

May 2025

Medical Staff Bulletin



HAMAC Highlights

The Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC) meets on the second Thursday of every month. Full meeting minutes can be accessed on the Intranet [HERE](#).

In addition to regular business during HAMAC's April 2025 meeting, the Committee discussed:

- PQI Report
- Medical Leadership Strategy
- Departmental Reporting—Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Medical Leader Spotlight

Yarra Vostrcil RM is Regional Medical Director, Midwifery, and Department Head. With her colleagues at Plum Midwifery in Courtenay, Yarra offers full scope community-based midwifery care with a 30% planned home birth rate. Yarra champions the midwifery model of practice, valuing the opportunity to build strong relationships with families during an important life transition.



What would you like your medical staff colleagues to know about your Department and the work you do as a Department Head?

Across Island Health, 129 midwives are working out of nine sites providing care to more than 50% of the perinatal population. Midwives also provide the option for home birth. In my role as Midwifery Department Head, we may cross paths at monthly MPCC or HAMAC meetings, or you may be asked by myself, or one of the Midwifery Division Heads, for input into site workforce planning; to participate in a medical staff performance review; or to join a selections committee for midwife recruitment. Please [reach out to me directly](#) with questions, compliments, or concerns about midwifery at Island Health.

This year's theme for International Day of the Midwife* is 'Midwives: Critical in Every Crisis'. In what way does this theme apply to the work you and your RM colleagues do in our region?

Thank you for asking! In 2023 VGH experienced an unexpected shortage of primary care providers working in intrapartum care. Island Health was quick to turn the crisis into an opportunity and created an innovative program at VGH. The In-House-Registered-Midwife program, funded by an APA and staffed by both local VGH midwives and midwives from across the Island, continues to provide much needed care for many patients.

What aspects of your job are the most invigorating?

Relationships sustain and inspire me; mentors and peers in leadership and in midwifery, perinatal nursing, and medicine play a significant role in who I have become as a professional. As the model and scope of midwifery practice in BC shifts and grows, and my role within it changes from clinician to leader, I lean into these important relationships.

Do you have a guiding principle for your leadership work?

My guiding principle is curiosity. By asking questions and remaining curious we can approach almost any situation—clinically or in leadership—productively. I recently took a coaching course where I learned various models that can be used to maintain curiosity and ultimately support others to solve their own challenges. Supporting others in this way helps to build confidence and capacity across the team.

*Click [HERE](#) to read more about International Day of the Midwife, which is celebrated in May.

Welcome NEW Medical Leaders



Dr. Brian Mc Ardle,
Executive Medical
Director and Chief of
Staff, RJH Cardiac
Services,
Medicine/Ambulatory,
and Critical Care



Dr. Amy Thibeault,
Medical Director,
Psychiatry South Island
Acute



Dr. Victor Yuen,
Medical Lead,
Microbiology, Island
Wide & Acute South
Island, and Division
Head, Medical
Microbiology

Also welcoming:

- **Dr. Andrew Schissler**, Medical Lead, Emergency, CRH
- **Dr. Michael Breden**, Medical Lead, Anesthesia, Campbell River
- **Dr. Michael Loewen**, Division Head, Orthopedic Surgery, Geos 1, 2, 3
- **Dr. Ryan Hoskins**, Medical Lead, Emergency Medicine, WCGH



Culture Conference Recap

On 28 April, Island Health, in collaboration with Doctors of BC, hosted The Culture Conference: Psychological Safety in the Workplace. This in-person event in Nanaimo brought together medical leaders and medical staff from all over Vancouver Island.

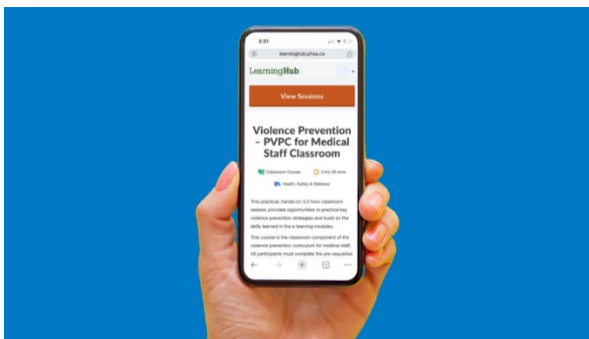
Creating a safe workplace for medical staff is a priority at Island Health—the aim of the Culture Conference is to empower medical staff to create, promote, and maintain psychological safety in the workplace, and build capacity for diversity, equity and inclusion. For more information about medical leadership development opportunities, including upcoming workshops, please see the medical staff website [HERE](#).

Crazy Socks 4 Docs



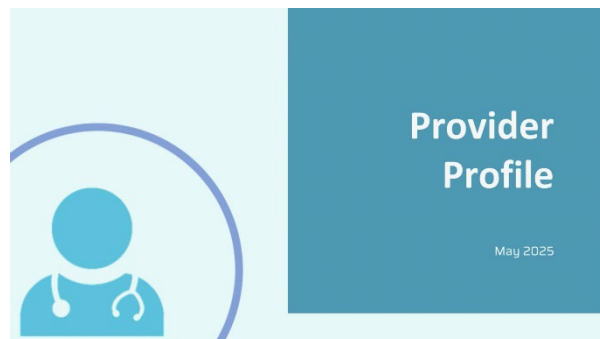
Friday 6 June is Crazy Socks 4 Docs Day. Originating in Australia, this initiative now has a global following and aims to reduce the stigma of mental illness amongst physicians. Wear mismatched socks on June 6 to show your support and help normalize conversations around physician mental health and suicide prevention. You can learn more about the initiative [HERE](#).

Pic: Dr. Fred Voon, ED Physician, SI-MSA Co-President, and fervent supporter of Crazy Socks 4 Docs Day. Find him on TikTok [@Dr_Voon](#)



Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum (PVPC)—Summer Dates for In-person Sessions

The redesigned PVPC consists of two modules, including required in-person training for medical staff working in the following high-risk areas: **Emergency Departments/Urgent Care; Mental Health**



Explore your Data with the Provider Profile

The Island Health Provider Profile is an interactive, web-based tool that gives physicians and midwives holding in-patient MRP status access to data about their in-patient population. Resources to support QI and CPD have been developed and the QI

& Substance Use; Psychiatry; Neurology; Long-term care; Community Health Services.

If you are part of the high-risk cohort listed above, please register for an in-person session through [LearningHub](#). **Course completion will be tracked, and time will be compensated at sessional rates for the high-risk cohort.** [The medical staff website](#) has detailed information about upcoming summer session dates, delivery approach, equivalencies, and LearningHub support.

team are inviting feedback through a [short survey](#).

Until June 30 2025, **eligible physicians can receive 30 minutes of funding at the JCC sessional rate through Health System Redesign (HSR) for reviewing the resources and sharing feedback.** For more information, email MedStaffQI@islandhealth.ca or visit the [Provider Profile pages](#) on the medical staff website.



Medical Staff Communication, Education & Development | Medical and Academic Affairs
MedStaffCommunications@islandhealth.ca

If you no longer work at Island Health and wish to be removed from our Medical Staff email database, please respond to this email with UNSUB in the email body. **Please do not alter the email subject in your reply.**

