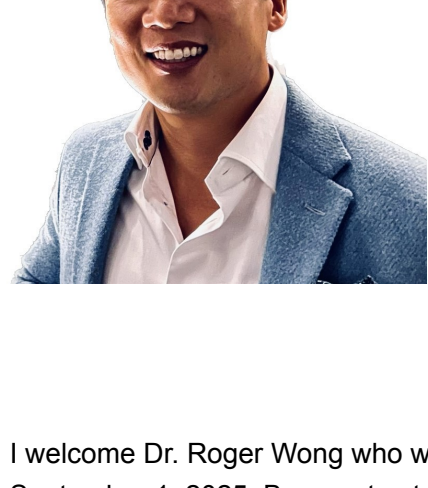


Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

Summer 2025

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



As I conclude my role of interim VP of Medicine and Academic Affairs, a transition I chose and embrace, I offer my my sincere appreciation for the privilege of working with all of you over the past two years as well as the four years prior as Associate VP Medicine and Quality. It has been a welcome growth opportunity for me personally and professionally, and I continue to be encouraged by the level of compassion, skill and dedication each of you demonstrates daily. I learn from you each day—thank you. Be sure to extend that same compassion towards yourself and colleagues. Prioritizing your own wellbeing, even when it feels unfamiliar, is both necessary and valid, something I am learning as well.

I will continue to work alongside you at VCH and will remain an advocate and supporter of the numerous transformative efforts we have established. I am encouraged by our recent efforts described in the Leadership section below, to streamline our work and improve efficiencies while maintaining our goal of providing safe, quality care in an efficient and sustainable way. The efforts of medical staff are vital to our work with the Ministry of Health on Maximizing Patient Care Delivery through their health authority review, to shape meaningful change and innovation to improve the way we deliver care.

I welcome Dr. Roger Wong who will bring unique and experienced perspectives to the role of VP Medicine and Academic Affairs, starting September 1, 2025. Be sure to stay in touch—I look forward to connecting!

- Chad

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appointment of Dr. Roger Wong as Vice President Medicine and Academic Affairs, VCH

Dr. Roger Wong has been appointed as VCH's incoming Vice President, Medicine and Academic Affairs, effective September 1, 2025. In this role, Dr. Wong will collaborate with medical leaders to champion clinical excellence and support our culture of continuous learning, quality improvement and patient-centered care. He will also play a vital role in supporting the Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee in its mandate to advise the Board of Directors on medical care, quality and effectiveness.



Dr. Wong is a consulting physician with the Geriatric Consultation Program at Vancouver General Hospital, a clinical researcher at VCH Research Institute and a clinical professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He also recently served as Vice Dean, Education at the UBC Faculty of Medicine.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Call for nominations: 2025 oneVCH Awards

The oneVCH Awards spotlight the individuals and teams who go above and beyond and inspire others to excel. This year, there are 15 award categories to celebrate medical staff, staff and volunteers who are making a positive impact. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to make a nomination. Simply complete [the nomination form](#) by June 30, 2025.

A selection committee of staff, medical staff and leaders from throughout VCH will review the nominations. The recipients will be celebrated at an awards ceremony in the fall. Thank you for taking the time to recognize and celebrate those who live our values each and every day. [Learn more.](#)

Investigator Awards: 2025 recipients

The Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) facilitates clinician-scientists in their efforts to make new discoveries to improve the health and well-being of patients across their lifespans. The institute's Investigator Awards provide salary support to leading health research investigators to help reduce their clinical commitments and expand their capacity for innovation-driven research that creates new health-care knowledge.

Congratulations to the 2025 Investigator Awards recipients (pictured below): Dr. Richard Bennett (left), Dr. Connor Forbes (centre) and Dr. Jenna-Lynn Senger (right). [Read more on their research.](#)



YWCA 2025 Women of Distinction Awards



Two VCH physicians were nominated in the Research, Sciences and Technology category of the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. The category celebrates those who have made a significant difference in Metro Vancouver through their dedicated pursuit of scientific, technological and/or research-based discoveries. Congratulations to Dr. Cheryl Ho (left, award recipient) and Dr. Jessica McAlpine (right) for their outstanding work. [Read more on their accomplishments.](#)

HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

New inpatient clinical trials unit launches at Vancouver General Hospital

VGH is now home to B.C.'s first dedicated inpatient clinical trials unit for early-phase therapies in blood cancers. The new Hematology Research Unit opened May 27, 2025, and will deliver revolutionary therapies to patients with relapsed or treatment-resistant hematological diseases. Embedded within the Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Program of B.C., the unit is purpose-built to support complex clinical trials requiring expert collaboration among hematologists, critical care teams, specialized nurses and allied health professionals. [Read more.](#)



Richmond Hospital's new healing space

Paving the way for enhanced mental health care, the new Psychiatric Assessment Unit at Richmond Hospital is now open to patients. As part of the Richmond Hospital Redevelopment Project, the new unit features a layout that enhances flow and patient visibility. Patient care spaces now include ensuite washrooms and additional features such as a walking loop, a multipurpose space and an enclosed outdoor patio have been incorporated. [Read more.](#)

Next phase of community engagement on the future of health services at Sechelt | shishálh Hospital

VCH is beginning the next phase of engagement for Health Vision Sechelt, a high-level planning process to help ensure the hospital campus continues to meet the evolving health-care needs of the local community. VCH is inviting Lower Sunshine Coast communities to attend drop-in engagement sessions in Sechelt, Madeira Park and Gibsons to learn more about what was heard during previous engagements, review key details from the draft clinical services plan, as well as ask questions and provide feedback. For those unable to join in-person, there will be a virtual engagement session offered as well. [Read more and join a community engagement session.](#)

LEADERSHIP

Reduction in cycle times for 2025 medical staff appointments

Efforts to streamline the 2025 reappointment processes are already delivering results, reducing administrative burdens for both medical leaders and administrative staff. All levels of medical leadership and CoC Medical Affairs now have near real-time reappointment status updates available. Other successes include:

- At least 10 minutes saved on each medical staff member's reappointment process with the new DocuSign declaration form, which takes less than one minute to complete.
- 70 per cent reduction in overall administrative requirements for the reappointment processes.
- 19 per cent of reappointing staff who are currently co-appointed with Providence Health Care (PHC), were able to complete their reappointments for both organizations with a single process thanks to the VCH-PHC unified reappointment framework.

Accountability: What your medical leaders have been working on

At the May 2025 Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC) meeting, members received presentations on the Quality and Health Human Resources reports of the Regional Department of Medicine and the Regional Department of Nurse Practitioners. In addition, the Planetary Health Clinician Engagement Lead presented an overview of the Planetary Health portfolio, including recent work at VCH. The Chief Medical Information Officer also provided an update on the work in progress on patient access to their medical records through the new CST Cerner Patient Portal, planned to go live in fall 2025. [Read more.](#)

As of May 28, a total of 24 VCH medical leaders participated in one-on-one interviews and/or small group workshops as part of the Medical Leadership Structural Redesign, an initiative underway to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of services that support optimal performance and value. Four main themes emerged from these discussions:

1. **Clarification of medical leadership roles, scope and decision-making authority** to reduce duplication and promote a coordinated approach across regions
2. **Increased visibility of certain regional medical leadership roles** to enhance awareness and alignment
3. **A moderate level of centralization** to optimize a broad range of key functions
4. **Further input on clinical service-line development** to ensure balanced and sustainable portfolios

Applications open: Clinical faculty mentoring program at UBC Faculty of Medicine

The Clinical Faculty Mentoring program, delivered in partnership by UBC, CPD and UBC Faculty Affairs, pairs junior clinical faculty/new educators (mentees) with senior clinical faculty (mentors) and includes the 22 departments and schools that make up UBC's Faculty of Medicine. The purpose of this formal mentoring program is to support the career goals of clinical faculty in the areas of administration, clinical leadership and teaching. The program is open to clinical faculty or clinical educators on track to become clinical faculty at UBC. [Apply by July 15, 2025.](#)

POLICY AND PRACTICE

Updates: College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. proposed bylaw changes; U.S. recruitment campaign

The Ministry of Health recently launched a recruitment campaign to attract U.S. physicians, nurses and allied health professionals to British Columbia. The [recruitment campaign](#) includes social media and print ads in Washington, Oregon and select cities in California. The six-week campaign is expected to reach approximately 80 per cent of health-care professionals in the target areas.

In addition, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. has [proposed bylaw changes](#) that may allow U.S.-trained physicians with American Boards to obtain full registration in B.C. without requiring College of Family Physicians of Canada designation or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada fellowship. The consultation period closed on May 7 and the changes are expected to be implemented as of July 7, 2025.

We're looking forward to welcoming more U.S. physicians to the oneVCH team. We encourage you to connect with your U.S. colleagues and direct them to our [medical staff careers website](#). For questions, contact medstaffcareers@vch.ca

Revised Substance Use Harm Reduction Practice policy: New learning resource available



As we enter the ninth year of the toxic drug crisis in British Columbia—and recognize the more than 16,000 lives lost across the province and the impact on their loved ones—the VCH [Substance Use Harm Reduction Practice policy](#) has been revised to reflect the ongoing need to provide better care for people who use substances. In addition to the revised policy, the Substance Use Priority Populations team has developed an updated learning resource for staff and medical staff called [Harm Reduction 101](#).

QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY

Health Care Consent Survey

Do you have questions about informed consent, capability, substitute decision makers or emergency care under BC's *Health Care Consent Act*? VCH and Providence Health Care are launching a regional initiative to improve learning opportunities about health-care consent—and we want your voice to be part of it. Complete the anonymous survey for [midwives](#) or [nurse practitioners and physicians](#).

Physician Quality Improvement and Spread: year-end presentations

On April 30 and May 7, 2025, the PQI&S team held an all-day event to showcase the quality improvement projects happening within VCH and PHC during the last year. Presenters included graduating Cohort 8 physicians, PQI alumni and SQI project leads. Check out the recordings from [day 1](#) and [day 2](#).

Putting equity at the heart of trauma recovery

Speakers at VGH's recent Trauma Symposium – the first of its kind in B.C. – brought personal perspective to how social factors shape traumatic injury and recovery. The event brought together people from health care and beyond to focus on building partnerships within the trauma system, and retired trauma surgeon Dr. Ross Brown and his family announced the Michael Brown Scholarship for Equity in Trauma Care in memory of their son, Michael Brown. The scholarship supports emerging researchers and surgical residents exploring the social aspects of traumatic injury and acute care surgery. [Read more.](#)

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Appointment of Dr. Gavin Stuart as Vice President, VCHRI



Dr. Gavin Stuart has been appointed Vice President Research, VCHRI. This important role aims to foster a culture of continuous improvement and knowledge translation and oversee the integration of research and care delivery that improves the health of our communities. Dr. Stuart has joined the Senior Executive Team and will work closely with senior leaders and medical directors to help ensure alignment in integrating research findings, clinical practice and knowledge translation in program delivery, patient safety and quality of care.

From discovery to care: VCHRI Research Impact series

The VCHRI is proud to launch the VCHRI Research Impact series—a new initiative that highlights the groundbreaking work of clinicians, scientists, patient partners and philanthropic supporters within the VCH and UBC research community. The first video in this three-part series, *From Discovery to Care: This is VCHRI*, showcases how VCHRI researchers are transforming healthcare through innovation, cross-disciplinary collaboration and a shared commitment to improving patient outcomes. [Watch the video.](#)

WELLNESS

The impact of a respectful workplace on health-care teams and patient outcomes

When someone is rude or aggressive, we often respond with anger. In that moment, we feel belittled, dismissed and powerless. It's not just our emotions; our brains also react with a 61 per cent reduction in cognitive ability. This changes how we think: we become more hostile and aggressive. Such rudeness also influences onlookers. Their performance decreases by 20 per cent and they experience a 50 per cent reduction in their desire to help others. When this happens in a health-care setting, it impacts patient care.

These were some of the insights that Dr. Chris Turner and Dr. Yann Brierley, an emergency physician in the UK and a pathologist from Interior Health respectively, shared during a recent workshop. Check out [Dr. Turner](#) and [Dr. Brierley's](#) presentations.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

B.C. Virtual Health Grand Rounds: Bridging the Gap between AI Development and Implementation in Healthcare

On July 29 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., join the fourth quarterly session of this series featuring Dr. Hashim Kareemi. The rounds aim to explore transformative, technology-enabled health-care delivery through discussion about the risks, benefits and considerations for adopting technology to support patient-centred care. [Register](#)

23rd Annual St. Paul's Emergency Medicine Update

From September 18 to 21, medical staff are invited to come together for four days of networking and emergency medicine education at the Whistler Conference Centre in Whistler, B.C. Early bird rates are available until July 7, 2025. [Register](#)

19th Annual Pacific Psychopharmacology Conference

On September 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., experts from Canada and abroad will present the latest advances in pharmacologic treatments for mental illness. Join this hybrid conference for updates on schizophrenia, mood disorders, substance use comorbidities, emerging antidepressant therapies and more. [Register](#)

Canadian Association of Midwives Conference 2025

From November 12 to 14, midwives are invited to join Canada's national midwifery conference at The Westin Calgary in Calgary, Alberta. Early bird rates are available until August 29, 2025. [Register](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2024/25 Vancouver Coastal Health Impact Report

2024–2025 was a year of incredible impact for VCH. In this year's report, we celebrate and highlight the important work and achievements by you to provide and support exceptional patient care. The report is fully interactive and available in an accessible web format. [Check it out here.](#)

When is it time to call a Code Grey?

In health care, technology outages or other disruptions like losing power, water or access to charting systems can have real-life consequences. When our information technology or other systems are not working as they should, a Code Grey is activated. [Read more.](#)

Why passwords still matter

Passwords may seem inconsequential, but they play a big role in keeping our systems and patient information safe. In health care, a weak or reused password can open the door to a major privacy breach. [Read more](#) on the precautions you can take.

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.