

# Medical Staff News

Providing updates for dentist, midwives, nurse practitioners and physicians

## Fall 2023

### MEDICAL LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



With the end of summer, September is a time that tends to remind me of the fall and all that it brings, including the respiratory season as well as the academic year and back-to-school. As working professionals, the learning never stops.

For me, I recently completed a UBC certificate program in organizational coaching to be an International Coaching Federation trained coach. I know this skillset and perspective will enable me to be a more productive colleague, leader and life-long learner. I had the pleasure of training with a few of our colleagues from Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Ask me about it the next time we chat.

At VCH, we are always learning and striving for better results, especially for some of the most vulnerable populations we serve. It's of the utmost importance to ensure that people living with mental health illnesses have access to safe, equitable care and that you are supported in the dedicated work that you do.

This fall, I encourage you to participate in upcoming regional educational opportunities about:

- Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and the federal legislative change taking effect March 2024. To support medical staff with this sensitive topic and to have difficult conversations, education sessions will cover the roles and responsibilities of health care providers, as well as to answer your questions and concerns about the change. For more information, [contact the MAiD Educators](#).
- Health care consent and the Mental Health Act (MHA) Involuntary Admissions, as part of ongoing efforts to protect people's rights and legal compliance. [Get the details on the next session on October 12](#).

I also want to take this opportunity to support and encourage you to take care of your mental well-being through resources [offered by VCH](#), as well as [Dentist Wellness Program](#) and the [Physician Health Program](#).

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



#### Dr. Joy Masuhara named winner of Equity in Medicine's 2023 Dr. Pauline Alakija Trailblazer Award

This award acknowledges and celebrates the challenges and often unrewarded work of a person who blazes a trail for equity-deserving groups. It serves to recognize a trailblazer's significant contributions towards joyous disruption to improve medical culture. As the VCH Regional Medical Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Dr. Masuhara has been an integral part of developing the EDI program, advancing EDI through the organization in partnership with staff and medical staff. [Read more](#).



#### Order of Canada adds Dr. John Fleetham to its ranks

Dr. John Fleetham has been appointed to the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest honours, for his pioneering work in sleep-disorder medicine and his mentorship of the next generation of sleep scientists. [Read more](#).

### Medical staff recipients of 2023 oneVCH Awards

Congratulations to our medical staff and medical leaders [award recipients](#). Many medical staff also made it to the [list of nominees](#); thank you all for your dedication and great work.

### EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

#### Living with disability

VCH wants to learn about the experiences of medical staff who live with a disability, visible and/or invisible, and potential actions that could make a more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming organization. Participate by completing an [online survey](#) and/or taking part in a [focus group or one-one interview](#) (sessional payment available). All information gathered will be confidential and reported in anonymous, aggregate form.

This project is a collaboration of VCH Medical Staff EDI Committee Disability Working Group and consultant Dr. Tal Jarus, PHD, OSOT, UBC. For project questions, focus group/interview participation accessibility needs such as ASL interpreter services or preferences, please contact Dr. Jarus at [inclusive.campus@ubc.ca](#) or 604-827-3392.

#### Unveiling VCH's Anti-Racism Engagement Report

From July to December 2022, VCH actively engaged with 1,823 staff and medical staff to better understand how racism impacts our work environment and patient care delivery. Read our internal [Anti-Racism Engagement Report](#) which summarizes the feedback, suggestions and recommendations gathered through our online survey and in-person and online staff conversations. The report outlines key areas of concern and offers recommendations for identifying and addressing racism within VCH.

### PLANETARY HEALTH



#### Physician Quality Improvement launches Cohort 7 with a planetary health lens

In September, the seventh cohort of physicians started their 10-month journey of physician quality improvement (PQI) with a newly designed session on the intersections of Planetary Health and quality improvement led by PQI alumni, Dr. Andrea MacNeill, Regional Medical Director of Planetary Health at VCH. [Learn more](#) about PQI and Cohort 7 projects.

### POLICY AND PRACTICE

#### Reminder: MAiD readiness survey closes soon

Eligibility for MAiD is expanding to adults with mental disorders as the sole underlying medical condition as of March 17, 2024. To inform upcoming education about the legislative change, the VCH Assisted Dying Program and Regional Mental Health and Substance Use Program (MHSU) want to hear from medical staff, nurse practitioners and psychiatrists working in adult and/or older adult MHSU as well as nurse practitioners and physicians working in primary care\* are invited to complete the [MAiD MHSU Readiness Survey](#) by October 6, 2023.

*\*For the purposes of this project, primary care teams refers to primary care sites within VCH Community Health Centres: Raven Song, Three Bridges, Pender, Downtown Community Health Centre, Heatley, North Shore Health Connections and Anne Vogal Clinic.*

#### Annual Doctors of BC health authority engagement survey

Physicians are encouraged to provide anonymous feedback to Doctors of BC regarding their engagement with VCH by October 11, 2023. An invitation has been sent to physician inboxes from [surveys@doctorsofbc.ca](#). Feedback may be used by Doctors of BC to shape programs and policies that reflect physician needs.

#### British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) update

In January 2023, the BCCNM board approved revisions to the [Entry-Level Competencies for Nurse Practitioners](#) that are effective January 1, 2024.

#### Ratified Midwives' Agreement

Midwives will be better supported through a new three-year agreement that has been ratified between the Province and the Midwives Association of British Columbia, seeing increases in wages, benefits and additional supports for Indigenous midwifery. The agreement is effective retroactively from April 2022 until March 2025. [Read more](#).

#### In case you missed it: Latest from VCH's Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC)

Check out the September 2023 HAMAC Highlights [here](#).

### QUALITY AND SAFETY

#### UBCH+ going live with CST Cerner very soon

On October 28, UBC Hospital, Purdy and Detwiller pavilions, the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health as well as Banfield Pavilion on the VGH campus and Banfield at Villa Cathay will implement CST Cerner, the electronic health records system. When they do, the clinical and systems transformation that's underway at VCH, will take another big step forward. While preparations for go-live continue, the collective efforts of countless individuals involved in informatics, implementation, on the project side or at the six sites are setting us up for success. [Read more](#).

#### Accreditation 2023: The role of medical staff

Accreditation Canada surveyors will be visiting the [teams selected to represent VCH](#) from November 19 to 24, 2023. They will conduct tracers to observe and interact with staff, volunteers, patients and their families to gather evidence about the quality and safety of care we provide. They assess compliance to the standards through one-on-one interviews with care teams, patients and families, direct observation of care and other unit activities and documentation review.

Medical staff play an important role in the Accreditation process. They can help by being aware of the team/unit's tracer dates and the program's key improvement initiatives and action plans, providing input in selecting patient charts for the tracer, and being available when needed during the site visit to interact with the surveyor. Learn more about the [role of medical providers in Accreditation](#).

Physician compensation is available for involvement in select accreditation activities such as spending time in advance reviewing and developing tools, attending targeted education sessions and participating in discussion groups.

For more information, please attend the [October 25 Medical Staff Forum](#) or contact the [Accreditation team](#).

#### Goals of care conversations improve patient experiences

Talking openly and honestly with patients and their families gives everyone a shared understanding of the patient's health condition and values, as well as what to expect over time and plans for future health care needs, especially when a patient cannot speak for themselves. These important discussions are often called goals of care conversations and at Lions Gate Hospital, the average number of goals of care conversations logged in Cerner has increased from 43 per month to 240 in about two years. [Read more](#).

#### Nominations for 2024 BC Quality Award close soon

Do you know about an initiative, project, or person that improved health care in British Columbia? Nominate them for a [BC Quality Award](#). Nominations close on October 6, 2023 for the 14th annual Quality Awards, which celebrate the people and projects that have made key contributions to quality and innovation in the delivery of care in BC.



#### Meet inspiring innovator: Dr. Harvey Hawes

We love showcasing the staff and medical staff that believe in staying curious and are always open to innovative ideas. Read our Q+A with Dr. Harvey Hawes, Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon, and get inspired by your colleague.

[Five questions with Dr. Hawes](#).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

#### A four-part education series: Health Care Consent and the Mental Health Act (MHA)

On October 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., medical staff are invited to join the second of a four-part series in-person or virtually on the MHA, facilitated by the non-profit advocacy organization Health Justice. [Register](#) to learn about providing rights notification under the MHA.

#### Virtual Medical Staff Forum: Accreditation

On October 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., all medical staff are welcome to join us at our virtual Medical Staff Forum to learn about and ask questions regarding the Accreditation process. [Register](#).

#### Climate Emergency: Building a Healthy Planetary Future

On October 28 from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., hear from experts in their fields who have initiated projects at a local level. This annual conference is presented by the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, with lots of opportunities for participants to engage with the speakers and with each other. [Learn more and register](#).

#### Specialist Services Committee Perioperative Clinical Action Network (PCAN)

On November 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., medical providers will gather at the PCAN Summit to facilitate the identification and seamless implementation of transformative changes within the realm of surgery. PCAN is able to support the travel and sessional costs of all physicians who attend. [Register](#).

[Find more opportunities](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Don't take the bait! Phishing attack education for medical staff

Phishing emails are sent by criminals trying to trick you into giving away private information like passwords or patient information. Phishing attacks often have obvious signs that can help you identify them, which can include a greeting that doesn't use your name, an unexpected attachment, mistakes in spelling or grammar, and messages that create a sense of urgency. Be especially cautious of emails requesting private information, directing you to unknown websites or asking for immediate actions. These could be attempts to access sensitive patient data or other confidential information. Always double-check the sender's email address and any links included in the email. If something feels off, it probably is. Learn more about phishing by [visiting the IMITS Infocentre](#).

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](#).

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.