

# October 2024



## Medical Leadership Strategy Appoints Advisory Committee

Last month, we initiated work on the emergent Medical Leadership Strategy. As per [Dr. William's memo from September 12th](#), this priority work is a response to medical staff requests to evolve our medical leadership structure and supports to better meet the existing and future needs of medical staff, medical leaders, patients, and our organization.

The Medical Leadership Strategy work is well underway, with several consultation and engagement sessions occurring throughout September and October with medical leaders and medical staff.

The recent call for advisory group members to focus on designing the future of medical leadership at Island Health received significant interest. Members were selected based on diversity of medical leader role types, geographic location, and leadership tenure. We are also pleased to welcome two MSA executives and two operational leaders to the Advisory Group.

**Next steps:** In consultation with medical leaders, and the newly formed Medical Leadership Strategy Advisory Group, the project team will be hosting a series of design labs to help define the future state of medical leadership at Island Health. Further updates will be shared as this group gets underway. For questions relating to this work, please contact Dr. Keith Menard, Executive Medical Director, Medical Staff Governance [keith.menard@islandhealth.ca](mailto:keith.menard@islandhealth.ca)

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## Scheduled EHR Downtime, November 3rd

Medical staff are reminded of an EHR planned downtime on **Sunday November 3rd 2024, from 0130 (PDT) to 0200 (PST)**. Total duration of the downtime is 1.5 hours. This downtime will allow technicians to safely return the EHR to PST without impacting downstream systems. Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

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### Medical Leader Spotlight

Dr. Stefan Da Silva is an emergency physician based in the Comox Valley. In addition to his clinical duties at North Island Hospital, Dr. Da Silva is Department Head and Island Medical Director for Emergency Medicine. He is also a UBC Sauder Physician Leadership Program alumnus.

#### **What would you like your medical staff colleagues to know about your role, and your Department?**

*I'm still relatively new to my Department Head/Medical Director role and learning every day. As a leader, whatever success I achieve has everything to do with the people around me. As emergency physicians, we are often asking for advice and support from consultants, nurses, and other ED physicians. The nature of our job means that sometimes we need help; sometimes we can give help. It's important to recognize that we are all working side by side as health care providers - doing the best we can. In our Department, empathy and understanding can go a long way on the really hard days.*

#### **Why might a member of the medical staff reach out to you?**

*I try to maintain an open-door policy for anything Emergency related. Wherever you are in the region, I am available to medical staff who have questions or concerns about their ED.*

#### **As a recent Sauder graduate, can you share your motivation for applying to the Physician Leadership Program?\***

*Prior to accepting my leadership position in 2023, I had only worked clinically, which meant recognizing my weaknesses in the realm of leadership. I applied to the program because it was important to me to gain new skills, and truly understand what it means to be a good leader.*

#### **What is the best leadership advice you have observed, and how do you apply that in your role?**

*In our professional environment, people know what they need to do. Good leadership is about supporting and encouraging your team and seeing the value in their contributions. As a leader, I don't need to have all the answers—I work with people who have excellent ideas and I don't want to get in their way. I will always aim to create an environment where my colleagues can be fearless in their ideas and emboldened to make positive change.*

\*For more details about Sauder's Physician Leadership Program, including information on how to apply to Cohort 23 (January 2025 — June 2025), please see the medical staff website [HERE](#). The closing date for Cohort 23 nominations is November 15th, 2024.



## Highlighting Island Health's Implementation of the Independent Rights Advice Service

Medical staff who are involved in the admission and treatment of patients under the Mental Health Act should be aware of a new provincial service to help patients access independent rights advisors. For more information about the Independent Rights Advice Service (IRAS) and its implementation across the region, click [HERE](#).

## Island Health Funding Available for BCCSU Addiction Medicine Courses

Physicians and nurse practitioners interested in expanding their Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) knowledge and/or accessing training to become an OAT prescriber can apply for funding.

Applicable BCCSU courses are:

- 1. *Addiction Care and Treatment Online Certificate (ACTOC)***
- 2. *Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program (POATS-P)***

For more information about these courses, including how to apply for funding, click [HERE](#).

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## A Fond Farewell to Dr. Dean Kolodziejczyk

Effective October 31, Dr. Dean Kolodziejczyk will be stepping down from his role as Medical Director, Medical Staff Contracts and Compensation. Dr. Kolodziejczyk has been

instrumental in developing service models and compensation models across the region, working collaboratively with many groups to ensure sustainable and effective care delivery. His efforts have been especially impactful within the realm of internal medicine, where he has played a significant role in stabilizing inpatient care across our health authority.

To read the official memorandum from Dr. Michelle Weizel, Associate Vice President Medicine, Quality and Deputy Chief Medical Officer, please click [HERE](#).

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## Welcome NEW Medical Leaders

Medical and Academic Affairs welcomes **Dr. Jodie Turner, Medical Director, Postgraduate Medical Education**. This is a brand-new position, stemming from an increased provincial focus on prioritizing Resident Doctor pathways and support at the health authority level. Dr. Turner's experience as an acute and urgent care physician, coupled with her passion for quality improvement and education, will be key assets in ensuring Island Health's involvement in the medical trainee experience. Welcome Dr. Turner!



Also welcoming:

- **Dr. Daniel Wainberg**, Co-Division Head/Medical Lead, Family Practice, North Island Hospital, Comox Valley
- **Dr. Sara Sandwith**, Co-Division Head/Medical Lead, Family Practice, North Island Hospital, Comox Valley
- **Dr. Stuart Ockelford**, Site Medical Lead, Nanaimo Urgent and Primary Care Centre
- **Dr. Karsten Hammond**, Division Head, Infectious Diseases
- **Dr. Kate McCulloch**, Division Head, Pediatrics, Victoria General Hospital

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Correction and clarification: Dr. Ash Heaslip, who featured in last month's Medical Leader Spotlight, is the Executive Medical Director in Island Health's Addiction Medicine and Substance Use Program (AMSU). Dr. Heaslip's colleague, Dr. Randal Mason, is AMSU's Regional Medical Director.

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