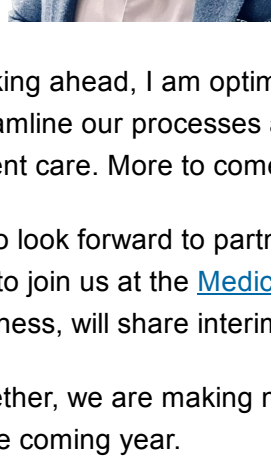


Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

Winter 2024

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



As we near the end of 2024, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the year, the successes and challenges that we've faced together. As some of you already know, I believe that learning and growth only truly happens when we reflect on experiences.

Congratulations to the medical staff recipients of the oneVCH awards. It is a reminder that your and your colleagues' daily dedication and hard work are critical to the high standard of patient care that we strive for and continually look to improve.

Looking ahead, I am optimistic about the Medical Affairs transformation we're undertaking. This initiative, set to roll out in 2025, aims to streamline our processes and reduce barriers to allow medical leaders to focus more on what matters most: providing high-quality, safe patient care. More to come and to get involved with, stay tuned.

I also look forward to partnering with you to address the priority areas identified in the 2024 Physician Wellness Survey. I encourage you to join us at the [Medical Staff Forum](#) on December 17 at 5:30 p.m., where Dr. Fahreen Dossa, Interim Regional Medical Director, Wellness, will share interim survey results and preliminary action plans.

Together, we are making meaningful progress and I truly look forward to creating even more impact for our patients and our community in the coming year.

Wishing you all a safe, peaceful and uplifting holiday season.

Chad

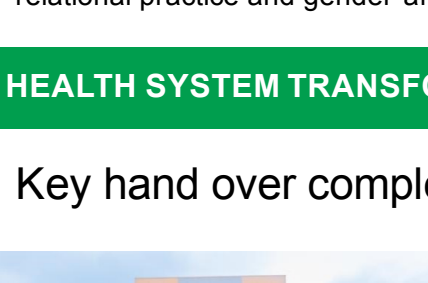
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

B.C. Rural Health Awards: Call for nominations

The B.C. Rural Health Awards are being held to recognize and honour rural physicians, communities and residents for their inspiring contributions to improving health across rural B.C. You are invited to nominate exceptional colleagues, mentors, peers and communities for acknowledgment by January 15, 2025. Contact [Bree Loeffler](#) for inquiries.

Nomination categories for a B.C. Rural Health Award: [Rural B.C. Community Award](#), [Award of Excellence in Rural Medicine: Lifetime Achievement](#), and [Resident Leadership Award](#).

oneVCH Awards: Dr. Kelly Mayson recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award



Congratulations to Dr. Kelly Mayson (left) on receiving the Lifetime Achievement oneVCH Award. Dr. Mayson's leadership in quality improvement, including overseeing more than 60 projects at Vancouver Coastal Health, has made a lasting impact.

Her work with the [Enhanced Recovery after Surgery](#) initiative and the [Surgical Patient Optimization Collaborative](#) has led to significant improvements in patient outcomes and quality of care.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

New resource guide: Caring for trans, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people

Following a focus group and survey that found a strong desire for more resources and training, the Trans Specialty Care program, in collaboration with Prism Services, developed a directory of resources called Working with Two-Spirit, transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse clients. [Check it out](#).

Trans Care B.C. also launched a [new e-Learning course](#) on Gender-Affirming Relational Practice, created with PHSA staff and community partners across B.C. This two-hour course gives an overview of how health-care providers can combine clinical practice, relational practice and gender-affirming care principles to improve access and care for trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary clients.

HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

Key hand over complete: Step inside the new Paul Myers Tower



An exciting new milestone has been reached on the Lions Gate Redevelopment project with the key handover to the new acute tower at Lions Gate Hospital (LGH).

This milestone is not just about the completion of construction; it's the beginning of a new chapter at the LGH campus, the coastal communities we serve and a landmark achievement in our journey toward enhancing patient care. [Learn more](#).

New inpatient rooms boost capacity and patient comfort

Richmond Hospital recently saw the opening of eight new inpatient beds in its North Tower following the completion of a multi-month renovation project. This renovation transformed the former sleep lab space by providing new rooms, increasing capacity and supporting the ability to deliver high-quality, timely care as demand in Richmond grows.

The renovation project created dedicated, permanent space for patient care by adding two new four-bed inpatient rooms. The rooms feature accessible bathrooms and ceiling lifts to improve safety and comfort. The renovation also restored a nearby temporary care space, offering three more beds to support patient care. In total, 11 new beds have been added to the North Tower's Surgery Inpatient Unit.

This increase in bed capacity became possible through the relocation of Richmond's sleep lab to the University of British Columbia (UBC) Hospital, where it now operates as part of a regional program.

LEADERSHIP

Accountability: What your medical leaders have been working on



At the October 2024 Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC) meeting, members voted in favour of the creation of a regional pool of emergency physicians who are already credentialed and privileged. HAMAC also received an update on Associate Physician Implementation. [Read more](#).

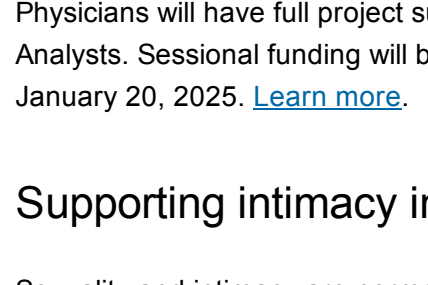
At the November 2024 Medical Leaders Breakfast, over 50 medical leaders gained insight on VCH workforce data and payment models. The discussions that followed touched upon the subjects of staff retention and recruitment, with emphasis on workforce planning.

If you have any ideas on the above topics, reach out to your medical leaders or [MedicalStaff@vch.ca](#).

Call for working group participants: Medical leaders needed for input on MCC 360 process

B.C. health authorities are aligning to provide multisource feedback to medical staff using the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) 360 program. Medical Leaders in areas managing provisional medical staff are needed to co-design the new process which will embed MCC 360 into provisional to active reviews. The commitment is 12 to 15 hours across 12 meetings taking place from Winter 2024 to Spring 2026. Sessional rates provided. [Learn more](#).

Staff spotlight: Connected by learning—a medical director's experience



Sheila Turris is a nurse practitioner and the medical director for North Vancouver Urgent and Primary Care Centre.

Sheila shares her recent experience in our Leadership Fundamentals Program and what it's like working as a medical director at VCH. [Read more](#).

POLICY AND PRACTICE

New conflict of interest declaration for medical staff

VCH recently updated its conflict of interest policy. Among other steps to strengthen our governance practices in this area, VCH leaders, medical staff and researchers will be required to complete a conflict of interest declaration. Declarations for medical staff will be included as part of the credentialing and privileging checklist beginning in January 2025. Completing the form is simple, and several learning resources (e.g., FAQ, user guide) are also available. [Learn more](#).

New medical staff reappointment process for 2025

Medical Affairs has listened to your feedback and redesigned the reappointment process based on your input. Starting in January 2025, you can expect a simpler, faster and more straightforward process that saves you time and effort. What's new:

- Less paperwork
- Meaningful conversations
- Real-time experience
- Updated education requirements
- Improved tools for medical leaders

Medical staff who are reappointing in 2025 will receive an email with a link to a single form that requires completion. If you have questions about your reappointment process, email [credentialingsupport@vch.ca](#) or call 604-675-2523 to leave a message; a member of the reappointment team will get back to you as soon as possible. [Learn more](#).

QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY

Call for applications: Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) Advanced L3 Cohort Training

Is there something at work that needs to be improved? Do you have ideas and need support? Advanced Level 3 Training is a 10-month UBC CPD accredited cohort program that consists of e-modules, online and in-person interactive sessions and group activities. Physicians will have full project support and mentorship from a PQI physician alumni, Quality Improvement (QI) Leader and Data Analysts. Sessional funding will be provided for time spent in training as well as any QI work completed. Applications are open until January 20, 2025. [Learn more](#).

Supporting intimacy in a long stay settings

Sexuality and intimacy are normal parts of life. Yet, while many health-care professionals work to support the sexual health of a resident in long-term care or another long-stay setting, stigma around sex still exists. The Sexual Health Rehabilitation Service team has taken steps to ensure that health-care providers working in any health-care setting, have access to evidence-based information, by way of formal education. The team has partnered with the B.C. Institute of Technology to offer a [micro credential in Sexual health Rehabilitation](#). There are many more existing tools and resources to support long-term care homes when a resident is showing signs of sexual needs. [Learn more](#).

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Input needed: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hub and advancements at VCH

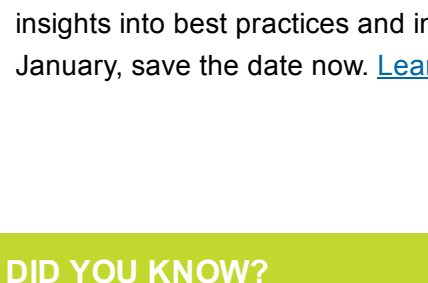
The VCH Research Institute (VCHRI) has launched a new AI Hub, designed to accelerate and unify AI efforts throughout clinical, operational, research and commercial areas. To meet the increasing demand for VCH data in AI model development, integration and validation, a rigorous review process is being established. The Data AI Policy Task Force (DAPT), made up of leaders from the VCH Senior Executive Team, Data and Analytics, Privacy, Finance, Legal, Research and VCHRI Indigenous Health Research Unit, is creating a framework for responsible, secure and innovative AI development and use.

DAPT invites medical staff to participate in an environmental scan to assess the current AI landscape at VCH. This anonymous 10-minute survey is being conducted for research purposes and will help map existing AI initiatives, resources, infrastructure and training needs. All information collected is confidential and will solely inform the internal AI assessment. [Read more and take the survey](#).

Mark your calendar: Ministry of Health (MoH) innovation funding winter intake

The MoH Innovation Pathway Program (IPP) has its next funding intake coming soon. If you have a promising idea for a clinical innovation that addresses an existing gap or problem, aligns with MoH priorities and has potential for broad system impact, apply for project funding of up to \$50,000 by January 20, 2025. [Learn more](#) and contact [innovation@vch.ca](#) for an IPP information packet and any questions.

Smart antibiotic prescribing at your fingertips

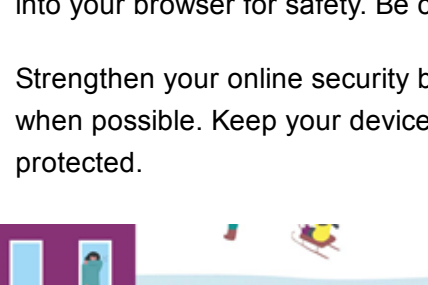


Launched by VCH during World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2024, the Firstline app is now available to all health-care professionals in the region. This innovative clinical tool provides quick access to local infectious disease guidance and antimicrobial dosing information directly at the point of care.

With Firstline, health-care professionals can make informed treatment decisions, reduce the burden of drug-resistant infections on the health systems, minimize adverse events, health-associated infections and long-term complications associated with unnecessary antibiotic use, and receive instant notifications on drug shortages and updated guidance.

In less than 60 seconds, download the Firstline app on your mobile device or access it on the web and instantly access local, tailored guidance to optimize patient outcomes. [Learn more](#).

Transplant Stories shares 'raw and real' moments behind organ transplants



Behind each person's organ transplant is a powerful story about their journey to that moment and the remarkable work of the health-care professionals supporting them.

You can watch these stories unfold in a new four-part docuseries on [Knowledge Network](#).

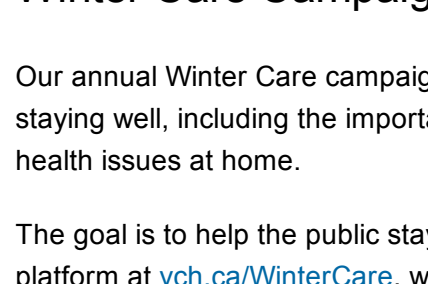
The series features our multidisciplinary team at Vancouver General Hospital and G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre. [Learn more](#).

WELLNESS

Newly accredited psychological health and safety course available

What is psychological health and safety in the workplace, why does it matter, and what role can you play in enhancing it for you and your team? There is a course available on Learning Hub for both [medical staff](#) and [medical leaders](#) to delve into this topic. The two-hour online course is accredited for 2.0 credits under the Section 3 and Mainpro+ self-assessment categories.

Staff spotlight: Living and practising in beautiful Bella Coola



Dr. Julia Low Ah Kee is a general practitioner in Bella Coola who fell in love with rural life during her first rotation there.

She shares what it's like living and practising in a place she loves: B.C.'s central coast. [Learn more](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program Winter 2025 for rural practitioners

Starting on January 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., for eight consecutive weeks, medical staff who live and or practice in rural B.C. are invited to join this online program. This free program also includes a full-day retreat on March 1. [Register](#).

PQI Level 2 Intermediate Training

On February 20 and 21 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., medical staff are invited to join a virtual workshop with interactive breakout sessions to learn more about QI methodologies and how to start tackling your QI idea. Is there a gap in the health-care system you would like addressed? Spots fill up fast. [Register](#).

Registration open: Health Quality Forum

From March 11 to 13, Health Quality B.C.'s Quality Forum will bring together B.C.'s health-care community to share and discuss how to improve quality across the continuum of care, as well as learn new skills and strategies, discuss opportunities and challenges, and network with others interested in improving health care. [Register](#).

Urgent and Primary Care: Connect 2025 Conference

On May 6 and 7, clinicians working in Urgent and Primary Care Centres are invited to join the first-of-its kind event to gain valuable insights into best practices and innovative strategies that enhance team-based urgent and primary care. Early bird registration opens in January, save the date now. [Learn more](#).

[Find more opportunities](#)

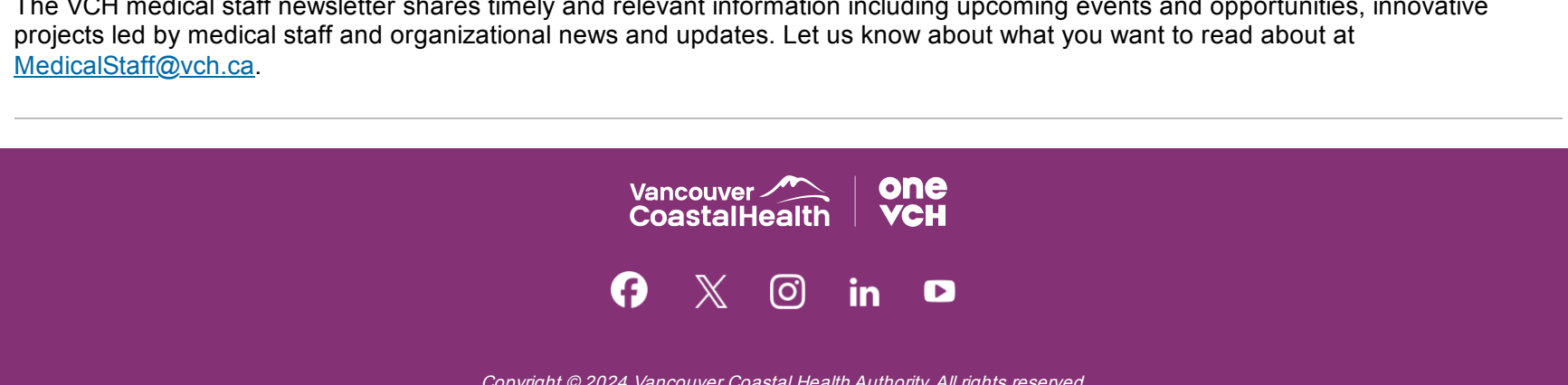
DID YOU KNOW?

Cybersecurity tips for medical professionals

The holiday season is a time of joy, but it brings added cyber risks, especially for medical professionals handling sensitive patient information. Scammers often take advantage of the holiday rush by using fake emails, QR codes, and apps designed to deceive and steal your and your patient's information.

Protect yourself by taking a moment before clicking on links in emails, texts, or social media. Instead, type the website address directly into your browser for safety. Be cautious with QR codes—check the website that appears before proceeding.

Strengthen your online security by using unique, strong passwords and enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) for your accounts when possible. Keep your devices updated to fix issues scammers could exploit, and make sure your antivirus software is active to stay protected.



Winter Care Campaign: Helping communities stay healthy

Our annual Winter Care campaign is here to help communities stay healthy during the colder months. It offers simple, practical tips on staying well, including the importance of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, staying safe in cold weather, and managing common winter health issues at home.

The goal is to help the public stay healthy and know when and where to seek care. The campaign includes a comprehensive online platform at [vch.ca/WinterCare](#), where there are posters in eight languages, as well as community-specific services and supports. We encourage you to share these resources with your patients or clients to help them stay informed and healthy this winter.

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](#).