaurant at 1015 Marine Drive in North Vancouver.

Meet at the base at 9:45 AM. Parking is limited so please try to carpool. If you have more than 2 vehicles there may be some spots in the parking lot in the City of North Vancouver yard which is beside our building. NSR has 2 spots outside their building, which we may also be able to use. Register with Pete Stacey by phone at 604-926-4756 or email at patandpetestacey@gmail.com.

Pete Stacey

Visit to Pacific Science Enterprise Centre

Thursday, March 5th



Arrangements have been made with the Pacific Science Enterprise Centre for a North Shore Vancouver PROBUS tour of the facility. This is the old Canadian Fisheries Facility in Caulfeild, West Vancouver, that has been restructured. There are 5 spaces still available for the tour group of 20 participants. The Red Lion in Dundarave is booked for lunch following the tour. More details will be made available at the February meeting. You can also contact Jon Strom to register by phone at 604-925-1779 or email at jon.strom@shaw.ca.

Jon Strom

New Member Introduced and Welcomed at January Meeting



Peter van Drimmelen (member since December 2019) Peter was born in the Netherlands but has lived in BC for 68 years. He graduated from West Van High and then went on to do Business Administration at BCIT. That set him up for a career as an entrepreneur.

He owned a concrete block plant and Gravel Pit in Prince George. Then he purchased a small Saw manufacturing plant and later a Wholesale Grinding Wheel company. That allowed him to service Sawmills and Plywood plants until his semi-retirement. He still keeps a small warehouse and services Tongue and Groover heads for all the Plywood plants in BC and Alberta. He also has a car hobby (a 1966 Plymouth, somewhat hotted up) and is looking for a recreational property.



Greeters Robin Hicks and Gary Grafton



President Herb Grubel welcomes new member

Last Month Speaker



President Herb Grubel thanks Speaker Dr. McManus

We have entered an era of health sciences investigation and clinical care that is often annotated as “precision health” or “precision medicine”. Health professionals have long tried to provide the most precise patient-specific care, from prediction of risk, to diagnosis, to rate of disease evolution, to gauging the response to medications and other care. Yet, we have been challenged to give care, and provide medications, that were particularly effective for a given patient. The situation is changing dramatically. By incorporating our rather new knowledge about molecules that govern health or disease states, we are now able to differentiate among patients, and treat them more precisely than ever before. We have retained the strengths of clinical, socioeconomic and ethnic information in guiding care, while bringing the power to discriminate one patient from another to a new molecule-based individualized level.

The era we are in relates to what is often deemed “omics”. That is, defined by new tools and measurement platforms that interrogates molecules that reach from the
cont'd on next page ...

Last Month Speaker - Dr. Bruce McManus, “Probing Blood to Forecast Health”

genes (genomics) to our RNA (transcriptomics) that is encoded by our genes, to the proteins (proteomics), metabolites (metabolomics), and beyond. By harnessing an understanding of each of these molecular layers and networks with cells, tissues and organs, and putting it in the context of other insights that come from physical exams and histories of patients and families, as well as in light of high-resolution imaging, we are now capable of understanding the “systems” of health and disease in a striking and powerful fashion. In the background, we are prudent to remember “humanomics”, which is the hallmark of our psychological, sociological, linguistic and ethnic beings, a hallmark affects our ability to understand and act on care advice given by professionals. Without individual health literacy, none of the other “omics” will bring the promise of precision medicine into fully blossomed reality.

In the latter blossoming of precision in care, the value of omics can be best measured by new blood tests that improve on the current tests available in clinical laboratories and other blood tests that aid drug development companies to make better, quicker decisions about the potentially positive impact of a medicine in the pipeline of validation. These new tests are defined as biomarkers (biological markers). They reflect a healthy or unhealthy state of being. They can be constituted by a range of “omic” molecules that is often deemed a “signature”. Thus, biomarker signatures are the new “weather vanes” for health. Most of these are sought and found in the blood, although they may be found in other body fluids, cells and tissues, or in imaging features that include molecules of pertinence to a given ailment.

It would not be surprising to know that the foregoing direction and approach in health science is generating an utterly massive amount of data. The quality of the data is crucial, and its quality is underpinned by the manner in which biological specimens are gathered and processed to probe molecules, as well as other quality control issues. Data is enormous in volume and rate of accumulation, but its veracity is pivotal for this rapidly progressing omics era. Also, among the many crucial professionals on the team committed to this effort, the statisticians, informaticians, data modelers, code writers and data managers have a primacy that reaches further than clinicians, life scientists, engineers or others perhaps.

The PROOF Centre of Excellence, an omics-based biomarker development engine, based here in Vancouver (www.proofcentre.ca), hosted by UBC and Providence Health Care, sits in the centre of the maelstrom of precisely-discriminative test development for better health care. For the past 15 years the multi-disciplinary team has been seeking tests that can reduce suffering costs and inconven-

ience for patients and caregivers who face various forms of vital organ failure. Close assessment of the needs for better laboratory tests has focused on those patient groups with heart, lung and kidney failure, while including a significant interest in patients with skeletal muscle diseases, spinal cord injury, diabetes and immune challenges.

Among the conditions that can benefit from a new, minimally invasive approach, heart transplant recipients are visibly in-need of better biomarkers. Currently, patients must undergo about a dozen very invasive, fear-evoking, uncomfortable and costly heart biopsy procedures during the first 12 months after their transplant. The PROOF Centre, working hand-in-hand with clinical teams across Canada, and now too across the USA, has developed a blood-based test that includes 9 RNA molecules that has near perfect ability to exclude the presence of immune attack on the precious transplanted heart. This test is presently being assessed for clinical and analytical validity in a North America-wide observational trial. The results of this step in the work will bring the new test to the doorstep of the clinical laboratory where it can bring value to patients and everyone else concerned.

The foregoing allegory is but one of many tests in development for the benefit of patients, caregivers and the whole system of health care and innovation. The journey of each new blood test, born from deep and thoughtful deliberations among a cross-section of key opinion leaders in health, key scientists in research laboratories, sociologists, economists, regulatory experts, health policy leaders, technocrats, clinical laboratorians, radiologists, the public and our patients, is magically magnetic, extremely difficult, but extraordinarily rewarding for our society. All sectors, all disciplines, and all institutions and agencies are relevant to this commitment. We invite you to join in the process or in supporting it, if you have interest in the health of Canadians.

Thank you so much, Bruce McManus.

Summary of presentation courtesy of Bruce McManus

“Shorelines” © A monthly publication of

The PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver



<http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/>

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
and may be sent by e-mail to :

linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

or by mail to:

PROBUS Club North Shore - Communications Chair
P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4