

Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

Spring 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF MEDICINE AND MEDICAL AFFAIRS



Colleagues,

I have great news to share with you. Starting this spring, we are welcoming associate physicians to our multidisciplinary care teams starting in acute settings across our region.

These new medical providers are joining as employees of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), falling under the excluded staff category; associate physicians are not medical staff and do not require associated credentialing and privileges.

These associate physicians are doctors trained from different parts of the world, bringing a diverse set of experiences and knowledge. They'll work under the supervision of attending physicians and in collaboration with the rest of our team to take care of patients. Their job varies in scope of practice depending on the needs of each VCH clinical program accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons B.C.

Adding these new team members will mean patients have more timely access to the care they need. It will also help make our work environment better and healthier for everyone involved. We're still in the early stages of bringing on board associate physicians and working out details in close collaboration with communities of care.

I'm excited about working with our new colleagues and encourage you to learn more about associate physicians at VCH [on our Intranet](#), which includes many resources like a fact sheet, overview and FAQs.

As always, thank you for all you do for our patients, population, teams and one another.

Dr. Chad Kim Sing
Interim Vice President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Changes to medical leadership



We thank for leading the way Dr. Ashok Krishnamoorthy (left) as the Regional Medical Director of Wellness and Dr. Don Wilson (centre left) as the Regional Medical Director of Indigenous Health. Their hard work and achievements made while pioneering their respective roles have been remarkable.

Also, a warm welcome to Dr. Fahreen Dossa (centre right) as the interim Regional Medical Director of Wellness and Dr. Nadia Fairbairn (right) as the new Medical Director of Research and Evaluation.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Pump in peace: Dedicated lactation spaces

At VCH, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment that is accessible and welcoming for all staff and medical staff. To accommodate the needs of working parents who are returning to work and need a designated space to pump and store their milk during the work day, dedicated lactation spaces are available at three locations:

- Lions Gate Hospital (northern expansion 3rd floor, Room 3.50.45)
- Three Bridges Community Health Centre (2nd floor, Room 202)
- Vancouver General Hospital (Leon Blackmore Pavilion, Room G910)

Additional spaces will be rolling out over the next year at G.F. Strong, Richmond Hospital and UBC Hospital, with plans to expand to more sites in the future.

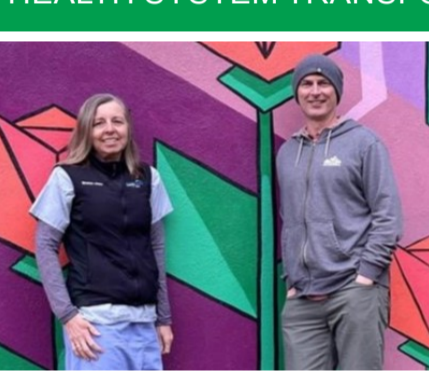
The development of these spaces was supported by the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, Richmond Hospital Foundation and VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation. [Read more.](#)



Inspiring inclusion and acceleration of women's equity

International Women's Day in March was a global day to celebrate the achievements of women and serves as a call to action for accelerating women's equality. Learn about some of our medical staff who, in both big and small ways, advocate for and empower others, and seek out inclusion in ways that improve the delivery of health care to all those in our communities. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION



Expanding care in Pemberton with nurse practitioners

In a first for the Coastal Community of Care, the Pemberton Health Care Centre Emergency Department introduced two nurse practitioners to its team. Each year, the Emergency Department serves about 7,000 patients in a community that has grown over 30 per cent in the past eight years. Integrating nurse practitioners into the care team increases provider numbers to support the growing community and improves patient access to high quality care. [Read more.](#)

More VGH clinics adopt CST Cerner

Recently, a further 19 Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) clinics adopted the electronic health record system, CST Cerner. Every additional clinic that adopts CST Cerner advances patient safety and care. That's especially true for many of the latest round of clinics where workflows are highly interdependent and referrals come from several health organizations. For example, seven VGH spine clinics at the Blusson Centre serve the entire province, as do the six gynecology and vulvar clinics that are based in the Diamond Centre. [Get a list of VGH Cycle 2 Clinics.](#)

PLANETARY HEALTH



Food is medicine: Pilot menu supports patients' recovery and the planet

In the busy kitchens of VGH, transformation is underway with improving patient nutrition and experience, while at the same time reducing our impact on the environment. Over the past six months, inpatients at VGH have fueled their healing with a diverse selection of new delicious, nutritious and environmentally sustainable menu items, thanks to a Planetary Health Menu Pilot project. [Read more.](#)

Regional anesthesia initiative is improving how we care for patients and the planet

A new project, supported by [VCH and Boehringer Ingelheim collaboration](#), is focusing on the delivery of high-quality, lower-carbon care by expanding regional anesthesia programs across VCH. As we work to reduce the health system's environmental impact, regional anesthesia reduces greenhouse gas emissions and lowers the carbon footprint of surgical care when compared with inhaled anesthesia. [Read more.](#)

POLICY AND PRACTICE

Update to accessing life-saving medication for people at risk of toxic drug poisoning

British Columbia's provincial health officer recently released a report about the Prescribed Safer Supply program (prescribed alternatives). The province is reviewing the recommendations to determine next steps and is taking immediate action in some areas. [Read more.](#)

MAiD sunset clause extension

In February, the federal government announced a further extension to the sunset clause, which currently prevents people whose "sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness" from receiving Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). MAiD continues to be available for people who have a diagnosed physical illness who are also living with a diagnosed mental disorder. The sunset clause is now set to expire on March 17, 2027. [Read more.](#)

Revision to nurse practitioner prescribing standard

The British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives board has rescinded the limit related to amphetamines and other designated drugs. Effective immediately, this permits nurse practitioners to prescribe amphetamines such as Adderall to adult clients. [Read more.](#)

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



Charting a new path in maternal and child health

A committee of staff and medical staff who specialize in perinatal care initiated the Lactation Consultant Program at Richmond Hospital. A first of its kind in B.C., the program help enhance infant feeding support and provide families with resources to navigate their chest/breastfeeding journey. Seven registered midwives, credentialed as International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants, offer comprehensive support and education for lactation and prenatal infant feeding. [Read more.](#)

CAR-T therapy now available closer to home for B.C. cancer patients

Cancer patients affected by certain advanced leukemias and lymphomas now have better access to a life-saving treatment closer to home, as Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell therapy (CAR-T) becomes available at VGH. Dr. Kevin Song, Medical Director, Leukemia and Bone Marrow Transplant Program of British Columbia, and Director, Hematology Research Program, VGH, says CAR-T is the leading-edge care of our time for patients who have exhausted all curative options for leukemias and lymphomas. [Read more.](#)

Hope on the horizon: Stem cell technology holds promise for Type 1 diabetes treatment

Recent research outcomes reveal that a ground-breaking stem cell therapy for Type 1 diabetes not only effectively regulates blood glucose levels, but also reduces the necessity for daily insulin injections. For the past four years, Dr. David Thompson's team has been investigating stem cell technology as a new source of islet cells that doesn't require recipients to take immune suppressants. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

Ya'akstulth: Leading with Compassion in a Tumultuous Era

On April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., CASCADES Director Fiona Miller will be hosting a conversation with Heather and Shawn Atleo to discuss the topic of leading with compassion in a tumultuous era and the transformative power of Compassionate Leadership in co-creating sustainable and thriving healthcare systems. [Register.](#)

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Physician Wellness Group Training Course

Starting May 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for 8 consecutive weeks, BC physicians are invited to partake in training to learn to support their own mental wellbeing through evidence-based self-management strategies. [Register.](#)

B.C. Rural Health Conference

On May 24 to 26 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:40 p.m., medical staff are invited to join the Rural Health Conference in Whistler to learn from rural focused lectures, breakout sessions and hands-on skills workshops. [Register.](#)

18th Annual Nurse Practitioner Conference

On June 3 to 5, the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of B.C. invites nurse practitioners to come together for three days of professional growth and learning, held at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, BC. [Register.](#)

[Find more opportunities](#)

The VCH medical staff newsletter shares timely and relevant information including upcoming events and opportunities, innovative projects led by medical staff and organizational news and updates. Let us know about what you want to read about at MedicalStaff@vch.ca.