

Medicine & Quality Matters

News for the Interior Health Medical Community

March/April 2015

Welcome to Our Newest Executive Medical Director

Interior Health is pleased to welcome **Dr. Ron Collins** as Executive Medical Director – Quality Improvement & Patient Safety.

Many within the medical community are familiar with Dr. Collins in his role as Staff Anesthesiologist at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) for the past 23 years. He is a past-chair of the Department of Anesthesia at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH), and also led the Interior Health Anesthesiology Working Group.



Dr. Collins is currently a clinical consultant for the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council and Co-Chair of the BC Enhanced Recovery Collaborative, stemming from his role as Project Medical Director for the KGH Enhanced Recovery after Colorectal Surgery project.

Dr. Collins has leadership interest in culture as it affects patient safety, clinical care management guideline implementation, non-invasive cardiac-output monitoring, goal-directed fluid therapy, and developing effective communication in the OR environment. He recently completed the Physician Leadership Program at UBC's Sauder School of Business.

“During his tenure at IH, Ron has demonstrated a consistent commitment to improving quality and safety in the health-care system,” says Dr. Jeremy Etherington, VP Medicine & Quality. “He has a passion for working with multidisciplinary teams of committed colleagues to implement innovative ways of improving outcomes for patients.”

Welcome to your new role, Dr. Collins.



Interior Health
Every person matters

Oliver GP Seeks President-Elect Post at Doctors of BC

Will you be voting in the upcoming Doctors of BC presidential election? If so, you'll want to know more about **Dr. Alan Ruddiman**.

Dr. Ruddiman is a rural general practitioner, who lives and works in the community of Oliver. He is a passionate advocate for B.C. physicians.

“I was born in Scotland and am internationally trained, having earned my MB BCh degree at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, where I grew up,” says Dr. Ruddiman. “I am a licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada and an inaugural recipient of the Fellowship in Rural & Remote Medicine.”

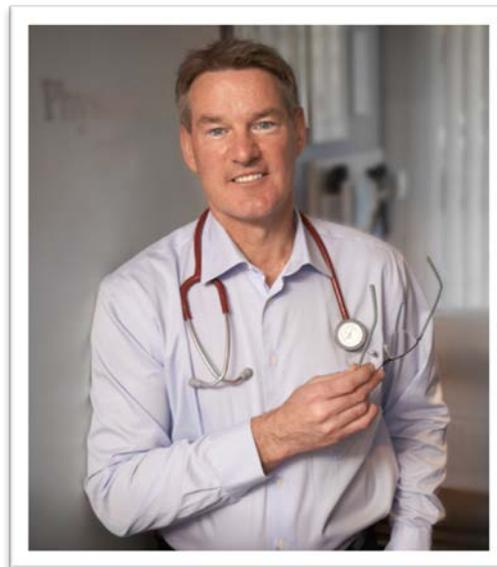
Dr. Ruddiman works in a full-service rural general practice and has privileges at the South Okanagan General Hospital (SOGH). He's also very familiar with the inner workings of our acute care settings. “I worked in the SOGH Emergency Department for 14 years. I was the President of the Medical Staff, and have served two terms as the Chief of Medical Staff. I have also served as Chair of the Okanagan Regional Medical Advisory Committee and as a member of the Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee,” he explains.

“Since 2007, I have worked to serve provincial colleagues and peers, through Doctors of BC. I am currently a member of the Doctors of BC Board of Directors and the GP Member-At-Large on the board executive. I have been an active member and chair on the Rural Issues Committee, and in 2007, was appointed to the Provincial Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues.”

As a member of the Doctors of BC Council on Health Economics & Policy, Dr. Ruddiman was the physician lead on the policy paper titled [Medical Professionalism in British Columbia – Working Together: An Exploration of Professional Relationships in Medicine](#).

When not in his practice or involved in medical association affairs, Dr. Ruddiman works as a UBC clinical teacher and serves as the UBC lead at his group medical practice.

According to Dr. Ruddiman, “I am a passionate advocate on behalf of B.C.'s physicians and a recognized physician leader, strategist, and negotiator in our health-care system. I welcome your feedback and questions. You can connect with me and find out more about me by visiting www.dralanruddiman.ca.



Smoke-free Resources to Help Patient Recovery

Interior Health recently updated our Smoke-free Environments policy and signage at acute and residential sites. The new signs remind patients, visitors, and staff that all IH buildings and grounds are completely smoke free and that electronic cigarettes are prohibited on all Interior Health properties. Some of the new signs feature images of actual patients and reinforce the message that second-hand smoke is harmful to our patients.

If you have a patient who smokes and will be staying in hospital, providing a reminder about the smoke-free policy and information on cessation supports can help them feel more comfortable about their upcoming stay and increase their chance of a successful treatment outcome.

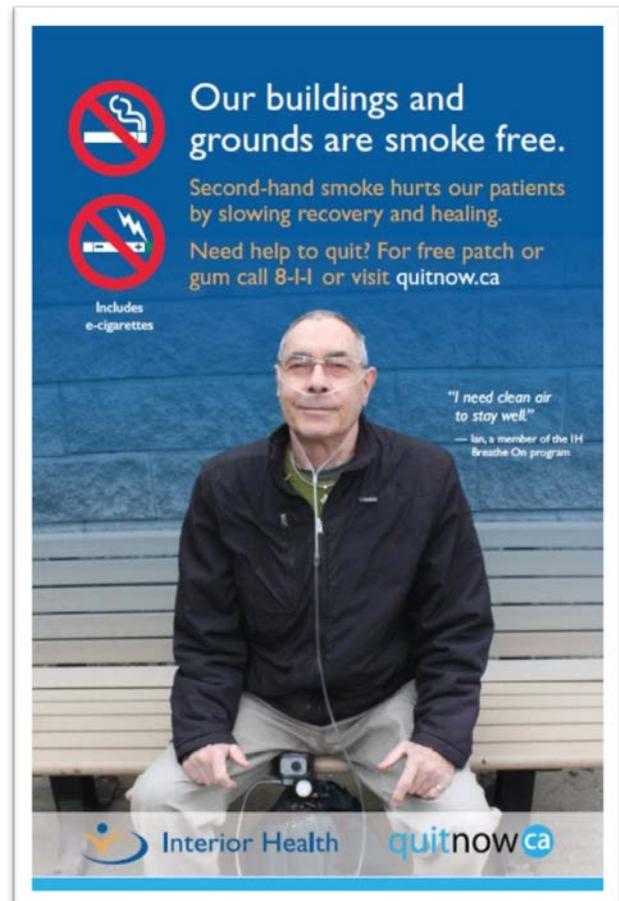
“It really helps if physicians talk with their patients who smoke before they get to hospital,” says **Dr. Mike Ertel**, Chief of Staff at Kelowna General Hospital. “Stopping tobacco use in advance of their stay can reduce complications and speed healing, even if they’re not ready to quit altogether.”

Resources are available to help start the conversation about tobacco use:

- Stop Smoking Before Surgery posters and rack cards promote the benefits of stopping in advance of surgery. Rack cards can be ordered at tobacco@interiorhealth.ca.
- Patients can access free counselling from QuitNow by phone, online, live chat or text. Use the simple [online referral form](#).
- The BC Smoking Cessation Program provides 12 weeks of free nicotine patches or gum per calendar year, or prescription medications Champix or Zyban as a benefit through Pharmacare. Call 8-1-1 or visit the [Pharmacare Smoking Cessation website](#).

“For patient recovery and health, it makes sense that our properties are smoke free,” says Dr. Ertel. “Physicians in the community can help us in this effort by starting the conversation early.”

For more information about the IH Smoke-Free Environment policy or supports for quitting, contact: tobacco@interiorhealth.ca or visit the [Tobacco Resources for Physicians page](#) on the IH website.



UpToDate... Now Available Anywhere

Library Services is pleased to announce that UpToDate Anywhere is now available. This new tool allows you to access UpToDate from any computer or mobile device, even outside the IH network.

UpToDate is an evidence-based tool which includes more than 10,500 topic reviews with recommendations for practice in 22 clinical specialties. Also included are: graphics; drug information; patient handouts; and a seamless link to [VisualDx](#), a clinical tool supporting visual diagnosis.

Getting started:

- View the [instruction sheet](#) on how to register for UpToDate Anywhere.

Once registered:

- Access UpToDate Anywhere... from anywhere you are.
- Download a free UpToDate Mobile App for your iPhone, Android, Windows 8 phone, or tablet.
- CME credits may be available for physicians ([learn more](#)).



You will be prompted to login from an IH networked computer once a month to confirm you are a valid IH user.

For more information, contact [Library Services](#).

IH Medical Executive Leadership

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Mr. Kelly Murphy, Corporate Director, EMG Strategic Development, Medical Affairs and Clinical Networks: 250-870-4789

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