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### **Message from Dr. Nevin De Korompay, President Medical Staff Association / KGH Physicians Society Board of Directors**

Happy belated Thanksgiving from your KGH Physicians Society Board of Directors!

Although it has been a strange year in so many ways, it makes me particularly thankful; I am thankful to be a part of a fantastic group of KGH physicians that has risen to the unique challenges presented by COVID-19; I am thankful the Physicians Society has been able to assist our great physicians in adapting to a rapidly evolving new normal; finally, I am thankful knowing our physicians continue to plan, work and prepare to meet the challenges ahead.

As usual, it has been a busy few months for the Working Group and KGHPS executive. The first ever “virtual” Semi-Annual Meeting was a remarkable success, with over 92 people attending online and only a couple of microphone malfunctions! Our KGHPS Working Group continues to be impressed with the quality of projects coming in for assessment and encourage our members to develop and support their work through the Society. In our Physician Recognition section, you’ll find Dr. Aleks Tkach who has been able to make use of the Physicians Society support to help develop the endovascular therapy program for acute stroke, providing live saving options to patients in the Interior. I would encourage all our

members to keep bringing their plans forward so we can support the fantastic work happening at KGH.

We have received excellent feedback with respect to the Physicians Lounge, and will continue to develop it as a site where our members can congregate and communicate, of course with appropriate social distancing. Additionally, our October 14th physician appreciation event, for those who chose to drink coffee outside the lounge, was well received. While our new normal doesn't allow for merry old Zeno Cescon to super-spread holiday cheer throughout the various KGH departments, the Working Group is working through alternative ways to continue to spread cheer during the upcoming holidays.

Finally, I would like to single out the outgoing president, Jeremy Harris, as well as the outgoing past president, Cara Wall, along with our project lead Helga Wendt and Director Zeno Cescon for their tremendous work and guidance to the KGHPS during unprecedented times. We at the KGHPS will do our best to continue to support our remarkable colleagues and hospital as we close out a truly remarkable 2020.

Sincerely,  
Nevin

## Meet our Board of Directors

**Dr. Nevin De Korompay, President**

**Dr. Maurice Blitz, Vice President**

**Dr. Jeremy Harris, Past President**

**Dr. Joey Podavin, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Dr. Karen Meathrel, Member-at-Large**

(all are Members of the KGHPS Working Group)



Dr. Nevin De Korompay  
President      Dr. Maurice Blitz  
Vice President      Dr. Jeremy Harris  
Past President      Dr. Joey Podavin  
Secretary Treasurer      Dr. Karen Meathrel  
Member at Large

Appreciation is extended to the outgoing members of the Board: Dr. Cara Wall and Dr. Sarah Sunderland. Thank you so much for moving the work of the KGHPS forward, for your support, your valued judgement and sharing your views. We are so pleased that you are both staying on with the KGHPS Working Group in order to build on the work accomplished thus far.

## Working Group Members

**Dr. S. Sunderland, Chair, KGHPS Working Group, Department of Anesthesiology**

**Dr. V. Beck, Department of Anesthesiology**

**Dr. M. Blitz, Department of Surgery**

**Dr. U. Chetty, Department of Psychiatry**

**Dr. N. De Korompay, Department of Medical Imaging**

**Dr. M. Duncan, Department of Pediatrics**

**Dr. A. Hadzic, Department of Laboratory Medicine**

**Dr. J. Harris, Department of Surgery**

**Dr. M. Hickman, Department of Hospitalist Services**

**Dr. A. Kwan, Department of Emergency Medicine**

**Dr. J. Mace, Department of Family Practice**

**Dr. D. Manders, Department of Medical Imaging**

**Dr. S. McGregor, Department of OB/GYN**

**Dr. K. Meathrel, Department of OB/GYN**

**Dr. K. Nikkel, Resident**

**Dr. D. Patton, Department of Cardiac Sciences**

**Dr. D. Plausinis, Department of Surgery**

**Dr. J. Podavin, Department of Hospitalist Services**

**Dr. J. Pritchard, Department of Medicine**

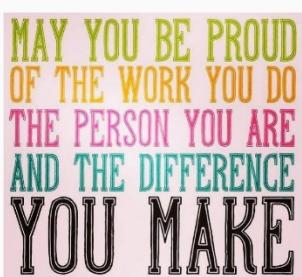
**Dr. C. Wall, Vice-Chair, KGHPS Working Group, Department of Hospitalist Services**

Appreciation extended to Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Dr. Chris Baliski, Dr. Frank Halperin, Dr. Elizabeth Woodward, Dr. James Reid and Dr. Patricia Jiang for their contributions to the Working Group in 2019/20. Thank you so much for your participation, leadership and insight.

**Staff: Zeno Cescon, Director, Facility Engagement**

**Helga Wendt, Admin. Asst./Project Lead**





## Physician Recognition

Welcome to the second edition of Physician Recognition articles. Please read about some of the outstanding work done by your colleagues over the past few months. Be sure to email us at [KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com](mailto:KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com) with the names and stories of other physicians who you feel should be recognized.



**Kelowna General Hospital's Addiction Medicine Consult Team (AMCT)** is a team of addiction medicine specialists who assess and provide evidence-based treatment for patients with substance use disorders while admitted, or in the emergency department, at KGH. The team is typically comprised of **Dr. Ewelina Zaremba, Dr. Leslie Lappalainen, Dr. Nicholas Baldwin and Dr. Megan Hill**. At times the team is joined by locums and residents.

Despite being acutely short-handed as a service during the onset of COVID, the AMCT increased on-site physician hours during the unprecedented high volume of hospital presentations for substance use related issues. In particular, Dr. Ewelina Zaremba, took many extra shifts to help provide gaps in service coverage and remained a mainstay on the team. Dr. Baldwin and Dr. Hill also worked tirelessly to help support the service needs at KGH, in addition to their regular community work at MHSU and Outreach Urban Health. The team recognized early on in the pandemic that patients with substance use disorders.....[click here for the full story!](#)



**Dr. Aleks Tkach** (pictured left) led the development of the IH Endovascular Thrombectomy service design and implementation that started with documenting the impact to patients and families who did not have access to this standard of stroke care. This created a supportive case that IH had the physician expertise (Neurology, Interventional Radiology and Intensivist) to provide safe procedural care and worked with the appropriate health authority executive and administrative structure to put in place the financial and support structures, often engaging personally to find solutions to resourcing, changing physician practice, and addressing barriers to care such as transportation, imaging, and the tools to enable early response IH wide.



The recent need to revise service provision as part of COVID -19 response exemplifies.....[click here for the full story!](#)



Top to Bottom: Dr. Silvia Riccio and Dr. Gary Kindrachuk, KGH Radiologists  
Dr. Riccio viewing PET/CT images  
PET/CT Scanner / Monitors

**World-class PET/CT Scanner Now in Kelowna!** Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging is a procedure that, when combined with computed tomography (CT), help physicians to more accurately diagnose and manage disease, especially cancer. **Dr. Silvia Riccio and Dr. Gary Kindrachuk** (pictured left), are two of the physicians who helped establish and now run this new service. This critical tool in cancer diagnosis is located in the BC Cancer Agency facility, adjacent to Medical Imaging in KGH, which includes waiting and exam rooms. Dr. Riccio notes, "We are thrilled to be performing PET/CT imaging in Kelowna with our new state-of-the-art scanner. Oncology patients in our health region can now get the imaging they need much closer to home."

It is expected that this will affect more than 1,000 Interior patients who were previously forced to go to the Lower Mainland where the province's only two publicly-funded PET/CT scanners are located.



## October 14th Physician Appreciation Coffee Day was a hit!

Zeno Cescon, Director of Facility Engagement, KGH Physicians Society, was in the Centennial Lobby on Wednesday, October 14 passing out Thank You cards to Physicians which were redeemed at the Perking Lot for a complimentary beverage and snack.

Appreciation is extended to Nancy Wells, Amanda Walker and all of the volunteers at The Perking Lot for helping to make this such a successful day. We could not have done it without you!

Here are some pictures of some of the many physicians who were able to stop by. Do you recognize those smiling eyes? Watch this newsletter for the next Appreciation Day.



**December is KGH Physician, Nurses and Staff Appreciation Month - Thank You For All You Do!**

Watch for the KGH Physicians Society team on **Wednesday, December 9th** as they hand out 'Thank You' cards which can be redeemed at the Perking Lot for a complimentary beverage and snack of your choice courtesy of the KGHPS. The cards (1 per person).

# **Volunteer to Help Those in Need This Holiday Season**

Watch your email for more information on how to help those in need in our Community this holiday season. The KGHPS Working Group is going to be seeking your volunteer assistance for such worthy causes as the Food Bank, Gospel Mission, Salvation Army and many other community organizations that so desperately need assistance during that time.



© Can Stock Photo



## Update on the Medical Staff Lounge

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Medical Staff Lounge survey and entering your name in a draw to receive a \$200 gift certificate! We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jennifer Whittingham, Department of Anesthesia, is the lucky recipient.

The survey resulted in some interesting findings:

The Medical Staff Lounge Survey indicated:

- 82% INDICATED THE LOUNGE OFTEN OR ALWAYS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS
- 71% VISITED MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK
- FOOD AND BEVERAGE PREFERENCES CONFIRMED AND SUGGESTED
- 84% INDICATED THE LOUNGE ENABLED THEM TO BUILD CONNECTIONS AND/OR ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITH MSA COLLEAGUES

Comments included:

- I SEE COLLEAGUES I NORMALLY WOULDN'T
- FANTASTIC LIFESAVER – THANK YOU!
- THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE SUPPORT DURING COVID WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE WAS CLOSED
- BEST INITIATIVE AT KGH
- COMBINATION OF HEALTHY CHOICES AND SNACKS IS NICE
- MAKES PHYSICIANS FEEL APPRECIATED
- KEEP IT GOING!

Given the COVID-19 circumstances at KGH, there have been a few changes in the Medical Staff Lounge. More hand sanitizers, masks and sani-wipes will be provided. Please be cognizant of physical distancing requirements.

We look forward to seeing you in the Medical Staff Lounge which has become a welcoming area which has encouraged medical staff to stop by, especially after hours when the cafeteria and coffee shops at KGH are closed. Please enjoy a bite to eat, a relaxing moment and the opportunity to chat with your colleagues. House staff (learners) are welcome if accompanied by a physician but we ask that equipment reps not be given access to the Medical Staff Lounge.



## 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 [KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com](mailto:KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com). This information has been sent to all Department heads.



## Funding Now Available for Departmental Recruiting

The KGH Physicians Society Working Group approved a new policy which will assist each Department with costs associated with recruitment (sessional fees). Funding will be provided until the end of each fiscal year (March 31), dependent on funding, and a Facility Engagement application must be submitted to the KGHPS Working

Group for review. For more information, [click or tap here](#) to access the policy or [here for the application form](#). If you have any questions, please email us at [KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com](mailto:KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com).

IH is able to provide assistance as well. The pertinent policies can be found by [clicking or tapping](#) here or please email [physicianrecruitment@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:physicianrecruitment@interiorhealth.ca). Please note that the first step is for the recruiter and Department Head to connect to develop the recruitment strategy and work together on recruitment efforts.

**IH GRAND ROUNDS**

**Upcoming Webinar Events**  
Earn UBC CPD Credits  
Tuesdays from 5-6pm  
Partners in Learning - Building Connections

**Moral Injury and Burnout**  
Dr. Derek Puddester, B.A., B. Med, Sc., M.D.  
Deputy Registrar at College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC  
Dr. Puddester is a global expert in physician health and occupational psychology, providing leadership, education, and governance expertise to programs, hospitals, and organizations. He also provides unique educational resources focused on physician health and sustainability.

**When Things Go Wrong - Wrong Side Surgery**  
Dr. Julian Sernik, MD, FRCSC  
Orthopedic Surgeon  
Dr. Sernik bio.

OCT 20  
NOV 16

Session details: The effects on surgeon, surgical team, the patient, how they disclosed and what they hope to achieve together.

For more information or to register for an event, please contact [MedicalAffairs@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:MedicalAffairs@interiorhealth.ca)

## IH Grand Rounds - Upcoming Webinar Events - Earn UBC CPD Credits

For more information or to register for an event, please contact [MedicalAffairs@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:MedicalAffairs@interiorhealth.ca).



## COVID-19 Office Safety Plan Support Grant for Community Physicians

Please click or tap here for the President's Letter which was sent to all members in early September. Information and application

details regarding applying for the Support Grant can be found on the Doctors of BC website.



### FUNDING PROPOSAL



## 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 [KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com](mailto:KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com).



## 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](http://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 [KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com](mailto:KGHPhysiciansSociety@gmail.com).

Thank you for your ongoing support!



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