

Medicine & Quality Matters

News for the Interior Health Medical Community

November/December 2014



Executive Medical Leadership Portfolio Realignment

by Dr. Jeremy Etherington

The retirement of **Dr. Jon Slater** and the resignation of **Dr. Michael Murray**, both effective Mar. 31, 2015, together with the departure of **Dr. Andrew Larder** in early February and the decision by **Dr. Mike Purdon** to move to a half-time leadership role have necessitated changes to the Executive Medical Leadership portfolio. Transitions will commence Jan. 15, 2015 and be complete by March 31.

The essential changes are as follows:

- **Dr. Malcolm Ogborn** will become the EMD Acute Services: TCS effective Jan. 15, 2015.
- **Dr. Mike Purdon** will assume a half-time position as Executive Medical Director Medical Information Strategy and Chief Medical Information Officer (CMIO) effective March 31. From Jan. 15 to Feb. 15, he will be working to assist Dr. Malcolm Ogborn with the transition into his new role. From Feb. 15 to March 31, Dr. Purdon will work with Dr. Michael Murray to transition into the CMIO role.
- **Dr. Alan Stewart** will assume the EMD role for Vernon Jubilee Hospital on Jan. 15 in addition to his other site responsibilities.
- I am pleased to announce that we have recruited **Dr. Susan MacDonald**, currently the Chief Medical Officer for Northern Health, who will assume the role of EMD Acute Services for EK-KB, effective Jan. 15.
- **Dr. Peggy Yakimov** and **Dr. Curtis Bell** will maintain their current portfolios.
- A search is underway for a 0.5 FTE Executive Medical Director for Quality Improvement, effective March 31.
- A search is also commencing to recruit a new Chief Medical Health Officer for IH.

Please welcome our executive medical directors into their new roles. Many thanks to Drs. Slater, Murray, and Larder for their significant contributions to medical leadership in IH. I wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavours.

Quality Care

Reconnecting Physicians to Primary Maternity Care

On Oct. 1, the General Practice Services Committee (GPSC) re-launched its [Maternity Care for BC \(MC4BC\)](#) program, which promotes, supports, and trains B.C. family physicians to reconnect with low-risk maternity services through mentorship, hands-on experience, and financial support. MC4BC is designed for family physicians to begin, maintain, or reintroduce obstetrical care into their practices.

As a part of its mandate to support full-service family practice, the GPSC, a partnership of Government of B.C. and Doctors of BC, is committed to increasing the number of family physicians who do general practice obstetrics.

MC4BC offers participants post-program mentorship, antenatal/postpartum care support, self-directed learning experience, funding to support activities, and flexible timelines and schedules.

Family physicians are eligible to participate if they: have obtained full registration and licensure from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, have obtained hospital obstetrical privileges for the hospital(s) in which the physician receives training, commit to do general practice obstetrics in B.C. upon completion of the program for a minimum of two years, and complete all required application documentation.

Applications are reviewed and accepted in order of receipt until March 1, 2015. To apply to the program, or for further details, visit the [GPSC website](#).

Better Tools, Improved Care: New Policy for Discharge of Vulnerable ED Patients

Staff members who deliver care in emergency departments around Interior Health are following a new policy called [Discharge of Vulnerable Emergency Department Patients](#).

The policy for large and small sites was developed to support a standard approach to discharging vulnerable patients from the Emergency Departments (EDs). It will help to ensure the safety of vulnerable patients after receiving emergency care by supporting ED staff to provide consistent, safe, and appropriate discharge care, and documenting this care in a discharge checklist that is part of the patient record.

Key components of the new policy include: definition of a vulnerable patient; discharge plan documentation; and discharge responsibilities with planning guidelines and a checklist.

More information and educational support tools are available on the InsideNet under Clinical Care Resources > Emergency and Trauma Care > Clinical Decision Support Tools > Discharge of Vulnerable Patients, Emergency Department.

Recognition

Medical Directors Join Community Teams

Two physicians have accepted positions as community medical directors for Interior Health.

Dr. Mark Hickman has accepted a position covering the East Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary. He was a family practitioner in Elkford before moving to Kelowna where he first opened a family practice but then became a hospitalist at Kelowna General, eventually heading the department.

Dr. Nancy Humber takes over the same role in IH West. Dr. Humber has a family practice in Lillooet and is a graduate of the Rural Family Practice Residency Program. During her years in Lillooet, she designed and implemented a 12-month rural Enhanced Surgical Skills Training Program, as well as taking on multiple educational/leadership roles through UBC.

IH Says Goodbye to Dr. Andrew Larder

I am saddened to report that **Dr. Andrew Larder** has decided to leave Interior Health for family reasons.

Andrew has played a key role as IH's Senior Medical Health Officer for the last five years, and in the past year as Chair of IH's Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC). He has accepted a new position as a Medical Health Officer with Fraser Health, effective early February 2015.

I have personally valued Dr. Larder's leadership and friendship over the past four years. The Medicine & Quality Portfolio will certainly miss his valued counsel at our senior leadership table and also on the Executive Medical Group. I wish Andrew only the best in his future endeavours.

A search will begin shortly to seek a new Senior Medical Health Officer and also a new HAMAC Chair. Please join me in wishing Andrew well in his new role.

Input Needed for Important HIV Survey

Be The Change Group Inc., in conjunction with the Interior Health STOP HIV/AIDS Program, is surveying doctors and nurse practitioners who work in B.C.'s interior to learn what providers know about HIV testing, treatment and prevention.

Your input into this survey will be combined with other respondents to guide the STOP HIV/AIDS program implementation and development of relevant CME education.

The survey will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete and the deadline is Jan. 31, 2015.

Visit <http://bit.ly/lvrgfpa> to complete the survey.

As an incentive and acknowledgment of your time, those who complete the survey and provide an email address will be entered to win one of two Apple iPad Mini 3s.

Cardiac Services Recognized with Quality Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Guy Fradet** and **Carol Laberge** from Kelowna General Hospital, who were awarded a Leadership in Quality Award from the [BC Patient Safety and Quality Council](#) for their work on the IH Cardiac Surgery Program.

Launched in 2009, the awards program recognizes individuals, health-care teams and facilities that have implemented measures, or engaged in initiatives, to improve the quality of care in B.C.

Under the leadership of Dr. Fradet and Carol Laberge, Kelowna General Hospital implemented a Cardiac Surgery Program in December 2012. The program ensures that patients living throughout the Interior have access to timely cardiac care closer to home. Prior to this, patients had to travel to the lower mainland and leave family and support behind.

The program has been accompanied by a monthly “Cardiac Surgery Program Report Card” to track and report outcomes against national benchmarks as well as quality and safety topics. The report card is unique to health-care settings and establishes a high standard of accountability while promoting continuous quality improvement.

Read more about the [Leadership in Quality Award](#).



The Cardiac Surgery Team (left to right) of Dr. Ahmad Poostizadeh, Dr. Guy Fradet, Carol Laberge, Dr. Calvin Wan and Dr. Costas Schulze (not pictured) recently celebrated their 1000th surgery.

Issuing Certificates of Incapability: Video Resource

Dr. Martha Donnelly recently delivered a presentation to Fraser Health Authority staff and physicians regarding Updates to Issuing Certificates of Incapability. The 45 minute presentation provides an overview of the changes to the process, the new medical assessment, and billing information.

Visit the [Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia](#) website to view the [presentation](#).

In addition, physicians may wish to view the [Medical Component Assessment form](#).

A Fond Farewell to Dr. Michael Murray

I am writing to you with a mixture of great pride and significant regret to inform you that, as of April 1, 2015, **Dr. Michael Murray** will be leaving IH to begin his new life in Vancouver as Deputy Registrar for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC. This is an outstanding opportunity for Michael but, even as he looks forward to this transition, I know he will continue to work as diligently and efficiently as ever in his current role until April.

Although I am deeply gratified that Michael has made an important career decision as part of his leadership journey, I believe his departure will be a great loss for both IH and our Executive Medical Group.

Recruitment for an Executive Medical Director to fill Michael's shoes (big ones, I might add) will begin in the near future.

We have been fortunate to have Michael with us over the last five years. As you know, he currently holds the position of Executive Medical Director, Quality Improvement, and Chief Medical Information Officer. Prior to assuming that role, he was the Senior Medical Director for Tertiary Services. Before joining IH, Michael gained a decade of health-administration experience in Ontario, where his roles included VP Medicine & Chief Medical Executive as well as Chief of Staff at a large regional hospital in Barrie.

While working with IH, Dr. Murray has also been a member of various provincial committees, including the Physician Services Strategic Advisory Committee (PSSAC), the Physician Quality Assurance Committee (PQASC), and the IH IMIT Executive Committee (IMITEC), all of which will stand him in good stead for his new role with the College.

Please join me in thanking Michael for his ongoing contribution to IH, and congratulating him on his upcoming new role.

by **Dr. Jeremy Etherington**

Mental Health Research Tool

Library Services is excited to announce that an online subscription to the [DSM Library](#) is now available, both within IH and offsite. Published by the American Psychiatric Association, these are considered the most comprehensive, current, and critical resources for today's mental health clinicians and researchers. Library Services would like to thank the Medicine & Quality team helping to make this important resource available to all IH physicians and staff.

You can access the [DSM Library](#) directly or through the InsideNet on the [Library Services](#) webpage. Offsite and mobile access is also available from the [Library Services](#) page on the public website (username: ihcal password: Access123).

If you have questions about this research tool, please contact [Library Services](#).

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