

# Medicine & Quality Matters

News for the Interior Health Medical Community

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## EMD Dr. Jonathan Slater Makes New Career Plans

by Dr. Jeremy Etherington

**Dr. Jonathan Slater** is planning a milestone career change! He has decided to retire from Interior Health (IH) on March 31, 2015.

Dr. Slater first joined IH as a physician leader in 2009, as Medical Director, Thompson Cariboo Shuswap.

Jon gained significant medical leadership experience in his previous two roles with Vancouver Island Health Authority, first as a locum medical director for St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox, and then as VIHA Medical Director for Community Hospitals. Having worked for 11 years as a staff pediatrician at Royal Inland Hospital where he was department head from 1996 to 1998, Jon already had strong linkages with IH, making the return to Kamloops an attractive move.

With the reorganization of IH Medical Affairs in 2010, Jon assumed a new role as Sr. Medical Director Acute Services IH West, and subsequently the role of Executive Medical Director Acute Services West. On August 1, 2014, Jon took on a new position as Executive Medical Director Special Projects, the position he will hold until his retirement.

Jon plans to take on an independent consulting role, effective April 1, 2015, and has recently received preferred consultant status with IH.

Jon has had an interesting and diverse career. He spent significant time with the Canadian Forces, beginning as an infantry soldier in 1970, becoming an infantry officer in 1973, and a medical officer (MO) in 1982.

I first met Jon in 1983 when he was an MO at CFB



Cold Lake, a major air force base, and I was the Detachment Surgeon at CFB Wainwright, a short helicopter trip to the south. During this time, Jon obtained his flight surgeon designation and his pilot's license. He then moved from the Air Force Division to the Navy Division in 1984 as an MO with HMCS Preserver in Halifax. Today, he remains an MO with the Canadian Forces Supplemental Ready Reserve.

Jon has also made significant contributions to the BCMA (now Doctors of BC). He chaired the B.C. Pediatric Society's Economics Committee for three years, and served as the society's president from 1997 to 2004. Jon contributed to the Society of Specialist Physicians and Surgeons of BC at about the same time, first as the Secretary Treasurer and ultimately as President from 2004 to 2006. Between 2006 and 2008 he co-chaired the Specialist Services Committee and the Shared Care and Scope of Practice Committee.

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## Dr. Jonathan Slater *cont'd...*

During his current time with IH, Jon has owned a house in Kamloops, rented an apartment in Kelowna, bought a house in Chilliwack where he and his wife now live, and also maintained his Comox home where he loves to spend summer vacations. In addition, he has spent innumerable nights in hotels across IH while visiting his many sites, returning to Chilliwack for the weekends. Jon has truly been a peripatetic executive medical director and often jokes that his real office is Highway 97.

His retirement plans include reducing his domiciles to Chilliwack and Comox, being able to spend more time at home, riding his motorcycle, and pursuing his avid interest in photography.

I am very excited about Jon taking on the special projects work, since there are a number of strategic initiatives that Medical Affairs hasn't been able to tackle over the past four years due to a lack of "horsepower". These include a medical staff orientation plan, a HAMAC member orientation plan, and a medical leader's handbook.

For the remainder of 2014, Jon will continue his excellent work leading the physician core-privileging project under the aegis of the Physician Quality Assurance Steering Committee of B.C.

Please join me in congratulating Jon on his upcoming career change. I would also be happy to hear of any anecdotes that could be shared at Jon's retirement party next year.

Best of luck, Jon.

**Dr. Jeremy Etherington,**  
VP Medicine & Quality



## Accreditation Work Gets Underway

Planning is ramping up as Interior Health prepares for a site visit from Accreditation Canada surveyors in September 2015.

Preliminary work will take place in the months ahead with the rollout of performance measurement instruments (or electronic surveys) that require physician input — the **patient safety culture survey** and a **self-assessment questionnaire**.

The results from these surveys, combined with feedback from our 2012 site visit, will be used to develop action plans and help focus our efforts prior to the 2015 site visit. Direct requests for your input will be coming soon!

Learn more about Accreditation in IH on the [InsideNet](#) (under Quality & Patient Safety) or on our [public website](#) (under About Us > Quality Care).



## HAMAC Membership Changes

The Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC) for Interior Health oversees medical staff appointments and the maintenance, cancellation, suspension or restriction of privileges. HAMAC also provides advice to the organization on the provision of medical care in IH facilities and programs, monitoring of the quality and effectiveness of medical care, the adequacy of medical staff resources, continuing education of the medical staff, and planning goals for meeting the medical needs of IH residents.

Interior Health has changed greatly since its creation in 2001, both in terms of organizational structure and how medical services are delivered. As a result, HAMAC has made membership adjustments necessary for continued effectiveness.

In June 2014, the IH Board of Directors approved changes that increased HAMAC membership from 13 to 21 voting members. The expansion strengthens representation for specialists, regional programs, residential care, primary care, and nurse practitioners (for more info see [Medical Staff Rules Part II p.7](#)).

HAMAC's revised membership will ensure that the committee has a broader cross-section of medical staff representatives who are knowledgeable about patient care and quality issues. As a result the committee will be more effective in achieving our goal of delivering effective, efficient, and high quality health care.

# Preparing Physicians for Senior Leadership

The number of physicians moving into administrative positions continues to grow across the country. To help better prepare B.C.'s physicians for senior leadership, B.C.'s health authorities, the BC Patient Safety Quality Council, and the UBC Faculty of Medicine came together to develop the Physician Leadership Program (PLP) at the Sauder School of Business.

To date, three cohorts of physicians from across Interior Health have completed the PLP, including: **Dr. Abri De Beer**, Chief of Staff at Vernon Jubilee Hospital; **Dr. Anneline Du Preez**, RMAC chair for the East Kootenays; **Dr. Chris Baliski**, Head of the Surgery Department at Kelowna General Hospital; and **Dr. Norm Kienitz**, Chief of Staff at Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops.

Graduates of the program have been very happy with the learning experience. "I don't know anywhere else where you could find such a concentrated and efficient amount of leadership training in one place," says **Dr. Mike Purdon**, Executive Medical Director for Acute Services, NOK/TCS and an alumnus of the program. "Being among people with such extraordinary skill, vision, and energy stretches your imagination. It was unbelievable to watch others problem-solve – to see them bring their own personal skills to bear on topics that we were given, and then arrive at values-based decisions."

The fourth cohort of IH physicians are now enrolled in the PLP – congratulations to **Dr. Darren Lorenz**, Regional Chief of Staff for TCS East; **Dr. Curtis Bell**, Executive Medical Director for Community and Residential Care; **Dr. Todd Ring**, Medical Director Trauma Services; and **Dr. Malcolm Ogborn**, Executive Medical Director KB/EK.

The program is intense and takes place over seven months, across four modules, each held in Vancouver and complemented by a longitudinal active learning project focused on solving a problem or leading an initiative in the physician leader's workplace.

## OnePACS: Consolidated Picture Archiving & Communications System Coming Soon

Interior Health is moving to one consolidated Picture Archiving & Communications System (PACS) at all of its facilities by March 2015.

Currently there are two systems in place — Fuji Synapse in the Thompson Cariboo (TC) and McKesson in remaining IH facilities.

As part of the "OnePACS" project, the McKesson PACS will be updated from version 11.9 to version 12 (web based) in January 2015. McKesson PACS will be implemented in the TC region in March 2015. Training for physicians in the TC region will be held before March.

Watch for more details in the coming months!



### IH Medical Executive Leadership

Dr. Jeremy Etherington, VP Medicine & Quality: 250-862-4010

Dr. Curtis Bell, Executive Medical Director, Community & Residential Services: 250-870-5899

Dr. Andrew Larder, Senior Medical Health Officer: 250-868-7867

Mr. Kelly Murphy, Corporate Director, EMG Strategic Development, Medical Affairs and Clinical Networks: 250-870-4789  
Dr. Michael Murray, Executive Medical Director, Quality Improvement and Chief Medical Information Officer: 250-862-4008

Dr. Malcolm Ogborn, Executive Medical Director, EK and KB Acute Services: 778-214-4657

Dr. Mike Purdon, Executive Medical Director, TCS and NOK Acute Services : 250-870-4633

Dr. Jon Slater, Executive Medical Director, Special Projects : 250-319-7875

Dr. Alan Stewart, Executive Medical Director, COK and SOK Acute Services: 250-862-4013

Dr. Peggy Yakimov, Executive Medical Director, Physician Support and Practice Enhancement: 250-870-4735