

# Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

## Spring 2023

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### Making history with an all-women medical leadership team



At Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), we are living history as two women lead our Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC) that represents more than 3,600 medical staff. Historically, male physicians filled HAMAC leadership roles. Now, for the first time, two women—a nurse practitioner and physician—are in formal leadership roles of HAMAC. Meet HAMAC chairs Dr. Jennifer Beaveridge, Nurse Practitioner and Dr. Brenda Wagner, Obstetrician and Gynecologist.

[Read more](#)

### EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

#### Celebrating and recognizing women medical staff at VCH

March 8th was International Women's Day, a day to celebrate the achievements of women as well as a day marking the call to action for accelerating women's equality.

At VCH, over 80 per cent of our workforce identify as women.

[Meet the inspiring women medical staff](#) who were nominated by peers: Dr. Jennifer Baxter, Dr. Andrea Brovender, Dr. Helen Kwo, Dr. Ingrid McFee, Dr. Gelareh Nouredin, Dr. Christina Thompson and Dr. Saraswathi Vedam.

#### Physician EDI Mentorship Program: Call for mentees

The VCH Physician Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Mentorship Program aims to support aspiring or new/emerging physician leaders from equity-deserving groups to achieve their full potential through guidance around organizational navigation, expand professional networks and facilitate personal and career development. [Learn more and apply by April 3rd](#)

For dentists, midwives and nurse practitioners who are interested in this resource, please [email us](#) so that we may track interest in such programs.

#### In case you missed it: Medical staff forum

At the recent medical staff forum on March 1, 2023, there was a presentation on the VCH EDI Survey results and a presentation about the experience of nurse practitioners working in a physician-focused field. [Click here](#) for the slides, chat links and video recording.

### POLICY AND PRACTICE

#### Mental Health Act (MHA) Involuntary Admissions

##### New B.C. MHA Form 4

Last month, the Ministry of Health replaced the MHA Form 4 with Form 4.1 (Certification for 48 hours, valid for up to 14 days after assessment), which allows the apprehension, detention and admission of a person for 48 hours, including in the community, and Form 4.2 (Certification for one month, if applicable), which extends admission for up to one month.

The new forms clearly distinguish each of the four involuntary admissions criteria and are more accessible for clinicians, person-centred, culturally safe, trauma informed, gender affirming and recovery oriented.

Until February 1, 2024, Form 4 remains legally valid for physicians to complete; nurse practitioners are not to complete the old version of Form 4.

##### MHA Involuntary Admissions expanded scope for nurse practitioners

Effective February 1, 2023, nurse practitioners have legal authority to complete MHA Form 4.1, enabling 48-hour detention and involuntary psychiatric treatment. Detainment longer than 48 hours will require an assessment and sign-off by a physician using Form 4.2.

The BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) approved revisions to the *Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice* relating to changes to the MHA and developed standards to apply when completing mental health or capacity assessments, as well as specific limits and conditions to apply when completing a Form 4.1. [Read more from the BCCNM.](#)

Recognizing that nurse practitioners are able complete Form 4.1 immediately, especially within community, educational support is available from [Jennifer.Beaveridge@vch.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Beaveridge@vch.ca), [Jennifer.Buck@vch.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Buck@vch.ca) and [Michelle.Sims@vch.ca](mailto:Michelle.Sims@vch.ca).

##### MHA Involuntary Admissions Support Team

The VCH/PHC MHA Involuntary Admissions Support Team ([MHAforms@vch.ca](mailto:MHAforms@vch.ca)), which includes clinical educators, clinical resources nurses and a peer support worker, supports clinicians to uphold full legal requirements when involuntarily admitting and providing treatment for people experiencing acute mental health issues.

[Read more](#) about the team, their supports for physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and social workers, as well as how they are contributing to increasing rates of form completion.

#### In case you missed it: All-staff town hall

On February 16, 2023, VCH leaders and medical leaders gathered to speak about the decriminalization of people who use drugs in B.C., and to address the questions and concerns from staff and medical staff. [Watch the town hall recording.](#)

### QUALITY AND SAFETY

#### VCH colleagues recognized as recipients of 2023 BC Quality Awards

Several medical staff are selected as winners and runners-up of the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council's 2023 BC Quality Awards. [Learn more](#) about our trail blazing colleagues and their teams who have been recognized for their efforts in quality improvement.

#### BC Patient Safety and Quality Council Annual Quality Forum June 6 to 8

The BC Patient Safety and Quality Council is hosting its three-day Quality Forum at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. The forum will include a variety of sessions on topics related to improving quality across the continuum of care. Registration opens soon. [Learn more.](#)

#### New webpage: Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC)

The HAMAC web page has moved to oneVCH. The HAMAC consists of 45 senior medical leaders and provides advice to the VCH Board of Directors and CEO on matters relating to the provision of healthcare, education and research in VCH's facilities, programs and geographical catchment area.

[Visit the new HAMAC webpage](#) to learn more about the committee and its work and read highlights from recent HAMAC meetings.

#### Social engineering threats to health care professionals: Protecting patient confidentiality

As professionals in the health care industry, medical staff handle confidential patient data daily. With cyber threats on the rise and social engineering attacks becoming increasingly prevalent, it is important to know how to safeguard sensitive information. [Read more](#) about social engineering, the threat it poses to health care professionals, and how to protect yourself and your patients from these malicious attacks in this article.

### WELLNESS

#### Dentist Wellness Program

The British Columbia Dental Association offers the Dentist Wellness Program, providing discreet, confidential support for dentists and their families in the province. The program helps with a wide range of issues, including substance use, mental health, relationship stress, career and life transitions, and peer support. [Learn more.](#)

For midwives and nurse practitioners who are interested in this type of resource, please email [MedicalStaff@vch.ca](mailto:MedicalStaff@vch.ca) so that we may track interest in such programs.

#### Supports for medical staff: Changes to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) eligibility

We appreciate and acknowledge that medical staff may have questions about the [changes to MAiD eligibility for those with a sole diagnosis of mental health illness](#). Medical staff who are seeking emotional support can speak with their leaders, access [Lifeworks](#), or reach out to VCH Ethics service at [Ethics@vch.ca](mailto:Ethics@vch.ca). [Click here](#) for more information about the MAiD program and resources.

#### Self-compassion and mindfulness sessions

All medical staff are welcome to drop-in to a virtual mindfulness practice in a safe space, facilitated by rural family physician Dr. Jennifer Baxter. These sessions take place every second Thursday of the month. [Register for the session on April 13.](#)

#### Wellness Wednesday series

People Wellness offers weekly Wellness Wednesday sessions to support all VCH staff and medical staff. Workshops are facilitated by Lifeworks and are closed-captioned.

Recorded versions are available after the sessions for 24/7 access. [Sign up for sessions.](#)

#### Physician Peer Support Program (PPSP)



The PPSP offers safe, one-to-one, confidential support to physicians experiencing a difficult time. Conversations are judgement-free, short-term and at no cost.

Physicians who reach out to PPSP will connect with a peer supporter who will walk beside them, and feel heard, connected and empowered.

Meet two physician peer supporters [Dr. Jennifer Baxter](#) and [Dr. Asim Iqbal](#).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

#### Effective Team Interactions Virtual Workshop

The Canadian Medical Protective Association is facilitating the Effective Team Interactions course, starting April 19, 2023. Participants will be equipped with skills that ensure clearer interactions between healthcare colleagues to reduce risk and improve patient safety. [Register here.](#)

#### Annual Rural and Remote Medicine Course

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada is hosting the 30th annual Rural and Remote Medicine Course at Niagara Falls from April 20 to 22, 2023. [Register here.](#)

#### Canadian Conference on Physician Leadership

The Canadian Society of Physician Leaders is hosting a conference on physician leadership at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver from May 26 to 27, 2023. [Register here.](#)

#### Annual Nurse Practitioner Conference

The Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia is hosting their 17th annual Nurse Practitioner Conference at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC, from June 1 to 3, 2023. [Register here.](#)

[Find more opportunities](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Getting coverage for work-related injury or illness

[Learn about your WorkSafeBC coverage options](#) as a VCH medical staff through our latest Medical Practitioners Occupational Health and Safety (mPOSH) update.

#### Funding available for clinical innovation projects

Do you have an idea that you need help bringing to life? VCH's Innovation team can help medical staff secure innovation project funding through the Ministry of Health's Innovation Pathway Program, a new program that helps to identify and support the testing and assessment of promising innovations in clinical settings. [Apply by April 15.](#)

#### Getting involved with Planetary Health

[Join the Green+Leaders program](#) and become part of a network of more than 250 engaged health care and medical staff working towards healthy workplaces and a healthy planet in health organizations across the Lower Mainland.

#### Logging in to the oneVCH intranet

[Watch a short video](#) for a refresher on how to log in to [one.vch.ca](https://one.vch.ca) from a smartphone or desktop computer.

#### Renewing your photo ID

Has your photo ID expired? [Click here](#) to learn what you need to request a new photo ID.

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. [Meet the VCH Medical Staff Editorial Board.](#)

VCH is strongly committed to diversity within its community and welcomes Indigenous and racialized people, people who identify as women, non-binary and/or 2SLGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities.