

August 2024



IHealth Updates

- Go-live date for Victoria General Hospital (VGH), Gorge Road Health Centre (GRH) sub-acute unit, and South Island Surgical Centre (SISC) is **Saturday 14th September, 2024.**
 - Medical Staff working at VGH, GRH, and SISC **must complete mandatory training** prior to go-live. Please contact the Provider Education and Experience team to register at [250-713-0484](tel:250-713-0484), or email ihealtheducation@islandhealth.ca
 - For more information, including 1:1 training opportunities at Royal Jubilee Hospital and VGH Engagement Labs, please view IHealth's extended update [HERE](#).
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Back row L-R: Dr. Randal Mason, Dr. Sophie Waterman, Dr. Ash Heaslip, Dr. Caroline Ferris, Dr. Sarah Lea, Dr. Ramm Hering
Front row L-R: Dr. Roger Walmsley, Dr. Marcus Greatheart, Dr. Jess Wilder, Dr. Sandy Barlow

Addiction Medicine Leadership Team

Recently, addiction medicine physician leads from across the region met for the first time in-person to attend a [Quality Team Coaching](#) program in Victoria. “These physician-led sessions paved the way for enhanced team cohesion, collaboration, and connection”, explained Dr. Ash Heaslip, Executive Medical Director, Addiction Medicine & Substance Use (AMSU). “Our Leadership Team is eager to support one another, and our colleagues working in the field”.



Medical Leader Spotlight

Chaundra Willms, Department Head, Division of Nurse Practitioners, is a family Nurse Practitioner (NP). Chaundra’s professional experience spans rural and urgent primary care settings, with mental health, women’s

health, and addictions management as areas of her clinical focus.

Please outline your Leadership role

I have been in my Department Head role since 2018. I am also chair of HAMAC's Legislative Committee. In my role I am closely connected with the Nurse Practitioner Strategy and Practice team, supporting our practice within the organization.

What would you like your Medical Staff colleagues to know about Nurse Practitioners?

The Division of Nurse Practitioners has over 140 members. We practice in primary care, acute care, and in specialty roles. NPs deliver comprehensive clinical care that blends the practice of medicine with the practice of nursing. We practice autonomously, and in collaboration with other health care providers. NP members of the Medical Staff can admit and discharge, and be the Most Responsible Provider.

Do you have a guiding principle for your work as Department Head?

There is so much enthusiasm for NP practice on Vancouver Island, with new roles being implemented in many different settings. My aim is to make sure that there is an NP involved in any discussions that involve NP roles. I do this by building collaborative relationships across the organization, and supporting NPs to step into leadership roles.

NEW Medical Leader

**Planetary Health
Conference**





Secure your seat at Island Health's inaugural Climate Change & Planetary Health Conference in Nanaimo on September 26th. Attendance is free and sessional funding is available for 50 physician attendees. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Welcoming **Dr. Shahzad Khurram**
Division Head, Geriatric Psychiatry



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