



# DR. ELIZA PHILLIPS

U OF C • MEDICAL GENETICS AND GENOMICS

## What attracted you to medicine?

Medicine is one of those special careers that allow you to come alongside someone in the darkest moments of their life and to use your skills, expertise and compassion to make a bad situation perhaps a little less bad.

## What attracted you to your specialty?

Genetics is such an exciting specialty! I was attracted to the challenge and the variety of trying to diagnose rare diseases. It can be incredibly valuable for families to finally have an answer for what is happening to them or their loved one. I was particularly attracted to genetics as a specialty in which finding these answers and helping families to understand the diagnosis is such an integral and therapeutic part of the patients' care. I also liked that geneticists are involved in caring for a very diverse group of patients and their families across the lifespan, from prenatal and neonatal patients, through pediatrics and into the geriatric population. And with the rapid advancement in genetic technologies, our ability to diagnose and potentially even treat genetic diseases is expanding rapidly and it's exciting to see that play out daily in the clinic.

## What do you find the most rewarding in your residency training?

I've found it very rewarding working with patients and families who are affected by rare diseases. These families often face very complex medical and support needs, yet often struggle with access and a lack of medical information about their particular rare disease. I have learned so much from their resiliency, compassion and advocacy. I also have the opportunity to work with an incredible group of caring, supportive and brilliant people.

## What do you find the most challenging in your residency training?

The rapidly expanding knowledge and the pace of change in clinical practice can make it challenging as a learner. It can also be challenging in a program with one resident physician per year, as you don't have the support of fellow resident physicians going through the same stages of training together.

## What energizes you outside of residency?

Spending time with my very supportive husband! I also enjoy playing the piano, crocheting, reading for pleasure and trying to learn a second language.