



# Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

**Fall 2025**



I am truly honoured to begin a new journey as Vice President, Medicine and Academic Affairs at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). VCH’s vision of healthy lives in healthy communities is a commitment that resonates strongly with me and for all of us.

In the first month in this role, I have personally seen this vision brought to life. I have connected with many of you and am deeply touched by your great work and ingenuity across the entire health region. It is heartening to see such a strong commitment to provide the best possible care to meet the population’s health needs. Together, we share a common purpose and dynamic energy to influence and inspire others so that their lives can be impacted in a positive way while supporting the well-being of our teams.

Driven by a strong sense of compassion, we can uplift others through culturally safe, respectful and appropriate care, and amplify voices that are historically under-represented or underserved. These are the same lessons that I have learned over the years from my work in advancing older adults’ health care and medical education in Canada and beyond. My clinical roots are at VCH as a geriatrician, including leading the initial innovation of the then state-of-the-art Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit at Vancouver General Hospital, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and has been implemented across Canada and globally.

Looking ahead, we have an opportunity to work together as medical and health care leaders, teams and partners to continue to build on the important work underway and further advance and transform the Medicine and Academic Affairs portfolio. I would also like to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Chad Kim Sing for his leadership and stewardship over the last two years.

As we enter the busy fall and winter period, I look forward to meeting many more of you and working alongside the amazing medical teams to advance our core values of We Care for Everyone, We are Always Learning and We Strive for Better Results, as well as the [VCH Pillars](#) of Indigenous Cultural Safety, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Anti-Racism and Planetary Health.

It’s with excitement and hope that together, we can co-create a bright and healthy future for our patients, families and communities.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Roger Wong

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**B.C. Rural Health Awards: Call for nominations**

The B.C. Rural Health Awards honour rural physicians, communities and residents for their outstanding contributions to health across rural B.C. You are invited to nominate exceptional colleagues, mentors, peers and communities by December 15, 2025. Award categories include: Rural B.C. Community Award, Award of Excellence in Rural Medicine: Lifetime Achievement, and Resident Leadership Award. Questions? Reach out to [communications@rccbc.ca](mailto:communications@rccbc.ca).

## Congratulations to our outstanding oneVCH Awards recipients

This year, we're proud to share that a total of 1,682 medical staff were nominated and 47 medical staff were selected to receive a oneVCH award. We would like to congratulate all our medical staff recipients on being recognized for their commitment to making VCH a great place to work and deliver care:

- Achieving Better Results, Award of Merit – **Cognitive Assessment and Rehabilitation for Substance Use (CARSU) team**
- Achieving Better Results, Award of Excellence – **Psychiatric Assessment Unit at Vancouver General Hospital**
- Caring for Each Other, Award of Merit – **Grandview Woodlands Mental Health and Substance Use team**
- Caring for Each Other, Award of Excellence – **Pemberton Health Care Centre Emergency team**
- Everyday Hero (clinical), Award of Excellence – **Dr. Allison Mah**
- Exceptional Care, Award of Merit – **Dr. Edward Fang**
- Leadership, Award of Excellence – **Dr. Peter Dolman**
- Healthy People Champion – **Dr. Michael Norbury**
- Research and Innovation Champion – **RESPONSe Program project team**
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Champion – **Hematology Daycare and Apheresis Unit**
- Indigenous Cultural Safety Champion: Nacamat (One heart. One mind) – **Improving the Experience of Indigenous Families Receiving Maternity Care at Squamish General Hospital team**
- Planetary Health Champion – **Cardiac Green Planetary Health team**

[Learn more about our 2025 award recipients.](#)

## Dr. John Yee recipient of 2025 Order of British Columbia



Congratulations to Dr. John Yee, recipient of the Order of British Columbia. The honour recognizes individuals who have served with exceptional distinction and made outstanding contributions to the people of B.C. and beyond.

Dr. Yee has revolutionized Thoracic Surgery in the province through his remarkable leadership, surgical expertise and dedication to patient care. As head of BC Transplant's Lung Transplant Program, he has performed 97 per cent of the B.C.'s lung transplants over the past two decades, including a record-setting 77 double lung transplants in 2023.

A compassionate physician, dedicated educator and visionary leader, Dr. Yee continues to shape the future of health care in BC through innovation, excellence and unwavering service.

## HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

### Expansion of Nurse Practitioner training in B.C.

The B.C. government has expanded nurse practitioner training programs throughout the province by adding 65 new seats. This expansion brings the total number of annual nurse practitioner trainees to 165 and supports the province's goal of strengthening primary care and reducing wait times. [Learn more.](#)

## Midwifery Action Plan to address Indigenous-specific racism

The British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) has released an updated action plan reaffirming its commitment to relational accountability and culturally safe care. The plan includes resources to support virtual care and offers reflections on systemic issues impacting Indigenous communities. [Read the plan.](#)

### In case you missed it: virtual forum on AccessMyHealth patient portal

At the Oct. 15, 2025 VPP Medical Staff Forum, clinical and informatics leaders came together to present an overview of the AccessMyHealth patient portal, highlight its relevance for providers and patients and showcase its new functionality. See the [session recording](#) and [slide deck](#).

Questions regarding the patient portal? Contact [AccessMyHealthPortal@vch.ca](mailto:AccessMyHealthPortal@vch.ca).

## PLANETARY HEALTH

### New programs are making a positive impact for people and the planet



Two new initiatives are having an impact on planetary health: the first focuses on reusing, while the second centres on PPE recycling. The latter aims to develop more efficient systems for local collection, distribution and recycling. [Read more.](#)

### Two teams are making a difference: Less waste, more impact

The [Zero Waste Hierarchy](#) framework helps guide how we manage health-care waste and reduce our environmental impact. Two current initiatives at VCH are doing just that by targeting waste reduction in operating room: Streamlining surgical trays and cutting down on single-use supplies. [Read more.](#)

## POLICY AND PRACTICE

### Uncertain about the informed consent process? You're not alone

Navigating consent can be one of the most complex aspects of providing care. Medical staff may encounter:

- A patient's fluctuating capability to provide consent (daily, or even hourly)
- Lack of clarity about who qualifies as the Substitute Decision Maker
- An emergency situation with a patient who is incapable of making a decision

These scenarios highlight the need for clarity and support. To help ensure legally-sound, consent-driven care, VCH and PHC have introduced a new [Consent for Health Care Policy](#), a standardized consent form and a suite of learning tools, including webinars this fall, to guide your practice and decision-making. [Learn more.](#)

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](mailto:MedicalStaff@vch.ca)

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