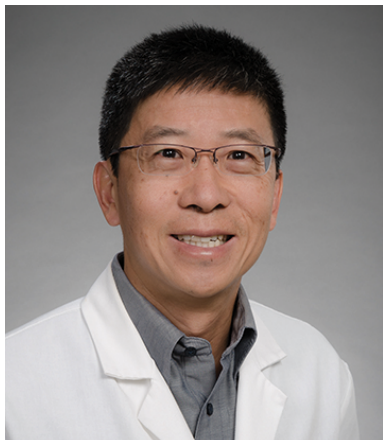


2023 SCHILLING DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD



Raymond S.W. Yeung, MD, FRCS(C), FACS

Professor, Section Chief, Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery

Raymond Sze Wang Yeung was born in Hong Kong, the second youngest of four siblings. He resided in Hong Kong until his middle childhood when the Cultural Revolution in mainland China forced many to flee and his family immigrated to Toronto, Canada. Settling in North York, Dr. Yeung quickly adapted to his new life and excelled in academics and piano. A voracious learner, he eventually skipped a grade and won a competition as the best pianist for his age group in all of Canada. Eventually, his journey took him to the University of Toronto, where he entered medical school two years into his undergraduate studies. The University of Toronto remained his home for medical school and residency. A last-minute fellowship opportunity at Fox Chase Cancer Center served as the catalyst for his research career.



At Fox Chase, Dr. Yeung met the late Alfred G. Knudson, MD, PhD, who would become his most influential mentor. With his assistance, Dr. Yeung discovered that the gene that caused dominantly inherited renal cell cancer in Eker rats was a mutant of the tuberous sclerosis type 2, or Tsc2 gene. This discovery defined the primary focus of his research for many years, which explored the genetic mechanisms of tumorigenesis with emphasis on tumor suppressor genes and hereditary cancers. Dr. Yeung's laboratory utilized genetic, cell biologic and biochemical approaches to dissect the function of these genes. The quality of his scientific work was evidenced by nearly two decades of continuous NIH R01 funding and numerous publications in high-impact scientific journals.

Despite his ongoing success in defining TSC biology, Dr. Yeung wished to align his research and clinical work more closely. Therefore, nearly a decade ago, he made the courageous decision to transition his research focus towards studying the tumor microenvironment of cancers in the liver using tumor slice cultures (ironically, also abbreviated as TSC). This new direction has ultimately culminated in several large federal research grants and allowed Dr. Yeung to help launch generations of young

surgeon-scientists' research careers at UW. In his characteristically modest way, Dr. Yeung would claim no credit for these successes, but his influence and impact cannot be overstated.

Remarkably, beyond his research prowess, Dr. Yeung is also an expert liver surgeon with strong clinical acumen and superb technical skills. He manages to perform challenging liver resections with minimal drama, thus creating an excellent learning environment for the residents lucky enough to work with him. He founded the UW Medicine Liver Tumor Clinic, the first multidisciplinary clinic of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. He is also the section chief of Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery, Director of the Center for Advanced Minimally Invasive Liver Oncologic Therapy (CAMILOT), Deputy Director of the Seattle Translational Tumor Liver Cancer Program, a UW Professor of Surgery and an Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Medical Genetics and Pathology. In these leadership positions, Dr. Yeung has consistently displayed vision, empathy, grace, selflessness, inclusiveness and persistence.

Contributed by

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Top: Dr. Yeung with wife Cindy (center) and children (L-R) Amanda, Marcus, and Lindsay.

Center: Drs. Alfred Knudson and Raymond Yeung – 1997

Bottom: Dr. Yeung with another family member—Koa