

January 2024

# SPRUce

SUSTAINING PEDIATRICS IN RURAL  
AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

[rccbc.ca/initiatives/spruce](https://rccbc.ca/initiatives/spruce) | [spruce@rccbc.ca](mailto:spruce@rccbc.ca)

## Children's Healthcare Canada Conference (Dec 2023)

Kirsten Miller, Melissa Paquette, David Wensley and Jenny Retallack presented the complementary work of the Real Time Virtual Support Pathway CHARLiE (Child Health Advice in real-time electronically) and the SPRUCe clinical network at the recent Children's Healthcare Canada meeting in Vancouver, Dec 3-5, 2023. The oral presentation was well received, with thoughtful questions regarding the potential implementation of similar programs across Canada. This picture shows the presenters with Katharine Smart, one of the CHARLiE pediatricians.



*Pictured above are CHARLiE providers Dr. Jenny Retallack, Dr. Katharine Smart, Dr. Melissa Paquette, Dr. Kirsten Miller and Dr. David Wensley.*

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## SPRUCe CME Events

### **Snooze and Soothe: Practical Strategies in Pediatric Sedation and Analgesia**

Feb 6th, 7:30-9pm via Zoom.

Dr. James Harris and Dr. Jenny Retallack will review practical approaches to sedation and analgesia for different pediatric scenarios.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

### **Adolescent Suicidality and Suicide Risk Assessments**

April 30, 7:30pm-9pm via Zoom.

[Save the date - registration to come.](#)

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## Encourage Learners to Consider Careers in Rural Pediatrics

Did you know that UBC Medicine has designated 'rural seats' for students interested in practicing medicine outside of metropolitan centres? All 40 of the seats in the Northern Medical Program (in Prince George) are designated as rural. There are also up to 14 rural seats in the Southern Medical Program and up to 4 rural seats in the Island Medical Program. It is important to ensure that the students who are accepted to these rural medical school spots learn that a career in rural medicine is possible not only in Family Medicine, but also in Pediatrics. Welcoming medical students to join you for rural pediatric electives can have a major impact on their career plans. We want to encourage all rural pediatricians to list their sites as possible UBC Medicine 4th year elective opportunities. Contact the Year 4 Electives Director for the distributed site in your region to ensure that your community is 'on the list' as a possible elective in rural pediatrics!

Once your rural pediatric elective is on the list, out-of-province students can also apply through the UBC elective application process.

Please reach out to SPRUCe if you need help with this!



*"Three pediatric residents who are graduates of the UBC Northern Medical Program and are now Pediatric Residents: Dr. Gurkirat Kandola (R4 at UBC), Dr. Corin MacPhail (R2 at U of Alberta) and Dr. Jenna Treissman (R1 at UBC)."*

## Introducing the UBC Pediatrics Residency Community Impact stream

The UBC Pediatrics Residency program has grown, with 75 current residents and 17 new residents starting every year. Of the 17 first year residents, 12 are at the main campus in Vancouver, 2 are in Victoria, 2 are in Surrey and 1 first year resident matches to the Vancouver Community Impact stream position.

The Community Impact (CI) stream gives residents the opportunity to experience remote community pediatrics right away, as these residents spend almost half of their first year in northern BC (most of this time is in Prince George). Throughout years 2 to 4, CI residents have ample opportunity to have rotations in Prince George and/or other non-urban community sites. The CI stream provides residents with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to provide care to underserved populations. As R1s in Prince George, the CI residents are often the most 'senior' pediatric trainees and so gain early experience as leaders on the medical team and as mentors to medical students. The opportunities they have to take on supported responsibility will enable them to develop the confidence and competencies needed to practice pediatrics in any community.

The CI program began in 2019 and all of the CI residents are enthusiastic about rural and community pediatric practice. The CI residents are: Dr. Jenna Treissman (R1), Dr. Sarah Fletcher (R2), Dr. Sean Duke (R3), Dr. Gurkirat Kandola (R4) and Dr. Marabeth Kramer (R4) We are excited to see what the future holds for these residents, who will be the first graduates from this exciting program!

## Lipid Screening Survey

“Are you a pediatrician in British Columbia who regularly cares for children between the ages of 9-11? We invite you to complete a 3–5-minute, anonymous survey about your pediatric lipid screening attitudes and practices. This is a UBC study led by research team Dr. Kevin Harris, Dr. Stephanie Glegg, and master’s student Venessa Thorsen.

If you have any questions or need further information about this study, please contact Venessa Thorsen at 604-875-2345 ext. 6186, or via email at [cardioresearch@bcchr.ca](mailto:cardioresearch@bcchr.ca). Your response is incredibly valuable to us and will be used to inform future studies regarding dissemination of clinical practice guidelines and knowledge translation initiatives. We appreciate your support!”



You may access the survey at the following link: <https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=38PNXXCRXYR48PLY>

## IMGS in Pediatric training

2 of the 12 UBC Pediatric residency positions per year in Vancouver are reserved for International Medical Graduates (IMGs). These residents sign a 3 year Return of Service (ROS) contract with the Ministry of Health at the time of the CaRMS match. The IMGs complete their training in general pediatrics and are expected to fulfil their ROS by working in underserved communities, which means that some IMG residents are future rural BC pediatricians!

## Engagement and Survey Opportunity: BC Provincial Pediatric Advance Care Planning Project (pACP)

The Ministry of Health announced the priority project Pediatric Advance Care Planning in partnership with BC Children’s Hospital, Child Health BC and Canuck Place Children’s Hospital to create a standardized process for pACP.

Pediatric advance care planning is an ongoing, relational process of exploring, listening and understanding values, beliefs and wishes of a child and their family to guide future shared healthcare decision and support informed healthcare decision making. It utilizes a family centred care approach that considers hope and non-medical concerns alongside honest and practical information. It recognizes the role, voice and values of the child and the relationship of the child within a family context. An advance directive can be an outcome of these conversations but it is not the specific goal.

The project is seeking your insights as Pediatricians on pediatric advance care planning, please complete the 5 minute survey by January 31st 2024 . [Link available here.](#)

Any questions please contact the project manager- [Azariah.Jenney@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Azariah.Jenney@cw.bc.ca)