

Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

Summer 2023



Dr. Chad Kim Sing
Interim Vice President, Medicine

Stepping into my new role, I am thankful, recognize and have learned from Dr. Dean Chittock's patient first dedication and focus during his influential tenure as Vice President, Medicine, Quality and Safety. I have a lot on my mind—the challenges and opportunities of serving you and our populations in meaningful ways by listening, caring and empowering you to do the work you are meant and want to do. To me, leadership is about people and relationships.

One way we are doing that is by nurturing a fulfilling environment for professional and leadership journeys. Earlier this month, more than 50 medical leaders—nurse practitioners, midwives, dentists and physicians—joined our inaugural Medical Leaders Forum to network and hear about their colleagues' experiences and insights as medical leaders, practice techniques to foster psychological safety and our new [Medical Leadership Development Pathway](#), which will be available starting this fall.

I am also pleased to share that [19 physicians recently graduated](#) from our Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) program, collaborating to transform the health care system by leading innovative projects. It was not long ago that Dr. Matthew Kwok, our new Interim VP, Clinical Quality and Safety, saw the benefit of actively making changes in the workplace and undertook the PQI training. I am looking forward to working alongside Matthew to multiply efforts and impact.

I hope you have an energizing and restful summer. Thank you for taking care of so many and one another.

HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

CST Cerner coming to VGH ambulatory clinics

The electronic medical records system CST Cerner will go live at 14 VCH ambulatory clinics on Monday, July 24. These [Cycle 1 Clinics](#) range from VGH's comparatively large Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic to its two-person Dietitian Outpatient Clinic. Whether relatively large or small, ambulatory clinics provide a vital service to the patients and families they serve. Bringing electronic medical records to the clinics will be another step forward in extending patient safety, quality and consistency across the continuum of care.

Health Vision Sea to Sky

To respond to the current and future health and wellness needs of the Sea to Sky corridor, VCH is developing an integrated high-level health services master plan for the Sea to Sky corridor, and specific health-related site plans for the Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton areas. We are asking for input from First Nation partners, local communities, local governments, staff, medical staff and other interested parties. This master plan will address health and wellness needs as well as future population growth, seasonal fluctuation and aging projections for the Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton areas. [Provide your input today.](#)



Richmond Hospital redevelopment project: Summer 2023 update

VCH is making progress on the Yurkovich Family Pavilion, Richmond Hospital's new nine-floor acute care tower. This state-of-the-art facility will add 113 new beds, a bigger emergency department and a fully-equipped medical imaging department. Richmond Hospital is in phase one of the four-phase project, focusing on preparing for construction of the tower. [Learn more.](#)

INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Indigenous midwives leading change to improve perinatal care with cultural practices

For many Indigenous Peoples, birth is a sacred ceremony that involves the body, heart, spirit, and community and midwives play an important role in supporting the journey. Indigenous midwives, including Keisha Charnley from the Katzie First Nation, are transforming perinatal care by integrating traditional Indigenous knowledge with clinical practices to provide culturally safe and competent care. [Read more.](#)



Indigenous doulas improve cultural safety and access to reproductive care

Indigenous doulas play a crucial role in providing culturally appropriate support to Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, trans and gender diverse people during the perinatal period and beyond. Serving as strategic leads on doula care at VCH, Danette Jubinville and Olivia Louie are two such doulas who are bringing this role back. [Read more.](#)

QUALITY AND SAFETY

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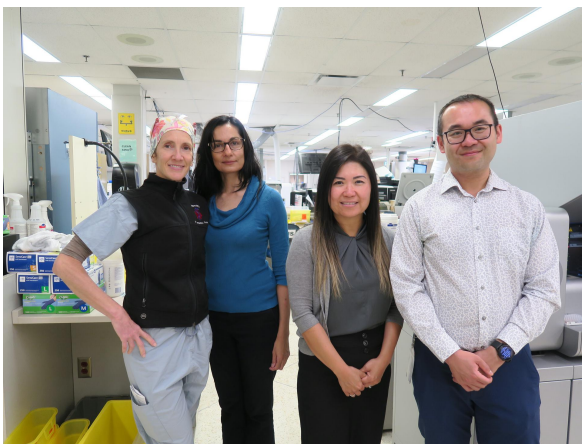
ELISA'S STORY

Patient Stories Project: Diagnosis sparks joy in taking time to smell the flowers

Big or small, every interaction we have with patients, residents, clients and families makes a difference in helping them feel safe, cared for, included and empowered.

With this series of real stories as told by patients at VCH, we hope that by hearing about their experiences, you can take a moment to receive gratitude for living the values of person and family-centred care and making a positive impact every day.

Elisa recounts her journey that began with a brain tumour diagnosis, to being admitted to Vancouver General Hospital, to now finding joy in the simple things, such as smelling flowers. [Read Elisa's story.](#)



New practice tool reduces unnecessary testing for surgical patients

A multidisciplinary project team has modernized surgical medicine at Vancouver General Hospital by creating a dashboard to reduce blood tests, creating a new way to deliver high-quality sustainable care.

The reduction in preoperative group and screen testing has resulted in 9,000 fewer trips to medical labs at procedural hospitals in the days leading up to surgery and saved the health system \$225,000 over three years. [Read more.](#)

Clean hands save lives and our planet

Hand hygiene is the single most effective way to stop infection and reduce unnecessary glove use. The simple act of cleaning your hands at the right moment in health care delivery protects patients and your peers. Even with gloves, there is potential for cross-contamination and transmission of health care associated infections. Gloves aren't magic. [Read more.](#)

Expanded services: medical Practitioners Occupational Safety and Health program

The medical Practitioners Occupational Safety and Health (mPOSH) has expanded its services to support medical staff with more than COVID-19 and communicable diseases. [Learn more.](#) Also, much gratitude to Dr. Stan Lubin who came out of retirement in 2020 to work with the mPOSH team, including Dr. Annalee Yassi and Dr. Arnold Okpani, to make a real difference to the well-being of medical staff during the global health pandemic.

Funding available for clinical innovation projects

The B.C. Ministry of Health (MoH) is committed to harnessing the knowledge and expertise of staff and medical staff working to develop solutions that advance innovation in B.C.'s health authorities. To support this, the MoH has established the Innovation Pathway Program to test and assess promising innovation in clinical settings that have potential for broad system impact. Do you have a bright idea you want to test? [Learn more](#) and complete the [online application form](#) by July 15.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

Informational webinar for physicians: changes to re-referral process

On June 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., physicians are invited to join an informational webinar, hosted by Doctors of BC, about changes to re-referrals. Based on feedback from physicians and patients, a new process was created: the combination of the implicit re-referral and the subsequent consultation. Referrals now include a potential implicit re-referral for the same problem unless a re-referral is specifically excluded. [Register here.](#)

Indigenous Health learning opportunity: Humor, health and healing

On June 29 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Zoom, join an interactive discussion exploring traditional approaches to humor, health, and healing. How laughter helps us cope with trauma and the role it plays in wellness. Speakers will discuss how Indigenous perspectives have shaped their understanding of these important topics. [Register here.](#)

Invitation for medical staff to join the Clinical Faculty Mentoring Program 2023-24

Do you have an interest in mentorship and in doing more within the UBC Faculty of Medicine? Are you interested in getting support from an experienced clinical faculty colleague or mentoring a more junior colleague? Participate in the UBC Clinical Faculty Mentoring Program today as a mentor or a mentee. [Register here](#) by June 30.

Physician Quality Improvement Level 2 Training

Physicians across VCH and PHC are invited to [register here](#) for a two-part, intermediate training session on July 13 and 14 via Zoom. Learn more about quality improvement, develop a network of fellow QI champions and begin working on your own quality improvement projects.

Psychological health and safety for leaders

What is psychological health and safety and how can leaders play a role in fostering psychologically healthy and safe environments? This course will provide you with practical strategies and is open to new and experienced leaders. [Register here](#) for the November 21, 2023 course taking place from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

[Find more opportunities](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Recognizing a nurse practitioner with more than three decades of service

Candy Gubbels is a nurse practitioner with 32 years of service with VCH behind her. Her first job with VCH was as a care aid in 1990. Before starting training to become an RN, she was taking blood pressures at Banfield Pavilion. A driven and passionate life long learner, Candy's advice to colleagues is to "Tell leadership what you want to do or what you want from your career because they listen. Don't have any doubts in yourself. If you want to do it, do it; VCH is so supportive of learning. I feel very lucky. Also, apply for the bursaries!"

oneVCH Awards are back

The oneVCH Awards celebrate exceptional VCH staff, medical staff, volunteers and teams that go above and beyond to make a meaningful impact every day, inspire others to excel and make VCH a great place to work. [Submit nominations](#) for individuals and teams by June 30.

Medical staff forum on patient access to clinical documents in Health Gateway

At the medical staff forum on May 1, there were presentations on what patients accessing clinical documents in Health Gateway entails for medical providers and a patient's perspective on the matter. [Check out](#) the slides, chat links and video recordings.

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 input from Indigenous and racialized people, people who identify as women, non-binary and/or 2SLGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities.