

Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

Summer 2024

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



Colleagues,

As we head into the summer, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the incredible medical staff who work tirelessly to make Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) a great place to work and receive care.

This month's awards and recognition section is brimming with stories of medical staff who are being recognized in their research and innovation work that is helping to transform the system to deliver safe and quality patient care. It's also great to see our [CEO Vivian Eliopoulos be awarded with a YWCA Women of Distinction Award](#) for her ongoing compassionate leadership.

The oneVCH Awards are another way of ensuring that staff, medical staff and volunteers are recognized for their outstanding work and commitments. I encourage you to take a moment to [nominate a colleague or team](#) who is making a difference by June 30, 2024.

I would also like to celebrate the Cohort 2 graduates of the [Leadership Fundamentals program](#). These are new medical leaders who are committed to making a difference as they learn key skills for their role.

Wishing you each a healthy and safe summer. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment to patient care.

Dr. Chad Kim Sing
Interim Vice President, Medicine and Medical Affairs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

B.C. seasonal readiness and the VCH Heat Event Response

As summer approaches, medical staff are reminded of the VCH Heat Event Response processes. Please review [VCH Staying Cool and Safe for Staff and Medical Staff](#) for tips while working during heat waves. Some programs and sites have specific actions and workflows to initiate at the start of summer, and now is the time to put those plans into action.

Emergency Health Provider Registry (EHPR): Call for new members

Wildfires and other climate-related events can have a significant impact on health-care service delivery, and the EHPR is an important part of B.C.'s plan to ensure the health system is prepared to care for British Columbians through any emergency. The EHPR is a provincial online registry of health-care professionals who may be available to be deployed on short notice to respond to events including wildfires, floods and heat-related emergencies. All deployments through the EHPR are paid employment. Signing up for the EHPR does not create an obligation for you to respond to emergency events and EHPR-related deployments are always voluntary. [Learn more.](#)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) awards 2024

Taking innovative research from concept to application is critical for improving health-care systems and the health and well-being of patients. The VCHRI is proud to support investigators and their ground-breaking health research with the Innovation and Translational Research Awards. [Check out this year's award recipients.](#)

Also, VCHRI facilitates clinician-scientists in their efforts to make new discoveries to improve the health and well-being of patients across their lifespan. Congratulations to the four recipients of the 2024 Investigator Awards (pictured below): Dr. Stefan Lang (left), Dr. Christina Luong (centre left), Dr. Miles Mannas (centre right) and Dr. Eric McGinnis (right). [Read more](#) on their research.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

Funding available: EDI projects

Do you have an idea for a small project with an EDI or anti-racism focus? The VCH Medical Staff EDI Committee welcomes your expressions of interest. Funding of up to \$5,000 is available for ideas that can move equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism forward in your practice area or more broadly. Applications welcome from all medical staff. [Apply here.](#) The committee can assist with your application and answer your questions, contact Lina.Abouzaid@vch.ca.

Together in wellness: Health and healing across Asian communities



Last month, over 60 staff and medical staff celebrated Asian Heritage Month with a special evening at the Chinese Canadian Museum. Co-hosted by the VCH Medical Staff EDI Committee and [VCH Anti-Racism team](#), the highlight of the evening was an engaging panel discussion featuring medical staff of Asian heritage. The panelists shared their personal stories and experiences, highlighting the importance of inclusive health-care practices that recognize and honour the rich cultural heritage of all Asian communities. Explore [these learning resources](#) and stay tuned for upcoming events.

Panelists included dr. Rupi Brar, Regional Medical Director Regional Addiction Program; Jennifer Michiko Buck, Regional Director, Professional Practice; Dr. Eliza Chan, Co-Chair, Medical Staff EDI Committee; Dr. Maria Chung, Geriatric Medicine Specialist, Vancouver General Hospital.

HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

New UBC Medical Education Centre at Richmond Hospital



The UBC Faculty of Medicine Medical Education Centre has been successfully relocated as part of the Richmond Hospital Redevelopment Project. This new purpose-built hub, situated next to the Milan Ilich Pavilion, features two seminar rooms and a clinical skills training room with an observation area.

The relocation was a crucial step in preparing for the construction of the Yurkovich Family Pavilion, a nine-floor acute care tower. [Read more.](#)

Lions Gate Hospital (LGH) goes live with Vocera for hands-free communication

LGH went live with [Vocera](#) Smartbadges—wearable, voice-activated communication devices. Vocera is one of the new technologies being implemented early as part of the [LGH Redevelopment Project](#), which will culminate in the opening of a new six-floor acute-care facility, called the Paul Myers Tower, in March 2025. [Read more.](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE (MHSU)

Enhancing accessibility: Expansion of Richmond's MHSU Central Intake

The demand for Richmond's MHSU continues to increase, with Richmond seeing consistently higher numbers of people presenting for all of its MHSU services. Richmond's MHSU Central Intake phone line is one important way for people to access the MHSU services they need. Central Intake now operates from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, extending from the previous hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. [Read more.](#)

MHSU Resources

[BC Centre on Substance Use phone line](#)

The 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line will connect physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, midwives, and pharmacists to an Addiction Medicine Specialist who has expertise and knowledge in addiction medicine (including emergency, acute, and community care).

[Lighthouse Virtual Substance Use Care Clinic](#)

Free virtual clinic that uses telephone appointments to provide medical treatment and short-term stabilization for people who use substances. This service provides access to an integrated team, including addiction medicine physicians, nurses and social workers, working closely with local service providers in patients' home communities.

[Access Central – Detox Referral Line](#)

Adults who live in the VCH region and seek withdrawal-management services receive immediate screening by healthcare workers who will set up intake with a clinician that suits a client's needs. Access also provides general information about substance-use resources and Addiction Recovery Housing Program referrals.

QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY

Improving patient safety and health literacy through translation

Hospital at Home at Vancouver General Hospital recently launched a pilot in collaboration with Language Services to provide patients who speak Vietnamese with translated information about their prescribed medication, dosage, frequency and how to take the medication. Inaccurate medication use can have serious health consequences. Providing translated information helps patients understand why they need the medication and follow instructions correctly. As part of the pilot, patients can share their feedback on whether the translated information is clear and easy to understand. [Read more.](#)

Nominations for the 2025 B.C. Quality Award close soon

Do you know about an initiative, project, or person that improved health care in B.C.? Nominate them for a [B.C. Quality Award](#), which celebrates the people and projects that have made key contributions to quality and innovation in the delivery of care in our province. Nominations close on June 30, 2024.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Funding available for clinical innovation projects

The B.C. Ministry of Health (MoH) is committed to harnessing the knowledge and expertise of staff and medical staff working to develop solutions that advance innovation in B.C.'s health authorities. To support this, the MoH has established the Innovation Pathway Program to test and assess promising innovation in clinical settings that have potential for broad system impact. Do you have a bright idea you want to test? [Learn more](#) and apply by June 28.

WELLNESS

Physician wellness survey: Improving physician well-being at VCH

The VCH Medical Staff Associations and VCH medical staff engagement team have launched an anonymous Physician Wellness Survey designed to gather insights into your experiences, needs, and challenges. Insights gained from this survey will be used to implement meaningful changes that will benefit physicians and their colleagues. The survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete and participants may choose to enter in draws to win great prizes. [Complete the survey.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

Supporting Children & Youth Who Use Substances: Implementing a New Clinical Care Pathway in Practice

Starting on June 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., for 8 consecutive weeks, medical staff are invited to join a virtual session on supporting children and youth who use substances through implementation of a new clinical care pathway. [Register.](#)

22nd Annual St. Paul's Emergency Medicine Update

From September 26 to 29 medical staff are invited to come together for four days of networking and emergency medicine education, held at the Whistler Conference Centre in Whistler, B.C. [Register.](#)

Trauma-Informed Care Workshop Program for Midwives

Starting October 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for four consecutive weeks, midwives are invited to partake in an immersive workshop to learn how to navigate through the complexities of trauma and its effects. [Register.](#)

Addiction Care and Treatment Online Course

The Addiction Care and Treatment Online Course is a comprehensive 22-module online course for health care providers who diagnose and treat patients with substance use disorders using evidence-based treatments along a continuum of care. [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.