

# Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

Summer 2026

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



The dedication and service of medical staff across VCH continue to make a meaningful difference for our patients, families, teams and communities. I am grateful for recent opportunities to connect with colleagues, including a visit to Sechelt | shíshálh Hospital to discuss the health needs of rural and remote communities, and time with the Planetary Healthcare Lab to explore how we can advance planetary health and its impact on individual and population health.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your contributions at VCH. Your collective achievements are something to be proud of, and I encourage you to take time to recognize and celebrate excellence by nominating a colleague for the 2026 oneVCH Awards. Please also join me in congratulating those who have been recognized through other honours.

As we gather this week for the next Medical Leaders Breakfast at Richmond Hospital, the importance of human connection in leadership becomes more evident. Trust and presence are central to providing quality care. We look forward to discussing the recently renewed [Medical Staff Rules](#), which support medical staff by adding clarity and consistency as we serve the health needs of patients and communities.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Mike Norbury for his contributions over the past five years as Senior Medical Director, Vancouver Community. We are deeply grateful for his dedication and the lasting impact of his leadership.

With the summer months ahead, I encourage you to take time to rest and recharge, whether it's time with friends and family, a relaxing swim or walk, or other activities that help refresh our energy and sense of compassion.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude once again to you for your dedication and ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger Wong

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

### Celebrate excellence: Nominations open for 2026 oneVCH Awards

Every day, our incredible medical staff help make Vancouver Coastal Health a great place to work and deliver care. The oneVCH Awards shine a light on the individuals and teams who go above and beyond and inspire others to excel. Everyone is encouraged to take a moment to recognize an individual or team who consistently makes a meaningful impact. Nominations are quick and easy – complete the [nomination form](#) by June 30, 2026. [Learn More.](#)

### Eminent Contribution to Older Adults in Canada Award 2026 Recipient: Dr. Roger Wong

Congratulations to Dr. Roger Wong, recipient of the 2026 Award for Eminent Contribution to Older Adults in Canada. Established by the Entente Education Canada Board of Directors to recognize Canadians who have delivered outstanding service to older adults, this award recognizes Dr. Wong's leadership in advancing geriatric care, research and policy.

[Read more.](#)

### Healthcare Management Forum (HMF) Article of the Year Award 2026 Recipient: Dr. Corinne Hohl



Congratulations to Dr. Corinne Hohl, recipient of the 2026 HMF Article of the Year Award, presented by the Canadian College of Health Leaders and focuses on honouring a journal author whose article has helped to challenge the traditional notions of health leadership and motivate transformational behaviour. The [article that Dr. Hohl co-authored](#) highlights an interoperable system that enables clinicians to communicate adverse drug events across health sectors. [Read more.](#)

### VCHRI Investigator Awards 2026 Recipients



Congratulations to the 2026 VCHRI Investigator Awards recipients: Drs. Michael Bond (left), Shari Li (centre left), Aresh Sepehri (centre right) and Marie-Pier St-Laurent (right).

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. This year's recipients are leading projects that address key clinical challenges, including low back pain treatment pathways, goals-of-care conversations in emergency settings, and innovations in orthopaedic and urologic care. [Read more.](#)

## LEADERSHIP

### Accountability: What your medical leaders have been working on

At the May 2026 Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee meeting, members received updates from the Coastal Medical Advisory Committee on regional activities and rural representation. Highlights included a Sechelt Emergency Department initiative focused on physician wellness and retention, and progress on the VCH 10-Year Cancer Plan. Updates also covered regional medical leadership recruitment, upcoming accreditation, research priorities and a new approach to population health planning and service utilization. [Read more.](#)

### Medical Leadership Update: Senior Medical Director, Vancouver Community



After five years as Senior Medical Director for Vancouver Community, Dr. Mike Norbury will be stepping down effective September 4, 2026. Recognized for his leadership, he has made significant contributions to system improvement, equitable care and medical staff mentorship across VCH. During his tenure, he played a key role in advancing initiatives such as the Assisted Dying Program and strengthening leadership and quality improvement efforts. We would like to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to Dr. Norbury for his dedication, collaborative approach and lasting impact on patients, staff and communities.

## QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY

### B.C. expands midwives' role to improve access to reproductive and pregnancy care

British Columbia is expanding the role of midwives to improve access to reproductive and pregnancy care across the province. Following consultations with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, the changes will allow midwives to prescribe certain medications, including for early miscarriage and abortion and perform additional ultrasounds. The expansion aims to provide more timely, local care, especially in rural and underserved communities while strengthening continuity of care. [Read more.](#)

### Celebrating 10 Years of Physician Quality Improvement (PQI)

This year marks a decade of PQI at VCH and PHC — growing from a small, physician-led initiative into a system-wide program that has equipped over 800 clinicians with practical skills to improve care. What began as individual projects has evolved into spreading and sustaining high-impact changes across sites, with measurable results such as reducing unnecessary pre-operative testing and improving care for long-term care residents. At its core, PQI continues to build a strong, connected community of physicians who are engaged, empowered and leading meaningful improvements for patients and providers.

### New Pediatric Advance Care Planning Guideline and E-Learning Course

BC Children's Hospital along with Child Health BC, Canuck Place Children's Hospice and Perinatal Services BC, has launched a first-of-its-kind pediatric advance care planning guideline and e-learning course to support health care providers working with infants, children and youth living with a serious illness, or who may encounter them in practice. The [provincial guideline](#) outlines how to identify appropriate patients, prepare families, support conversations and create appropriate documentation to guide care.

The [e-learning course](#) aims to enhance providers' understanding of pediatric advance care planning and covers essential communication practices, the planning conversation process and pMOST documentation practices.

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### New Spinal Cord Injury Navigation Service for British Columbia and Yukon



Vancouver Coastal Health, in partnership with the Rick Hansen Foundation, has launched a new Spinal Cord Injury Navigation Service to support people living with spinal cord injury across B.C. and Yukon. Clinicians and care teams now have a new way to connect with specialized spinal cord injury expertise and support, particularly in rural and remote communities. [Read more.](#)

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

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. It 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, extreme weather or public health events. All deployments through the EHPR are optional, paid employment. [Learn more and register.](#)

### Check out the 2025/26 Vancouver Coastal Health Impact Report

2025-2026 was a year of incredible advancement for VCH. In this year's report, we celebrate and highlight some of the meaningful steps we are taking to help ensure our programs and services are accessible, responsive and reflective of our diverse patients and clients. [Check it out here.](#)

### Protecting patient privacy: a shared responsibility

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of our patients, residents and clients is core to who we are and how we care for people. Here is a timely reminder of how we do this in practice and how each of us can help protect the people we serve. [Read More.](#)

### Stronger together: Celebrating Pride season

VCH marks Pride Month by celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and reaffirming our commitment to inclusive, equitable care. Medical staff are invited to participate in or volunteer for the Vancouver Pride Parade taking place on August 2, 2026. [Read more and access resources.](#)

### VCH Recruitment Marketing Campaign: Casting Call

VCH is looking for medical staff volunteers to feature in an upcoming recruitment campaign. Selected medical staff may be featured in videos or photos displayed in VCH advertisements in SkyTrain stations, digital advertising and more. Must be available in Vancouver the week of July 20. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

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)