

September 2024

Medical Staff Bulletin



IHealth Updates

- CPOE is live at Victoria General Hospital, Gorge Road Hospital, and the South Island Surgical Centre.
- Supports remain in place to facilitate Medical Staff 24/7. If you need help, please reach out to support staff on your unit; use the 'Band-Aid' tool at the top of your Island Health monitor; or call IHealth Central Support at [1-855-755-7001](tel:1-855-755-7001) (or 28555).
- Daily Key Messages and CPOE news can be accessed on the Medical Staff website. [CLICK HERE](#) for practice reminders and CPOE-related tips.

Medical Leader Spotlight

The Addiction Medicine and Substance Use (AMSU) Program is relatively new—Executive roles were established in Fall 2023. In this month's Medical Leader Spotlight segment, Dr. Ash Heaslip shares information about her work as AMSU's Executive Medical Director.



Please outline your Leadership role

The EMD AMSU role reports to both the VP of Population and Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer (Dr. Réka Gustafson), and the VP of Medicine (Dr. Ben Williams). I work alongside the Executive Director, AMSU (Julie Lajeunesse) to help build and strengthen our substance use system of care in Island Health. This role helps to provide evidence-based, patient-care driven input into both the strategic and operational work of substance use care, with the goal of building a comprehensive, accessible and equitable system of care for all residents within our region.

How long have you been in your role?

Since October 2023

Is there anything you'd like your Medical Staff colleagues to know about AMSU?

AMSU's vision is that people who use substances receive high quality, stigma-free, and culturally appropriate care that meets their needs across all Island Health communities. One of the ways we will achieve this is through Road to Recovery (R2R), an innovative model to transform substance use care in BC. AMSU is working in collaboration with the Mental Health and Substance Use Department to expand R2R at Island Health.

*Connectedly, for my colleagues working in the realm of addiction medicine, I'd like to highlight two on-call provincial supports; the BC Centre on Substance Use operates a 24/7, 365 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line. Additionally, Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise (RACE) operates a call-back service for primary care providers.**

Do you have a guiding principle for your work as Regional Medical Director, AMSU?

I try to bring curiosity to both my clinical and medical leadership work. I am frequently humbled by the wisdom and knowledge of both the patients that I work with, and the colleagues that I work alongside. Asking questions has helped me to deepen my understanding of the complexity of substance use care and the many impacts that substance use has had – and continues to have – on us all.

**For more information about these on-call supports, please see the Medical Staff website [HERE](#).*

Last chance to secure your seat at Island Health's inaugural **Climate Change & Planetary Health Conference** at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, Sept 26th. Attendance is free and sessional funding is available for 50 physician attendees. Click [HERE](#) for details.



Applications OPEN for BCCSU Clinical Addiction Fellowship



The BC Centre for Substance Use (BCCSU) Interdisciplinary Clinical Addiction Fellowship program applications for 2025/26 are now OPEN. Click [HERE](#) for more information on eligibility criteria and application process. Medicine Fellowship deadline is Oct 3 2024; Nurse Practitioner Fellowship deadline is Nov 29.

Doctors of BC, Truth & Reconciliation in Health Care

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Doctors of BC and the Joint Collaborative Committees have commissioned Indigenous artist stéməx^w (Rain Pierre) to design an art print that can be displayed in medical offices across BC. This artwork is meant to inspire conversations, show support, and signify the importance of culturally safe care for Indigenous patients.

"The Light of Irene" is now available, free of charge, to every doctor and medical practice in our province. Order your print [HERE](#).





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