



Spring/Summer Newsletter
June 2020
Issue 13



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Meet our Board of Directors

Dr. Jeremy Harris, President
Dr. Nevin De Korompay, Vice President
Dr. Cara Wall, Past President
Dr. Maurice Blitz, Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Sarah Sunderland, Member-at-Large

(all are Members of the KGHPS Working Group)



Dr. Jeremy Harris Dr. Nevin De Korompay Dr. Cara Wall Dr. Maurice Blitz Dr. Sarah Sunderland

Working Group Members

Dr. C. Wall, Hospitalist Services, Chair of the Working Group
Dr. C. Baliski, Surgery
Dr. V. Beck, Anesthesia
Dr. M. Blitz, Surgery
Dr. N. De Korompay, Medical Imaging
Dr. M. Duncan, Pediatrics
Dr. F. Halperin, Cardiac Sciences
Dr. J. Harris, Surgery
Dr. M. Hickman, Hospitalist Services
Dr. P. Jiang, Residents
Dr. A. Kwan, Emergency
Dr. J. Mace, Family Practice
Dr. D. Manders, Medical Imaging
Dr. S. McGregor, OB/GYNS.
Dr. J. Pritchard, Medicine
Dr. S. Sunderland, Anesthesia
Dr. A. Wilmer, Lab Medicine
Dr. E. Woodward, Psychiatry



L to R – Back row: Dr. D. Manders, Z. Cescon, Dr. M. Blitz, Dr. M. Duncan, Dr. C. Baliski, Dr. M. Hickman, Dr. A. Kwan
L to R – Front row: Dr. C. Wall, Dr. P. Jiang, Dr. J. Mace, Dr. S. Sunderland, H. Wendt, Dr. A. Wilmer
Not shown: Drs. V. Beck, N. De Korompay, F. Halperin, J. Harris, S. McGregor, J. Pritchard, E. Woodward

Staff:

Zeno Cescon, Director, Facility Engagement
Helga Wendt, Admin.Asst./Project Lead



**Message from Dr. Jeremy Harris, President
Medical Staff Association / KGH Physicians Society Board of
Directors**

On behalf of the KGH Physicians Society (KGHPS), warm greetings and huge kudos to all on navigating everything that has occurred during the last several months of “COVID”. It is truthfully difficult to remember many of the issues that seemed so critical as 2019 came to an end...and perhaps this will be our greatest lesson learned. As we move forward despite ongoing uncertainty, I encourage you all to “not let the urgent get in the way of the important”.

This edition of our newsletter has been designed specifically to express appreciation to EVERYONE who dedicated their time and energy to unselfishly providing exceptional care for our patients and unwavering support for each other. The enclosed “[Letter of Appreciation for KGH Staff](#)” should make you proud of your contributions during this unprecedented time.

The KGHPS also felt that this was an excellent opportunity to begin a new tradition of highlighting individuals who demonstrate the many characteristics that we all aspired to as we began our medical journeys (remember medical school and your first exposure to the Hippocratic oath?). As such, please peruse the inaugural segment of our newsletter devoted to “[Physician Recognition](#)” to read about many of our esteemed colleagues and their notable accomplishments. We plan to continue this on an ongoing basis and would be appreciative of receiving nominations for physicians deserving of recognition in the future (email a brief note to KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com) .

The new and improved Medical Staff Lounge has been a remarkable success and has once again become the place to engage with colleagues while being replenished with a snack and drink (it also quickly became the only show in town!). Inexpressible thanks to our Director of Facility Engagement Zeno Cescon for working humbly and tirelessly to ensure that there was always something there to enjoy. We would appreciate all of your feedback on the lounge [via the survey link noted below](#) to ensure that we can keep this momentum going.

In terms of upcoming events, we are planning a KGH Staff Appreciation day later this month and through the month of July ([click or tap here](#) for details which are also noted below). We will also be having our semi-annual MSA/KGHPS meeting on September 21st, 2020. The exact format may require some creativity but we are looking forward to “being together”

again one way or another!

In closing, thank you again for all that you do to make KGH the amazing place that it is. We wish you and your families a healthy and happy Summer 2020!

Sincerely,
Jeremy



Thank You KGH Physicians and Staff - A Letter from Dr. Mark Masterson, Dr. Jeremy Harris and Ms. Jaymi Chernoff

Dear KGH Colleagues:

Prior to mid-March seems like a different time. After that, COVID-19 became not only part of the world's vocabulary but, more importantly, severely impacted and changed the focus of the work that is done on a day-to-day basis at Kelowna General Hospital. Essential visits to KGH were restricted, donning and doffing of PPE became a daily drill, KGH staff worked around the clock to ensure that the outstanding patient care continued, and ZOOM was the way to hold meetings and provide tele-health to patients. All the while, many worked long hours to exhaustion, risked your own safety and, consequently, that of your family, and consoled patients when their families could not be there. The compassion shown and also the stress that many felt cannot be overemphasised. While many were on lockdown and unemployed, we were also fortunate to have the opportunity to continue to make a meaningful contribution to our community.

To the allied health professionals, physicians, custodial staff, administrative and support staff, paramedics and first responders who served on the front lines of COVID-19 we say 'THANK YOU'. While the residents of Kelowna and surrounding area stayed home, you courageously continued to serve the community. Your leadership and organizational skills were at the forefront and because of you, we were able to hit the ground running.

While the threat is not gone, the province is opening up in accordance with Dr. Henry's instructions. **As this continues, the KGH Physicians Society is planning an opportunity to provide as many KGH Physicians and Staff as possible, with a complimentary beverage and snack from the Perking Lot. Drop by the KGH Centennial lobby on June 26th (between 9:00am and 2:00pm) to pick up your ticket (expires on July 31, 2020).** [Check out the information below.](#) In the meantime, please stay safe, be well and once again -



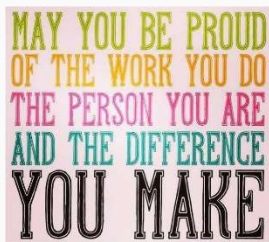
Dr. Mark Masterson
Chief of Staff, KGH



Dr. Jeremy Harris
President, Medical Staff Association
KGH Physicians Society



Jaymi Chernoff
Executive Director,
Clinical Operations - KGH



Physician Recognition

Welcome to our inaugural Physician Recognition article. Please read about some of the outstanding work done by your colleagues over the past few months. Be sure to email us at KGHPPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com with the names and stories of other physicians who you feel should be recognized.



Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Discipline Lead for Medical

Microbiology: Favourable outcomes are often attributable to what happens behind the scenes as much as what is apparent for all to see. During the initial COVID-19 response nothing could be more true than the work done by Dr. Amanda Wilmer, discipline lead for medical microbiology. Before the first travel related cases of the novel coronavirus were reported, Dr. Wilmer had drafted testing and management algorithms for the emergency departments. Following countless trips to and consultation with the emergency department....[click or tap here to read more.](#)



Dr. Jared Baylis, Emergency Physician, Clinical Instructor and Med Ed Sim Lead - UBC SMP, Medical Director of Simulation - IHA:

Dr. Baylis is a recent graduate of the emergency medicine residency program out of Kelowna. He was working on simulation cases of CV19 back in February. Given short notice, Dr. Baylis was able to put together a multi-disciplinary simulation case of a.....[click or tap here to read more.](#)



Dr. Sarah Sunderland
Department of Anesthesia



Dr. Jennifer Whittingham
Department of Anesthesia

Dr. Sarah Sunderland and Dr. Jennifer Whittingham,

Department of Anesthesia: Special thanks to Drs. Jennifer Whittingham and Sarah Sunderland for service above and beyond the call of duty during the COVID crisis. The Department of Anesthesia was asked to urgently develop airway management and resuscitation protocols for potential COVID patients. These two physicians immediately stepped forward. Countless hours were spent implementing and teaching staff. Much appreciated!



Dr. Vikas Chaubey, Infectious Disease & Critical Care Medicine

Consultant: Dr. Vikas Chaubey, an intensivist colleague, is one of the outstanding young medical leaders at KGH who really stepped up to help shepherd the ICU team, and the KGH patients that we all shared there, through the first phases of these unprecedented COVID-19 times. It would be remiss to not mention that a transition to taking over the formal medical leadership of the KGH ICU was already in place for April 1st; however, that 'gradual transition plan' was massively accelerated by the arrival of COVID-19 on our doorstep in early March.....[click or tap here to read more.](#)



Dr. Ngan Lyle, UBCO Student / Physician:

Dr. Ngan Lyle was studying for an upcoming data science quiz when she got the call. Dr. Lyle, a Master of Data Science (MDS) student at UBC Okanagan, and medical doctor, was being summoned to return to work to support Interior Health's COVID-19 response team. "It wasn't a tough decision," she says. "I had been following the outbreak in the media and I was starting to realize that this could be something extraordinary. I was already thinking about calling former colleagues to see if I could help before I was contacted".....[click or tap here to read more.](#)



Dr. Jen Williams, Emergency Physician, Clinical Assistant

Professor, UBC Department of Emergency Medicine: Dr. Williams was the first ED physician to volunteer to help with preparations for COVID-19. She has a long history in promoting wellness to our staff and residents and appreciated early on that the emotional toll of CV19 on the ED staff was going to be significant. Dr. Williams organized the multiple resources related to physician wellness into a manageable newsletter that she initially distributed to the ED group and was eventually distributed hospital wide. She also made herself available to the group and organized multiple group check-in sessions online. Thank you for everything!



Dr. Laura Morrison, Emergency Physician: Before the existence of the CARTeam, Dr. Morrison, working with anesthesia and critical care, researched and developed the KGH airway protocols. She put in an incredible amount of work in a very short period of time to ensure optimal staff safety and patient care. After the formation of the CARTeam, Dr. Morrison was a tireless member of the team providing education to physicians and hospital staff regarding airway management. Along with medical education Laura was the ED's representative on the CARTeam leadership group providing medical direction. Kudos to you!



July is KGH Physician and Staff Appreciation Month - Complimentary Beverage and Snack of Your Choice

Watch for Zeno Cescon, Director, Facility Engagement of KGH Physicians Society, to be in the KGH Centennial Lobby on Friday, **June 26th** from 9:00am to 2:00pm. He'll be handing out Thank You cards to ALL KGH PHYSICIANS



AND STAFF in appreciation for everyone's efforts during the COVID-19 Pandemic! The card can be redeemed at the Perking Lot for a complimentary beverage and snack of your choice courtesy of the KGHPS. The cards expire **July 31, 2020** (one card per person). AND MORE GOOD NEWS! There will be two draws (one for Physicians and one for Staff) to enter to win a \$200 gift certificate to a local restaurant so come by to get your entry ticket. Looking forward to seeing you on the 26th!



Medical Staff Lounge - We Need Your Input! Take the Survey and Enter to Win a \$200 Gift Certificate

It has now been six months since the KGH Physicians Society (KGHPS) updated the KGH Medical Staff Lounge with a new 65" TV, large fridge, a Globe & Mail subscription, and a Keurig coffee maker on December 31, 2019. As well,

a snack and beverage service was also implemented. Physicians' feedback has been very positive and appreciative.

Then of course in mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred. This was followed by the temporary closure of the Perking Lot and the Bistro, as well as reduced cafeteria hours and service. The Medical Staff Lounge came to life and interactions between physicians increased as more and more physicians became aware of the lounge. Many discovered it for the first time.

There has been a strong learning curve during these past six months and the KGHPS Board would now like some feedback from you as we move forward and streamline the current processes. We ask that you take a few moments to take the survey - [please click or tap here](#). At the end of the survey, please feel free to provide your name/email address so that we can enter your name into the draw for a \$200 gift certificate to a local restaurant. All responses will be kept confidential.



The results of the survey and the name of the winner will be provided in September. Thanks in advance and good luck!



Funding Now Available for Departmental Meetings and Rounds

The KGH Physicians Society Working Group approved a new policy which will allow each Department to spend \$20.00 per Department member per fiscal year (ending March 31, 2021) for snacks for your Departmental meetings or M&M Rounds. For more information, [click or tap here](#) to access the policy. If you have any questions, please

email us at KGHPPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com. Watch for more information coming soon to each Department head.



Doctors of BC Step-by-Step Safety Plan for Physicians to Map Out Re-Opening of Offices

Better. Together. This plan first appeared as a template in the Doctor is In Report which can be found on the Doctors of BC Covid-19 page (www.doctorsofbc.ca) It is being provided in word format for physicians to help in prepared individualized plans for practices.

- Step 1: Assess the risks at your workplace.
- Step 2: Implement protocols to reduce the risks
- Step 3: Develop policies
- Step 4: Develop communication plans and training
- Step 5: Monitor your workplace and update your plans as necessary
- Step 6: Assess and address risks from resuming operations

For the full plan, [please click or tap here](#).



Register Now for the Physician Quality Improvement Course - Cohort 3 (Application Deadline: July 6, 2020)

Advanced CME accredited QI Training Sessions (3 x 3 days) - Dedicated time to learn principles and techniques related to QI, leadership, stakeholder engagement, supporting change and much more!

PQI Technical Support - “Guide on the Side” support of a local PQI Consultant, access to a dedicated data analyst, physician mentors and linkage to IH resources.

Sessional Funding – Support of time spent in training sessions and in project planning/development.

Dyad Partnership – Each physician receives assistance in identifying and engaging an appropriate operational dyad partner to provide expertise in system navigation to support of development of the physician’s project plan.


Session Schedule:

Session 1 - September 21 – 23, 2020

Session 2 – October 28 – 30, 2020

Session 3 – February 17 – 19, 2020

[Click or tap here](#) for the full description. For further information, including a link to the online Application Form, [click or tap here](#) or email pqi@interiorhealth.ca.



**SAVE
the
DATE**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

KGH Medical Staff Association Semi-Annual General Meeting
and
KGH Physicians Society Semi-Annual General Meeting

LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED

More information to follow. Please watch your email inbox for further details.

**Notice of Medical Staff
Association and
KGH Physicians Society Semi-
Annual Meeting
September 21, 2020**



Have a Voice in the KGH Physicians Society Working Group

The KGH Physicians Society (KGHPS) Working Group is a representative body/committee that engages KGH medical staff and advises the Board of Directors of the KGHPS on matters of importance to medical staff, their patients and to the Health Authority. At least one representative from any medical staff department sits on the Working Group. Sessional fees are paid for preparing for and attending the monthly meetings. We are looking for new members to join us. Please contact Dr. Cara Wall, Working Group Chair (cara.wall@interiorhealth.ca) or Dr. Jeremy Harris, President, KGHPS and MSA (jeremy.harris@interiorhealth.ca) for more information or check out the KGHPS website at www.KelownaPhysiciansSociety.ca.



Upcoming Events/Webinars/Rounds

Date: Tuesday, June 23 (Physicians only) - 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Grand Rounds: Surgical Reactivation Plans for IH & KB
Presenters: Diane Shendruk, Executive Director, Kootenay Boundary, Kristina Russell, Network Director, Surgical Services, Cindy Ferguson, Manager, KBRH Surgical Services, Jane Cusden, Director, KBRH
 WebEx Info: [Click or tap here](#)

Date: June 29 and June 30, 2020

Topic: BC Rural and First Nations Health and Wellness Summit: The Rural Coordination Centre of BC in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority and the Joint Collaborative Committees would like to invite you to participate in a 2-day, virtually held, [BC Rural and First Nations Health and Wellness Summit](#). Over the mornings of June 29th and 30th, 2020, First Nations, rural, and remote communities across BC will convene their community's Partnership Pentagon Plus perspectives (academia, citizens/community, health administrators, health care providers, policy makers and linked sectors) to engage in facilitated dialogue around factors affecting access, quality and efficiency of care.

To register please complete the following registration form before June 21: [BC Rural and First Nations Health and Wellness Summit Registration Form](#)

If you would like to facilitate a community or peer table, please complete the following form: [Facilitator Expression of Interest Form](#)

For more details, frequently asked questions, and background information, please visit our website: <https://rccbc.ca/summit>

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to info@rccbc.ca

Do You Have a Facility Engagement Funding Proposal?



Do you have a Facility Engagement Activity you'd like to initiate? We'd love to hear from you. [Click here](#) for the online application form or [here](#) for more information about funding requirements which have just been updated.

If you have any questions, we're here to assist. Email us at KGHPPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com.

Looking forward to hearing from you.



We Are Asking for Your Feedback!

We want to be sure we are providing up-to-date and pertinent information for our members. Please provide your input into our website content (www.KelownaPhysiciansSociety.ca) or our quarterly newsletters. Do you have an article you'd like to highlight or a story you'd like to share? Please email us at KGHPPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

