

Town hall shines light on Vancouver MSA's advocacy role

There was spirited discussion amongst the physicians who met April 23 for the joint VPSA/Vancouver CoC Medical, Dental & Allied Staff Association's town hall. The hot topics: the Vancouver MSA's role as an advocate; and the opportunity to participate in a VGH physician lounge "dotmocracy."

"As the association's new president, I want to know what members want," began Dr. Simon Rabkin. "We're in this together; your MSA can work to facilitate communication between medical staff and VCH's senior management."

With that opening of the door, opinions flowed.

"The average physician feels they have no input. We don't know the health authority's senior management; we don't know what they're thinking or what they're planning. We need a strong voice at the administration level. This will lead to physicians having stronger involvement in policy setting and strategic direction," suggested Dr. Iain Mackie, long-time VGH internist.

"We already advocate for our own areas; we lobby effectively individually. But what are the areas where we need to overlap? We need a strategic plan. We can't just keep asking for more money. We have to be part of the solution. We need to be thoughtful in what we do," added cardiologist Dr. Ken Gin.

Dr. Rabkin concluded: "We need a cross-division, cross-departmental strategy and plans to help us all advance."

If you would like to be part of a Vancouver MSA strategy development committee, let us know: info@ourvancouvermsa.ca.

Attendees were also excited to learn about progress towards a new physician lounge at VGH and to vote on their amenity priorities. VPSA is running a short survey regarding this and is seeking feedback from more physicians. The survey was sent to all VPSA members who work at VGH and should take no more than two minutes to complete. **Please check your inbox and take the survey.**

Small Steps, Big Idea – Submit your proposal

VPSA wants to bring more physicians and nursing and allied health staff together to connect, collaborate and care. **Small Steps, Big Idea** will support proposals that engage across specialties, departments and with community members. Funding from \$1,000 to \$5,000 is awarded on an ongoing basis. Download the application form [here](#).

Mark your calendar

May 5, 9:30 am - 2 pm – Burnout-Proof Workshop, Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel, Richmond. Lower your stress levels, build more life balance and a more ideal practice. Free for VPSA physicians and their partners; RSVP to rhps@engagementbc.ca.

May 12, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm – A Day in May 2.0 Sustainable High-Performance Surgery: A day of practical lessons for surgical care providers to sustain optimal levels of health and function at peak capacity, presented by St. Paul's Hospital Foundation and PHC Facility Engagement. Cullen Family Auditorium, St. Paul's Hospital. Registration fee: \$50 for physicians. Register at www.Eventbrite.ca (search: A Day in May 2.0).

May 24, 5:30 - 7:30 pm – VPSA Facility Engagement Networking Event. Fully catered event for VPSA members. UBC Medical Student & Alumni Centre; 2750 Heather Street. RSVP by May 18 to vpsa.rsvp@gmail.com.